

FINAL REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development and Implementation

Project Number: 5367010

In order to receive your final reimbursement, you must submit a Grant Report and this Final Reimbursement Request. Final reimbursement will not be released until the final grant report is received and accepted. Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation and documentation of voluntary matching funds, if any. Federal Funds cannot be used as sources for meeting the cost sharing (matching) provisions. Matching Funds are expenses for goods, services, and labor necessary for project implementation and incurred by the applicant which are not reimbursed with Federal Funds. (This requirement only applies if you quantified a match in your original proposal.)

1. Sub-Award #G-6701-1	2. Total Award Amount: \$1,183,711.00
4. Make Payment To: Name: Coalition for the Upper South Platte Address: Box 726 Lake George, CO 80827	5. Period of Performance: From: 11/1/2009 To: 9/30/2011

6. Grant Report as an attachment. Project overview--process, who, how, where, other important information, etc. Examples of project accomplishment. Please be specific and report all numbers applicable to the grant for jobs, acres treated, numbers of defensible spaces, tons of cubic feet or yards of slash collected, number of presentations, and number of plans written. Compare actual accomplishments to those identified in your grant proposal. Explain any variances. Optional information may include more detail on specific projects with maps, photos, and accomplishments.

SEE ATTACHED

7. Reimbursement Request: \$ 3599.00

Project to Date Reimbursement Request Amount cannot exceed the total award obligation as identified in the Award Document.

Current Period				Project Total		
Budget Categories	Reimbursement Request Amount	Matching Funds*	Total Costs	Previously Requested Amount	Matching Funds*	Total Costs
Labor	-			512081.00		512081.00
Material				33348.00		33348.00
Travel				6956.00		6956.00
CONTRACTS	3599.00		3599.00	627,727.00		627,727.00
Total	3599.00 \$0.00	\$0.00	3599.00 \$0.00	1,180,112.00 \$0.00	\$0.00	1,183,711.00 \$0.00

Note: Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Donated time and materials can only be counted towards the matching component.

*Use actual costs or \$20.25/hour (2009-2010) and/or \$20.85 (effective Jan. 1, 2011) for donated or volunteers' time.

Use actual costs or fair market value of donated materials, supplies, or equipment use.

8. I request final reimbursement in the amount of \$ 3599.00, for the work completed and documented above. I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays reported are for the purposes set forth in the grant award documents.

Signature

Coral Eburn

Date

10/6/11

Sub-recipient

9. Certification (To be completed by ARRA Project Manager and ARRA Program Manager)

Work meets minimum standards as set forth by CSFS.

Signature

Robert A. Bundy

Date 10-19-11

Signature

Program Manager

Date

HOURS OF OPERATION:

- Normally 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Workdays are scheduled according to initial contact date and need
- Staff will be available 3-4 days per week except in winter season
- Cancellations may occur due to weather conditions or at CUSP's discretion

Due to the many programs CUSP administers, advance scheduling is recommended, so call soon!

To learn more about property management, fire and wildfire protection, please visit the following web sites:

www.firewise.org
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>
www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/fire/
www.aboutchainsaws.com/
www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info/



*We are all responsible
for protecting our watershed
and the forests we call home.
Join CUSP and lend a hand!*

CONTACT INFO:

Office hours: 9:00AM-3:00PM

Phone: 719.748.0033

Fax: 719.302.2852

Email:

CUSP@UPPERSOUTHPLATTE.ORG

Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program



The *Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)* helps property owners manage their home ignition zone within the Upper South Platte Watershed.

THE FACTS:

- 1) CUSP strives to reduce fire hazards by working cooperatively with property owners
- 2) Scheduling priority will be given to community based projects

BEFORE WE ARRIVE:

- Pile slash close to roads, drives or an open field for easy access
- 12" maximum diameter: small trees can be left whole
- **No roots, root wads, weeds, trash, or lumber of any kind!**
- **Watch for nails in trees!**
- Pile slash with cut ends facing one direction (see pictures→)
- Piles should be laid in low rows no higher than 4' tall
- Property owner or representative must be present
- Piles not meeting CUSP's specifications will not be chipped

WHEN WE ARRIVE:

- ✓ Keep children and pets inside
- ✓ **Be available to help with the work** when physically possible
- ✓ Please have safety equipment available, including: eye and ear protection, long shirt and pants, gloves and sturdy boots
- ✓ CUSP may be able to provide minimal safety gear

Example of a **Properly Stacked** pile



Example of an **Improperly Stacked** pile



CUSP crew & volunteer during chipper workday



We are not a contracted chipper service. We are here to work with you!

Donations are very important for the future of this program. CUSP appreciates any help you may be able to provide.

A suggested contribution for this service is \$50 per hour.

CUSP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax-deductible.



SPONSORS

United States Forest Service
 Colorado State Forest Service
 Teller County
 City of Woodland Park,
 Coalition for the Upper South Platte
 Governor's Energy Office
 City of Colorado Springs Utilities
 Colorado Department of Local Affairs
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at CSU
 Front Range Roundtable



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

The mountain pine beetle (MPB) has attacked over 755,000 acres of forest in Northern Colorado. While not yet at the epidemic level in our area the MPB has changed the health of our local forests. To attack this issue it will take a collaborative approach. The WPHFI Team needs your help to control MPB spread.

MPB Quick Facts:

Flight Season: July 15 through September 15; the time of year when beetles are emerging and seeking live green trees to attack. Beetle emergence is at its peak in mid-August. During this time, beetle pairs (male and female) will attempt to bore into the bark through one hole, form an egg gallery, and lay approximately 75 eggs. Note: The flight can begin earlier in warmer years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 CUSP
 719.748.0033
WWW.UPPERSOUTHPLATTE.ORG
WWW.WPHFI.ORG

WOODLAND PARK HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE



WPHFI

The Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative is a collaborative project of various federal, state, local government, nonprofit, and individual partners. We are dedicated to improving the resiliency and health of forests in and around the Woodland Park area, and implementing the Teller County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.



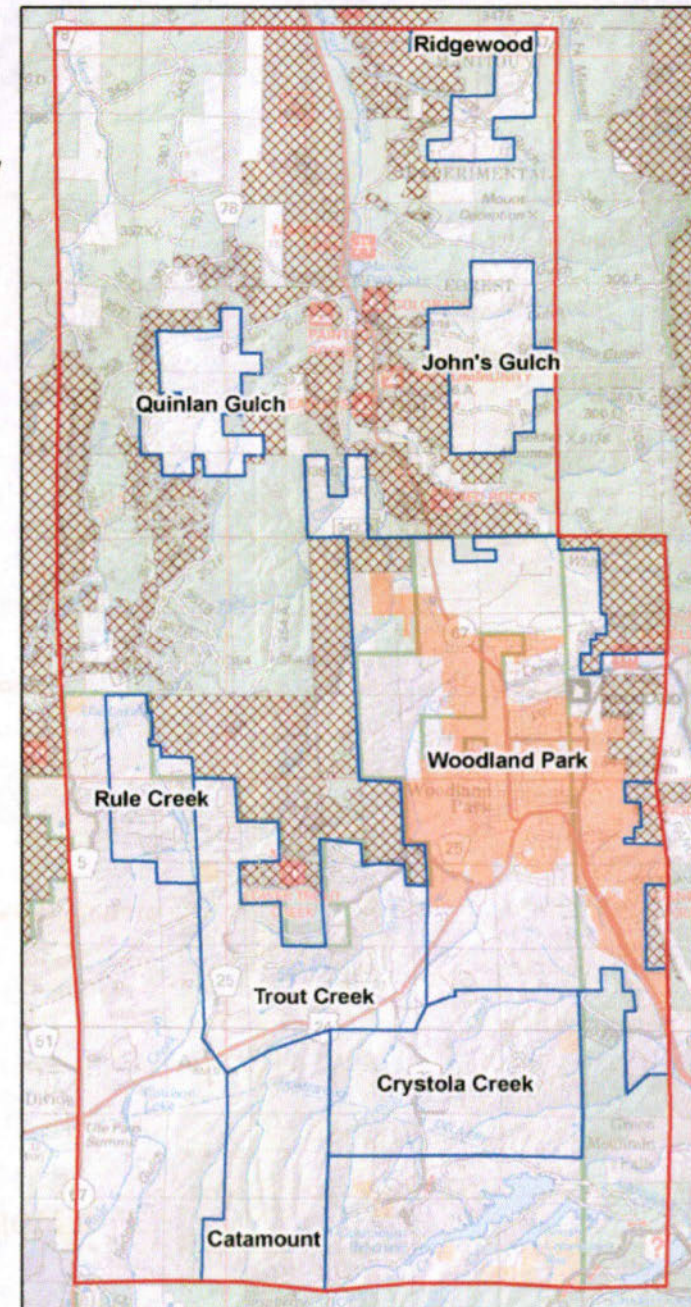
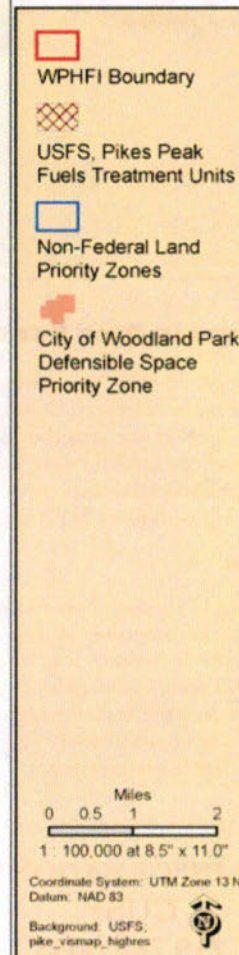
The WPHFI is wonderful partnership of key stakeholders from the Woodland Park area, and it is a great opportunity for the community and surrounding area to join in the forest protection effort. The objective of the Initiative is to thin the densely stocked ponderosa pine stands surrounding the community in order to make the area more resilient to catastrophic wildfire. These forest treatments would not only make the forest more resilient to catastrophic wildfire, but would also improve the health of individual trees, making them more resistant to bark beetle infestation, and more resilient to drought. As an additional benefit to the treatments, the Initiative is endeavoring to remove and chip as much of the forest thinning as possible, then utilize this woody biomass as a source of renewable energy. I'm excited about the prospects of what can be achieved, but the Initiative's partners can't do it by themselves: we need your help! We need single landowners and subdivisions to get engaged. We need a community effort! It's a great opportunity to help our forest.

Bob Leaverton

Forest Supervisor, Pike & San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands

WPHFI Non-Federal Land Priority Zones

2010



HOURS OF OPERATION:

- **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**
- Workdays are scheduled according to initial contact date and need.
- Staff will be available 3-4 days per week during spring, summer, and fall.
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Due to the many programs CUSP administers, advance scheduling is recommended, so call soon!

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www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info/



We are all responsible for protecting our watershed and the forests we call home.

Join CUSP and lend a hand!

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CUSP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax-deductible.

CUSP

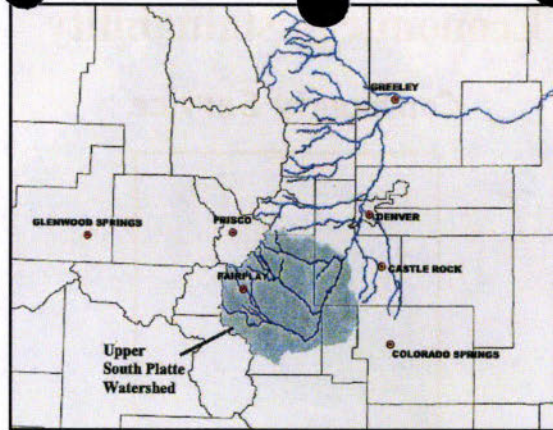
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives no tax support. CUSP depends on your contributions to continue valuable programs.



