

Highlights from the Field

Commissioner Adams'
November 2022 Update

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Moffat County Cattlemen's Association Fall Gathering 2022

Thank you to Erik Glenn, CCALT executive Director, Chad Green, MCCA president, and the Pankey Colorado Cattlemen's Land Trust (CCALT) is hosting a tour of the Pankey Ranch and holding a landowner dinner in Craig on Friday, September 9th.



Community Dialogue at the Stanko Ranch

Thank you to Jo and Jim Stanko, Courtney Vail, and the over 20 ranchers, wolf advocates, land managers, researchers, scientists, and policymakers who gathered at the Stanko Ranch. Out of the zoom rooms and on the land is the best way to co-steward.

Discussion topics included conflict reduction strategies, ranch diversification, water management, wildlife conservation efforts, and the future of agriculture with 4-H.



Thank you to the Partnerships for the National Trail System Workshop board, staff, trail association members, fellow facilitators and panelist for an incredible workshop!

Special thank you to Shandra Terry, USDA Forest Service for providing a deep dive on the new *FS Equity Action Plan* (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/equity-action-plan>)



Common growth areas included:

- ▶ Indigenous Relationships with the Land, the Cultural Resource Framework, and Indigenous Mapping and Research Program.
- ▶ partnerships, and community engagement,
- ▶ strengthening accessibility for people with disabilities,
- ▶ Interagency collaboration,
- ▶ workplace policies and practices,
- ▶ recruitment, retention, and advancement
- ▶ Gateway communities and trail towns



Thank you to History Colorado for the Release of the Colorado Black History Trail App!



The Dry

The Dry

The Dry was founded around 1916 by two Black homesteaders, sisters Josephine and Lenora Rucker, with help from George Swink, a white man with ties to the irrigation industry. The Rucker sisters convinced numerous Black families across the nation to stake land in the area utilizing the Enlarged Homestead Act. Many residents of The Dry migrated from Nicodemus, an All-Black community in Kansas.¹

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed people to gain large amounts of land by paying a filing fee and improving upon the land in a specific period of time. The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 allowed people to claim less desirable, non-irrigable land after all the land near bodies of water had been claimed after the original Homestead Act. At its height, The Dry was home to around one hundred settlers but the population decreased significantly due to a lack of irrigation and the Dust Bowl. By the 1930s all but a few of the town's residents had left for greener pastures. One of the families that remained was the Craig family. The Craig family consisted of father Harvey Craig Sr., mother Rolan (Dixon) Craig, and three children; Flora, Harvey Jr., and Alice.²

Today, Alice McDonald is the last local resident of The Dry. She works with various organizations to highlight her family's experience and the legacy of The Dry as an All-Black homesteading community in Southeastern Colorado. Many are aware of Dearfield, a Black homesteading community in Greeley Co. but

- ▶ History Colorado highlights the African-American experience in Colorado with the Black History Trail, which features both virtual and in-person guided experiences to various historical narratives to trace Black history in Colorado from pioneer days to modern times.
- ▶ The Black History Trail initiative connects sites, places, and stories across the state, utilizing History Colorado's robust collection and collaborating with our state's African-American communities to work with them to tell their stories.
- ▶ The stops along the Trail, both virtual and physical, are broken down into four different regions, each containing historic places along with individuals whose stories exemplify aspects of the African-American experience in Colorado.

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Region 1 - Black History Trail

6 ITEMS

Black History Pre-Colorado Statehood

The Southwest Region of Colorado is rich with Black history! This area was notable for various pioneers, trappers, traders, and soldiers that graced the land before Colorado achieved statehood in 1876. The Southwest Region of the Black Heritage Trail of Colorado includes Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Mesa, Delta, Ouray, San Juan, La Plata, Archuleta, Hinsdale, Gunnison, Pitkin, Lake, Chaffee, Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos, Costilla, Alamosa, Custer, Fremont, Park, Teller, and a portion of Huerfano County.



John Taylor and the Ute Tribe



Welcome to Southwest Colorado!



Buffalo Soldiers



John Taylor



John Taylor and the Ute Tribe



John Taylor Legacy



Explore History Colorado's Collection

Start