

Peak Resources
Weekly Update for CWMA
1/6/09

Peak Resources officially began representing CWMA on January 1, 2009. Given the dim outlook on the state budget, we thought it would be critical to set up meetings with CWMA and key decision makers in order to: 1) gain their support in protecting current funding for weed initiatives 2) increase their knowledge and understanding of CWMA and the importance of weed management in Colorado 3) where possible, help look for additional funding within the state budget 4) think “outside the box” for non-traditional funding solutions.

On January 2, 2009, CWMA met with Senator Jim Isgar. Senator Isgar is a rancher from Hesperus and understands how important our issues are. While he admitted that there would be little to no opportunity for additional funding out of the general fund, he encouraged us to look for money elsewhere, such as a transfer tax or the Governor’s Forest Health Advisory Council (if it receives federal funding). We promised to keep him in the loop regarding our other meetings, as he is willing to help us where possible.

On January 5, 2009, CWMA met with Senator Moe Keller, Chair of the Joint Budget Committee. Senator Keller was very supportive of our issues and goals provided some good ideas as well. She encouraged us to call on our Congressional offices to encourage them to fund the Governor’s Forest Health Advisory Council. Prior to this however, we need to ask the Governor what flexibility he has with spending the proposed \$12 million, should he receive it, and make the case we should be included. Senator Keller suggested Tamarisk may be the way to tap this funding due to the water issues it creates. She encouraged us to meet with other members of the JBC, the Governor’s

office, Ag Council, and Russell George at CDOT.

On January 6, 2009 CWMA met with Will Coyne, Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the House, Terrance Carroll. Will likes the idea of trying to carve out monies from the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council, provided he gets the funding he requested. He also said CWMA should consider running a bill with a goal of gaining recognition and educating legislators. Another option would be to become involved in the transportation coalition consisting of: chambers of commerce, Colorado Concern, Colorado Contractor's Assn, Colorado Environmental Coalition, local governments and others who are looking for funding solutions via transportation. This would require some "creative" thinking.

Next Steps:

- Meet with the rest of the JBC members
- Meet with the Governor
- Check into transportation coalition
- Meet with Senator Penry
- Meet with Representative Curry
- Finish and sign off on one-pager