



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met on August 5, 2023, at the home of the president, J.P. Angelillo. Art Jackson, treasurer reported that June expenses totaled \$6,250.00 for management expenses and road maintenance costs and the year to date expenses were \$23,727.54. Road Chair, Jim Nance stated that among other projects, he has plans to apply 4/10ths of a mile of road base between Darby Spur and Fisher's Peak Drive, and have some work done on the "slide area" near the intersection of South Mountain Drive and Rugby Mines Road. The Board is continuing to look for a snow removal contractor for this winter. Brad presented J.P. a detailed notebook relative to the State Forest Service fire mitigation grant that began three years ago and was finished on June 1, 2023. Several more days of community mitigation and the spraying of Buckbrush still need to take place this fall. Brad mentioned that the committee would like to designate another location for a second ranch water tank with the assistance of the Huerfano County Fire Protection District. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

Important Links

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)
Reporters: Nancy Pasternak and Rayann Brunner.

Vandalism on BHR

Three Blackhawk Ranch signs were badly vandalized at the Howard's Draw exit.

Fortunately, with some effort, JP Angelillo and Debra Wilson were able to

clean up the graffiti. Anyone having knowledge of the culprits are asked to contact the [Blackhawk Board](#).



THINGS YOU NEED

TO KNOW

Be Bear Aware! Stash all garbage in bear-proof containers or buildings. Don't feed them! They were here first!

Message from the New BHR POA President

by JP Angelillo

Being a property owner of the Blackhawk Ranch (BHR) means being an active participant in a community organization that thrives on the collective effort of its people. Contributions to making our ranch a more enjoyable and safer place to live include volunteering; chairing committees; driving safely on our roads; fire mitigation; weed control; personal and ranch security; respecting the ranch covenants; considering neighbors in your decisions; helping a neighbor in time of need.

A BHR property owner understands that we are all part of a larger whole, and that our actions (or inactions) can greatly affect the overall success and harmony of the BHR. It's not just about personal benefit, but about contributing to the common good. In doing so, we create a better BHR environment for ourselves, our families, and our neighbors.

Our special community has and will continue to be a unified and peaceful haven as we all contribute thoughtfully to our community. It's this shared responsibility that builds strong, reliable relationships within the BHR.

Wildfire Mitigation Grant Ends

by Brad Brooks, EMC Chair

In 2019, newly elected POA Board Members Brad Brooks and Susanne Bloomfield undertook a grant writing project to secure a Matching Grant from the Colorado State Forest Service in order to create an emergency exit corridor and shaded fuel break along both sides of Wapiti Drive. That grant was awarded in February of 2020. The grant consisted of commitments to both hard match (cash) and soft match targets (in-Kind labor) by the Blackhawk POA and its members.

2020 saw significant governmental restrictions on group gatherings indoors and outdoors due to the Covid pandemic, resulting in limited hands-on mitigation opportunities. 2021 saw continuing Covid restrictions, but we were able to do more mitigation that year. 2022 saw BHR hands-on mitigation kick into high gear with several Emergency Management Committee (EMC) Fire Mitigation Workdays, significant mulching and tree removal by Chris Dotter (grant contractor) and a solid partnership with Team Rubicon. BHR Neighbors turned out for these work days and put in many long and tiring hours of tree cutting, trimming and ladder fuel removal as per the CSFS mitigation guidelines. As part of the grant, we loaded and delivered the log equivalent of 5 full cords of firewood to the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) of Huerfano County. In 2023, the final six months of the grant began with another collaboration between Team Rubicon and Blackhawk volunteers and significant work completed by Chris Dotter, our grant contractor. The grant period ended on June 1, 2023 with an extensive final report, due in July. That report has been completed and tendered. At present we are awaiting the final response by the Colorado State Forest Service regarding acceptance of the report and final reimbursement levels.