We are all responsible for protecting our watershed and the forests we call home.

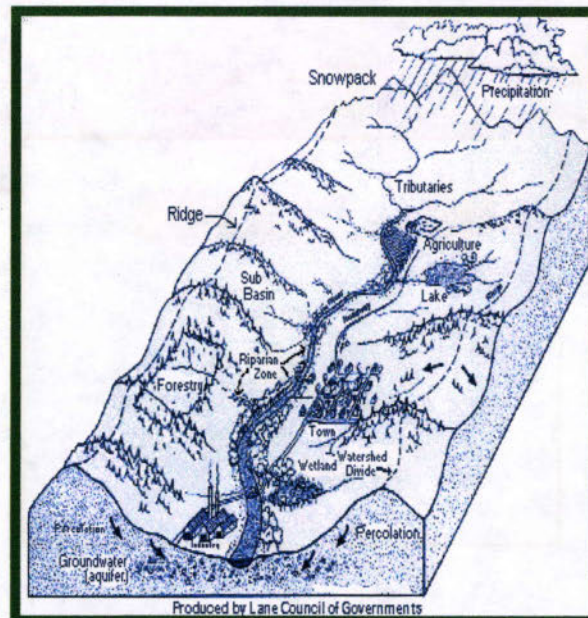
Join CUSP and lend a hand!

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
PO Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827
719.748.0033
CUSP@uppersouthplatte.org



THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE WATERSHED

A watershed is a geographical area where all water drains into one common basin. *Everything* living in this area is part of the watershed; water as well as wildlife, bugs, trees, weeds, and the people who live, work and recreate here.



Coalition for the Upper South Platte

The *Coalition for the Upper South Platte* was formed in 1998 by area stakeholders interested in 'a healthy watershed, now and in the future'.

Our mission is to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.

Priority issues include: water resources and quality, forest health, fire rehabilitation, noxious weeds, stream/river restoration, erosion and flood control, community education, riparian corridor enhancement sustainable recreation, local economies, volunteer outreach, community preparedness, and carbon sinks and storage.

CUSP strives to support the personal values of a self-sufficient society of people living in the Upper South Platte Watershed.

Principal #1 Ecological Health

River & Stream Restoration



Fuels Reduction Program



Noxious Weed Control Program



Principal #2 Economic Sustainability

Community Service



Recreation



Principal #3 Community Values

Healthy Environment



Public Education



Volunteer Projects



DOs

Max length = 6 feet

Max diameter = 8 inches

DON'Ts

NO stumps, roots, lumber

NO ties, dirt, household trash

NO metals, weeds, grasses

SPONSORS

Teller County

Colorado State Forest Service

City of Woodland Park

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Front Range Roundtable

National Forest Foundation



The Coalition for the Upper South Platte seeks to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.

Volunteer Program: To ensure success and sustainability of this important program, CUSP needs volunteer assistance at the slash collection site.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to help continue this important program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

719-748-0033

CUSP@uppersouthplatte.org

www.divideslashsite.com

DIVIDE SLASH SITE



- SLASH ACCEPTED -

Divide, Teller County, Colorado

WEEKENDS ONLY

April 17th thru November 1st

Fri 12-4, Sat & Sun 9-3



**Bring your slash from thinning
to the Slash Collection Site**

Protect your community!

Location: *Just east of the
intersection of Hwys 24 & 67 in
Divide, take Hybrook Rd South. The
site is on the left past the Post Office.*

Fee: *\$5.00 per load of slash (a load is
considered equivalent to a pickup bed
full)*

Mulch: *Free (load yourself)
Mulch Loader Days
(June 13, Aug 15): \$5.00 per load*

SAFE FORESTS — SAFE COMMUNITIES

Not only does defensible space surrounding your home protect your own property, defensible spaces, when created with your neighbors, helps to protect your community, your forests and your watershed.



BEFORE Fuels Reduction

AFTER Fuels Reduction

Homeowners can take a number of steps to protect their property and help alleviate the spread of wildland fires. Preventative measures include clearing excess fuel, creating defensible space around their homes and using FireWise practices. Due to Colorado's arid climate and fire-dependent forests, many homeowners and landowners may be particularly vulnerable to wildfires. It is important to keep this threat in mind when buying or building a

home. Fire is unpredictable. If there are weaknesses in your home's fire protection scheme, fire can gain the upper hand because of some overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. By creating a wildfire defensible zone, homes are less vulnerable from this naturally occurring phenomenon and the chance of spreading wildfires is greatly reduced*.

* Source: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/wf-protection.html>

From: keller1965@comcast.net <keller1965@comcast.net>

Gayle, Drew, Jill --

We have a problem -- what do we do about it?

I think the first step is to organize our thoughts about what the problem is. Just to prime the pump:

1. The initial list of grant candidates was developed through the recruiting efforts of the Wilfire Mitigation Committee and provided to Mario. We expected Mario to periodically provide the Committee chair, Gayle Scaramuzzi, information regarding individual grantee status (e.g., met with Mario, property inspected by potential bidders, proposal delivered to homeowner, homeowner signed/rejected proposal, mitigation completed, amount of cost billed to homeowner, and number of work-in-kind hours submitted to offset cost). Although there were some efforts early-on to provide information to Gayle, those efforts soon died out. As a result, the original list probably bears scant resemblance to the current status of the individual grantees -- much less the project as a whole. This impairs the committee's ability to respond to questions or complaints regarding the progress of the project.

2. There are homeowners (including Gayle Scaramuzzi) who expressed interest in being a grantee, but whom apparently have been dropped from Mario's list. Why? What needs to be done to insure that all interested homeowners are included?

3. The quoted price for individual property mitigation work is approximately 4x Mario's earlier rule of thumb estimate of \$750/acre. This increase is more than we can justify in our own minds, even accounting for terrain differences and inflation. Given the state of the economy and the number of competitors, we expected much lower costs. We would like to have some insight into the contract award criteria and process. How many bids were submitted? What was the range of costs? Where did the winning bidder fall in that range?

4. The Wildfire Mitigation Committee took the lead to prepare and submit an application for this grant. We then promoted the project in the community and made every effort to coordinate our efforts with Mario to insure that we were not at cross-purposes. Because of our presence in the community and our individual recruiting efforts, people tend to look to us for answers regarding the project. We welcome this role, as it provides insight into the progress and problems of the project. We also see it as a means of offloading this burden from Mario as we field issues within our competence. However, with the current level of communication, we find that we are pretty much in the dark about what is going on and are surprised when we get calls. We believe the project will be healthier and will go more smoothly if the committee is kept in the loop.

5. Once we settle on the issues, I think the second step should be to communicate these issues to Mario and request a meeting to address the issues and get a project status. By overtly extending an opportunity to Mario to respond and clarify as needed, Mario may come to recognize the urgency we place on this and the need to engage with us. If that doesn't work, at least we've documented the effort for future reference. I hope it works -- it's in our mutual best interests for the project to succeed. We want to be a part of the solution, and we are uniquely positioned to be a part of the solution -- only let us. Increased visibility into project details (e.g., the contract award process) invites increased accountability, which Mario may resist. However, if we have that visibility, we will be better equipped to defend project decisions. I will be out of town 3 -- 9 Nov, but I will be pretty available to support a meeting with Mario before or after.

Jill -- The quote includes hand work. I didn't seriously consider pressing Twisted Timber about their quote -- I thought that their negotiated contract might be off limits. Maybe I should rethink that. Also, I would be happy to support an AAR or something like it. I suspect Gayle will have the most to contribute content-wise. Jill, I appreciate your support for us on this. Your perspective from the county's point of view has been invaluable. Thank you!

Gayle, I appreciate your work on this project. You have pretty much carried the project for the HCHOA. Hang in there, and we'll help you see this thing through -- it's worth it.

chip & remove grant
reduced, 50/50/some more
if skilled, chipped
no commu
3k/acre / 50/50 \$750 est
contractor good
scratch people if problem

list
commu

drop
people

cost

Jill - Gayle was content, but excluded (committee)
in contractors hands
~45 ac
missed opportunity

communication

Updates or new plans in progress:

El Paso County (umbrella plan)

City of Colo. Springs (update fire hazard plan to meet CWPP requirements)

Applications for plan updates:

Ridgewood HOA 2008, Teller County

Elk Valley HOA 2009, Teller Co.

Applications for Project Implementation

CWPP coverage

Silverheels HOA, Park Co.,

NW FPD CWPP 2010,

Elk Valley HOA, Teller County,

Teller CWPP 2005 and Elk Valley CWPP 2007

Woodrock POA, Teller Co.,

Teller CWPP 2005 and Woodrock POA 2009

Ridgewood HOA, Teller Co.,

Teller CWPP 2005, Ridgewood HOA 2008

Pine Ridge, Douglas Co.

Pine Ridge CWPP 2007

Hidden Village, Douglas Co

Hidden Village 2008

Colo. Springs Utilities, El Paso Co.

Ute Pass CWPP 2008

Happy Canyon, Douglas (J. Alexander)

Happy Canyon 2008

Applications Pending:

DOW/Dome Rock,

Teller CWPP 2005

Indian Creek HOA,

Teller CWPP 2005

Colorado Mountain Estates

Teller CWPP 2005 and CME 2007

Palmer Lake ,

Palmer Lake CWPP 2008

Sanborn/COEC

COEC 2009

Done

Fairplay / Alma (NW fire)

w PHI

~~Alma fire~~

← Indian Creek

CUSP gets \$1.18 million grant

*Park County among
five to benefit*

By Stephanie James

Correspondent

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte has received a \$1.18 million grant of federal stimulus money made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The money will help create and retain about 15 jobs in five Colorado counties, including Park County, over the next two years. The jobs will be centered around communities' goals of fuel mitigation for public safety. The other four counties are Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, and Teller.

It's not clear at this point how many of the jobs will be in Park County, how much of the money will be spent in Park County, or the number of acres that will be targeted for fuels reduction in the county.

The Colorado State Forest Service awarded the grant to CUSP to implement fuels reduction projects on 600 acres within the five counties and to create new or updated Community Wildfire Protection Plans to minimize wildfire risk.

ARRA's primary goal is the creation and retention of jobs to help revitalize the U.S. economy.

Since 1998 CUSP has worked with forest restoration and fire rehabilitation for the protection of a watershed that covers approximately 2,600 square miles in Colorado.

Carol Ekarius, executive

director of CUSP, said that CUSP will form a leadership team from the five counties to prioritize projects regarding community landscaping.

Currently the five counties have 100 Community Wildfire Protection Plans. CUSP will work with the counties to further develop, update, and implement those plans.

Those on the leadership team will include sheriffs, representatives from county governments, state and U.S. forest services, and fire district representatives.

The state forest program will only approve the plans with more identifiable projects. A project example would be fuel thinning around a community's only road to lessen access concerns for residents and emergency responders.

Ekarius noted that there will only be one project implemented per county per year, according to a ranking of projects in the five counties.

The state forester will form a matrix system so that Community Wildfire Protection Plans will also bolster nearby communities. That will produce significant values for nearby communities, affected wildlife habitats, highways, power grids, etc. in minimizing wildfire risk.

Those on the leadership team will include sheriffs,

representatives from county governments, state and U.S. forest services, and fire district representatives.

The leadership team will tell CUSP its criteria and lead the process regarding the projects' implementations.

