



Courier - February 2009

Rural Resort Region Embarks on Its Focus for 2009: **SENIORS IN OUR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**



l to r: Judy Martin, Garfield County Senior Svcs; Tresi Houpt, Garfield County Commissioner; Lynnzy McIntosh, Coalition for Older Adult Wellness; Bob French, Summit City Commissioner



Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer



Sara Fisher, Eagle County Commissioner



Bud Elliott, Mayor of Leadville and Chair of RRR; John Hoffman, Trustee from Town of Carbondale

In This Issue:

1 - Rural Resort Region's Focus for 2009

2 - Executive Director's Message

3 - Colorado Association of Regional Councils

4 - Alpine Area Agency on Aging

5 - Elevator Inspection Program, Member Services, Northwest Loan Fund

6 - Water Quality/Quantity Committee

7 - Weatherization Program

8 - Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative

9 - Demographic Update, Census 2010

10 - NWCCOG People

11 - Resources

NWCCOG
P.O. Box 2308
249 Warren Ave.
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970.468.0295
www.nwc.cog.co.us

The Rural Resort Region, a policy-level, issues-based, boundaryless group administered by NWCCOG, works to identify relationships between resort community issues. The group then focuses on the development of solutions and strategies by building partnerships and coalitions among entities affected by these issues.

The RRR chooses one issue of interest and importance to focus on every year, for the entire year. In the past several years, these issues have ranged from congestion on I-70 to affordable workforce housing to the pine beetle epidemic. For 2009, the Rural Resort Region has chosen to focus on **Seniors in Our Mountain Communities** as its topic of focus for 2009.

On January 22nd, the Rural Resort Region kicked off this initiative with a meeting at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, Colorado. This meeting was attended by County Commissioners, Mayors, and Councilmembers from the RRR as well as senior services program staff, healthcare providers, state representatives, and members of NWCCOG's Alpine Area Agency on Aging's Regional Advisory Council.

Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer, began the day with a presentation that painted a picture of the future with respect to the changing demographics of baby boomers (those aged 44 - 64), the 65+, and the 85+ population in Colorado. Elizabeth presented some staggering facts:

- ◆ Between 2000 and 2020, Colorado's total population will grow at 1.7% per year; Colorado's population 55 - 64 will grow at 5.9% per year, which is more than double the growth rate of the population as a whole. In the entire U.S., this age group will grow at 3.9%.
- ◆ By 2030, Colorado's population 65+ will be 3 times greater than the 65+ population was in 2000, growing from 400,000 to 1.2 million.
- ◆ The 65+ population in the Rural Resort Region is projected to grow from 15,775 in 2008 to 58,799 in 2030, which is an increase of 273%
- ◆ The mountain communities of Colorado, especially the amenity-rich rural resort communities, have become meccas for retiring boomers

Elizabeth's presentation was followed by breakout groups where each table developed a list of senior-related issues they would like to see be addressed over the course of this initiative throughout 2009. There will be four issue-focused meetings throughout 2009, followed by a symposium which will be a culmination of the years work. The RRR envisions the development of a document laying out best practices and recommended policies for implementation at the federal, state, and local levels as the product to come out of the year-long study. - see "seniors", page 3

COMING SOON: NWCCOG'S ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

NWCCOG is developing an electronic newsletter that will be sent to everyone currently on our paper newsletter mailing list. Look for it soon in your inbox. NWCCOG will continue to send a paper newsletter, but if you would like to be removed from our mailing list for PAPER newsletters, please send an email to rlnney@nwc.cog.co.us indicating this. There will be an option to opt-out of receiving the eNewsletter as well in each issue.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Still in Love After
Forty Years

I moved to Colorado in 1969, forty years ago. In 1969 I was a fresh out of college, twenty-two year old idealistic and poverty stricken young man beginning an exciting journey in my chosen state of Colorado; not having the slightest idea of where it would lead. All I knew was that I had fallen in love with Colorado sometime in my youth and all of a sudden there I was - living in a previously owned mobile home in Aurora with a teaching contract from the Denver Public School System in hand. To me, Colorado was a land of boundless opportunity equaled only by its vast Great Plains and majestic Rocky Mountains. I believed to my very core the words of poet Sam Foss, *"Bring me men to match my mountains, Bring me men to match my plains, Men with empire in their purpose and new eras in their brains."* I could easily have been John Denver except for three things; I didn't write music, I couldn't carry a tune, and I am just now learning to play the guitar.

Colorado was vastly different in 1969: the state's population was just under 2,000,000; Interstate 70 was not yet completed; the Eisenhower Tunnel had not penetrated the Continental Divide; the golden dome of the capitol and the Daniels and Fisher Tower were visible from anyplace in Denver; and people (including me) skied in blue jeans. Today there are nearly 5,000,000 people living in Colorado; Interstate 70 and the Eisenhower and Johnson Tunnels exceed capacity on Sunday afternoons; the D & F Tower is visible only if you are standing next to it; and the only people who ski in jeans are "Leadheads" at Ski Cooper.

But Colorado of forty years ago still exists as exemplified by its High Country towns and counties and the good people who populate them. For those of us who moved to Colorado in the 1960s as twenty somethings, we are now in our sixties and whether we want to admit it or not, our lifestyles are probably different than they were forty years ago.

I no longer ski in blue jeans; in fact I no longer ski at all. My orthopedic doctor says that I am long past due for a complete knee replacement and he doesn't know how I can even walk. My wife and I took our first cruise last

September and I have to admit that although I had great trepidation prior to going, I thoroughly loved it and we are beginning to plan our next. And, although we still go camping, we no longer sleep on the ground in a tent, but have discovered the incredible pleasures of an RV.

I am still in love with Colorado, but I find that I am enjoying it differently. How will my changing lifestyle and those of my fellow "Baby Boomers" affect the communities of Colorado's High Country? The US Census Bureau informs us that beginning in 2011, the year that the first "Boomers" turn sixty-five, seniors will be the fastest growing segment of the population in all fifty states for several years to come. Colorado will be no exception.