Heartfelt congratulations to the 47 BHR POA heroes who put their blood, sweat, and tears into all aspects of this grant! Over the three years of the grant, the Blackhawk and Team Rubicon volunteers contributed well over 2,200 hours during 40 different work projects of In-Kind labor totaling over \$73,469 in value. A truly amazing *tour de force* in what WE can accomplish when we unify together. We will share the final results of the Colorado State Forest Service response to our final report when we receive it.

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that there are four natural hot spring pools open to the public between Alamosa and Salida in the beautiful San Luis Valley?

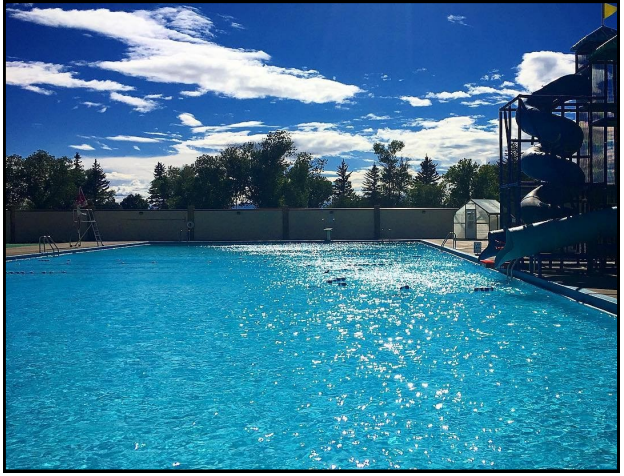
Splashland Hot Springs is about 2 miles outside of Alamosa and is one large pool with slides. It has a concession stand and is open from late spring to early autumn. (719-589-6258)

Sand Dunes Recreation is located about 24 miles north of Alamosa off state highway 17 near Hooper, Colorado. It has multiple pools, an on-site restaurant, and a few choices for overnight stays. Additionally, the facility offers picnic areas, volleyball and basketball courts, and a 24-foot slide. Accommodations at the resort include four cabins, and a campground with RV and tent sites. Laundry and showers are available 24-7 at the shower house. Snacks are available at the on-site gift shop. (719-378-2807)

Joyful Journey Hot Springs is located about 49 miles north of Alamosa off state highway 17 near Moffat, Colorado. It is a relaxing resort with fantastic views of the Sangre De Cristo Mountain range and has a full-service spa with massage therapy and yoga classes. Visitors can choose from a wide variety of accommodations. Tent and RV camping with hookups is available. The camp also offers a furnished yurt or tipi. For those looking for more comfort, they can book a room in the lodge that includes a private bathroom and expansive outdoor deck. All overnight guests receive complimentary access to the pools as well as daily breakfast and dinner. (719-256-4328)

Valley View Hot Springs is located about 57 miles north of Alamosa off state highway 17. Valley View is a "clothing optional" resort featuring several man-made and primitive hot spring pools. It is open almost year-round. The swimming pool is located near the parking lot. Four natural hot spring pools are situated along a dirt trail in a nearby forest. For lodging, visitors can choose to camp in a variety of cabins and rustic houses. At the campground, 24 tent sites and 22 car sites are available, but there are no hookups. Five cabins can be rented, and lodging is also available in the Sunset House and Oak House communal lodges. No private bathrooms are available, but shared bathrooms with showers are located nearby. 719-256-4315)

