

FINGER ROCK PRESERVE
A Wetland Mitigation Bank

Routt County, Colorado

Finger Rock Preserve is located in northwest Colorado about 30 miles south of Steamboat Springs. The Service Area includes Routt County, Yampa River Watershed, and a portion of Eagle County (Vail), Eagle River Watershed.

Established in December 2002, the 620 acre site was selected due to substantial senior water rights on three creek drainages, soils and gentle topography. The development plan includes the creation and restoration of 255 acres of historically grazed and eroded livestock agriculture land.



Four large ponds, numerous shallow excavations, extensive irrigational ditches and thirty-five water dam structures have been constructed to improve the management of water. By the summer of 2005, successful hydrology was established and every year the managers at FRP continue to improve water practices.



In conjunction with hydrology, to establish diverse riparian, aquatic, wetland habitats, the planting schedule has included 20,000+ woody plants, grass-grasslikes and additional wetland obligates to achieve diversity levels. The habitats have improved every year since 2002 and with the placement of a conservation easement; Finger Rock Preserve will enhance the ecological system in perpetuity.



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