The sheer numbers of seniors and their lifestyles will affect transportation, housing, healthcare, outdoor recreation, higher education, retail sales, banking and insurance services, workforce, and more - but how? I am looking forward to the Rural Resort Region's (RRR) efforts in 2009 to explore the topic they have entitled, *"Seniors in Our Mountain Communities: Challenges and Opportunities"*. The elected municipal and county officials who make up the board of directors of RRR had the foresight to direct this effort last autumn knowing that they need to begin preparing their communities now for the changes about to come. What is myth and what is real about our aging population? Our aim is to find out and then determine how our communities need to begin planning for the future.

If you would like to become involved in this fascinating effort contact Liz Mullen at Northwest Colorado Council of Governments at (970) 468-0295 x 123 or lmullen@nwc.cog.co.us.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year.
Cheers! Gary

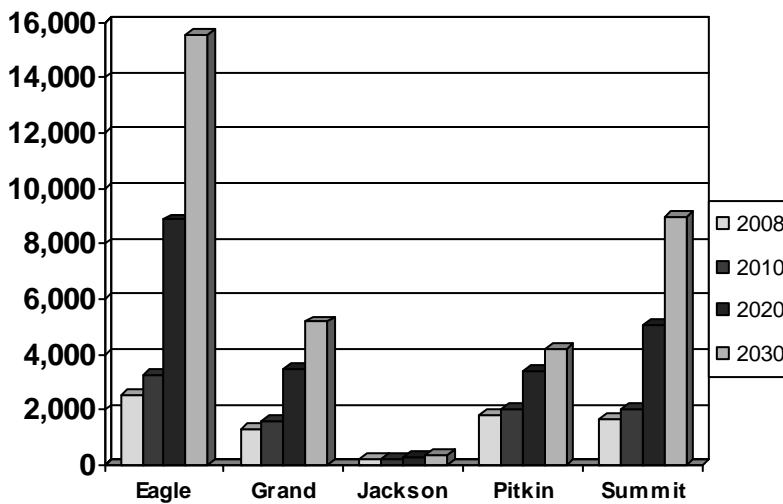


Photo by Paul Winters

SENIORS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

The graph below is a good illustration of the growing 65+ population in our region:

Region 12: Projected 65+ Population: 2008 - 2030



source: State Demography Office

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26th in Kremmling and will focus on the topic of housing. For more information on the RRR's seniors project, please visit the NWCCOG website at www.nwc.cog.co.us and choose the Rural Resort Region page.

This article, recently published by the Orton Family Foundation, examines one of the issues related to the Rural Resort Region's topic for 2009: the desire for seniors to "Age in Community" or "Age Well".

AGING WELL: MY MOM'S 80TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

BY LYMON ORTON, THE ORTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

This past June, I escorted my mother, class of 1928, to her 80th reunion at Burr & Burton Academy in Manchester, Vermont, where I also graduated in 1959. Because it is a small school, all classes celebrate on the same night so the gym was packed. As much as it was a thrill for Mildred Ellen, whom the headmaster said was the only 80th attendee they'd ever had, I felt a greater excitement from the crowd, who gave Mother a standing ovation and formed a constant stream of well-wishers at our table.

At 97, my mother still lives in Weston in the home she and my dad bought in 1936 and where I grew up. A crew of local women shares shifts staying with her and she is at peace being at home, in her community, although she doesn't like being controlled too much. This is a lesson I learned some years ago: I don't control my mother any more than I want my sons to control me. Other than keeping the con-men at bay I leave her alone with her choices. Except I do "coach" her to walk, instead of ride, the 500 yards over to the store. Grumbling the whole way, she insists she can't make it - but always does and is proud of the achievement.

Leading health care professionals understand the importance to both elders and their communities of what is now called: Aging in Community or Aging Well. Thanks to the success of our store we are able to provide this to Mildred. But our ambition is greater. We seek to honor all elders by making staying home more achievable. The Holy Grail is to instill in communities elements and culture that attract a broad span of ages, accommodating all as we age. Aging in Community is an idea that needs to grow, and we are behind it one hundred percent.

THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

There is a new organization in Colorado - The Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO). No, this is not Garrison Keeler's National Association of Associations of "A Prairie Home Companion" public radio fame, but a legitimate association of regional councils of governments, economic development corporations, and local government associations serving specific designated regions in Colorado.

In 1972, Colorado Governor John Love issued an Executive Order effective January 1, 1973 that established twelve Planning and Management Districts in the state for the expressed purpose of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation. Later, two additional Planning and Management Regions were formed making fourteen in total. Although all fourteen were designated to promote cooperation among local governments in specified regions, all have taken on unique identities over the ensuing thirty-six years and the challenges and opportunities presented in those years.

The general objective of the Association is to further the common interests of the organizations representing the designated Planning and Management Districts of the State of Colorado and to promote cooperative relationships among the regional organizations and the agencies and governing bodies of the State of Colorado and the United States. CARO will work closely with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to ensure that scarce state and local resources are being leveraged in order to better serve our local governments.

The fourteen regional organizations are:

- Region 1 Northeast Colorado Association of Local Governments
- Region 2 North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council
- Region 3 Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Region 4 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Region 5 East Central Council of Local Governments
- Region 6 Southeast Council of Governments
- Region 7 Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- Region 8 San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, Inc./San Luis Valley Council of Governments
- Region 9 Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Inc.
- Region 10 Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc.
- Region 11 Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado
- Region 12 Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
- Region 13 Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments
- Region 14 South Central Council of Governments

Pitkin County Commissioner Patti Clapper and NWCCOG Executive Director Gary Severson will represent State Planning Region XII in CARO.

ALPINE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

JEAN HAMMES, DIRECTOR

Regional Advisory Council

The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) has selected the following members for 2009:

Optimal Representatives:

Chris Huber (Eagle), Eunice Marte (Granby), Peggy Randall-Buckau (Eagle), Virginia Rose (Eagle), Gina Sterrett/Jean Owens (Garfield County). The RAC hopes the vacancy for the Routt County Optimal representative is filled very soon.

