

Uncompahgre Plateau Project



FY2010 Program of Work



Mission Statement
to improve the ecosystem health and natural functions of the landscape through active restoration projects backed by best science, community input and adaptive management.



Landscape -Scale Project Planning

A. Uncompahgre Mesas Project

Goal: to enhance the resiliency, diversity and productivity of the native ecosystem in the Uncompahgre Mesas area of the Uncompahgre Plateau, CO using best available science and collaboration.

Current Outside Funding Sources: none

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Coordinate workgroup meetings and summer work session for multi-party monitoring. Workgroup meetings: March, Oct. Field trips: June, July, September. Produce white paper and presentations, coordinate with youth monitoring crew, and complete baseline monitoring.

Anticipated Agency 2010 Activities: Stewardship contract anticipated to be released in summer 2010.

B. Ironhorse/Powerline Project

Goal: to reduce the risk of wildfires while improving habitat and enhancing the resiliency and diversity of the forest in Wildland-Urban Interface areas near the community of Sanborn Park and along the Western and Tri-State powerlines within and outside of the Ironhorse Analysis Area.

Current Outside Funding Sources: \$120,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for on-the-ground treatments.

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Support pretreatment monitoring and implementation. Provide outreach and education. Organize a public field trip in summer 2010.

Anticipated Agency 2010 Activities: The U.S. Forest Service has a NEPA decision on approximately 5,000 acres of treatments near the community of Sanborn Park within the IAA. Work is anticipated to continue on the upper portions of the Western and Tri-State powerlines outside the IAA.

C. North Rim Landscape Strategy

Goal: to work at a landscape scale to build a shared science and knowledge base to inform decision-making across jurisdictional boundaries and to develop strategies for land use management in the 220,000-acre North Rim Strategy Landscape Area.

Current Outside Funding Sources: none

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Complete the collaborative strategy document for the area. Assist with one public field trip. Provide additional assistance as needed to the workgroup. Pursue outside grant funding for the workgroup and on the ground projects. (A \$10,000 National Forest Foundation grant has been submitted for the area.)

Research/Assessment Projects

A. Aspen Browse Study

Goal: to assess the effects of ungulate browsing on aspen regeneration on the Plateau. This assessment program will address three questions:

1. How substantial are the effects of browsing on aspen regeneration (to tree-size recruitment)?
2. To what extent is browsing impact caused by cattle or by deer and elk?
3. What is the pattern of browsing impact across the Plateau, and are there any apparent explanations for the pattern (elk populations within local areas; season of use by elk or cattle; basic site factors (such as elevation, forest type, conifer basal area)

Current Outside Funding Sources: \$35,000 National Forest Foundation Grant and \$9,000 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant.

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Coordinate with CSU, USFS and others on implementing the study. Facilitate permittee meetings. Assist as needed with study design, hiring crew, set up of exclosures, and baseline monitoring. Create an UP with Aspen brochure, facilitate public field trips.

B. Biomass Supply Assessment

Goal: To estimate the volume of woody biomass that could be sustainably supplied as a result of necessary fuels, ecological restoration, and forest health treatments on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Current Outside Funding Sources: \$20,000 Tri-State G&T Contribution.

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Organize workgroup meetings, workshops and public field tours. Create and update white paper and presentations. Seek outside grant funding.

Invasive Species Management

Overarching Goal: to facilitate cooperation among all land managers and private landowners for the mapping, monitoring, control, and prevention of weeds within the area. Coordinated efforts replace jurisdictional boundaries that can be barriers to proper weed management with natural and more logical boundaries.

A. Coordinated Weed Management Areas: Paradox, Tabeguache and Horsefly

Current Outside Funding Sources: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Pulling Together Grant for the Paradox WMA (Sept 2007 – Sept 2010): \$43,000

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Organize and facilitate partner meetings, draft 2010 Annual Operating Plan, assist with the Montrose County cost share program, coordinate treatment programs, create outreach materials, and summarize total treatment efforts within the WMAs by all partners.

B. North Rim Coordinated Weed Management Area

Current Outside Funding Sources: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Pulling Together Grant: \$28,000.

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Organize and facilitate partner meetings, draft Coordinated Weed Management Area Plan and 2010 Annual Operating Plan, coordinate inventory of invasive species and treatment efforts, create outreach materials, summarize total treatment efforts within the WMAs by all partners, and prepare grant report.

C. Individual Invasive Species Management Projects

As needed: Coordinate multi-ownership treatment programs for priority areas targeted by land managers requesting a collaborative approach.

Current Projects include: Roubideau, Gunnison Gorge NCA, sulfur cinquefoil on the Norwood district.

Current Outside Funding Sources: \$9,000 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant for sulphur cinquefoil project.

Pulling for Colorado – Public Work and Outreach Day. Project will focus on a yellow star thistle infestation on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Current Outside Funding Sources: \$1,095 Pulling for Colorado grant

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Native Plant Program

Program Goal: To develop an adequate supply of native plant materials for use in restoration and rehabilitation activities in the Colorado Plateau region.

UP Staff Goal: Provide support to the Native Plant Program in the form of: organizing and facilitating meetings, overseeing program focus areas, developing contracts with cooperators, providing education and outreach, attending scientific conferences, documenting the program, creating reports, and pursuing grant opportunities.

2010 General Program Focus Areas:

1. Seed Production – Coordinate with commercial growers. Develop a working capital fund to establish a seed buy-back program.
2. Science Studies –
 - Comparison trials on the plateau in the Sims Mesa enclosure with the Upper CO Env. Plant Material Center
 - Forb studies at the CSU Yellow Jacket Research Center.
3. Maintain Seed Inventory –Develop a seed utilization methodology for distribution to commercial growers, agencies and the UP seed bank.
4. Native Seed Collection of Key Gunnison Sage-Grouse Species – Identify and target species for Gunnison sage-grouse. Coordinate with a crew from the Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance (NANSA) to collect seed in Summer/Fall 2010. Clean and propagate seed for use in local restoration efforts.
5. Coordinate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) to construct a Native Plant Distribution Center on the Escalante State Wildlife Area, west of Delta, CO in 2010 using “Species Conservation Trust” funds. This facility will fill the need for a proper long term storage facility on the west slope of Colorado.
6. Colorado Plateau Native Plant Initiative (CPNPI): Coordinate and support the Colorado Plateau-wide native plant effort.
7. Program Administration –Maintain a successful and efficient program.

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Outreach and Education

A. General Outreach

Major 2010 UP Activities and Deliverables: Continue to create and distribute newsletters, flyers, executive summaries and public presentations. Maintain the UP website. Attend public meetings and conferences as requested.

General Administration

Major 2010 UP Activities: Host monthly UP Technical Committee meetings; host annual meeting with UP Executive Committee; manage partnership agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), and personnel service agreements in coordination with Uncompahgre/Com., Inc.; and pursue grant opportunities.

Funds Administration: Prepare required reports, monitor status of funds, give direction and approvals to Uncompahgre/Com., Inc. on allocations and the authorization to receive and disburse funds.

Major 2010 UP Deliverables: Prepare an annual program of work, summary report of the past year's accomplishments, financial reports, budgets, and grant activity reports.