



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

New Solar System at Grand Junction Center

Category: Renewable Energy

BLM
Colorado

Fire Management Unit Installs New Solar Capacity at Air Center

Fire management is an important component of public lands management and Grand Junction, Colorado, is one of a number of locations that support interagency fire management units. The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit is jointly managed by the BLM and the Forest Service.



New photovoltaic system at Grand Junction Air Center

Its Grand Junction Air Center provides aircraft resources such as air tankers, smokejumpers, and lead planes for initial attack and large incident support to locations in western Colorado and eastern Utah, as well as supporting national requests for resources.

In order to reduce its carbon footprint, the Fire Management Unit recently installed a new photovoltaic system at the Grand Junction Air Center, using ARRA funding. The new system has the capability of generating over 55,000 kWh of electrical power per year.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$156,000. The ARRA portion of the project was awarded to a HubZone general contractor in Montrose, Colorado. Some construction work was subcontracted to a company in Golden, Colorado. The project employed eight people who worked on various components of the system. The photovoltaic contractor also used local amenities, including motels, restaurants, and electrical supply and hardware vendors, helping to support local economies. The new solar panels are expected to save electricity, and money, for many years to come.



The interagency center supplies tactical aircraft for fire fighting.

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