The NWCCOG representative to the RAC will be Commissioner Sara Fisher from Eagle County.

The county representatives which are appointed directly by each of the five representative counties and the NWCCOG Board are as follows:

Eagle County: *not available at time of print*; Grand County: Commissioner Nancy Stuart and Sharon Schoenberger from the Town of Granby (alternate); Jackson County: Bonnie Jolly and Charity Beaman; Esther Girard (alternate); Summit County: Anne Crane and Dennis Nemura; vacancy for alternate; Pitkin County: Carmen Barnhart and Doris Downey; vacancy for alternate.

The 2009 RAC meeting schedule is as follows (all meetings are open to the public):

January 14 - telephone conference call

March 11 - Frisco

May 13 - Frisco (in conjunction with the annual Senior Awards Ceremony)

June 10 - Walden

September 9 - Eagle

November 11 - Frisco

Grant Review Committee

The following were accepted to serve two-year terms on the RAC's Grant Review Committee: John Bade (Eagle), Anne Crane (Frisco), Doris Downey (Redstone), Mary Pat Gale (Kremmling), Bonnie Jolly (Walden), and Bert Roy (Eagle).

Membership

The RAC and Grant Review Committee is soliciting and recruiting individuals to fill the member vacancies on the RAC and on the Grant Review Committee. If you are interested in serving as a member or would like more information please contact Jean Hammes at 970-468-0295 x107.



Thank you to Helen Keesey

The RAC would also like to thank Helen Keesey (Tabernash) for her service as a member of the Regional Advisory Council and Grant Review Committee. Helen has been associated with the RAC since 1999 and the committee since 2003, and she announced her retirement from these positions at the RAC meeting. Helen's support to the Council and to the Alpine Area Agency on Aging and the perspectives she brought to the issues of aging will be greatly missed. Best wishes and continued health and prosperity to Helen.

2009 Priority Focuses

The RAC will also be actively participating as a member of the Rural Resort Region on their 2009 issue project *Seniors in our Mountain Communities: Challenges and Opportunities*. The RAC is appreciative of this topic selection, and is looking forward to attending the RRR meetings and providing information and perspectives on the issues.

In addition to the RRR 2009 project, the RAC will carry forward and continue to work with the Alpine Area Agency on Aging on the objectives in the Region XII Four-Year Plan on Aging SFY 2008-2011 and directions generated from the NWCCOG Council's strategic planning session:

- Transitioning the AAAA to being a consult to our town/counties to assist on how to be better prepared for aging population. In 2009, the RAC will be a sponsor and assist with holding an event focusing on seniors in our mountain communities.
- Coordinating with the area agencies on aging in adjacent regions to provide a coordinated system of senior services across the overlap of counties in the Roaring Fork Valley & Crystal River Valley. Formalize through cooperative memorandums of understanding to further coordinate services delivery and programs.
- Continuing the advocacy for increased funding for senior services and the building of livable communities, improving coordination with providers and organizations, and working with the new subcontractors and new programs that are being implemented.

Nominations for Annual Senior Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the *Senior of the Year* and *Friend of the Seniors* to honor and recognize the exemplary contributions made on a county or regional level. Nominations may be submitted in one of two categories: *Senior of the Year* for an older adult who has dedicated himself or herself to helping other older adults and/or caregivers and making the region a better place to live; *Friend of the Seniors* recognizes an individual or entity for their dedication, service, and specific contributions to the senior citizen community and whose contribution has made a difference in the region. Nominations are due the end of March 2009. To nominate someone, or for additional information, contact Jean Hammes at 970-468-0295 x107.

AAAA (CONT'D)

Recipients will be honored at the 21st annual awards ceremony program to be held from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on May 13, 2009, at the Summit County Community-Senior Center in Frisco.

Legislation and Advocacy - Senior Day at the Capitol

Senior Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2009 in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the State Capitol. The Governor, state legislators and elected officials have been invited to attend this event and briefly discuss important issues. Senior Day at the Capitol is an opportunity for seniors to learn more about current legislation. We urge all participants to contact their legislators and invite them to participate in the program.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by a luncheon at 12:00 p.m. at the Baptist Church (14th & Grant). Those wishing to attend the luncheon are requested to mail their reservations and \$10 payment per person no later than February 15 to the Colorado Senior Lobby. For more information contact the Colorado Senior Lobby directly at 303-832-4535.

Legislative Briefings

The Colorado Senior Lobby has resumed its weekly legislative briefings beginning January 5, 2009. Weekly legislative briefings will be at 9:30 a.m. every Monday morning during the state legislative session, at 1420 Ogden Street, Denver, first floor conference room.

ELEVATOR INSPECTION PROGRAM

GENE MORSE, DIRECTOR

The E.I.P. had a very successful 2008 with a record number of permit applications and associated fees. We do expect a downturn of permit applications in 2009.

Steve Allen is preparing his application to the National Association of Elevator Safety Authority International (NAESAI) and upon acceptance will test for his Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI) certification as soon as possible. Nate Speerstra has completed his state requirement of two months training with a QEI inspector and will be applying to the state elevator program for his state certification. Upon acceptance, Nate will be authorized to inspect certain conveyances and will continue training towards preparation to test for QEI certification within one year.

MEMBER SERVICES

LIZ MULLEN, DIRECTOR

Liz Mullen facilitated the Town of Silverthorne Council retreat on January 6, 2009. The NWCCOG Executive Committee awarded the following technical assistance grants for 2009:

- Vail (\$5,243) - records management system project.
- Silverthorne (\$5,000) -feasibility study/design guidelines for pay-as-you-throw recycling programs in mountain communities.
- Red Cliff (\$10,000) - codification of municipal code.
- Glenwood Springs (\$2,257) - housing support study for commercial linkage ordinance.
- Carbondale (\$2,500) - noxious weed management plan.
- Breckenridge (\$5,000) - workforce housing/employee occupied market unit preservation strategy project.

