

## Ben Lara, Recreation Staff, Salida, Colorado

Ben has been working as the Salida Ranger District Recreation Staff for the past 8 years. Prior to his current assignment he worked on the Inyo National Forest and Pacific Southwest Regional office in California. He has spent his career working on facilitating access to National Forests. Ben has a strong passion for connecting people to their public lands and building a strong stewardship ethic within the communities he serves. During his Forest Service career Ben has worked with some amazing communities and natural landscapes in California, Wyoming, Honduras, Brazil and the Philippines. He has also worked at various levels with the agency including the District, Forest and Regional level. Ben's formal education includes a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from Colorado State University and a Master of Science in Parks and Protected Area Management from San Francisco State University.