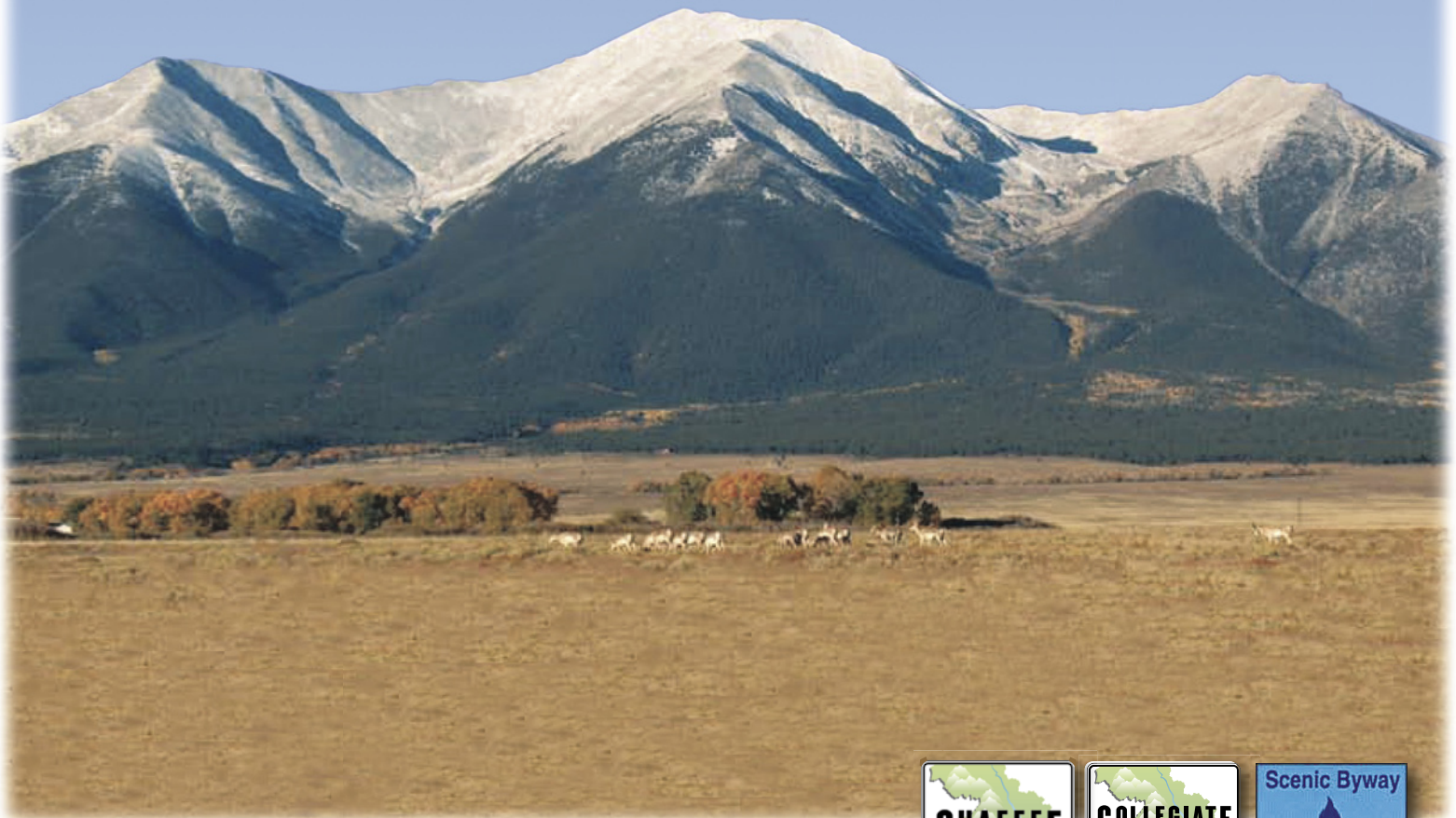


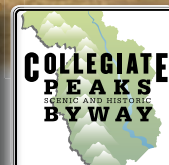
Executive Summary

Chaffee County Heritage Area & Collegiate Peaks Scenic And Historic Byway

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008

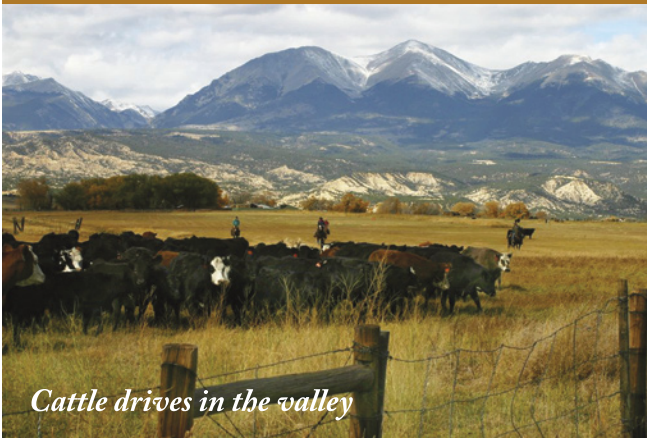


PREPARED BY **CHAFFEE COUNTY HERITAGE AREA ADVISORY BOARD**
APPROVED BY **CHAFFEE COUNTY BOCC, RESOLUTION 2008-56**





Panorama view of the Sawatch Range



Cattle drives in the valley



Downtown Salida



Smelertown



Trout fishing

What is Chaffee County's "Heritage?"

Like all human landscapes, Chaffee County has a diversity of natural, cultural and historic resources that define its character and establish its unique sense of place. Taken together, these resources, which may also be termed "intrinsic qualities," compose the County's "Heritage."

Our heritage consists of its

- *Scenic Beauty and Natural Diversity*
- *Agricultural Lands and Traditions*
- *Cultural, Historical and Archeological Features*
- *Recreational Opportunities*

INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK



PLAN LEGEND

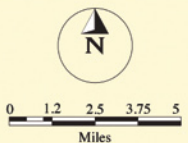
- Destination Sites
- Interpretive Waysides
- Local Heritage Center
- Ski Area
- Threshold Marker

- Adventure Routes
- Adventure Route Connections
- Scenic Byway
- AHRA Sites
- Museum
- Historic Downtown

- Arkansas River
- Federal Highway
- Local Road
- Trail
- Stream/River
- County Line

Ownership

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Forest
- Forest Service Wilderness
- State Land
- State Park, Wildlife, or Recreation Area
- Private w/Conservation



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 May 2008

PROTECTING HERITAGE RESOURCES . . .

*Recently, with encouragement from the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners, there has been growing consensus among residents, municipal officials, government agencies, and economic interests that **heritage resources that define the county's sense of place should be identified, evaluated, discussed, and – ultimately – better protected.** Such protection would not only assure continuation of a desirable quality of life, but also be attractive to new residents, businesses and additional visitors resulting in welcomed economic benefits.*

. . . AND THE VISION TO ACHIEVE THIS.

*The vision that the Heritage Board has of the future Chaffee County Heritage Area is of a community that has successfully **balanced growth and economic development with protection of its rural and agricultural landscapes, scenic river and mountain views, natural areas, cultural traditions, and historical places,** all of which give the county its sense of place and make it proud. It is a place where visitors and residents alike experience, understand and appreciate the county's heritage resources through respectful exploration, learning and adventure.*

Steps Taken So Far

To begin, through Resolution No. 2004-45, Chaffee County Commissioners established the entire county as the **Chaffee County Heritage Area**. The Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board, created at the same time, was authorized to provide “. . . assistance on matters associated with planning and implementation of the Heritage Area program.”

Soon after its creation, the Heritage Board successfully nominated the county's major travel corridors as the **Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway**.