NORTHWEST LOAN FUND

JUNE WALTERS, DIRECTOR

Approval by the Controller's office of the State/DoLA contract with revolving loan funds has finally been received! This, along with receipt of the 2007 NWCCOG audit, has cleared the path for the Fund to forge ahead with its application for Community Development Block Grant monies to recapitalize its pool of business assistance funds. Currently there is only \$60,000 available for business assistance. The bulk of business assistance inquiries are for "bailout" funds, or grants to help local small businesses weather the ongoing credit crunch. This is not an acceptable use of funds, in most cases, because our job creation requirement would be unfulfilled, and the Fund requires repayment.

Staff participated in a very successful, improved format business breakfast put on by the Town of Silverthorne. On January 26, staff represented Summit County and the NWCCOG at a state-sponsored (OEDIT) Business Finance Forum in Grand Junction. Staff is also attending Economic Development group meetings throughout the NW corner of our state to discover where economic development liaising is most needed and would be most effective. A request for the NWCCOG to become a member of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is expected before the end of this month.



*International Snow Sculpture Competition - Breckenridge, CO
Photo by Paul Winters*

WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY COMMITTEE

SHANNA KOENIG, CO-DIRECTOR

On August 29 the Windy Gap Firming Project (WGFP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released for public review. The WGFP is a proposed water supply project being brought forth by an east slope municipal subdistrict of Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Subdistrict participants are seeking an additional 30,000 acre feet of west slope water to be run through the Colorado Big Thompson Project to meet their future water supply needs. QQ spent much of its time over the past months reviewing the vast amount of information in the DEIS and working with its members to ensure they understand identified concerns found in the DEIS. All DEIS comments that were submitted by the December 29th deadline will be made available online at: www.usbr.gov/gp/nepa/quarterly.cfm under Eastern Colorado Area Office-Windy Gap Firming Project.



Photo by Paul Winters

Additionally, the final chapters of Denver Water's Moffat Expansion Project (Project) Preliminary DEIS (PDEIS) has been published for interagency review. QQ has been working closely with Grand County as needed to add expertise to their review of the Project. The Moffat Expansion Project would provide an additional 18,000 acre feet of firm yield to Denver Water to meet their future water supply needs.

interagency review. QQ has been working closely with Grand County as needed to add expertise to their review of the Project. The Moffat Expansion Project would provide an additional 18,000 acre feet of firm yield to Denver Water to meet their future water supply needs.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS: A Member Service of NWCCOG

Is there a burning issue in your community about which you would like to gauge your citizens' opinions? Are you interested in "taking the pulse" of your community, or do you just want to measure your citizens' satisfaction level in general about the services provided by your town or county?

NWCCOG can conduct a community survey for you. NWCCOG's survey service will conduct your survey from start to finish, including developing a questionnaire, developing an on-line survey, compiling results, preparing a report of survey results, and presenting these results to your governing body and community.

Each year, NWCCOG members receive \$1,000 member services benefit which can be used towards the cost of a community survey. If you are thinking about conducting a community survey in 2009, please contact Rachel Lunney at 970-468-0295 x106 or rlunney@nwcog.co.us.

If both projects are approved, approximately 70-80 percent of Grand County's average flows could be diverted out of the county. Impacts will be felt not only in Grand County, but further down the Upper Colorado River. QQ is working to ensure that impacts from these projects are clearly identified in the EIS process, and that impacts are appropriately mitigated. QQ has worked closely with Grand County to develop a stream management plan that identifies flow needs throughout the county. We are working to ensure the plan is considered as a component of mitigation with each of the projects.

In December the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) unanimously approved updates to the state rules that will provide better protection of public health, wildlife and the environment. Along with Gunnison County, QQ was a party to the rulemaking process to ensure local authority over oil and gas operations remained intact, to which we were successful. The legislature will then have to ratify the rules during the 2009 General Session. There is already a bill to create a moratorium on the rules until July 1, 2010.

QQ is also working with the Wild and Scenic stakeholders group and the Colorado Basin Roundtable on different initiatives to quantify the nonconsumptive flow needs of the river.

The 67th General Assembly convened on January 7th. QQ will be working to track and monitor legislation affecting its members. We expect to see legislation pertaining to oil and gas operations, Zebra/Quagga Mussels, funding for the Water Quality Control Commission, funding for small communities' drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs, water conservation, and substitute water supply plans.

QQ's next meeting is on February 18th from 10:00-3:00 in Summit County.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

STEVE GETZ, DIRECTOR

The New Castle Weatherization crew continues their progress performing furnace replacements and attic insulation for Machebeuf Apartments in Glenwood Springs. As of January 8th, all 56 furnaces had been installed and were operational. The jobs that have not already passed inspection have been turned over to the City of Glenwood Springs to be inspected by their Building Department. Energy Management Director Steve Getz took Luke Ilderton (Project Engineer from iCAST) on a tour of the apartments on January 14th to look at the completed furnaces and also observe the installation of attic insulation. This project will require so much cellulose insulation that Weatherization made arrangements with an insulation manufacturer to deliver an entire tractor-trailer load of insulation, and leave the semi-trailer at the apartments in Glenwood Springs. This will save time by not having the crews unload a wholesaler's truck at the warehouse once per week and then transfer product every morning into NWCCOG's insulation truck. We also got a better price by buying in such a huge volume.

All indications point to completing the attic insulation jobs on schedule and on budget by the end of January, and Energy Outreach Colorado, the project's funding source, has been very pleased with NWCCOG's performance.

The Silverthorne crew is also doing great work. The crew completed 14 jobs during the month of December, despite cold, snow, holidays, and scheduled leave time to be with families. Twelve of Silverthorne's homes were to complete our contract with Xcel Energy. That contract ended at the end of December, with details about new contracts soon to be released by the Governor's Energy Office.

