



**A, D, E, & J. PRIEST CREEK BARN
County Road 24, Steamboat Springs**

The historic barn is situated on a 1,600-acre ranch, 1,230 acres of which are currently a hay and cattle ranch operation. Chester Priest built a homestead dwelling in 1885, patented the land in 1890, and sold it in 1891 to W. H. Dunfield. The two-story timber, board-and-batten-sided barn was built circa 1905 on a locally-quarried sandstone foundation. The first floor has several stalls and an equipment storage area; the second story is a high-capacity hay storage area. Associated structures and areas adjacent to the barn include several old corrals, a holding area, an alley to a loading chute, several access gates, and three loafing sheds adjoining the corrals. Priest Creek runs through the holding area. The barn has been in continuous use since its construction. Elaine Gay (See South Routt, Green Creek Ranch), nee Becker, moved with her family onto the property in 1930. At that time, Rabbit Ears Pass was closed in winter, and fresh produce was difficult to obtain. For the next eight years, her father raised produce for Safeway and sold cream to Clow's Creamery in town. He buried root crops in trenches and dug them as needed; cabbage and potatoes were stored in a dark cave. Ms. Gay's mother raised chickens and sold the eggs. The family also raised hogs and some cattle, which were sold rather than eaten, as the Beckers ate elk, still plentiful on the property today.