

**Peak Resources**  
**Weekly Update for CWMA**  
**1/16/09**

On January 12, 2009, CWMA met with Representative Ferrandino who is also a member of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). Ferrandino is from metro Denver and admitted noxious weeds were a new issue for him. His aide was aware of the problems and concerns associated with weed management and played a critical role in helping him to understand the seriousness of our issues. He suggested we take a look at Great Outdoor Colorado and what possibilities might exist for a partnership. He committed to helping us keep the existing funds we have.

On January 15, 2009, CWMA met with Senator Abel Tapia from Pueblo. Tapia is also on the JBC and was very sympathetic to our concerns. He agreed with our idea of trying to become more involved in the Governor's Healthy Forest Initiative and suggested that Commissioner Stulp was the appropriate person to make this happen. Tapia offered to send Commissioner Stulp a letter asking him to make weed management a top priority, as the Commissioner and Senator are close allies. Senator Tapia offered letters of support and his leadership to convene a meeting whenever we thought it appropriate. He also encouraged us to think about what type of legislation would be helpful to CWMA next year.

On January 16, 2009 CWMA met with Representative Don Marostica from Loveland and also on the JBC. Marostica is a real estate developer who has had to deal with noxious weeds his entire professional life and is willing to do just about anything we ask him to! He cut right to the chase and asked us: How much money CWMA needs to run an effective state wide program? How do other states manage their money and how

does Colorado compare with other states in funding? Rep Marostica suggested we work with him over the summer to draft a bill that would call for a statewide, across the board assessment to determine a weed fee structure. This would be a bi-partisan bill and it was suggested we get Senator Isgar and Tapia to be our leaders in the Senate. Marostica understands weed issues more than anyone we have met with thus far and is willing to help us in any way we see fit. This is very good news for CWMA.

Next Steps:

- Meet with the Governor
- Check into transportation coalition
- Meet with Senator Penry
- Meet with Representative Curry
- Devise an education campaign for: 1. legislators and 2. The public