NWCCOG also hired two new installers in December. Mark Hox, originally from the Philadelphia area, has spent the last nine years installing high-efficiency natural gas forced air furnaces in new construction in Philadelphia. Mark has already proved himself to be a valuable addition to our team, helping install new furnaces his second week with NWCCOG! We are also pleased that Tony Bednar chose NWCCOG to be his employer. Tony has been working for Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) for the last year, and has been involved in Tier 1 weatherization efforts installing compact fluorescent lightbulbs, water saving showerheads, and programmable thermostats. Tony's year with MHYC recently ended, and he moved from Denver to Summit County to join NWCCOG's Weatherization Department. We want to wish a warm welcome to Mark and Tony, and thank them for joining the NWCCOG Weatherization Team!

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM IS MUCH APPRECIATED

The clients of NWCCOG's Weatherization program show their appreciation for the work of NWCCOG's weatherization crew, as shown in the letters below....

11/10/08

Dear Steve:

My name is *** and live in Buena Vista, CO. Your organization insulated my home, put in new windows and a new furnace. You also replaced my back door and fixed other things too numerous to mention. I truly appreciate everything your crew did to improve my quality of life. I have seen a large reduction in my heating costs and also a reduction in my electric bill from using the energy efficient bulbs provided by your organization. From the bottom of my heart, Thank You so much.

WX Inspection Form Comments:

...Very courteous, quiet and clean workers. Experienced. They explained all details before doing the work. Thanks for the insulation to help conserve heat.

...Tom and Brandon are very competent and hard working. They left the house cleaner than when they arrived. I am most grateful for the help.

...Tom was extremely helpful and made things very understandable. They all did a great job keeping things clean and in place. Thank you all for all your help. It is truly appreciated.

...Nate was so nice and informative and so were the other two guys. I saw the before and after, and they did an incredible job cleaning up.

...workers were very professional, friendly and answered all questions.

...Great job, well done.

...I absolutely feel that all work done will help this house be more energy efficient. Very helpful and by the final visit I feel everything was pretty thorough.

...you all were awesome, helpful and all around great. Thank you!

Dear Mr. Jones,

I have heard so much praise for you and your crew. My sister has been warm for the first time in years. I appreciate the help that LEAP has given, but the good work and kindness comes from you and the men who work with you. Thank You!



Photo by Paul Winters

COLORADO BARK BEETLE COOPERATIVE

Severson Chosen to Lead Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative

Northwest Colorado Council of Government's Executive Director Gary Severson was selected the first Chairman of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC). The selection was made at the quarterly meeting of the CBBC's policy level steering committee on January 16, 2009. The steering committee also selected Chuck Dennis of the Colorado State Forest Service to serve as vice chair.

The steering committee comprised of federal, state, and local government representatives and representatives of utility and water providers, wood products industry, conservation and public interest groups met in Frisco, Colorado to set the CBBC's agenda for the year. The policy level steering committee for the CBBC set the following priorities for 2009:

1. Work for passage of appropriate state legislation to address wildfire and falling tree mitigation efforts.
2. Establish working relationships with new members of the Colorado Congressional delegation, and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture.
3. Strive to increase federal and state funding to address the hazard mitigation needs posed by the bark beetles.
4. Continue the process of identifying and mapping high priority acres for hazard mitigation efforts on federal and non-federal lands.
5. Work cooperatively with other Colorado place based forest collaboratives and the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council in order to maintain unity in message and establish statewide policy.

In response to his selection, Severson said, "We have come a long way from the initial beginnings of the Cooperative back in 2005. I have been greatly impressed with the dedication of numerous individuals over the years who have not faltered in pushing forward to protect Colorado's High County forest resources and communities in the face of the unrelenting attack of the beetles and the arduous bureaucratic processes of government. I am honored to be part of the team and look forward to successes in 2009."

Photo by Paul Winters



Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative Selects Abbie Cobb as Coordinator



Abbie Cobb has been selected as Coordinator of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC), where she will work with the CBBC steering committee to accomplish the priorities set forth for 2009. Abbie currently serves as the Coordinator for the Northwest All-Hazards Emergency Management Region, a federally-funded program administered by NWCCOG. She will continue in this capacity when she assumes the CBBC coordinator position on February 2nd.

Abbie Cobb was born and raised in Pennsylvania, where she attended East Stroudsburg University and earned a BS in Health Education. In 1978 she moved to Colorado with four of her college friends, as a result of falling in love with the mountains on an earlier trip west with her family.

Abbie worked in the public safety department of Summit County for 20 years. Fourteen of those years, Abbie worked for the communications center, where she began as a 911 operator, became a supervisor, and eventually served as director. From 1997 to 2002, she served as director of public safety, where she was the designated emergency manager for Summit County. Abbie was hired by NWCCOG in 2004 to serve as the regional coordinator for the Northwest All-Hazards Emergency Management Region.

Abbie's hobbies include many outdoor activities including hiking, biking, and skiing. She also enjoys cooking, reading, and music. Abbie and her husband live in Breckenridge. They enjoy bike touring and traveling to many parts of the world including Tibet and Nepal a number of times.

Demographic Highlights from the Region

The State Demographer's Office held its annual Demography Meeting on November 7, 2008. The following are some highlights from that meeting as they pertain to NWCCOG's region:

Preliminary County Population Forecasts: 2000 - 2035

(source: State Demography Office)

County	July 2005	July 2010	July 2020	July 2030	July 2035	% Chg '00 - '35
Eagle	49,426	57,942	75,533	88,074	97,325	124%
Grand	13,902	15,336	20,322	25,533	27,896	116%
Jackson	1,528	1,472	1,629	1,753	1,803	14%
Pitkin	16,408	17,149	21,403	26,047	28,342	78%
Summit	27,575	30,937	40,620	50,749	55,227	115%
Total Reg. 12	108,839	122,836	159,507	192,156	210,593	112%

Estimates of Population and # of Housing Units for NWCCOG's Municipalities: 2000 & 2007