Other interested parties may contact CUSP by phone or e-mail at www.uppersouthplatte.net. CUSP will send out an announcement about when a community meeting will be held.

CUSP will implement and oversee the jobs. Many jobs will go to local contractors, helping them to retain current jobs on fuel-mitigation teams funded by earlier grant money.

Bidding documents will be available on the CUSP Web site.

Adding economic stability in local economies through job creation and retention will be an added bonus to ensuring public safety through fire mitigation efforts, according to Ekarius.

February will mark the beginning of getting the communities' arms around the projects, with spring as the time that the Colorado State Forest Service will begin marking the areas for the implementation of the projects.

FAXES COPIES

Reasonable Rates

The Flume

5138 CR 64, Bailey

303-838-4423

Community Corner

nonprofit or nonprofit-like events and are restricted to running once per four-week period per event. Submissions are restricted to events to: info@theflume.com or fax them to 303-838-8414. The deadline for Community Corner items is noon on Tuesday. You can submit items directly to our online Events section by visiting www.theflume.com and clicking on the Events tab.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

A community group working with the North-West Fire Protection District has completed a draft of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This plan lists district hazard ratings, plans to deal with high hazard areas, information on defensible space, maps, and much more. This plan will be available in the library, local businesses, the Fairplay fire station on U.S. 285, and online at www.NWFPD.net. Community input is requested before a final draft is printed at the end of March. Please send questions to Brian Roach at BRoach@nwfpd.net.

ARRA - Performance Measures

Coalition for the Upper South Platte – Community Wildfire Protection Plan Creation & Implementation

Subaward Amount: \$1,183,711

Grant Period: November 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011

Work to be completed: This grant will cover the costs associated with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte(CUSP) CWPP Creation & Implementation Project Grant Proposal. During the project period, a minimum of 15.2 FTE jobs will be created or retained, CWPP development will occur, and high priority fuels treatment work will occur in five counties in the Front Range of Colorado. The ARRA grant sub-recipient, CUSP, is expected to use funding as is described in their proposal. Any variation to the outlined project plan should be discussed with the ARRA project manager, and be documented for approval of associated parties.

Deliverables:

- Create at least 5.3 new jobs and retain 9.9 jobs. These jobs will be present within CUSP, Jefferson County Conservation District, through contract wood cutting, utilization of biomass, and contract support.
- Create or update at least 12 CWPPs across five counties.
- Complete priority fuels treatment work on at least 600 acres within approved CWPP communities of Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park, and Teller counties. Fuels treatment will meet or exceed CSFS Standards regarding forest management, shaded fuel breaks, roadside thinning, and defensible spaces.
- Work with the ARRA project manager regularly regarding project setup, scopes of work, project prescriptions, project status, and implementation standards.
- Information will be provided to assist with media coverage and to ensure transparency of all aspects of the program and its funding. This includes full disclosure of work done, sharing of project photos, and written documentation of project work.
- Provide the public outreach, education, and stakeholder coordination necessary for CWPP creation and the implementation of project work. This includes coordination with the CSFS, community representatives, fire districts, subcontractors, and affected landowners regarding project plans and expectations.
- Sub-recipient and contractors will adhere to all applicable state and federal laws.
- Submit NFPOR reporting on a monthly basis, FTE reporting on a quarterly basis, invoices no less than quarterly, and GPS shapefile data of completed treatments on a quarterly basis.
- Treatment costs will follow the implementation budget included in the proposal. Maintain detailed expenditure documentation regarding the use of ARRA program funding. In order to allow for transparency and justify payments, invoices shall have documentation of how grant funding is used.

Goals:

- Jobs created will be focused toward long term sustainability.
- Projects will focus on high priority areas where fuels reduction can build off of existing efforts, satisfy the greatest need and provide maximum synergy.
- When feasible, biomass will be utilized through partnerships with private companies.

Guidelines and Operational Standards:

- Treatments will meet CSFS forest management implementation standards. This includes the minimum standards regarding tree selection and spacing, maximum stump heights, and proper slash management procedures (chipping, pile building, and lop & scatter). Refer to applicable CSFS publications including the "Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions & Communities", "Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones", "Landowner Guide to Thinning", and "Lodgepole Pine Management Guidelines for Land Managers in the Wildland-Urban Interface".

CWPP Reference materials

goal= working CWPP & treatments

- Treatment will take applicable Best Management Practices into account regarding harvesting, hazardous substances, machinery, noxious weeds, riparian areas, roads/skid trails, and soil erosion. Refer to the "Colorado Forest Stewardship Guidelines: Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Colorado" publication.

Milestone Dates:

NOTE: The format, target dates, and amount of detail for this is flexible, but has to be measureable. The goal is to explain what will be accomplished with ARRA funding (jobs, CWPP dev, forest treatment).

- November 30, 2009:
 - o 6 created or retained jobs working on ARRA duties
 - o Interview and hire Forest Tech positions
 - o Initial stakeholder's meetings held for four counties
 - o ??? county projects identified
 - o \$27,913.80 funding, 1.6% of award
- December 31, 2009:
 - o 7 created or retained jobs working on ARRA duties
 - o 2.56 reportable FTE's
 - o Interview and hire Forester position
 - o ??? county projects identified
 - o Field visits for XXXX projects
 - o X acres identified for treatment on X projects
 - o \$32,576.29 funding, 1.9% of award
- January 31, 2010:
 - o X created or retained jobs working on ARRA duties
 - o XXXX projects identified
 - o 65 acre Seven Hills project field setup completed
 - o \$40,000.00 funding, 2.3% of award
- February 28, 2010:
 - o X created or retained jobs working on ARRA duties
 - o ¼ of Seven Hills project completed
 - o 15 acres treated
 - o \$80,000.00 funding, 5.6% of award
- March 31, 2010:
 - o X created or retained jobs working on ARRA duties
 - o X reportable FTE's
 - o ¼ of Seven Hills project completed, ¼ of Horsetooth Pine project completed
 - o 40 acres treated, 55 total acres completed to date
 - o \$160,000.00 funding, 11.2% of award
- April 30, 2010 through September 30, 2011

CWPP
probably
quarterly

Cooperator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Box 726

Lake George, CO 80827

Telephone Number: (719) 748-0033

Email Address: Carol@uppersouthplatte.org

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

PO Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827

Ph 719.748.0033 Fax 719.302.2852

Carol@uppersouthplatte.org

www.uppersouthplatte.org



Carol Ekarius
Executive Director



Cover Sheet

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033

Point of Contact:

Carol Ekarius, Executive Director
carol@uppersouthplatte.org

County:

Office Locale: Park

Counties included in project: Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park, Teller

DUNS:

137320060

Name of Grant:

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development & Implementation Project

Dollars Requested:

\$ 1,183,711.00

Jobs Created/Retained:

5.3 FTE created

9.9 FTE retained

15.2 FTE jobs

Job Duration:

2 Years

Overview

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte, or CUSP, has coordinated a variety of collaborative conservation initiatives across the five southern counties of Colorado's Front Range Roundtable area since its inception in 1998.

With this application we are applying for a combined *Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development and Implementation* grant.

We will act as the fiscal host/coordinating body for this grant, but part of the funding will be contracted back to our local-government cooperators and to private contractors employing local citizens. As economic sustainability has always been part of our mission, we believe it is critically important that these funds help maintain our cooperators' mitigation staffs and our region's already limited forestry businesses and their employees through these economic hard times.

Collaborative Leadership

If funded, CUSP will immediately convene a leadership team comprised of key stakeholders from Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties; Denver Water and other utilities; local fire chiefs; Colorado Springs; Jefferson Conservation District; Colorado Forest Restoration Institute; Front Range Roundtable; USFS, NRCS, NPS, BLM; and CSFS Woodland Park and Golden district representatives will be invited to attend.

The leadership team will help us prioritize and allocate resources among community needs while helping to make sure that the goals of the Roundtable are met in the most efficient way, while truly retaining or creating good jobs in our region. The leadership team will meet quarterly during the duration of the project. This group will *adopt a clear and common framework for prioritizing treatments*, a Roundtable goal that members at its most recent meeting unanimously agreed needs more work. With CUSPs coordinating position at the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative we have seen improvement in prioritization of projects; we believe that these grants will allow us to take those efforts to the next level of working across multiple counties concurrently. See more about prioritization for this grant in the work plan pages that follow.

Additional Information

1. On all its implementation projects CUSP uses, and requires contractors to use, a variety of BMPs to protect soil, water quality, and wildlife, and to reduce the spread of invasive species.
2. CUSP will be leveraging additional resources. For example, cooperators with whom we are contracting to create or retain staff positions will supply vehicles and equipment as well as overhead for said staff. CUSP has a cache of tools and equipment (such as a Morbark model 2012-D, 12-inch diameter chipper, chain saws, grapples, generators, a GIS computer station and plotter, etc.).

A. Jobs Created/Retained

[illegible]

B. Permits

We do not believe any permits will be required for this project; however, if any are we will make sure they are in place prior to implementing projects that require the permit.

C. Communications/Outreach

Mobilizing community stakeholders is critical to successful CWPP development and implementation. We will coordinate with CSFS Public Affairs staff.

Our public involvement process will consist of two steps: getting key people to the table and keeping them actively involved in either development or implementation.

C.1 Getting Stakeholders to the Table

The following steps will be taken to engage stakeholders throughout the process:

1. Identify, develop, and maintain leadership from key collaborators, including land management agencies, HOAs, fire districts, counties, NGOs, and interested individuals for each CWPP we develop. In identified communities try to make personal contacts with residents by phone, or in-person visits.
2. Develop content pages on CUSP and cooperator websites about the projects. Pages will supply information to interested stakeholders and citizens, and provide a sharing mechanism for participants to access maps, project updates, and other information.
3. Develop a brochure for the program.
4. Discuss the program and projects, and the opportunity to participate, on Teller Netcast, a streaming radio.
5. Post program information on cable public access channels, as available across the five counties.
6. Include at least one article on the CWPP process in the CUSP newsletter each year (print run 1200), and in newsletters produced by cooperators.
7. Submit quarterly press releases to area newspapers.
8. Make phone contact to HOAs, fire chiefs, and other key stakeholders, especially those who are currently working with CUSP and our cooperators through the Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program, EQIP, and other programs.
9. Attend meetings of HOAs, special interest groups, such as Rotary, Chamber, and/or other events, to provide background on process, participation, and benefits.
10. Use of specialized signage (taking a page out of the old *Burma Shave* signs playbook) in neighborhoods and communities announcing the project.

C.2 Involving Stakeholders in CWPP Development

After a group of community stakeholders with an interest in and commitment to developing a CWPP has been identified, they will help create or update their own CWPP. Stakeholders will be key partners in the following tasks:

1. Working with experts, to develop and analyze community vulnerability and hazard assessments, including but not limited to assessing fuel hazards, risk

of wildfire occurrence, and community values to be protected – both in the immediate vicinity of the community and in surrounding areas where potential fire spread poses a realistic threat.

2. Assess community wildland fire response capability.
3. Identify protection strategies for community infrastructure and homes that also are at risk, including items such as providing adequate fire-fighting water supplies and reducing ignitability of structures.
4. Identify and prioritize areas in and around communities on both public and private lands for fuels treatment and prioritize both landscape scale and localized treatments.
5. Develop plans for educating landowners and homeowners about reducing wildland fire risk through fuels treatment projects and Firewise building and landscaping practices.
6. Develop a strategy for implementing each CWPP and assessing its effectiveness.
7. Develop a communication plan for sharing the CWPP with other community members.

