

CUSP

Projects, Programs and Initiatives



Program Highlights



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.

WPHFI PROJECTS		2009 Status
Project	Status	notes
Quinlan Gulch	planning	5-35 acre lots and up
Sky High Ranch	working	d-space work on 17 acres on-going, 33 large piles burned
Quaker Ridge	working	34 acre fuelbreak began 5-18-09, dspace work on-going
Flying Cloud HOA	working	Wannlund 3 acre fuelbreak complete, Witcomb dspace com Other landowners: Wetzel, Ruths, Tong, Pugh, - 50/50 cost
Stone Ridge Village	planning	approx. 40 acres, need to bid- 50/50 cost share
Meadow Wood Park	near completion	10 acre mitigation project
Majestic Park	planning	approx. 45 acres- 17 mastication, 17 hand thinning
Sturman Industries	working	approx. 30 acres, mastication and hand thinning combo
Gordon Jackson Trust (Aspen Valley Ranch)	working	approx. 40 acres, shaded fuelbreak on ridgetop
Diamond Campground	planning	set up meeting this fall 2009- 50/50 cost share
Praner property	planning	2.5 acre fuelbreak on ridgetop, 7.5 acre thinning
Miles property	planning	continue thinning 5-10 acres- 50/50 cost share
Glen Aspen Ranch	planning	thinning at Boy Scout Camp-
Catamount	working	additional 16 acres for treatment this fall
Ridgewood HOA	working	shaded fuel break at road, with Teller County Public Works
Westervelt	working	Approx. 50 acres, remove 210 beetle brood trees

WPHFI Monitoring -A group of professionals from the USFS, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and CSU Extension joined members from the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) to discuss and implement an ecological monitoring plan to be used by the WPHFI. Contributing to the group were Bob Ayotte and Ed Biery (USFS), Dave Root (CSFS), Mark Platten (CSU Extension), Theresa Springer and Matt Matwijec (CUSP), and Jessica Clement and Mica Keralis (CFRI). Also attending was Woodland Park High School Environmental Education teacher Kendall Hovell.



A planning meeting was held on Monday at the Manitou Experimental Forest Headquarters with the goal of discussing and agreeing to the ecological monitoring protocols and plan. The main objectives of the protocols and plan are to measure the fire risk and to evaluate to overall health of the forest within the WPHFI boundary.



Trail Creek Restoration -After three years, CUSP and the partners are in full swing, working on completing the large portion of Trail Creek by undertaking erosion control, tree and willow plantings, fencing, retaining wall, rock rip rapping, grass reseeding, road construction rehabilitation, signage and trail users kiosks.

We were just awarded a grant from CWCB to do instream restoration next year in Trail Creek drainage. Dana Butler, hydrologist, USFS, is working on an EA for this project.

PROJECTS PROGRAMS INITIATIVES	SUMMARY
Forest Health	<p>WPHFI: Project ongoing - (see WPHFI project summary above)</p> <p>Fairplay/Alma: Working with folks in this area to begin addressing Mountain Pine Beetle, which is coming over the hill from Summit County.</p> <p>Neighborhoods Fuel Reduction and Slash Sites: Ongoing chipper program, now in its 6th year. We are again running the Divide Slash Site and providing some funding to NWFDP for the Fairplay burn site.</p>
Volunteer Projects	<p>CUSP still has an extremely active volunteer program with over a thousand volunteers showing up each year to do work in the watershed. For example, July 20 - 31 150 volunteers will be working on various projects with focus placed in the Trail Creek Basin.</p>
Invasive Weed Control / Mapping	<p>Received \$8,000.00</p> <p>Volunteer projects and other Weed Pull Groups July 20 - July 27</p> <p>BV Corrections Crew: 3 weeks @Santa Maria, Badger Basin and the junction of US 24 and 9.</p> <p>Data: Data entry and website are being undertaken by Jeff R, Chris will update the project sheets to include weed spatial data if weeds are identified by crew.</p> <p>Training: CUSP work crew training to ensure that they are aware and can minimally identify weed species when working on various projects</p> <p>Outreach: Weed of the month, weed article for newsletter 1st annual weed meeting, hosted by CUSP in Feb, to address outcomes, arising issues. CUSP will be coordinating creating this into a work group for weeds in the watershed.</p>

