

ROCC PLC DEC 2021 REPORT

Background

1. Last January the “Save the Blues” campaign was initiated with outreach to the BOCC, Ridgway and Ouray Town Councils, Forest Service, Great Old Broads, Ouray Trail Group, Plaindealer, Ouray and Ridgway Visitor Centers.
2. Local businesses and local people were contacted and original ROCC posters created by Roze Evans distributed.
3. Info tables set up at local events such as the Music in the Park, Riverwatch & Le Faire.
4. Outreach to on line publication to NOT advertise Blue Lakes because of the overuse and abuse of the area.
5. Forest Service hired Erica Tucker, San Juan Mt Assoc. to manage the sign in for trail head ambassadors to educate hikers and campers. ROCC initiated this first.

Final report is:

- 35 volunteer shifts at the trailhead
- 36 volunteers
- 638 backpackers contacted
- 3111 day hikers contacted

ISSUES

1. During the winter months, the focus should be on decreasing social media communication, magazines and all outdoor publications about

Colorado's Ouray County popular hiking and camping spots because of the overuse and abuse of these areas. Emphasis should be on healthy land stewardship and how to dispose of human waste in all advertisements publications and web pages.

FUTURE ACTION:

1. List all social media communication, magazines and outdoor publications that mention Ouray County and contact them with our message.
2. Inform and educate about PACT and other solutions to the problem. PACT is a kit that has a small light weight shovel, compressed dehydrated wipes that are unscented, hypoallergenic and fast biodegradable, mycelium tablets (the root system for fungi that breaks down poop in the ground faster while killing harmful bacteria that can spread infection), and small tri-fold carrying case.
3. Continue ROCC representation for the newly formed ORCA (Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance) committee that includes all local environmental activist organizations (Ouray County, City of Ouray major and council, Town of Ridgway major and council, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Ridgway State Park, the Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, the Uncompahgre Field Office, and the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, and the National Forest Foundation, BOCC, fishing and hunting associations)

Al Lowande attended the first monthly meeting. Diane Thompson attended the second monthly meeting. And we're looking for someone to volunteer to be permanent member. Contact Diane Thompson if interested –dianet7@yahoo.com.