C.2 Involving Stakeholders in CWPP Implementation

1. Identify a key individual within the community to be an ambassador.
2. Use temporary signage to inform residents of work plans.
3. Make personal contacts with residents by phone, or in-person visits.
4. Attend HOA Board meetings.

D. Selection Process

For both programs, project selection will be based on the use of matrix decision-making tools and discussion by the Leadership Team to help with final ranking of projects on a number of criteria, including but not limited to:

- Communities that have strong support from local citizens and leaders.
- Fire risk analysis (focusing on areas of moderate to extreme risk based on existing reports and knowledge).
- Site conditions, such as slope and aspect.
- Values at risk, including protecting homes and businesses, municipal watersheds, electrical infrastructure, and critical ecosystems.
- Improving ingress/egress for resident and firefighter safety.
- Addressing other issues, such as beetle brood and disease trees, as we implement fuel reduction.
- Connecting with other work for broader landscape level safety, such as work performed by USFS or counties and local government agencies.
- Projects that are beyond the community's ability to do them on their own.
- For implementation projects we will provide extra points in the matrix analysis to those communities that have already begun implementing projects on their own, expending time and money to increase their safety and the safety of their neighbors, or for those projects that cooperators, such as federal land managers, fire districts, counties, towns, etc, believe to be particularly high priorities.

D.1 Initial Communities for CWPP Development

We have one area in each county identified where community leaders have asked us to help them develop or update local CWPPs with greater local citizen involvement, and that identify and map on-the-ground projects for implementation. These include:

- Douglas County: West Creek; new CWPP for an area not currently under any CWPP.
- El Paso County: New county-wide CWPP for areas not currently covered in other CWPPs;
- Jefferson County: North Fork Fire Protection District; new CWPP for an area not currently under any CWPP.
- Park County: Jefferson/Como; covered in a county-wide plan but in need of upgrading to meet current CWPP standards.
- Teller County: Indian Creek Subdivision; covered in a county-wide plan but in need of upgrading to meet current CWPP standards.

The Forester/Facilitators and other staff will jump out of the gate with these. As for selecting additional CWPP's for development/update, our Forester/Facilitators and the Leadership Team will analyze existing plans and use local knowledge to identify additional communities to work with. The Forester/Facilitators will then reach out to these communities through personal contact to fire chiefs, community leaders, and citizens per our outreach plan.

D.2 Initial Communities for CWPP Implementation

We have a project identified for each county for implementation as soon as possible upon signing an agreement with CSFS (see box). Remaining projects will be selected by the Leadership Team using the matrix analysis.

County	CWPP FOR INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT AT GRANT INITIATION	WORK TO BE COMPLETED
DOUGLAS	Happy Canyon, nominated by Douglas County OEM	15 Defensible Spaces and D-Space demo site; maintenance of a thinning along a private ingress-egress evacuation route
EL PASO	SW 115, nominated by EL Paso OEM	Thinning on a private ingress-egress evacuation route
JEFFERSON	Inter-Canyon, nominated by Jefferson County OEM	Sampson Road Community, thinning on a private ingress-egress evacuation route
PARK	Colorado Outdoor Environmental Center, nominated by CUSP	Defensible space in three camp sectors and thinning on approximately 100 acres.
TELLER	Woodrock, nominated by Teller County OEM	Defensible space around community water supply

E. Types of Treatment for Implementation Projects

We anticipate that the vast majority of work we will complete with this funding will be hand felling with either pile burning or chipping as the primary means of addressing slash (though we may do lop and scatter where appropriate). This approach will maximize jobs created and retained.

F. Coordination with Federal Agencies

CUSP works regularly with the staff at the Pike National Forest, and we often coordinate cross-boundary work with their forest staff. Having Pike staff on our leadership team (Forest Supervisor Bob Leaverton has already committed that his staff will participate) will help assure that projects are coordinated across boundaries. We also regularly work with staff at BLM and NPS when projects are located adjacent to their lands. They too will be invited to participate in the leadership team.

G. Outcomes & Leverage

We hope to complete at least twelve new or updated CWPPs with the development portion of funding.

For implementation projects, we expect to treat at least 600 acres with this funding. CWPP implementation projects are often expensive, as work around dwellings and other buildings, and, as our plan is designed to favor handwork over machine work, the acres will be more expensive than in other projects we have completed.

We will ask community members to donate up to one half the cost on an ability-to-pay basis, and if individuals are able to provide such donations, those funds will be plowed into hiring additional staff or contractors and treating additional acres. Based on what we have actually seen on our donations this year, we estimate that we will be able to leverage an additional 25% of cash matches and thus, could potentially complete over 750 acres.

Although we do not believe there is much opportunity for sale of material at this time, any sales we are able to make (of timber, firewood, or biomass) will also add funding that will be put back into the program in order to create/retain additional jobs and complete additional acres.

We will continue to operate our Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program with this funding. This program is not exclusively limited to CWPP communities, but we have found that our most effective CWPP development and implementation projects to date have occurred in communities that became engaged through the NFRP. Our field crew spends a lot of time educating landowners, and that education has had a definite and positive morphing effect across the landscape.

G.1 Guidance for Project Development.

All CWPP Development will be based upon guidance from CSFS, such as:

- *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan,*
- *CWPP Minimum Standards, and*
- *Community Guide to Preparing and Implementing a CWPP.*

Defensible space and fuel break projects are generally consistent with and based upon the community's CWPP and guidance from CSFS, including, but not limited to:

- *Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones,*
- *Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivision and Communities,*
- *Colorado Forestry Best Management Practices.*

In doing other types of thinning projects we use Dr. Merrill Kaufman's *Historical Fire Regimes in Ponderosa Pine Forests of the Colorado Front Range*, and *Recommendations for Ecological Restoration and Fuels Management* to provide guidance for our project layout.

H. Timeline: (see number 5.0 below)

I. Letters of Support: (previously submitted)

J. Documentation

We love sharing our success stories, and will participate in whatever way we can with CSFS PAO staff to highlight the efforts of this program and the jobs created and retained!

CUSP's staff members regularly present sessions at conferences and we anticipate continuing that practice during this two-year period. For example, this year our ED has presented at four different conferences in Colorado on our forest health and collaboration efforts. CUSP's ED also serves on the Roundtable, its outreach workgroup, and the Watershed Wildfire Communications Committee. We have been active participants in the Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners, and we expect the foresters hired under this program to participate in PPWPP.

We have reviewed reporting guidance at fedreporting.gov, and if we need to register and report as a subrecipient we are prepared to do so. We are also cognizant of other requirements to meet our commitments, such as complying with Circular 133 audit requirements. Our Board of Directors has adopted financial policies, and we follow Generally Acceptable Accounting Principals, as defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. We have systems in place for documenting our work, but will be increasing our capacity for documentation with committed GIS staff time and a position for a staff person who will be monitoring projects in partnership with Colorado Forest Restoration Institute.

3.0 Grant Request & Budget Detail:

GRANT	CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	TOTAL
CWPP DEV	PERSONNEL (Salary & Fringe)	\$68,000.00	\$71,000.00	\$139,000.00
CWPP DEV	TRAVEL	\$2,500.00	\$2,900.00	\$5,400.00
CWPP DEV	SUPPLIES	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
CWPP DEV	G&A/OVERHEAD	\$6,300.00	\$6,600.00	\$12,900.00
CWPP DEV	CONTRACTS (with Cooperators)	\$67,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$136,000.00
CWPP DEV	TOTAL	\$145,800.00	\$151,500.00	\$297,300.00
CWPP IMP	PERSONNEL (Salary & Fringe)	\$173,000.00	\$181,000.00	\$354,000.00
CWPP IMP	TRAVEL	\$3,783.00	\$4,628.00	\$8,411.00
CWPP IMP	SUPPLIES	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$35,000.00
CWPP IMP	G&A/OVERHEAD	\$16,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$33,000.00
CWPP IMP	CONTRACTS with Cooperators & Businesses	\$225,000.00	\$231,000.00	\$456,000.00
CWPP IMP	TOTAL	\$437,783.00	\$448,628.00	\$886,411.00
TOTAL	PERSONNEL (Salary & Fringe)	\$241,000.00	\$252,000.00	\$493,000.00
TOTAL	TRAVEL	\$6,283.00	\$7,528.00	\$13,811.00
TOTAL	SUPPLIES	\$22,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$39,000.00
TOTAL	G&A/OVERHEAD	\$22,300.00	\$23,600.00	\$45,900.00
TOTAL	CONTRACTS	\$292,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$592,000.00
TOTAL	TOTAL	\$583,583.00	\$600,128.00	\$1,183,711.00

NOTE: Fringe estimated at 17%. G&A/Overhead estimated at 6% of CUSP expenses plus 3% of contract amounts.

4.0 Partnerships

CUSP is the organization of partnerships. We have worked as a collaborative watershed group since our formation in 1998, bringing together a wide variety of federal, state, local government, NGOs, businesses, and interested individuals to find solutions. Our Board of Directors represents this broad spectrum and includes representatives from Douglas, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties; Denver Water, Aurora Water, and Centennial Water & Sanitation District; the Center of Colorado Conservancy District and the Upper South Platte Conservancy District; Jefferson Conservation District; The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, the Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative, the US Forest Service, and interested individuals.

Our Executive Director has been a member of the Roundtable since its inception, and has spearheaded the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative. After the adoption of HFRA, our staff provided the necessary support to get two of the first CWPPs in the state completed — for Teller County and Park County. Our staff and a contractor who is currently working for us are helping residents and partners to create two new CWPPs at the local scale, one for the Woodland Park area of Teller County and one for the Fairplay/Alma area of Park County.

Some of our other unique partnerships include: Our field crew members are red-carded wildland firefighters in a partnership with Florissant Fire Protection District, but the team is available to all fire chiefs in the five counties we work with, and we have MOUs with several of our counties to provide support and donation/volunteer management in times of declared emergency. Our staff participates in a variety of appropriate groups, such as the Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners and the Watershed Wildfire Communications Committee. We ran the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center in the years after the fire, and still perform Hayman restoration efforts with thousands of volunteers each year. We work closely with local landowners and HOAs, and all agencies, entities, and other nonprofits that are engaged in similar efforts in our service area.

4.1 Partners Involved in this Project

Partners we will specifically be engaging with in this grant process include, but are not limited to: Jefferson Conservation District (coordinating CWPP Development in Jefferson County Communities); Florissant Fire District; the Office of Emergency Management in each of the Counties; Douglas County Building Department; Jefferson County Open Space; Park County Planning; USFS, NRCS, BLM, CSFS; fire districts and other local government agencies; HOAs, interested landowners, residents, and local businesses; academics and other NGOs.

Project foresters, facilitators and GIS staff will be located in both the CUSP office in Lake George and the Jefferson Conservation District office in Lakewood. This will allow project staff to more easily engage local partners across the 6,523 square-mile project area. Florissant Fire District will employ the Red-Zone Technician who will work across multiple fire districts in the area. Jefferson County OEM will retain two of its mitigation crew members with this funding who will be implementing and overseeing the implementation of projects in Jefferson County.

We and our Leadership Team already have connections with a vast array of stakeholders across the five county region and these stakeholders help us identify the critical landowners to make contact with in each HOA or community. We already have contacts with many of the HOAs around the area through our Neighborhoods Fuels Reduction Program, but we are not shy about identifying a landowner and calling to ask if we could meet them and talk about potential projects on their property or in their community.