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Monitoring	<p>Trail Creek: Commodore Environmental Services has been contracted by Douglas County to provided water quality monitoring in Trail Creek Project areas.</p> <p>GPS and Photos: GPS project data is coming online for map creation and dissemination.</p> <p>WPHFI: CUSP has collected baseline forest health data to monitor outcomes of forest projects with the WPHFI area. We are also preparing a survey of area of residents.</p> <p>CNHP: At CUSP's instigation, we are working with Teller County and the Colorado Natural Heritage Project to do an assessment of biological resources in Teller County--the only county in the watershed that hadn't been assessed.</p>
GIS and Mapping	<p>GPS training for staff - 60% complete</p> <p>GIS training for staff - 40% complete</p> <p>Data acquisition and documentation for building maps - 20% complete</p> <p>Data base design and documentation for capturing work area, location (and way points) and activities (and photos) - 40% complete</p> <p>Integration of financial and work databases for GIS reporting - 0% complete (new project)</p> <p>System will be able to store multiple types of data (photo, monitoring, financial, etc) in geospacial format.</p>
Trails	<p>Planning for Gill Trail work and to do rock signage.</p> <p>Proposed to Denver Water a Scope of Work for ongoing maintenance for trail work at Upper Cheesman Trail.</p> <p>Working with Wild Connections on the Rampart Range to close trails and minimize water quality impacts associated with several miles of trail.</p>
Trail Creek	<p>Ongoing project:</p> <p>Erosion control, tree planting, road rehabilitation, exclusionary fencing, signage, erosion control matting, check dams, and retaining walls.</p> <p>Next season:</p> <p>In-stream jhooks and cross veins.</p>

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River Projects	<p>McMurphy: Working with Park County to create a unique Beaver habitat restoration project.</p> <p>McDaniels: Working with Park County on Mississippi Creek river restoration project. Released RFP and have hosted site visits just waiting for proposals.</p> <p>Happy Meadows/Sportsmans: CUSP contracting for NEPA and planning of in-stream work. Hopefully construction will occur in 2010. Also working with partners on coming up with an approach to the road and trails in area.</p>
Fire Suppression Team and Emergency Response	<p>CUSP has partnered with Florrisant VFD to create our own wildfire suppression team. Currently CUSP has four red-carded employees with other fire certifications.</p> <p>Working on an MOU with Park County for providing volunteer coordination during fire/flood emergencies in which county will pay us.</p>
Environmental Education	<p>Continue efforts with area and Front Range schools: From Forest to Faucets - teach the teacher initiative. TreeCycle- is on hold and currently is under evaluation. Theresa attending a week-long school for educators put on by the CSFS</p>
Outreach	<p>GIS: Developing gis system which will be valuable for marketing and reporting our activities.</p> <p>Videos: See mountain pine beetle videos at www.wphfi.org</p> <p>Websites: Update of our main site is in planning stage. Also we have sites for projects at wphfi.org, divideslashsite.com, uppersouthplatte-weeds.org and one coming at uppersouthplatte-ee.org</p> <p>Watershed Watch: Format change and definite issue release timeline getting us back to four issues per year.</p>

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Special Events	<p>Fire Fairs: Woodland Park was in May, and Fairplay is slated for October</p> <p>Bob Taylor Ice Fishing Contest: at Antero - this will be an annual event we will host with funding going to the resources at Antero and to CUSP.</p> <p>Invasive Weeds Meeting: This will be an annual event to get all the folks dealing with weeds together to organize our efforts.</p> <p>Watershed Tours: Scheduled: Congressional Staff, CSU Coop Ext Educators, UCD Public Admin class, EPA staff tour</p> <p>Speaking Engagements: Ongoing. Our staff attends numerous conferences and meetings as speakers, and also goes to HOA meetings, local groups (such as Rotary, Builders, etc.).</p>
Mining	<p>We have a VISTA Volunteer for this program for up to 3 years. Sarah Lykens is our first VISTA.</p> <p>Sarah has met the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club (LGGMC); Nancy Comer and Nick Radtke (Alma manager and public works director) regarding information they have on AML in their area; and agency staff from various agencies that deal with mines.</p> <p>Sarah is also gathering data from the various agencies and sources, and we are beginning to “get our arms around the issue.”</p> <p>Of all the VISTA’s associated with the Western Hardrock Watershed Team (currently 18), Sarah was selected to be part of a panel presenting at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Program (NAAML) conference this September. She will be joined by a VISTA from the Appalachian region and the head of this program, Allan Comp, from the Office of Surface Mining in DC.</p>
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	<p>WPHFI CWPP underway NWFPD CWPP underway Contracted with Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance to have their CWPP specialist help on these projects.</p> <p>These plans are focusing the CWPPS in more detail at local levels than the original county-wide plans provided, including showing treatment polygons</p>

FINANCE REPORT

INCOME	Amount
Biz Contributions	\$ 40,821
Individual Contributions	\$ 8,730
Federal Grants	\$ 178,584
State/Local	\$ 295,731
Program Revenue	\$ 25,935
Misc	\$ 4,371
Total	\$ 554,172

IN KIND DONATIONS	Amount
Donated Services-professional	\$ 47,710.00
Donated Services-volunteer	\$ 128,233.00
Inkind	\$ 14,228.00
Total	\$ 190,171.00

EXPENSES	Amount
Biz Contributions	\$ 40,821
Individual Contributions	\$ 8,730
Federal Grants	\$ 178,584
State/Local	\$ 295,731
Program Revenue	\$ 25,935
Misc	\$ 4,371
Total	\$ 554,172