

Uncompahgre Plateau Project



FY2008 Summary of UP Accomplishments

The Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project seeks *to improve the ecosystem health and natural functions of the landscape through active restoration projects backed by best science, community input and adaptive management.*

The formal UP Partners are the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Public Lands Partnership, Western Area Power Administration, and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

Native Plant Program

- Successfully brought 16 species through the Native Plant Program. They are now available for commercial production.
- Facilitated the commercial production of 60 acres of Sandberg bluegrass.
- Submitted 387 UP Seed Collections (from 2003 –2008) to the Seeds of Success Program through the CO BLM.
- Produced 143 pounds of cleaned seed from 12 native species in UP fields.
- Delivered 554 pounds of cleaned seed from 30 native species to USFS, BLM and CO Division of Wildlife for use in local on-the-ground projects.
- Provided 200 cliffrose transplants to the USFS -Norwood District to rehabilitate the Albin fire on the plateau.
- Maintained 37.5 acres of native species in studies and production.
- Completed a 3-year Adaptability Study on 13 native grasses.
- Completed an assessment of the current and future demand of native seed in the upper Colorado Plateau area.



- Coordinated with CSU Extension in the development of an economic analysis of native seed production for local growers.
- Evaluated seed production of sagebrush for the Wildland Shrub Seed Increase Study.

Landscape -Scale Project Planning

Uncompahgre Mesas Project

- Assisted the U.S. Forest Service in the establishment of a 17,000-acre collaborative restoration effort.
- Organized and facilitated five workgroup meetings and two multi-day field trips.
- Facilitated volunteer historical forest structure data collection to guide treatment efforts.



Ironhorse/Powerline Project

- Provided project documentation and support during the U.S. Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team meetings for the treatment of approximately 5,000 acres within the Ironhorse Analysis Area.
- Organized two public field tours of the Western and Tri-State powerline projects.



North Rim Landscape Strategy

- Organized and summarized past project workgroup meeting notes.
- Arranged and facilitated one workgroup meeting.
- Developed a first draft of the collaborative Strategy Document.

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Invasive Species Management

- Continued to coordinate planning and treatment efforts on 478,000 acres of weed management areas (Horsefly, Paradox and Tabeguache) in the southwestern portion of the Uncompahgre Plateau.
- Completed the Coordinated Weed Management Area Plan for the 116,000-acre Paradox WMA.
- Developed Annual Operating Plans for the Horsefly, Paradox and Tabeguache WMAs.
- Coordinated additional treatment efforts on:
 - 350 acres of purple loosestrife in west Montrose County
 - 3,000 acres of spotted knapweed and oxeye daisy in the Ute area of the plateau
 - 250 acres of yellow toadflax in the 25 Mesa area of the plateau
 - Russian knapweed along 15 miles of Roubideau and Potter Canyons on the plateau



- Obtained \$53,600 in outside grant funding for invasive species treatment on private and public lands.
- Obtained a \$40,000 Five-Star Restoration Matching Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Association of Counties to restore and protect 23 miles of riparian buffer along the Gunnison River in the Gunnison Gorge NCA to begin in 2009.
- Attended and participated in the Montrose County Weed Board meetings.
- Participated in the Nature Conservancy's tamarisk removal day along the San Miguel river.

General Administration

- Applied for thirteen grants, receiving nine totaling \$183,170.
- Prepared and submitted eight annual reports to grantors.
- 2008 program expenditures totaled: \$402,965. Funds were managed by Uncompahgre/Com., Inc.

Outreach and Education

- Produced UP literature including: 2007 executive summaries, two newsletters, and an informational brochure. Maintained and updated the UP website.
- Hosted the inaugural UP Lunchtime Lecture Series event in September.
- Gave public presentations to the Montrose County Weed Board, Kiwanis, and San Juan Corridor Coalition.



For more information on the UP Project:

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