Once we make contact and define a plan of action, we use a landowner agreement that provides a specific license to enter the property and to complete the work as outlined in a project scope of work we develop with the landowner. That scope of work becomes the basis for our crew's work or any contracts we issue to private sector contractors. A typical scope of work specifies project outcomes, and might include discussion of such items as existing vegetation, fire/fuels, noxious weed, site access and limitations to access, wildlife species and habitat protection, recreation, erosion/sedimentation and water quality issues, or cultural resources. The scope of work also notes BMPs that must be adhered to for the project site.

5.0 Timeframe

OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	5TH QTR	6TH QTR	7TH QTR	8TH QTR
LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS								
HIRE POSITIONS FOR CUSP AND COOPERATORS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE (SEASONAL YOUNG ADULT POSITIONS IN GRAY)								
OUTREACH								
ANNUAL REPORTS TO CSFS								
CWPP DEVELOPMENT	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	5TH QTR	6TH QTR	7TH QTR	8TH QTR
ANALYZE EXISTING COUNTY-WIDE CWPPS AND OTHER REPORTS FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SELECTION								
CONNECT WITH ADDITIONAL INTERESTED COMMUNITIES TO CONFIRM THOSE WHO WISH TO CREATE A DETAILED CWPP THROUGH THIS PROGRAM								
FORM COMMITTEES FOR COMMUNITIES WE ARE WORKING WITH								
COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ASSESSMENTS, INFO GATHERING								
DRAFT CWWPS FOR REVIEW								
FINALIZE CWWPS AND SUBMIT TO CSFS								
CWPP IMPLEMENTATION	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	5TH QTR	6TH QTR	7TH QTR	8TH QTR
STAFF REVIEW AND PRELIMINARY RANKING OF PROJECTS IN EXISTING CWPPS								
STAFF REVIEW AND PRELIMINARY RANKING OF PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN NEW/UPDATED CWPPS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE								
LEADERSHIP TEAM PRIORITIZATION OF EXISTING CWPP PROJECTS								
LEADERSHIP TEAM PRIORITIZATION OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FROM NEW/UPDATED CWPP PROJECTS								
CONNECT WITH INTERESTED COMMUNITIES AND LANDOWNERS TO IDENTIFY OBTAIN BUYIN FOR ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS								
LEADERSHIP TEAM REVIEWS/UPDATES ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION								
IMPLEMENT PROJECTS BEGINNING WITH THOSE IDENTIFIED IN D2 ABOVE								
MONITOR AND ASSESS ON THE GROUND PROJECTS								

6.0 Qualifications

CUSP has been a leader in this region of the state in developing and implementing CWPPs. We led the effort that got two of the earliest county-wide CWPPs (Teller, the first approved in Colorado, and Park). Since that time we have continued working with local communities to develop more in-depth and detailed plans, and to implement those plans.

Our field crew's status as wildland firefighters brings us great credibility with residents. When they meet one of our staff members who say, "We couldn't protect your home," people listen! Our field crew does very high quality work, and they are all familiar with CSFS guidance for different kinds of projects, and with the latest information on management strategies and desired outcomes for Front Range forests. They layout jobs, meet with contractors and citizens, and implement work, depending on the circumstances, and they will work hand-in-hand with the foresters we will be adding to our crew.

As a nonprofit organization, we also bring a separation from government that sometimes helps allay the concerns of a certain spectrum of our region's citizens. Most residents in the area have some idea of who we are, what we represent, and how we work with the community to fulfill goals developed through broad consensus.

6.1 References

The following individuals have all worked directly with CUSP on previous or current CWPP projects:

- Larry Long, CSFS-Woodland Park office. In his position as District Forester Mr. Long has overseen a number of CSFS grant contracts to CUSP: 719-687-2921; lalong@lamar.colostate.edu
- Jim Ignatius, Teller County Commissioner. Commissioner Ignatius worked with CUSP on the original Teller County CWPP and has been working with CUSP on the new CWPP for the Woodland Park area: 719-686-7906; ignatiusj@co.teller.co.us
- Amanda Brush, Woodland Park Planner. Ms. Brush is working with CUSP on the new CWPP for the Woodland Park area: 719-687-5209; abrush@city-woodlandpark.org
- Tom Eisenman, Park County Planner. Mr. Eisenman worked with CUSP on the original Park County CWPP and is working with CUSP on the new Fairplay/Alma CWPP: 719-836-4271; TEisenman@parkco.us
- Penny Brandt, Citizen. Ms. Brandt is working with CUSP on the new Woodland Park CWPP: 719-687-1848; penny@thebrandts.org
- Mike Hessler, USFS. Mr. Hessler worked with CUSP on the original Park County CWPP and is working with CUSP on the new Fairplay/Alma CWPP: 719-836-2031; mhessler@fs.fed.us
- Jean Blaisdell, Ridgewood HOA. Ms. Blaisdell has worked with CUSP this year in implementing Ridgewood's CWPP, including thinning and defensible space: 719-686-1408; jeanblaisdell@msn.com

- Curt Grina, Majestic HOA. Mr. Grina has worked with CUSP this year in implementing Majestic's CWPP, including thinning and a fuel break: 719-687-7429; CurtWPk@gmail.com
- Bob Ayotte, USFS. Mr. Ayotte has worked on cross-boundary project implementation with CUSP: 719-636-1602; rayotte@fs.fed.us

6.2 Company Profile

CUSP incorporated as a Colorado 501(c)3 nonprofit in 1998 (under the name Upper South Platte Watershed Protection Association until 2002), and has been engaged in collaborative planning and project implementation since its incorporation. Carol Ekarius was the founding Executive Director (CV attached), and still leads the organization, which has grown into one of the most respected watershed organizations in Colorado. CUSP owns an office in Lake George, and owns all equipment necessary to complete this project.

CUSP's mission is to protect water quality and ecological health through the cooperative efforts of stakeholders with emphasis on community values and economic sustainability. Our focus area is the 2,600 square-mile Upper South Platte Watershed, which covers parts of Douglas, Jefferson, Park, Teller and a smidgeon of Clear Creek counties. With respect to water quality work we do not leave these boundaries, but as weeds, insects and fire do not respect watershed boundaries, we have always worked outside the watershed boundaries in our primary counties and in El Paso County on these issues.

Over the last eleven years CUSP has managed numerous grant-funded projects, such as:

- \$600,000 EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant for a variety of watershed restoration activities.
- \$350,000 319 grant from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment for river restoration in the Pike National Forest
- \$200,000 National Forest Foundation grant to operate
- \$210,000 SB 71 grants from Colorado State Forest Service for mitigation work in the Woodland Park area and the Upper South Platte Watershed

CUSP's Executive Director came from the public sector. As District Manager of the Frisco Sanitation District she oversaw a four million dollar plant construction project that used \$1.7 million in federal grants and \$2.3 million of public bond funding, as well as overseeing regular annual operations budgets of over \$0.5 million.

7.0 Payments

CUSP will request monthly payments based on accomplishments.

ATTACHMENTS:

Scope of Work

Scope of Work

Roles & Responsibilities:

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) will act as the fiscal host/coordinating agency for an ARRA CWPP Development and Implementation Grant from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), including but not limited to:

- Providing administrative oversight and compliance with the grant agreement between CSFS and CUSP, and with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Supplying labor, equipment and supplies to fulfill project goals, through in-house or contracted resources, and in line with the Grant Budget.
- Contracting with and managing work of other local government cooperators and local businesses to manage work under this agreement.
- Assuring the quality of implemented work to meet CSFS and federal goals.
- Reporting to CSFS and other agencies as specified in grant agreement, including but not limited to: jobs created/retained by quarter, CWPPs created or updated, treatments performed by type and acreage, and leverage of additional resources.

Focus Area: Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties

Project Goals:

1. Create or retain at least 15.2 FTE positions with CUSP, cooperators, and local businesses for the next two years.
2. Create or update at least 12 CWPPs across the five counties.
3. Implement at least 600 acres of CWPP treatments across the five counties.

Project Budget:

PERSONNEL (Salary & Fringe)	\$241,000.00	\$252,000.00	\$493,000.00
TRAVEL	\$6,283.00	\$7,528.00	\$13,811.00
SUPPLIES	\$22,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$39,000.00
G&A/OVERHEAD	\$22,300.00	\$23,600.00	\$45,900.00
CONTRACTS	\$292,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$592,000.00
TOTAL	\$583,583.00	\$600,128.00	\$1,183,711.00

Project Timeframe: Begin immediately upon signing agreement with CSFS, and complete work by September 30th, 2011.

[illegible]

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, BUILDING DIVISION

September 22, 2009

Ms. Carol Ekarius, Executive Director
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827

Dear Ms. Ekarius,

I would like to express my gratitude and continued support for the efforts of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte and their cooperators for the outstanding contributions to watershed protection and a commitment to ecosystem health through active wildfire mitigation, forest restoration, and community involvement. Your group is a role model for collaborative partnerships and we look forward to working together and serving on the Leadership Team to continue to accomplish goals that protect the ecosystem for future generations.

Regards,

Jill Alexander
Senior Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Douglas County Building Division



Office of Emergency Management

P.O. Box 1373, Fairplay CO 80440

(719) 836-4372

fax: (719) 839-3273

lhodges@parkco.us

September 25, 2009

Terrie Craven
CSFS ARRA Program Manager
Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Ms. Craven:

This letter is to express support for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte's (CUSP's) application for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for work in the forests of the five counties in the southern Roundtable area in Colorado.

After the Hayman wildfire, the worst in Colorado's history, CUSP stepped in and took operation of the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center, and has been working with the affected counties ever since. They continue to collaborate and cooperate with county partners within the watershed to decrease the danger of wildfire and to lessen the effects of damage to the watershed. The forests within the southern Roundtable are among our state's most critical municipal watersheds, serving three quarters of the state's population. Additionally, this area is one of the fastest growing Wildland Urban Interface areas in the state.

With CUSP's continuing dedication to our counties, we will be able to significantly decrease danger to life safety and the environment. Please accept this letter of support for CUSP. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (719) 839-1441. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lori R. Hodges
Director of Emergency Management
Park County



FED MINK, SHERIFF
RAY FILLER, UNDERSHERIFF

200 JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKWAY • GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401-2697 • 303-277-0211 • FAX 303-271-5307 • WWW.JEFFERSONSHERIFF.COM

September 23, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Re: Colorado State Forest Service American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant Application Applied for by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Dear Ms. Craven:

Please accept this letter as a strong show of support by Jefferson County for the grants that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has submitted to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Jefferson County is a founding member of CUSP, and we have worked with them on a variety of projects to protect water quality and environmental health in the Upper South Platte watershed, ranging from forest restoration and fire rehabilitation, to environmental education and weed control. CUSP is in the unique position of working across boundaries on critical lands, in cooperation with federal, state, local government, nonprofits, businesses, and with individual partners. CUSP was the main coordinator for private lands after the Hayman Fire in 2002 to accomplish critical restoration work in the Upper South Platte watershed.

Jefferson County will benefit directly if these grants are funded, as will the other four counties of the southern Roundtable area. Our five counties have all agreed to participate in a leadership team, modeled after the one CUSP has been successfully demonstrating as part of the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative over the last year. We believe that this process will provide a strong foundation for better planning and communication beyond the two year period of this grant.

We will also benefit directly by financial support to maintain our Fire Management Wildland Fuels Mitigation Team. These four employees have been funded by grants, but those grants are about to run out. CUSP will contract directly with us to keep that team busy doing mitigation work in Jefferson County. CUSP will also contract two conservation foresters to the Jefferson Conservation District, our partner at the local level, to aid with CWPP development and updating, and to aid with project planning. These positions, plus CUSP's commitment to provide work to area forestry contractors, will help all of us reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and help return our forests to better health.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this support letter, please contact our Fire Management Officer- Rocco Snart at 303-271-4902.

