

Peak Resources
Weekly Update for CWMA
2/7/09

On Monday, February 2, we met with Representative Randy Baumgardner, a new legislator from the Craig area and also on the House Agriculture Committee. Rep. Baumgardner is very supportive of CWMA and is willing to help us in any way he can. Should we decide to run legislation next year, he asked us to keep him in the loop and he will help. Baumgardner is a rancher and seems to have a general understanding of our issue.

On Thursday, February 5, we met with Representative Randy Fischer, Representative Dickie Lee Hullinghorst and Representative Wes McKinley. Rep. Fischer is from Fort Collins and is Vice-Chair of the House Agriculture Committee. Rep. Fischer attended the Rocky Mountain Weed Summit last year and is supportive of any legislation or funding ideas we may have. He also offered to co-sign any pertinent letters of support for potential funding opportunities. He asked that we keep him informed through out the summer as to what our legislative plan for next year is. Rep. Hullinghorst is a new legislator from Boulder and also on the House Agriculture Committee. She said noxious weeds has always been an interest of hers and believes that proper weed management is in the best interest of the general public, not just rural areas. She is also very supportive of any and all of our efforts. Rep. McKinley is from the Lamar area and is also a member of the House Ag Committee. He will be an ally of ours and just asked that we let him know what we need. We also explained to him there is a rare, yet contained weed in his district and we could use his help alerting the county commissioners in the area. He offered one contact he thought would be helpful.

On Friday, February 6, Tracee had a productive conversation with Representative Judy Solano. Rep. Solano is from the northeast Denver area and also a member of the House Ag Committee. Rep. Solano actually approached me about another issue but when I told her I was working with CWMA, she asked several good questions and we had a discussion about our goals for 2009 and our need for funding. Rep. Solano is a big supporter of ours and will be yet another wonderful ally for us.

Ron Mabry with CCWSA and Fred Raish are spearheading our legislative luncheon on March 12th from 12noon to 1:30 at the Warwick Hotel near the Capitol. Senator Jim Isgar and Representative Jerry Sonnenberg have agreed to Co-Chair the event and we are hopeful that Commissioner Stulp, the Governor or one of his staffers, along with Legislators and key people from the Agricultural community will attend. Invitations have been mailed to all 100 Members of the General Assembly and Tracee has begun to check in with them to get the date on their calendars early. This should be a great event and will draw a significant amount of attention to CWMA.

Next Steps:

- Meet with Western Governor's Association on February 12th at 2pm.
- Develop presentation for Joint Ag Committee
- Meet with new legislators
- Continue to meet with Members of House and Senate Ag Committees