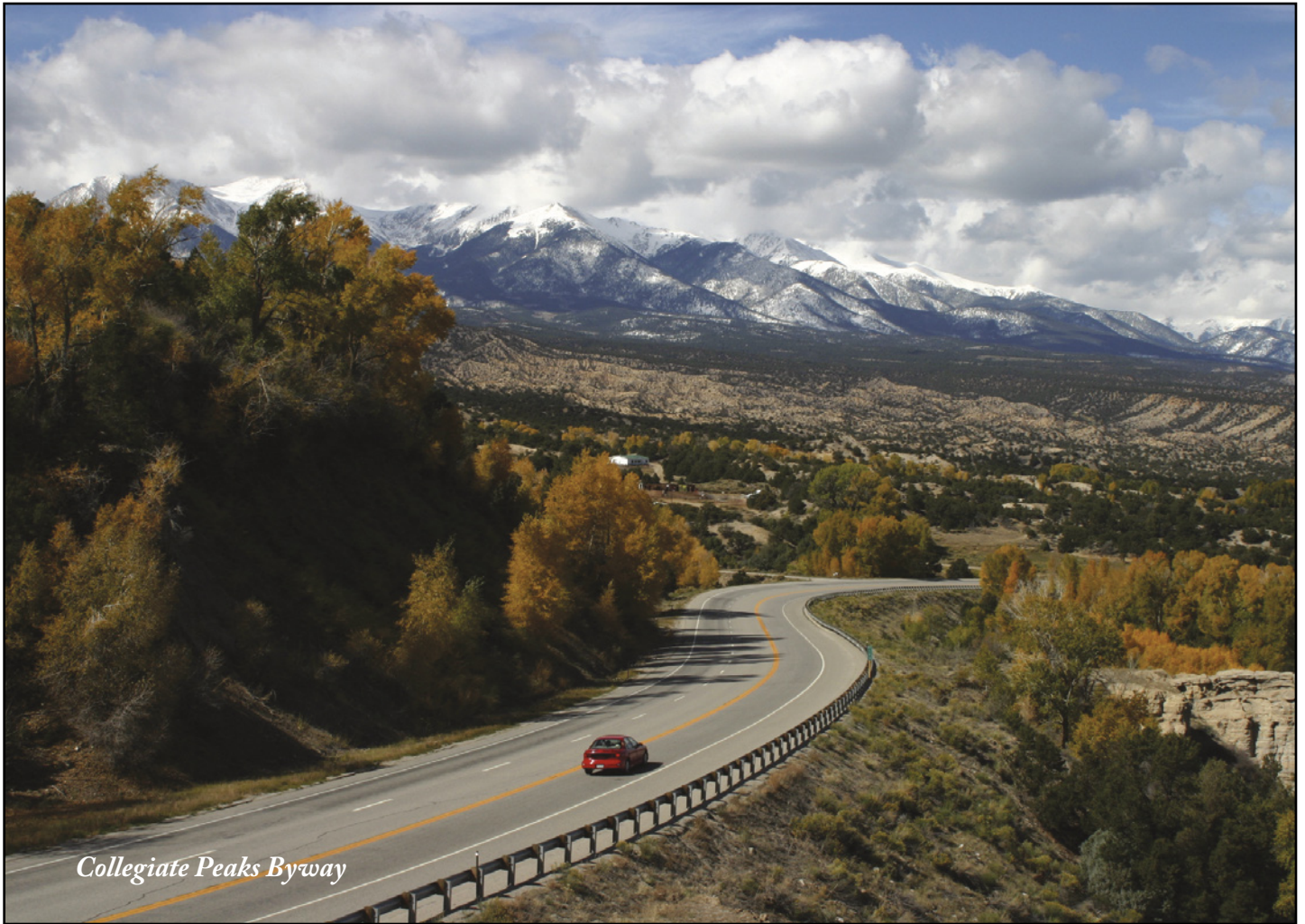
Formally established in 2005, it is one of only 26 such byways in Colorado. The Board further determined that planning and management of the Byway would be fully integrated with the Heritage Area. (See back cover.)

The Board sought and received grant funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation to address the Byway and its need for a Corridor Management Plan. In the same grant, with matching funds provided by the County and municipalities, the Board obtained support from the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund to ensure that historic and other heritage resources throughout the County would be included in a comprehensive **Heritage Area Management Plan**, which was completed in October, 2008.

The Need for a Plan

A number of issues, opportunities and challenges in Chaffee County may impact heritage resources. The following were considered when developing the Plan's strategies and actions to promote, manage and protect the Heritage Area and Byway.

- Chaffee County is one of Colorado's fastest growing counties; rapid growth is resulting in new patterns of development that may negatively impact heritage resources.
- Few planning tools exist for landowners or the community to protect lands that provide Chaffee County with its rural heritage; the current land use update will create policies that promote sustainable development and economic benefits while also protecting open lands, working landscapes and natural resources. The Heritage Area plan can help translate those policies into concrete projects and physical development.



Collegiate Peaks Byway

- The importance of scenic character as a heritage resource should be highlighted and promoted.
- The county's agreeable climate and diverse natural landscapes provide residents and visitors with outstanding outdoor recreation and adventure opportunities; there is increasing demand for access to public lands which provide these opportunities, with increased potential for conflicts between users.
- Historic preservation and land conservation offer local jobs and other economic benefits that have not been fully realized.
- Opportunities exist for expanding the county's tourism to focus on travelers (heritage tourists) who will respect the county's sense of place and are willing to pay a premium for quality lodging, food, shopping and art.

