

**Peak Resources**  
**Weekly Update for CWMA**  
**1/30/09**

On Monday, January 26 we met with Representative Kathleen Curry, also Chair of the House Agriculture Committee. Rep. Curry is extremely supportive of CWMA and believes we are doing the right things. She also said that should we decide to run legislation next year to increase funding, she would like to be part of it. She appreciates the fact that CWMA is thinking for “non-traditional” funding sources, as opposed to just asking for state money like everyone else. We promised to keep her up to speed on the options we come up with and get her input.

On Tuesday, January 27 we meet with Rebecca Swanson from the Governor’s Policy Office. We told Rebecca that we would really like to see the Governor speaking about noxious weeds more in public and bringing attention to our issue. She thought it was a good idea and something she could help us with. She did say it would be gradual learning process for him and it would take time to get him where we want him to be. She encouraged us to get the Governor involved in some small projects to begin with, then gradually move him to the spotlight on weed management. She will push for him to attend any event we would like him to be at. We asked her to keep her eyes open for any potential funding (i.e. federal stimulus package) and let us know how we can best position ourselves to be a recipient.

On Wednesday, January 28 we met with Senator Penry’s policy aide. Unfortunately both Penry and his top policy advisor, Mac Zimmerman, were both dealing with urgent issues and were not available. However, Tara was very receptive to our message and took careful notes. Tara asked that we give him a copy of our presentation

we give to the Joint Ag Committees. Tara said he would be supportive of any efforts we had to increase our funding, especially if we could avoid dipping into state money and we should use his support in any way we can. Penry will be a great ally for us should we move forward with legislation next year.

On Wednesday, January 28 Tracee presented to the Weed network group at DOW. The theme of the presentation was “How a bill becomes a law” and the role of lobbyists.

Our request to present to the Joint House and Senate Ag Committee has been accepted and we have been scheduled for February 25 at 7:30 am. We have about 15 minutes to present, then a few minutes for questions and answers. This agenda is challenging to get on, and we can thank Representative Curry for moving us up the priority list. We should discuss how/who we want to manage our presentation.

I have to say that the CWMA calendar, Garden smart booklet and noxious weeds of Colorado directory are incredibly popular! I get stopped constantly in the hallway by staffers, Representatives, lobbyists, asking me for a calendar!! This is great news and means that we are using them effectively.

**Next Steps:**

- Meet with Western Governor’s Association (I have put in a request for a meeting)
- Continue discussions with transportation coalition on maintenance of right away and prevention.
- Develop presentation for Joint Ag Committee
- Meet with new legislators