	Jul-00 Census	Jul-07 Est.	Total Hsg. Units	Occupied Housing	Vacant Housing	Vacancy Rate
Avon	5,561	6,838	3,405	2,356	1,049	30.81
Basalt (MCP)	1,952	2,343	1,047	900	147	14.04
Eagle	3,032	5,531	2,069	1,956	113	5.46
Gypsum	3,654	5,964	2,005	1,880	125	6.23
Minturn	1,068	1,174	498	438	60	12.05
Red Cliff	289	315	135	120	15	11.11
Vail	4,531	4,871	6861	2326	4,535	66.1
Uninc. Area	21,572	25,496	13451	9009	4,442	33.02
Total Eagle County	41,659	52,532	29,471	18,985	10,486	35.58
Fraser	910	1,156	904	522	382	42.26
Granby	1,525	1,930	904	737	167	18.47
Grand Lake	447	469	885	229	656	74.12
Hot Sulphur Spgs	521	614	305	233	72	23.61
Kremmling	1,578	1,564	728	591	137	18.82
Winter Park	662	887	2,109	429	1,680	79.66
Uninc. Area	6,799	7,763	9,447	3,163	6,284	66.52
Total Grand	12,442	14,383	15,282	5,904	9,378	61.37
Walden	734	646	400	292	108	27
Uninc. Area	843	830	845	325	520	61.54
Total Jackson	1,577	1,476	1,245	617	628	50.44
Aspen	5,914	6,403	5,279	3,153	2,126	40.27
Basalt (MCP)	729	860	446	354	92	20.63
Snowmass Vg.	1,822	2,268	2,825	1,077	1,748	61.88
Uninc. Area	6,407	7,076	4,371	3,029	1,342	30.7
Total Pitkin County	14,872	16,607	12,921	7,613	5,308	41.08
Blue River	685	764	619	300	319	51.53
Breckenridge	2,408	3,560	6,414	1,644	4,770	74.37
Dillon	802	831	1,344	382	962	71.58
Frisco	2,443	2,798	3,446	1,227	2,219	64.39
Montezuma	42	50	42	22	20	47.62
Silverthorne	3,196	4,097	2,117	1,420	697	32.92
Uninc. Area	13,972	16,511	17,633	6,335	11,298	64.07
Total Summit	23,548	28,611	31,615	11,330	20,285	64.16



THE 2010 CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

According to estimates recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau, five of the 10 fastest-growing states from 2007 to 2008 were Denver Regional Census Center states: Arizona, **Colorado**, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. The release of this data emphasized the importance of the 2010 Census to help ensure that communities will receive their fair share of political representation and government funding.

PARTICIPANT STATISTICAL AREA PROGRAM (PSAP)

NWCCOG has agreed to be the coordinator for the PSAP program for Census 2010. This program provides the opportunity for towns and counties to review statistical areas and update them to meet more of the statistical and spatial data needs and make the most accurate Census 2010 possible. GIS Managers in each of NWCCOG's five counties have received PSAP data disks/materials, and each town needs to work with their county to complete the review of the data. This region has 120 days from receipt of the materials to complete this process, which gives us a **March 10, 2009** deadline to submit updated disks to the Census Bureau. Please contact the appropriate GIS manager in your county to provide input on this process for your town. For more information, please contact Rachel Lunney at 970-468-0295 x106.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 2005-2007 DATA RELEASE — A New Approach for Timely Information

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. It is a critical element in the Census Bureau's re-engineered decennial census program in that it will replace the "long form", and instead conduct a survey monthly to provide more current characteristics data. The ACS collects and produces population and housing information every year instead of every ten years. About three million housing unit addresses are selected annually, from across every county in the nation. Collecting data every year provides more up-to-date information throughout the decade about the U.S. population at the local community level.

Multiyear Estimates

On Dec. 9, the Census Bureau released the first set of American Community Survey three-year-averaged data for all geographies with populations greater than 20,000. In NWCCOG's region, **Eagle** and **Summit** Counties qualify for this population level, so data is available for these 2 counties. The release provides the first look at detailed socioeconomic and housing characteristics for geographies between 20,000 and 64,999 since Census 2000. To view this data, visit www.factfinder.census.gov. For areas with a population less than 20,000, five-year estimates will be available. The first five-year estimates will be released in 2010. For more information about Census 2010, contact: Rachel Lunney, NWCCOG - rlunney@nwc.cog.co.us or visit the Census Bureau website: www.census.gov.



**STAFF
SPOTLIGHT:
Sean O'Connell
Weatherization Installer**

Sean O'Connell joined NWCCOG's Weatherization team in July of 2008. As part of that team, Sean installs new furnaces, insulation, and energy-efficient windows and

doors in low-to-moderate income homes throughout the Weatherization Program's 13-county region.

Sean was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was in this midwestern town that Sean developed a passion for snowboarding. He graduated in 1994 from the University of Minnesota with a degree in astrophysics. His pursuit of a career in this field was sidetracked, however, because "snowboarding kind of got in the way", as Sean put it. Sean was a snowboarding instructor at Buckhill Ski Resort in Minnesota, which is a sister resort of Steamboat Springs. Sean got involved in competing in snowboarding and mountain biking, got a taste for Colorado through his connections with a sister resort to Steamboat, and decided to move to the Rocky Mountains to pursue his passions. He moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 2000.

As the story goes for so many young mountain enthusiasts, Sean had to get a "day job" to pay the rent. He worked for eight years for the Colorado Department of Revenue as a motor carrier services inspector where he was responsible for inspecting large trucks for safety compliance. Sean was responsible for checking the physical features of the truck to ensure that they were safe to be on the road.

Sean decided that where he really wanted to be was in the mountains, so he moved to Breckenridge in 2003. He worked for Corum Real Estate Group as a maintenance supervisor and then Beaver Run Resort as a bartender before joining the NWCCOG Weatherization Team this past July.