Sincerely,

Ted B. Mink
Sheriff



(719) 689-2988

www.co.teller.co.us

Fax (719) 686-7900

September 25, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Re: Coalition for the Upper South Platte Applications for Colorado State Forest Service American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Dear Ms. Craven:

Teller County is pleased to offer its support for the grants that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is submitting to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Teller County has worked with CUSP on myriad projects over the years, and we have particularly benefited from their leadership on forest restoration, fuel mitigation, and fire rehabilitation. For example, CUSP helped Teller County complete its original CWPP, and has been the lead in helping develop and implement the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative.

Teller County will benefit by having CUSP taking a leadership position to coordinate funding from ARRA. Due to my extensive interest and involvement in healthy forests I have agreed, as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, to serve on the leadership team that CUSP will set up for this project. Having a leadership team that discusses and plans for projects across the five southern counties of the Roundtable can only increase the effectiveness and impact of efforts to protect our communities from the next big fire, and those benefits will extend beyond the two years of these grants. We are also pleased that CUSP is proposing to use a significant percentage of the funding to help maintain our local forestry-related businesses and to keep the employees of those businesses working through these tough economic times.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this support letter, please contact me at (719)689-2988.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James A. Ignatius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James A. Ignatius, Chairman
Teller County Board of County Commissioners



Park County Development Services Coordinator

P.O. Box 1598 ■ Fairplay, CO 80440 ■ Phone: 719.836.4271 ■ Fax: 719.836.4351

September 25, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Dear Ms. Craven:

Park County supports the grant applications that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is submitting to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Park County is a founding member of CUSP and we depend on their expertise and hard work on issues ranging from forest health to water quality. CUSP not only helped us prepare our first CWPP, but also has continued to work with us on forest issues and to help us clean up the waters of Park County.

Park County entities will participate in the leadership team CUSP is establishing to oversee these projects, and will benefit from on-the-ground projects that will be completed with this funding.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please call me at 836-4271 or TEisenman@parkco.us

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Eisenman
Park County Development Services Coordinator
(Director of Planning & Zoning and Environmental Health)



El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Terry Maketa, Sheriff

Paul Zani, Undersheriff



Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue, 5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Monday, September 26, 2009

RE: Coalition for the Upper South Platte application for American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funding

Dear Ms. Craven,

El Paso County fully supports the efforts of the Coalition for the Upper South
Platte (CUSP) to create and extend jobs by implementing ARRA-funded
wildfire mitigation and prevention planning projects in El Paso County.

In El Paso County, wildfire's threat to lives and property grows steadily.
Insects and disease are increasing the severity of wildfires, while housing
development continues to increase in the wildland-urban interface.

Two of our strongest tools to safeguard lives and property are the
development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and the
implementation of fuels reduction projects. We commit to collaborate with
and support CUSP's efforts to implementing these projects in our County.

Sincerely,

Jim A. Reid
Division Commander, Emergency Services Division
El Paso County Sheriff's Office
(719) 575-8400

Commitment to Excellence

Support Services Bureau

210 S. Tejon St. • Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-520-7100

Office of the Sheriff

Law Enforcement Bureau

101 W. Costilla • Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-520-7155
shr.elpasoco.com

Criminal Justice Center

2739 E. Las Vegas St. • Colorado Springs, CO 80906
719-390-2106

FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



**2606 W. HIGHWAY 24 / P.O. BOX 502
FLORISSANT, CO 80816-0502
Phone: 719-748-3909 / FAX: 719-748-5342**

September 23, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Dear Ms. Craven:

The Florissant Fire Protection District supports the grant applications that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is submitting to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Florissant Fire has partnered with CUSP on several initiatives over the years and depends upon their expertise to help raise necessary funds, educate the community, and provide staff support for our wildland fire suppression activities. CUSP purchased Red Zone software for Florissant Fire to be used for hazard assessment work in our district and across Teller County and parts of Park County. Currently, we are undergoing an extensive assessment utilizing Red Zone to begin the CWPP process; however, the employee undertaking this endeavor is funded only until the end of October 2009. With no additional funding available we will not be able to continue this valuable work. ARRA support would ensure that this project continues to move forward.

The Florissant Fire Protection District has prioritized the Indian Creek subdivision, which is one of Colorado's largest subdivisions, for a CWPP of which the ARRA funds would help facilitate. Indian Creek subdivision, which is completely within high fire hazard area WUI, is approximately 6000 acres subdivided into 1183 lots. Of the 1183 lots, 763 have structures on them. Without ARRA support Florissant Fire will not be able to complete the hazard surveys, nor the CWPPs, which I view essential towards protecting our community.

I will participate in the leadership team CUSP is establishing to oversee these projects, CWPP planning committee, and our district will benefit CWPP implementation and on-the-ground projects that will be completed with this funding.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this support letter, please contact me at 719-748-3039.

Sincerely,

Robert Bertram
Robert Bertram,
Chief



Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Penfield W. Tate, III, President
John R. Lucero, 1st Vice President
Thomas A. Gougeon
Paula Herzmark
H. Gregory Austin

Hamlet J. Barry, Manager

1600 W 12th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204-3412
Phone: 303-628-6000
Fax: 303-628-6509
chips.barry@denverwater.org
www.denverwater.org

September 24, 2009

Terrie Craven
CSFS ARRA Program Manager
Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Re: Grant Applications by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte to the Colorado State Forest Service for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

Dear Ms. Craven:

Denver Water is writing this support letter for the grants that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has submitted to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Since 1998, CUSP has been working to protect water quality and environmental health in the Upper South Platte watershed. CUSP has been involved in forest restoration, fire rehabilitation, river/riparian restoration, environmental education, monitoring, and obtaining conservation easements on critical lands in cooperation with federal, state, local government, environmental organizations, business community and individual partners. CUSP was the main coordinator of critical restoration efforts on private lands in the Upper South Platte watershed after the Hayman Fire in 2002.

The Upper South Platte Watershed provides 50% of Denver Water's water supply to a quarter of the population of Colorado. Denver Water will participate with CUSP on the leadership team that will be established if they receive this funding. The jobs hired and retained for this grant project are at least 18 and may be many more. The distribution of funding by CUSP, if awarded this grant, will be within five counties.

CUSP is a proven leader and has shown that they are capable of getting the job completed. Denver Water has experienced the results of numerous fires in the Upper South Platte Watershed and understands the need to accomplish the proposed work that CUSP has submitted in their grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Barry", is written over a horizontal line.

Hamlet J. Barry
Manager

CONSERVE

Mr. Jeff Jahnke
State Forester
Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060



Dear Mr. Jahnke:

We are writing on behalf of the Front Range Roundtable to express our support for the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to projects that address the Roundtable's priority treatment areas and incorporate our principles of sound science and collaboration. As you know, the Roundtable is a diverse regional collaborative with participants representing more than 50 different agencies, organizations and interests. We formed in the wake of Colorado's record 2002 fire season with the objective of increasing the scale and pace of high priority forest treatments to protect communities and restore ecosystems on the Front Range.

After a lengthy deliberative process, the Roundtable identified 1.5 million acres across ten Front Range counties that are in need of treatment to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and/or restore healthy ecological conditions. Approximately 400,000 acres meet both of these goals. The identification of these consensus acres was founded on sound ecological science and input from local communities. In 2006, the Roundtable released a report highlighting ten substantive recommendations for policy, funding and economic actions that will facilitate more timely and effective accomplishment of priority forest treatments.

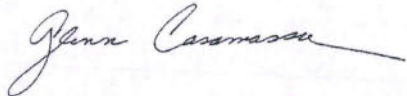
Since releasing our initial recommendations, the members of the Roundtable have worked hard – both individually and collectively – to achieve implementation of both our land management and policy goals. One of our recent initiatives involves a focused effort to help the community of Woodland Park implement their Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative started with local community and Roundtable partners but has since garnered involvement and support from non-traditional agencies and interests. The success of this Initiative demonstrates the power of the Roundtable to leverage our resources, commitment and diverse consensus into meaningful, landscape-scale accomplishment.

We believe that ARRA project proposals that are consistent with the Roundtable's treatment priorities and demonstrate the Roundtable's commitment to sound science and collaboration will be a good public investment because they are likely to be well supported, easier to implement and will contribute to the accomplishment of a broad regional strategy for protecting communities and ecosystems. As you review submissions for ARRA funding, we encourage you to give any such proposals serious and positive consideration.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

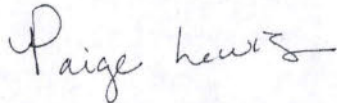
Sincerely,

The Front Range Roundtable Executive Team



Glenn Casamassa, Forest Supervisor
Arapahoe & Roosevelt N.F., Pawnee Grassland

/s/ Bob Leaverton
Bob Leaverton, Forest Supervisor
Pike & San Isabel N.F., Cimarron & Comanche Grassland

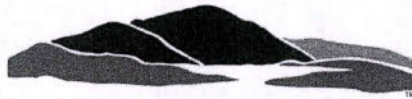


Paige Lewis, Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy



Ben Pearlman, Commissioner
Boulder County

cc: Mr. Rick Cables
Regional Forester, Region 2
United States Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

215 Nichols Blvd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

September 22, 2009

Carol Ekarius, Executive Director
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827

To Whom It May Concern:

Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) is in the process of incorporating Woody Biomass into an energy production program. The addition of Woody Biomass represents an opportunity to utilize products from the district's hazardous fuels reduction and Fire Wise program on Federal, State and private lands. CSU's Woody Biomass Co-firing project is expected to convert 100,000 tons/year of woody biomass to environmentally friendly renewable electric energy. The demand for biomass will result in a market that would positively impact the five southern counties of the Roundtable, as this fuel is within 100 miles of the CSU boilers, resulting in a very economically viable fuel source. Thus, we are very much in support of the applications submitted by Coalition for the Upper South Platte for any grant that will help meet the demand for efficient and environmentally responsible utilization of biomass fuels.

A major benefit of this project from CSU's view point is the reduction of hazardous fuels on public, private lands and watersheds that would reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and protect lives and property. Additional benefits would be improved wildlife habitat and a more natural forest conditions within a 100 mile proximity to Colorado Springs. Overall the project is within the Pikes Peak Watershed of the Colorado Springs Utilities, and will protect our municipal watershed from catastrophic disease, insect, and wildfire.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Meikle, P.E.
Biomass Utilization Project Manager
Colorado Springs Utilities

September 17, 2009

Dear Grant Review Board:

I am writing to express the support of "the Northern Front Range Counties (Boulder County, Clear Creek County, Gilpin County, Larimer County, and the City of Boulder) for the CWPP Implementation grant application submitted by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (or the "Southern Front Range Counties").

The funding will allow CUSP, who has successfully demonstrated cooperation and coordination through the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, to perform fuels reduction and wildfire hazard mitigation activities on priority area identified through CWPPs within their counties. The treatment areas prioritized are also aligned with those identified by the Front Range Roundtable for fire risk mitigation, forest restoration, or high priority overlap areas of these two goals.

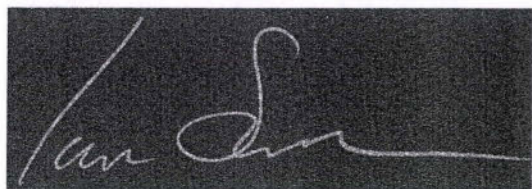
The work that will be completed through the grant will help ensure the safety of Front Range residents against wildfire hazards in some of the most heavily populated forested areas in the State. The funding will also create jobs in the northern Front Range at a time when the unemployment rate in Colorado has increased to 7.7%, the highest in more than 20 years.

