



UP - DATE

the **electronic** newsletter of the
Uncompahgre Plateau Project

UP Project Develops Coordinated Weed Management Area Plan

The Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project, in coordination with Montrose County, Federal Agencies, and the Nature Conservancy, is leading an effort to develop Coordinated Weed Management Area Plans for the West Uncompahgre Plateau. Montrose County, USFS, BLM, and the Nature Conservancy have obtained grant funding from the Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources for a Uravan Cooperative Weed Management Plan. The UP Project received funds from the National Forest Foundation to begin the effort in the Horsefly watershed area. This watershed will be the first of four Weed Management Areas (WMA) for which the UP Project will draft a plan. (see attached map)

The UP Project has contacted the landowners in the Horsefly WMA and has begun inventorying invasive species on the private lands. With the help of the Southwest Data Center, we are combining our weed data with the inventory data from the BLM and USFS to create thorough maps of the Horsefly WMA. These maps will be used to create best management strategies for the high priority invasive species in the WMA.

One exciting aspect of the plan is a Cost Share Program. The UP Project is working with Montrose County to develop a flagship program for the Horsefly WMA. We held a public meeting in Norwood in early November to educate the public on invasive species and to obtain feedback on program ideas. The UP Project presented this feedback to the Montrose County Weed Board on November 17 and, with the Board's guidance, has designed the outline for a Cost Share Program.

A first draft of the Horsefly Coordinated WMA Plan will be finished in mid January and two public meetings will be held to acquire final public feedback: Jan. 17 in Norwood and Jan. 19 in Montrose. At the Jan. 19 meeting, we will present our draft plan to the Montrose County Weed Board. If you would like further information on these meetings, please contact us.

The UP Project plans to begin treatment on the ground in Spring 2006. We look forward to expanding our efforts and furthering our learning as we move into the three remaining WMAs.

November 2005



A landscape approach to weed management and prevention on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Goal of a Collaborative Weed Management Area Plan:

To prevent the reproduction and spread of priority weeds into and within a Weed Management Area (WMA). The formation of a Collaborative WMA Plan replaces jurisdictional boundaries that can be barriers to proper weed management with natural and more logical boundaries.



Purple loosestrife along a ditch

(Gary A. Monroe @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database)