Sean's construction skills are self-taught through his college years of remodeling apartments and homes for extra money and his experience in property management. He is really enjoying his new position with NWCCOG. "I work with an excellent crew", says Sean. "What I like the most about my new position is helping the clients. They are so appreciative of the work we do, which makes it really fulfilling work."

In his free time, Sean snowboards as much as he can in the winter, and enjoys mountain biking in the summer. He also works as a volunteer during snowboarding competitions.

**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT:
Walter Magill,
Councilmember,
City of Steamboat
Springs**



Walter Magill joined the NWCCOG board of directors in December of 2007. He currently serves on the Steamboat Springs City Council, after filling a seat made vacant by a councilmember moving out of town. Walter's current term will be up this November, and he plans on running for a 4-year term for District 3 at that time.

Walter grew up in the East Coast states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. The mountains and outdoor lifestyle of Colorado beckoned, and Walter made his way west. He earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After 11 years in Boulder, Walter moved to Steamboat Springs where he has been living for the past 13 years. He is a licensed engineer and land surveyor, and operates Four Points Surveying and Engineering in Steamboat.

Asked why he became involved in city government, Walter responded "I wanted to see the city government in Steamboat be more effective and efficient" stated Walter. "I wanted to ensure that taxpayer dollars were not spent indiscriminately, but were spent with much thought and an eye toward efficiency".

"I believe NWCCOG has value in that it works to address many issues that are shared by several mountain communities in northwest Colorado, including transportation, workforce issues, affordable housing, the pine beetle epidemic, protection of water sources and the growing population of seniors" stated Walter.

"Steamboat Springs is a great community, and in my work on the City Council I want to focus on keeping it a great place for families" said Walter. This is very important to Walter, as he and his wife Cristina have three young children: Wally (6), Susie (4) and Henry (3). In his free time, Walter enjoys everything outdoors. He competes often in the Town Challenge Series which offers mountain biking, running, and Nordic skiing races, depending on the season of the year.

NWCCOG SERVES CARBONDALE, EAGLE COUNTY, AVON, BASALT, EAGLE, GYPSUM, MINTURN, RED CLIFF, VAIL, GRAND COUNTY, FRASER, GRANBY, GRAND LAKE, HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS, KREMMLING, WINTER PARK, JACKSON COUNTY, WALDEN, PITKIN COUNTY, ASPEN, SUMMIT COUNTY, BRECKENRIDGE, DILLON, FRISCO, MONTEZUMA, SILVERTHORNE, AND THE CITIES OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS AND STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

RESOURCES

2009 FEDERAL AND STATE DELEGATION

Below is a listing of the newly-elected state and federal representatives for NWCCOG's Region:

STATE OF COLORADO

Senate

District 4 – Park, Lake
MARK SCHEFFEL (R)
 9791 Summit Ridge
 Parker 80138
 CAP: (303) 866-4866
mark.scheffel.senate@state.co.us

District 5 – Pitkin
GAIL SCHWARTZ (D)
 PO Box 6578
 Snowmass Village 81615
 CAP: (303) 866-4871
gail.schwartz.senate@state.co.us

District 8 – Eagle County, Jackson County, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs
AL WHITE (R)
 PO Box 1627
 Hayden 81639
 CAP: (303) 866-2949
al.white.senate@state.co.us

District 16 – Grand, Summit, Clear Creek
DAN GIBBS (D)
 P. O. Box 704
 Silverthorne 80498
 CAP: (303) 866-4873
dan.gibbs.senate@state.co.us

STATE OF COLORADO

House of Representatives

District 56 – Eagle, Lake, Summit
CHRISTINE SCANLAN (D)
 PO Box 1746
 Dillon, CO 80435
 CAP: (303) 866-2952
christine.scanlan.house@state.co.us

District 57 – Grand, Jackson, Garfield (some), Steamboat Springs
RANDY BAUMGARDNER (R)
 124 Ridgway Ave
 Hot Sulphur Springs 80451
 CAP: (303) 866-5523
 HM: (970) 725-9117
randy.baumbardner.house@state.co.us

District 61 – Pitkin County, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs
KATHLEEN CURRY (D)
 54542 US Highway 50
 Gunnison 81230-9512
 CAP: (303) 866-2945
 BUS: (970) 209-5537
kathleen.currey.house@state.co.us

UNITED STATES

Senate

MICHAEL BENNET (D)
 702 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5852
senator_bennet@bennet.senate.gov

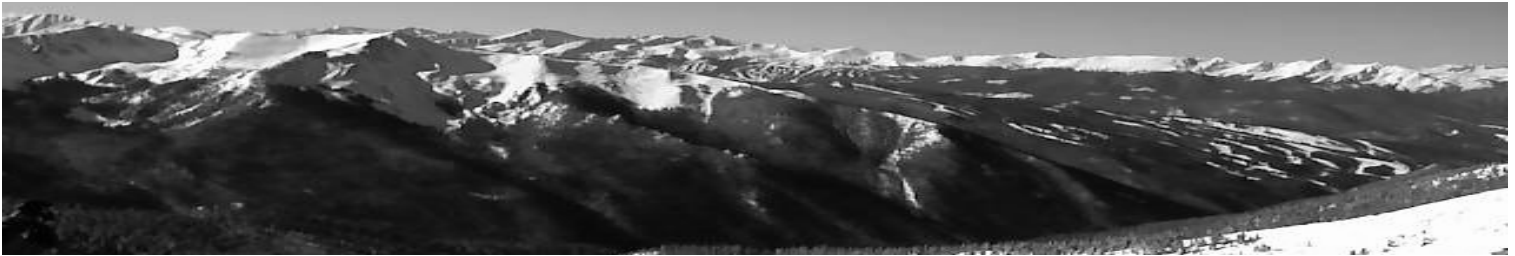
MARK UDALL - (D)
 B40E Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5941
senator_mark_udall@markudall.senate.gov

UNITED STATES

House of Representatives

District 2 – Eagle, Grand Summit
JARED POLIS (D)
 501 Cannon HOB
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 (202) 225-2161
www.polis.house.gov

District 3 – Jackson, Pitkin
JOHN T. SALAZAR (D)
 326 Cannon HOB
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 (202) 225-4761
www.house.gov/salazar



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Older Worker Demonstration Grants - The U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announces the availability of approximately \$10 million in funds for Older Worker Demonstration Grants. Grants awarded under this program should focus on providing training and related services for individuals age 55 and older that result in employment and advancement opportunities in high growth industries and economic sectors. Closing date: 2/19/09.
- Grants through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Materials including an application guide and full details about the program can also be obtained at www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm or by calling the DLT program at 202-720-0413. Deadline - March 24.

WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

- Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit, Feb. 11-13, Boulder
- Governor's Emergency Management Conference, Feb. 24-26, Englewood
- Ninth Annual CDOT Environmental Winter Conference, Feb. 24 - 26, Denver
- CU Law Symposium - Elevate: Climate Change and Urban Development, Feb. 26-27, Boulder
- Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute's 18th Annual Land Use Conference, March 5-6, Denver
- CAEE's Teaching Outside the Box Conference, April 24-26, Winter Park
- APA's Spring Conference, March 12-13, St. George, Utah
- CML's How to Communicate Effectively with Citizens, March 13, Denver
- APA Colorado's Annual Conference, Oct. 7-10, Estes Park
- Community Matters 2009, Nov. 10-12, Denver

**COMING SOON:
 A NEW WEBSITE FOR NWCCOG!
 LOOK FOR IT SOON
WWW.NWC.COG.CO.US**

NWCCOG STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Steve Allen

Elevator Inspector, x108

Josh Arkels

Weatherization Installer

Tony Bednar

Weatherization Installer

Mike Bugielski

Weatherization Installer

Brandon Buhlman

Weatherization Installer

Abbie Cobb

NWAHEMR, 970.547.7121

Thomas Dunlap

Weatherization Site Sup. - New Castle
970. 984-0917

Jodi Flory

GIS Contractor
970.409.9238

Steve Getz

Director, Weatherization x103

Barbara Green

General Counsel, 303.355.4405

Jean Hammes

Director, Alpine Area Agency on Aging x107

Michael Hill

Weatherization Installer

Mark Hox

Weatherization Installer

Amy Lange

Fiscal Assistant

Doug Jones

Weatherization Field Sup. x111

Paul Knight

Weatherization Installer

Shanna Koenig

Co-Director, Water Quality/Quantity x117

Michael Kurth

Fiscal Officer x112

Rachel Lunney

Research Project Manager x106

Ashley Martin

Office Manager x101

Gene Morse

Director, Elevator Inspection x108

Liz Mullen

Asst. Executive Director x123

Sean O'Connell

Weatherization Installer

Gary Severson

Executive Director x110

Aaron Simmons

Weatherization Installer

Nate Speerstra

Elevator Inspector x108

June Walters

Director, Northwest Loan Fund x119

Lane Wyatt

Co-Director, Water Quality/Quantity x116

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eagle County

*Peter Runyon, Commissioner

Grand County

*James Newberry, Commissioner

Jackson County

*John Rich, Commissioner

Pitkin County

*Patti Clapper, Commissioner

Summit County

*Bob French, Commissioner

Aspen

Jackie Kasabach, Councilmember

Avon

Amy Phillips, Councilmember

Basalt

vacant

Breckenridge

Peter Grosshuesch, Com. Dev. Dir.

Carbondale

John Hoffman, Trustee

Dillon

*Don Parsons, Councilmember

Eagle

Willy Powell, Town Manager

Fraser

Jeff Durbin, Town Manager

Frisco

Bill Pelham, Mayor

Glenwood Springs

*Dave Sturges, Councilmember

Granby

Jynnifer Pierro, Mayor

Grand Lake

Jim Peterson, Trustee

Gypsum

*Jeff Shroll, Town Manager

Hot Sulphur Springs

Herchel Deputy, Mayor

Kremmling

*Tom Clark, Mayor

Minturn

Gary Suiter, Interim Town Manager

Montezuma

Steve Hornback, Mayor

Red Cliff

Duane Nelson, Councilmember

Silverthorne

Vince Lanuza, Councilmember

Steamboat Springs

Walter Magill, Councilmember

Vail

*Dick Cleveland, Mayor

Walden

*Dirk Ramsey, Mayor

Winter Park

Drew Nelson, Interim Town Manager

*Executive Committee Member

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

February

2/18: NWCCOG QQ Board Meeting -
Summit County
2/26: NWCCOG Executive Committee - Gypsum

March

3/11: Alpine Area Agency on Aging RAC - Frisco
3/18: NW All Hazards EMR - Grand Junction
3/26: NWCCOG Full Council
& Rural Resort Region - Kremmling

April

4/15: NW All Hazards EMR - Rio Blanco County
4/23: NWCCOG Executive Committee - Frisco

May

5/13: AAAA RAC / Sr. Awards Ceremony - Frisco
5/20: NW All Hazards EMR - Garfield County
5/28: NWCCOG Full Council / RRR - Vail

June

No NWCCOG Council Meeting in June
6/10: AAAA RAC - Walden
6/17: NW All Hazards EMR - Moffat County

July

7/15: NW All Hazards EMR - Pitkin County
7/23: NWCCOG Full Council/RRR - Steamboat

August

8/19: NW All Hazards EMR - Summit County
8/27: NWCCOG Exec. Committee/
Strategic Planning Session - Walden

September

9/9: AAAA RAC - Eagle
9/24: NWCCOG Full Council - Aspen

October

10/22: NWCCOG Exec. Committee - Eagle

November

No NWCCOG meeting in Nov.
11/11: AAAA RAC - Frisco
11/12: Rural Resort Region - Seniors in
Our Mountain Communities Symposium

December

Thurs. 12/10: NWCCOG Full Council - Granby



NWCCOG
P.O. Box 2308
249 Warren Ave.
Silverthorne, CO 80498

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Dillon, CO
80435
Permit No. 17