Working on fuels reduction projects in these five counties will dovetail beautifully with the plans of the northern four counties - and the impact of nine counties working simultaneously on fuels reduction will greatly elevate the awareness of the citizens in these counties in addition to ensuring their safety.

We are pleased to support this grant request.

Sincerely,

Irene Shonle, on behalf of the Northern Front Range Counties of Gilpin, Clear Creek, Larimer, and Boulder.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature, likely of Irene Shonle, on a dark background. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 28, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue, 5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-5060

Re: CUSP grant support

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for grant applications submitted by CUSP, Coalition for the Upper South Platte.

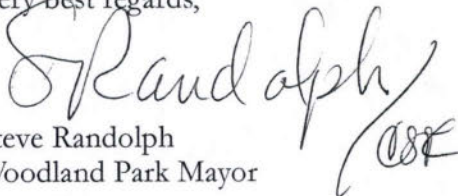
CUSP has distinguished itself for a number of years as an action oriented agency that can be trusted to produce tangible public benefits at minimal public cost. They are integral to forest health efforts in five counties, and instrumental in mitigating recreational impacts, watershed management, Hayman fire recovery work, and numerous other endeavors vital to conserving our natural resources.

Examples of collaborative undertakings involving CUSP are many, including cross-agency and public-private partnerships that steadily move forward to successful conclusions. The staff and volunteers approach challenges with hands-on, can-do attitudes that ultimately make the difference in project outcomes.

The CUSP organization continues to be good stewards of the public trust and the public treasury, and should always be entrusted with every available funding opportunity for which they qualify.

I trust that CUSP will receive every possible consideration for support. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Very best regards,


Steve Randolph
Woodland Park Mayor



Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Penfield W. Tate, III, President
John R. Lucero, 1st Vice President
Thomas A. Gougeon
Paula Herzmark
H. Gregory Austin

Hamlet J. Barry, Manager

1600 W 12th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204-3412
Phone: 303-628-6000
Fax: 303-628-6509
chips.barry@denverwater.org
www.denverwater.org

September 24, 2009

Terrie Craven
CSFS ARRA Program Manager
Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Re: Grant Applications by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte to the Colorado State Forest Service for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

Dear Ms. Craven:

Denver Water is writing this support letter for the grants that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has submitted to the Colorado State Forest Service for ARRA funds. Since 1998, CUSP has been working to protect water quality and environmental health in the Upper South Platte watershed. CUSP has been involved in forest restoration, fire rehabilitation, river/riparian restoration, environmental education, monitoring, and obtaining conservation easements on critical lands in cooperation with federal, state, local government, environmental organizations, business community and individual partners. CUSP was the main coordinator of critical restoration efforts on private lands in the Upper South Platte watershed after the Hayman Fire in 2002.

The Upper South Platte Watershed provides 50% of Denver Water's water supply to a quarter of the population of Colorado. Denver Water will participate with CUSP on the leadership team that will be established if they receive this funding. The jobs hired and retained for this grant project are at least 18 and may be many more. The distribution of funding by CUSP, if awarded this grant, will be within five counties.

CUSP is a proven leader and has shown that they are capable of getting the job completed. Denver Water has experienced the results of numerous fires in the Upper South Platte Watershed and understands the need to accomplish the proposed work that CUSP has submitted in their grant applications.

Sincerely,

Hamlet J. Barry
Manager

09-28-09 15:55 RCVD

CONSERVE



Jefferson Conservation District

Conserving natural resources for our future

September 26, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Re: Letter of Support for ARRA Grant Application CUSP

Attention: Terrie Craven

Wildfire, insects, and development in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) have resulted in dramatic changes in Colorado's forests.

The forests in and around Jefferson County are in some of our state's most critical municipal watersheds, serving three quarters of the state's population. The Hayman, Buffalo Creek and Hi-Meadow Fires severely impacted municipal water supplies, wildlife habitat, critical infrastructure, businesses, and homes. Over 120 communities in our county are in high to extreme fire areas.

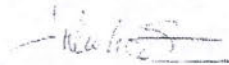
The Jefferson Conservation District played a critical role in recovery efforts on private land for the Buffalo Creek and Hi-Meadow Fires. After the Hayman Fire, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) spearheaded operation of the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center, and has taken a leadership role in many forest and watershed-related issues.

CUSP has managed large grants, like the 2003 Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant from the EPA and the National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program. CUSP has demonstrated that collaboration, with a variety of conservation partners, is one of the most effective ways to get things done across political boundaries.

CUSP has shown that it can engage landowners, agencies, and businesses in constructive dialog. They also have a proven track record of on-the-ground conservation and forest health improvements.

The Jefferson Conservation District fully supports the efforts of CUSP to continue this work through the ARRA Grant Program. We look forward to working with CUSP and the Colorado State Forest Service on improving forest health and protecting communities throughout Jefferson County and the Front Range.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julio Iturreria", written over a horizontal line.

Julio Iturreria
Vice-President
Board of Supervisors

September 29, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Dear Ms. Craven,

I am writing to express The Nature Conservancy's full support for the following project proposals that have been submitted to you for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):

- Boulder County / Northern Front Range Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation – Boulder County will serve as the coordinating entity for this five county coalition.
- Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) / Southern Front Range Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development – CUSP will serve as the coordinating entity for this five county coalition in this project and the two that follow.
- CUSP / Southern Front Range Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation
- CUSP / Southern Front Range Forest Restoration and Fuels Mitigation

This suite of projects is fully consistent with the collaborative principles and treatment priorities of the Front Range Roundtable, in which The Nature Conservancy is a founding member, and will contribute significantly to the Roundtable's ability to achieve its goals of community protection and ecological restoration. All ten counties in the Roundtable's geography of interest are actively engaged in these proposals, along with state and federal agencies, water providers, and conservation organizations. This diverse participation speaks well of the projects' likelihood of successful and timely implementation on the ground.

The forests of the Front Range provide tremendous value to Colorado's citizens in terms of water supply, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and an amazing setting in which to live. At the same time, these forests are at extremely high risk to damaging wildfire and insect and disease epidemics due to their unhealthy condition. With hundreds of thousands of people living in these high risk landscapes, we cannot afford to miss any opportunity to improve their condition and sustainability. The 2002 Hayman Fire demonstrated how much can be lost from just a single large wildfire event.

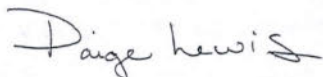
Through a proactive and coordinated approach, these project proposals will increase the safety of Front Range residents and reduce the threat that wildfire poses to the many benefits and services that these forests provide. The funding will also create jobs all along the Front Range at a time when the unemployment rate in Colorado has increased to 7.7%, the highest in more than 20 years.

Based on personal experience, I believe that both Boulder County and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte are ideally suited to manage the implementation of these regional proposals and will ensure that they achieve their promised accomplishments within ARRA parameters.

I urge your favorable consideration for these projects.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paige Lewis".

Paige Lewis
Director, Colorado Forest Health & Fire Initiative

cc: Jeff Jahnke
Megan Davis
Carol Ekarius

CCWCD

Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District

"Park County Water for Park County"

P.O. Box 1747 ~ 548 Front St. ~ Fairplay, CO 80440-1747
Tel. 719-836-2330 Fax. 719-836-2330

September 21, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

To whom it may concern:

The Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) is honored to write this letter of support for the Coalition of the Upper South Platte (CUSP). Our district has supported CUSP in its endeavors since its inception. Charged with protecting the water of Park County, CCWCD has benefited greatly from the past and present efforts and projects of CUSP focused upon wildfire protection plans, fuel mitigation projects, noxious weed abatement and insect control because these efforts protect the watershed of the South Platte River. CUSP was at the forefront of helping to mitigate threats to the watershed before and after the Hayman fire and continues to be proactive in restoring the watershed. As a participant in the Roundtable process, CCWCD also appreciates CUSP's involvement in the process; and it's willingness and ability to work with multiple stakeholders.

We are fortunate to have the Coalition of the Upper South Platte as active advocates for a healthy and vibrant watershed and are honored to support them. In fact, we have an ongoing weed monitoring project undertaken by CUSP at our recently constructed James Tingle Dam and Reservoir. As the President of the CCWCD, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

In the interest of full disclosure, I would point out that I am Secretary of the CUSP Board of Directors and serve on the CUSP Executive Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Daniel J. Drucker, President

09-28-09 15:41 RCVD

UPPER SOUTH PLATTE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
"Working Hard to Protect the Water Resources of the South Platte River Basin"
P.O. Box 612
Fairplay, CO 80440-0612

September 22, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West LaPorte Avenue
5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Dear Ms. Craven,

The Board of Directors of the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District would like to convey its support for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) in their application for ARRA grant funds.

The work of CUSP in the five counties of Douglas, Jefferson, El Paso, Park and Teller has proven invaluable and critical to the survival and protection of our forests and the South Platte River watersheds.

They have demonstrated:

- (a) their commitment to developing community wildfire protection and fuel mitigation projects (the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center and other forest-and-watershed-related issues);
- (b) their ability to handle large grants (the 2003 Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant and the National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program);
- and, (c) their mission of collaboration with a myriad of public and private agencies and landowners.

We very strongly support CUSP and highly recommend your support in their program now and into the future.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen A. Spann, President
Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District

ENTERED
SEP 24 2009

09-28-09 12:30 RCVD

003



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

September 23, 2009

Colorado State Forest Service
CSFS ARRA Program Manager: Terrie Craven
3843 West La Porte Avenue, 5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

RE: Colorado State Forest Service ARRA Grant Review Team

Understanding that the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) will be applying for an array of ARRA grants for the purposes: 1) to develop and implement CWPP plans in the Pikes Peak Region, and 2) procure funding to implement forest management projects on non-federal lands throughout Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park and Teller counties, Colorado Springs Utilities strongly supports the efforts of CUSP to create and extend job opportunities through their forthcoming grant applications.

With the dynamic and increasing wildfire risks due to insects, disease, climate change, effects of historical fire suppression, and increased development in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), especially here along the Front Range, CUSP has the experience and track record to address these issues as demonstrated by their ability to head the Woodland Park Health Forest Initiative, as well as, managing large grants as this organization provided oversight of the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center, the 2003 EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant, and National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program since 2003.

As a large regional water provider and collaborative partner in CUSP's focus area, Colorado Springs Utilities recognizes CUSP's project management and administrative experience to make best use of the ARRA funding for public safety and the protection of critical water, forest, and other natural resources. I am asking you to please give the CUSP grant application(s) your strongest consideration. I can be contacted for additional information at (719) 668-4554.

Sincerely,

Eric Howell
Colorado Springs Utilities
Water Natural Resource Planner

121 South Tejon Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 1103, Mail Code 930
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0930

Phone 719/668-4800
Fax 719/668-8734
WWW.CSU.ORG

09-28-09 10:12 RCVD

002

Carol Ekarius

Curriculum Vitae

Experience:

1989 to Current: Self-employed Writer and Nonprofit Consultant. For over 20 years, I've worked as a self-employed writer, and as a technical consultant to the nonprofit and governmental sectors. My freelance writing credentials include seven books in print, and two in production, as well as articles in magazines such as 5280 (Denver's city magazine), Alternative Medicine, Green Builder, Natural Homes & Gardens, Hobby Farms (where I am a contributing editor), Organic Style, Plenty, Western Horseman and The Writer. Most recently, my consulting has included contract report writing, grant writing, and/or meeting facilitation for the United States Forest Service, the Western Forest Leadership Council, Care and Share, the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, and a private practice attorney who specializes in public-sector/environmental law.

