Lower Morrison Cabin, Colorado  
August 2 - 14, 2015

Project Partner: Lone Mesa State Park

History: Lone Mesa State Park was an approximately 12,000 acre parcel of private lands purchased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 1999, formerly Colorado State Parks, with the intent of conserving its wonderful natural resource values. CPW’s goal is to eventually open the property to the public as a state park; it currently provides limited big game hunting as the area includes fantastic elk, deer and bear habitat.

The Lower Morrison Cabin sits in approximately the center of Lone Mesa State Park, along Plateau Creek, and was historically used as a cow camp, trappers residence, and hunting cabin. The cabin’s property was originally owned by James, his wife Maggie, and John Luna (J.L.) Morrison who came to Colorado in the late 1800s from Texas. James came to the area first, in about 1897, after his settling in the Montezuma County area, J.L. followed some time later. Both men owned ranches along Plateau Creek which included lands now in Lone Mesa State Park. The Lower Morrison Cabin, which is believed to have been originally constructed in about 1918, belonged to J.L. Morrison. The cabin had a brief moment of fame during the filming of a silent movie starring Clara Bow in 1924 called The Scarlet West, which was filmed in the area.
Scope of Work: Volunteers worked to restore the cabin and make it available for use to hunters and other park visitors. Volunteers learned to:

- Remove of all non-historic furnishings, wall coverings and flooring
- Repair the roof
- Use temporary jacks to re-establish level interior floor
- Re-grade perimeter and establish positive drainage
- Remove and replace exterior siding
- Rehabilitate wood sash windows