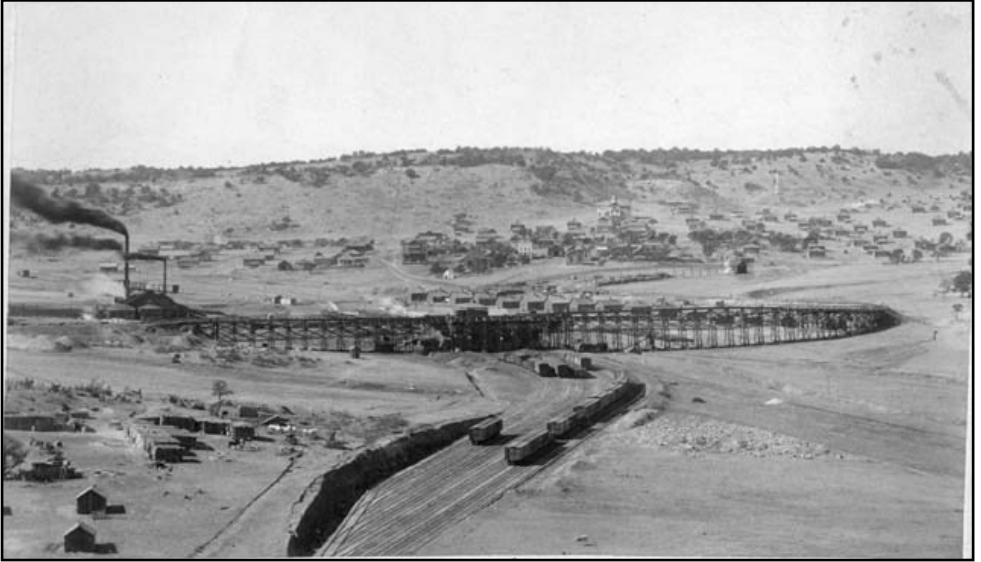
So why not relish a few hours or few days soaking in some of our nearby natural hot spring pools and also enjoy a scenic drive?



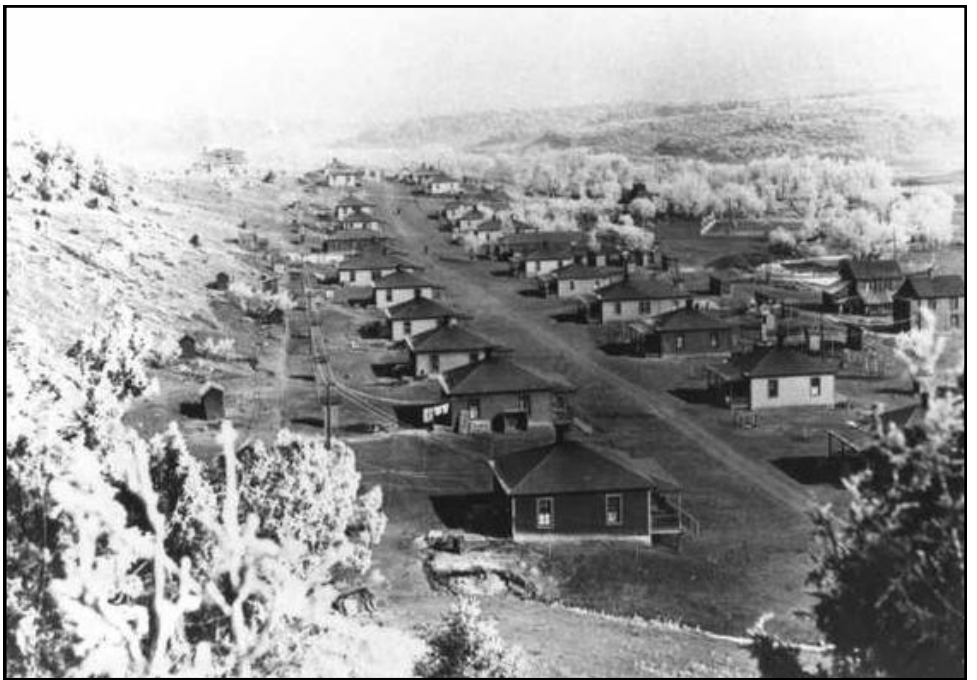
Mining History on Blackhawk Ranch

by Susanne Bloomfield

Although the Utes were the original inhabitants of Blackhawk Ranch, more recent residents were associated with the mining industry, whose impact can be seen throughout the ranch, either in abandoned structures, mine tailings, or occasional sealed or imploded mine entrances. Throughout the ranch, deteriorating tree stumps attest to the amount of lumber necessary to fortify the many mine tunnels. The first and most obvious remnants of this once vibrant culture are the remaining foundations of the buildings near the entrance to the ranch that was once the town of Rouse, actually New Rouse, controlled by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company owned by J.D. Rockefeller and Jay Gould. It began operations in 1899 and closed in 1920 after producing 2,095,239 tons of coal. Nearby settlements to the east included Pryor and Lester, as well as Rugby, located to the south in Las Animas county.