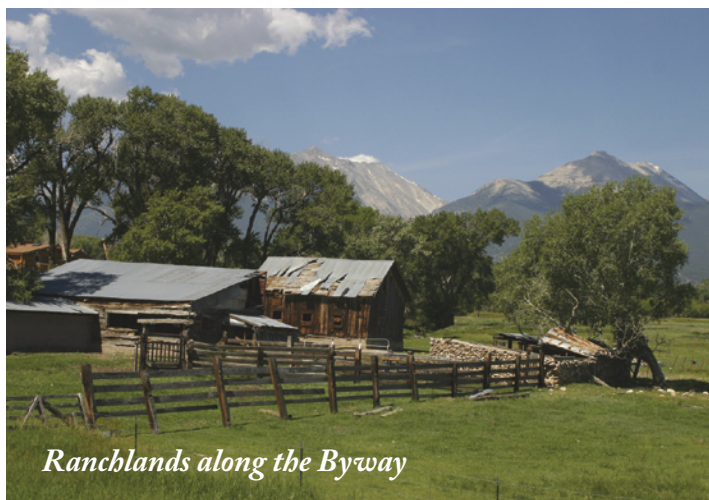
THE COUNTY "ROUNDTABLE"

Coinciding with development of the Heritage Area Plan, Chaffee County began revision of its zoning and land use maps and regulations. Intensive public involvement through a "Roundtable" process assisted this task. Recognizing a commonality of objectives, the Heritage Board joined other citizens in providing input. The conclusions and recommendations of the Heritage Area Plan are entirely consistent with, and go no further than, recommendations formulated by the Roundtable.

Goals

In developing specific actions to implement this vision, the Board's goals were to:

- identify essential natural, archeological, historical, and cultural resources that shape the character of the Heritage Area;
- preserve the heritage values of Chaffee County, while sustaining and enhancing the desirability of living, working, and recreating here;
- promote the value of Chaffee County's scenic character, and identify underlying resources (agricultural, natural, historical, and cultural) that contribute to that character;
- encourage actions (including heritage tourism) that promote economic development while preserving a way of life that the community as a whole favors;
- work in partnership with ranchers and property owners, residents, municipal and county government, public land managers, and historic preservation groups to implement projects promoting good land stewardship and protection of heritage resources;
- educate and engage residents and visitors about the Heritage Area's significant places and values through respectful exploration and learning.



Ranchlands along the Byway

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan includes sixteen major actions and projects that will be undertaken by the Heritage Board and its partners to achieve the goals of the Heritage Area and Byway. Actions are divided into three major categories:

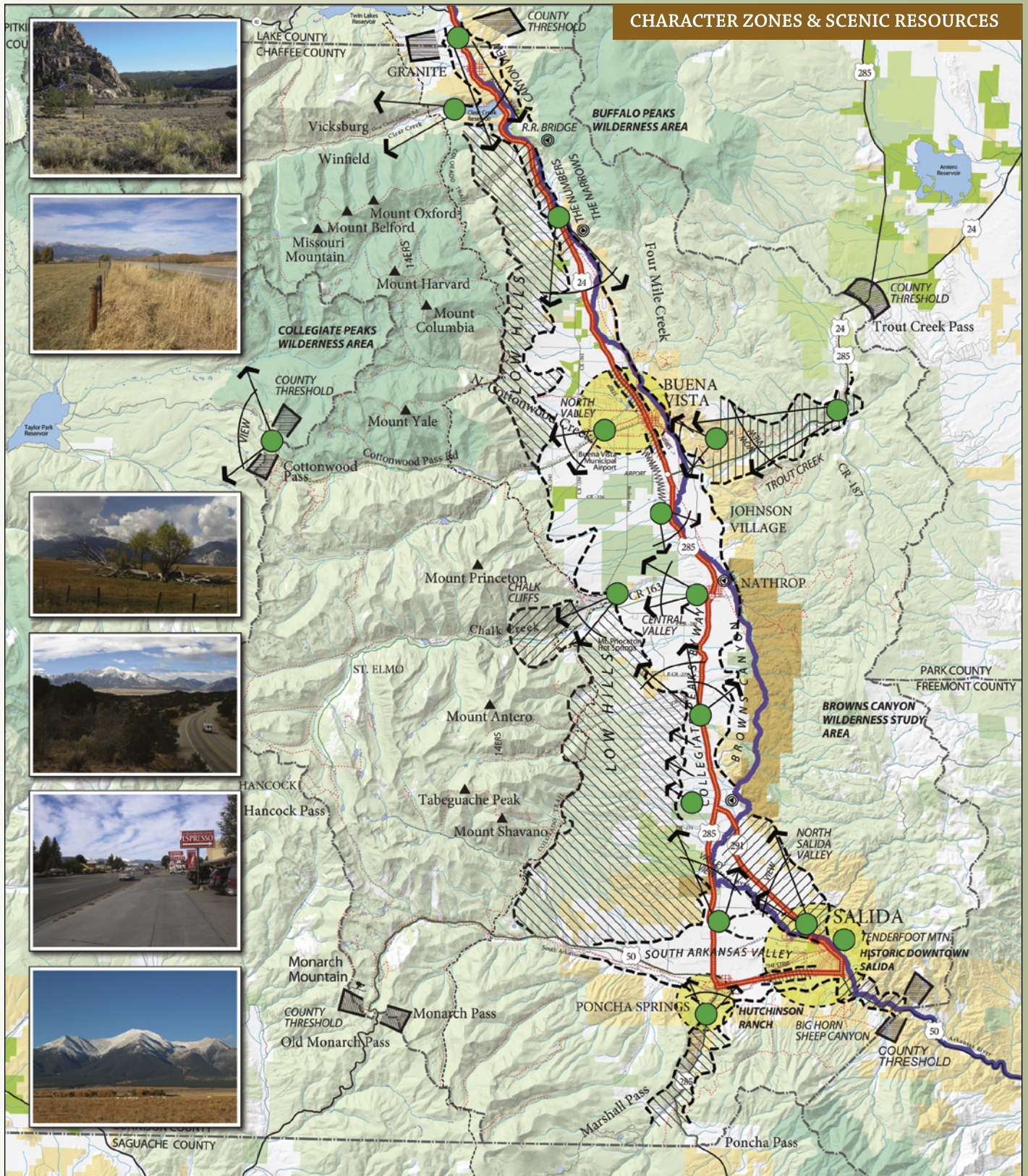
- **Preserve the scenic character of Chaffee County** through resource protection, including promoting value of scenic views, advocating and supporting responsible land use development, and promoting land conservation through historic preservation projects, conservation easements and other tools
- **Identify and protect significant historic resources** by assisting the county with its historic database and, by working with partners to promote historic preservation, promote practices that recognize historic resources, and identify potentially significant properties for inventory and evaluation.
- **Educate and engage the community and visitors** through interpretive, educational, and marketing programs; work with partners to develop programs and facilities.

INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

The Interpretive Strategy is designed to engage and educate the community and visitors. It sets forth a consistent county-wide approach for interpretation of its scenic, natural, agricultural, cultural, archeological, and historical assets. By identifying six major interpretive themes, and encouraging public agency and private partners to develop interpretive signs, waysides and other materials within those themes, the Plan should result in a more coordinated approach and provide more effective and attractive messages to visitors throughout the County.

The Interpretive Framework identifies locations for development of new interpretive waysides and the creation or improvement of local visitor centers. It also identifies historic downtowns, destination sites and adventure routes that are to be promoted through appropriate standard-design signs and marketing materials.

CHARACTER ZONES & SCENIC RESOURCES



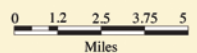
PLAN LEGEND

- Overlook
- Viewshed
- Recreation Sites
- Natural Area Markers
- County Threshold
- Downtown Area

- Scenic Byway
- Arkansas River
- Federal Highway
- Local Road
- Trail
- Stream/River
- County Line

Ownership

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Forest
- Forest Service Wilderness
- State Land
- State Park, Wildlife, or Recreation Area
- Private w/Conservation



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MUSKIE BEAUFORT PROJECT

May 2008



HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY

PLAN LEGEND

Amenities

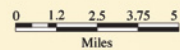
- Airport
- Golf Course
- Ski Area
- Trail
- Stream/River

Scenic Byway

- Downtown Area
- Federal Highway
- Local Road
- Heritage Area Boundary

Ownership

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Area of Critical Environmental
- Forest
- Forest Service Wilderness
- State Land
- State Park, Wildlife, or Recreation Area
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November 2007

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