1999 to Current. Executive Director, Coalition for the Upper South Platte. I helped get this nationally recognized watershed group off the ground, working in a contract capacity to oversee all functions and staff, including financial management, project implementation, outreach to the public, grant administration, and other functions required to run a nonprofit organization. I represented the Board of Directors on various committees and task forces, such as the Front Range Fuel Treatment Partnership Roundtable, the South Platte Protection Plan Committee, the South Platte Enhancement Board, and the National Commission on Science and Sustainable Forestry.

The organization currently has eleven staff members and owns its office in Lake George, with a budget of about \$750,000 per year. The group works with a variety of stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, county governments, conservation districts, conservancy districts, other nonprofits, and local citizens and businesses on projects ranging from fire rehabilitation after the 2002 Hayman fire, to forest health, river restoration, and weed control projects across public and private boundaries.

1989-1998: Self-employed Farmer. My husband and I owned and operated an organic, grass-based farm in Central Minnesota during this period. I also ran a business from our farm providing technical support to public and nonprofit entities.

1981-1989: District Manager, Frisco Sanitation District, Frisco, CO. As manager of the District, I oversaw day-to-day operations and major construction projects of a sanitation district providing wastewater treatment services to a community of 8,000, and represented the Board in an official capacity. The District's annual operating budget was \$500,000 per year, and I managed a \$4,000,000 construction project during my tenure. The Frisco plant won EPA's National Operation and Maintenance Award under my leadership.

Other Public and Nonprofit Experience:

1985-1989: Town Board Member, Silverplume (CO)

1984-1989: Board Member, People for Silverplume

1989-1991: Chairman, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota

1991-1997: Executive Director, Sustainable Farming Association of MN
1992-1995 Kellogg Foundation Leadership Fellow
1995-1997: Board Member, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (Univ. of MN)
1995-1997: Member, National Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
1998-2004: Board Member, Hartsel Community Library Board
2000-2002: Board Member, Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition
2000-2003: Treasurer, Colorado Watershed Assembly
2001-2002: Executive Committee Member, Colorado Water Trust
2002-Current: Member, Front Range Fuel Treatment Partnership Roundtable

Sample Presentations & Publications:

Presentations and publications in chronological order:

1. Phosphorous Removal Utilizing Adsorption Clarifiers as Pretreatment to Mixed Media Filtration. Proceedings of the annual conference of the Water Pollution Control Federation, 1984.
2. Sustaining the Family Farm: A Case Study. Proceedings of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, 1995.
3. Just Because You Raise Sheep. Doesn't Mean You Have To Be One. Proceedings of the biannual symposium, Alberta Sheep Breeders Association, 2001.
4. Watershed Groups: Changing the Way We Work on Water Problems. Proceedings of the Colorado Water Workshop, Western State College, 2001.
5. Watershed Planning. Proceedings of the Colorado Water Workshop, Western State College, 2002.
6. Fire and Community Impacts. Presentation to Yale University School of Forestry, 2003.
7. Collaboration for Success. Presentation to the Western Governor's Conference on Forest Health, 2005.
8. The New Small Farmers. Presentation to the National Agri-Marketing Association Conference, 2005, and FarmPro Workshop, 2006.
9. Geographic Scale and Strategy in Collaborative Stewardship. Presentation at the Bridging the Gap Conference on Collaboration at Colorado State University, 2009.

BOOKS IN PRINT:

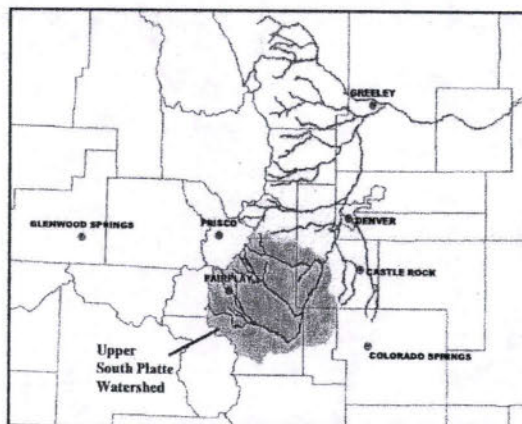
- STOREY'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO CATTLE, GOATS, PIGS AND SHEEP, Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2008.
- POCKETFUL OF POULTRY, Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2007. (Winner of the New England Booksellers Nonfiction Book Award.)
- STOREY'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO POULTRY BREEDS, Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2007. (Finalist for the Colorado Book Award.)
- HOBBY FARM, BowTie Press, Irvine, CA, 2005.
- HOW TO BUILD ANIMAL HOUSING. Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2004. (Winner of the 2004 Colorado Author's League Award for Best Nonfiction.
- SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK FARMING. Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 1999.
- STOREY'S GUIDE TO RAISING SHEEP. Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2000.



❧ EQUIPMENT CONCERNS ❧

The use of best construction management practice is to limit the area of land to be disturbed by construction activities. Due to the invasive nature of projects in natural areas, and the increasing number of projects underway, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, CUSP, has established these Best Management Practices (or BMPs). These BMPs are to be followed when performing river restoration, forestry-related projects, or general construction initiatives within the Upper South Platte Watershed. Equipment transfers both land-based invasives (such as noxious weeds) and aquatic invasive species.

Please help us stop the establishment and movement of these non-native species!



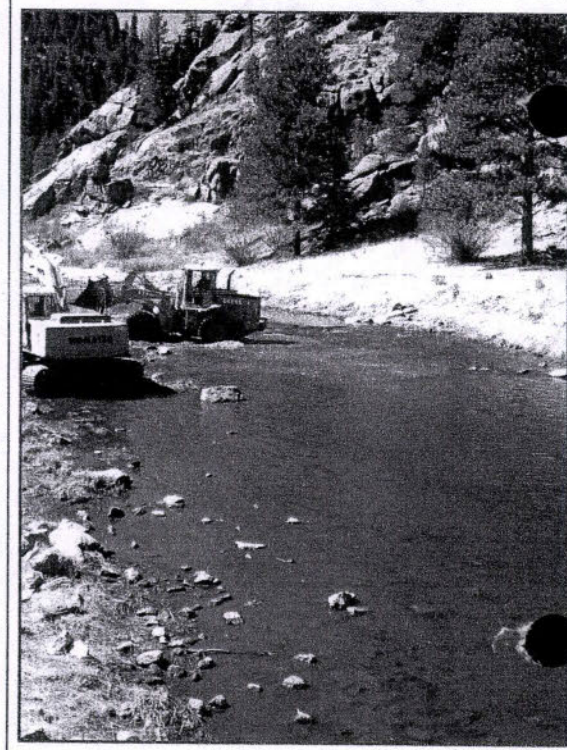
❧ OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ❧

Oil and Hydraulic fluid - Ensure that all equipment is free of leaks. It is your responsibility to properly maintain your equipment!

Refueling - fuel stations must be located at least 150' from any water source or sensitive area. Utilize proper fueling control measures, such as: spill prevention barriers, auto shut-offs, and DOT approved storage containers.

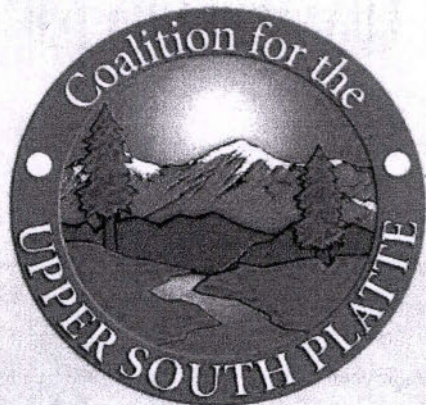
CUSP
Box 726
LAKE GEORGE, COLORADO 80827
719.748.0033
CUSP@UPPERSOUTHPLATTE.ORG

CONSTRUCTION BMPs



❧ INVASIVE BMPs ❧

A seemingly unavoidable consequence of river restoration and forestry-related activities is the disruption of established soils, slopes, and native plants and the unnecessary spread of invasive species. Excavation of established soils and plants, and equipment entering waterways or sensitive ecosystems can lead to the incursion of invasive species that take advantage of these conditions. They establish a strong-hold, if given the chance.



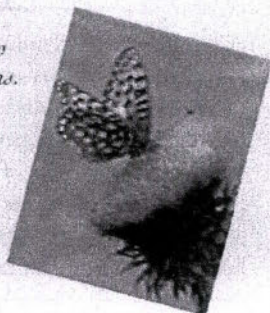
❖ CUSP ❖

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte was formed in 1998 by area stakeholders interested in 'a healthy watershed, now and in the future'.

CUSP's mission is to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.

Priority issues include: water resources and quality, forest health, fire rehabilitation, noxious weeds, stream/river restoration, erosion and flood control, community education, riparian corridor enhancement sustainable recreation, local economies, volunteer outreach, community preparedness, and carbon sinks and storage.

CUSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that depends on contributions to continue valuable programs.



Best Management Practices

MINIMIZING THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE WEED SPECIES

Prior to any construction:

- Identify and map all noxious and invasive weed populations present in the project area.
- Treat or contain any weed populations that may be impacted or disturbed by construction activity.
- Flag all weed populations to be avoided.
- Provide training to construction workers and equipment operators on the identification of weeds to be avoided.
- Certify that all construction material sources used for supplies of sand, gravel, rock and mulch are weed-free prior to obtaining or transporting any material.
- Obtain and use only certified weed-free straw or use fiber roll logs for sediment containment.
- Wash and inspect all vehicles for weed seeds and plant parts prior to bringing them onto the job site.

During construction:

- Minimize ground disturbance and vegetation removal as much as possible and practical.
- Wash, or, using an air compressor, blow clean all vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) that may have entered weed-infested areas prior to entering uninfested areas of the job site.
- Restrict vehicles or other traffic that may transport weed seeds or plant material from entering the job site unless they are first washed and inspected.

After construction:

- Revegetate or otherwise prevent the establishment of weeds in all areas of the job site through a program on monitoring and post-construction weed treatment for the life of the project.
- Utilize seed and other plant material that has been checked and certified as noxious weed-free and that has a weed content of 0.05% or less.
- Revegetate using plant materials that have a high likelihood of survival.
- Monitor all seeded sites for weed infestation. Treat all weeds adjacent to newly seeded areas prior to planting and treat planted areas for weeds in the first growing season.

MINIMIZING THE IMPACTS OF NOXIOUS AQUATIC SPECIES

Prior to any construction:

- Identify all aquatic populations present in the project area.
- If non native invasive aquatics are present- BEFORE construction begins create a mitigation and control plan.
- Provide training to construction workers and equipment operators on identification and control of aquatics.
- Certify that all construction material sources used for supplies of sand, gravel, rock and mulch are invasive aquatic free prior to obtaining, transporting any material or entering river system.
- Wash and inspect all vehicles for aquatics prior to bringing them onto the job site.

During construction:

- When New Zealand Mudsnails are present wash all vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) that may have entered aquatic-infested areas prior to entering uninfested areas of the job site (utilize 401).
- Restrict vehicles or other traffic that may transport weed seeds or plant material from entering the job site unless they are first washed and inspected.

After construction:

- Revegetate or otherwise prevent the establishment of weeds in all areas of the job site through a program on monitoring and post-construction weed treatment for the life of the project.
- Utilize seed and other plant material that has been checked and certified as noxious weed-free and that has a weed content of 0.05% or less.
- Revegetate using plant materials that have a high likelihood of survival.
- Monitor all seeded sites for weed infestation. Treat all weeds adjacent to newly seeded areas prior to planting and treat planted areas for weeds in the first growing season.
- Wash all equipment with 401 before transporting.