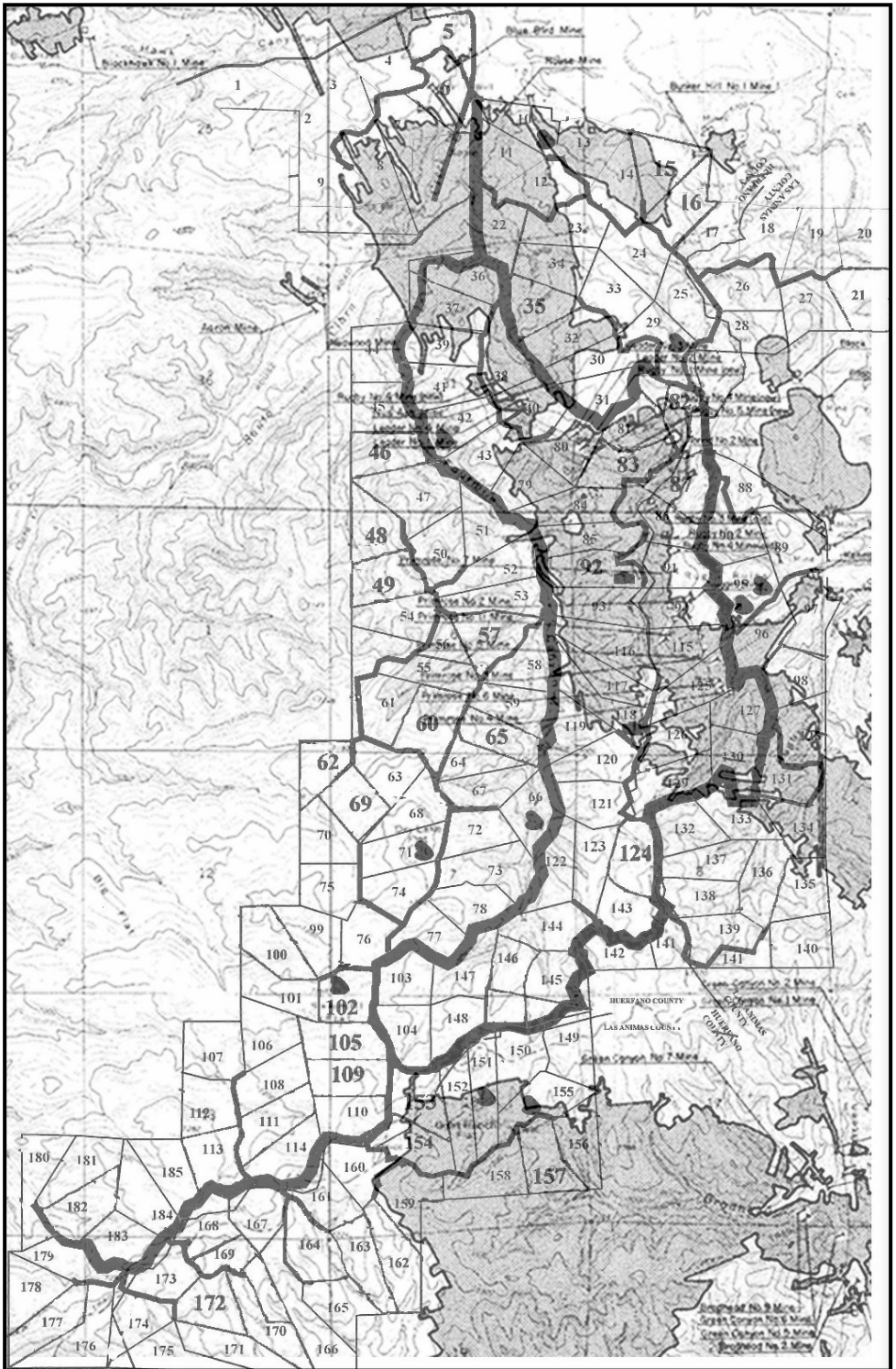


“Old” Rouse had begun operating in 1888 several miles to the north and had been one of the biggest coal mines in the state until water flooded the mine. CF&I abandoned the mine and the town and moved everything near the old Santa Clara mine on the site of the 1871 homestead of A.M. Pryor. New foundations were built and soon houses, churches, and a school were moved or taken apart to be rebuilt at “New” Rouse. Trees were even transplanted to the new town. During the town excavations, mounds were unearthed that contained “skulls, arrowheads, war paint, and tomahawks . . . [and] a tomb with a large cover containing the well preserve remains of a child.”



The following map of the various mines located on Blackhawk Ranch is overlaid with the lot numbers as well as the routes of Four-Mile Canyon and Lower Mine/ Rugby Mines roads. Unfortunately, the names of the individual mines are illegible on this map, but the areas that the mines cover are shaded in grey. In *When Coal was King: Huerfano County's Mining History*, Nancy Christofferson has a general map of the mines operating in Huerfano County near the ranch: Pryor, Midway, Lester, Blue Blaze, Blackhawk, Spring Canyon, Bluebird, Rouse, Aaron, Redwood, Romera, Nun Ash, Leader, Rugby, Primrose, and Bunker Hill. When Land Properties Inc. developers originally subdivided Filing #3 of the 10 filings on Blackhawk Ranch, Pioneer Engineering evaluated the residual effects of the underground coal mining using historic maps and mine data to compile the “Report Concerning the Affects of Abandoned Underground Coal Mining in the Blackhawk Ranch Filing #3” in November 1996.

Three major mines operated in this one particular section of Blackhawk Ranch. Black Diamond Mines, below parcels 26 and 27, operated from 1901-1922 and produced 438,700 tons of coal in seams 3' thick. The deepest shafts were 200'. The New Rouse mine (pictured above) beneath parcels 23 and 29-41 had 4'7" seams and was 2,000 feet at the deepest part. It produced more than 3,400,000 tons of coal between 1905-1920 and 1936- 1948. The Rugby mines produced over 1,275,000 tons of coal with seams of 3'- 4' at a depth of about 250' during the years of 1898-1924, 1935-1936, and 1945-1954. Although Parcel 34 is the only lot included in this report for Filing #3, nearby lots in Las Animas county would also have seen mining activity from the Rugby mine.



Note: For the many new owners on Blackhawk Ranch, portions of this is a reprint from the article that I published in the Summer 2017 *Newsletter*. Many resources are available for residents if they wish to learn more about the mining activity on Blackhawk Ranch. Two historical references specific to coal mining here are *When Coal Was King: Huerfano County's Mining History* by Nancy Christofferson and *Coal People: Life in Southern Colorado's Company Towns, 1890-1930* by Rick J. Clyne. In addition several historical centers have a wealth of information as well as archives available to the public: [Huerfano Heritage Center](#) and the [Walsenburg Mining Museum](#) in Walsenburg; the [Steelworks Center of the West](#) in Pueblo; and the [Apishapa Valley Heritage Center](#) in Aguilar. Other sources of information can be obtained from the Huerfano County Clerk and the Land Use Office in Walsenburg and the Las Animas County Clerk in Trinidad. The Steelworks Museum only has the map for the Rouse mine.