This report details the work individual Agents and Specialists have done to implement the work of a specific work team during the identified calendar year and the results of that work. This is the cumulative work team report for the entire team. Team and individual reports are used to develop stakeholder impact reports, media pieces and reports to our funding partners.

Agent/Specialist submitting report: Barbara Fahey in collaboration with 2008 Native Plant Education Subteam: Bruce Bosley, Karen Crumbaker, Yvette Henson, Tom Hooten, Joanne Jones, Linda Langelo, Ernie Marx, Linda McMulkim, Catherine Moravec, Laurel Potts, Joel Reich, Susan Rose, Irene Shonle, Curtis Swift.

Contact Number: B. Fahey 303-271-6620

The mission of the Native Plant Education team is to educate the public about native plants in order to foster stewardship, sustainable landscaping and management of weeds that threaten native ecosystems.

Program Outputs: In regards to this work team’s efforts, how many of the following outputs did your local effort result in:

- **37** Number of Native Plant Master™ courses (one course equals three 4-hour sessions).
- **267** Number of adult participants in Native Plant Master courses who are taking the course to fulfill requirements to become a certified Native Plant Master.
- **129** Number of adult participants in Native Plant Master courses who are not taking the course to become a certified Native Plant Master.
- **24** Number of supplemental classes such as an introductory botany/taxonomy class or a weeds class that directly supplement and/or support Native Plant Master (NPM) courses.
- **518** Number of registrants in these supplemental classes.
- **460** Number of current NPM volunteers. (Current NPM volunteers include total course graduates from all years including certified Native Plant Masters.)
- **17,635** Total educational contacts made by NPM volunteers (total contacts reported on all Educational Contact Record forms for the year).
- **43** Number of volunteer NPM trainers. (Volunteer NPM trainers are those volunteers who teach NPM courses).
- **16** Number of trainings conducted for volunteer NPM trainers.
- **8** Number of trainings conducted for Extension staff.
- **8,574** Total web hits on locally hosted Native Plant Master web sites.
- **$18,742** Amount of grant dollars generated to support this program.
- **10** Number of newsletters distributed in support of this plan of work.
- **7** Number of curriculums developed and /or reviewed that support this plan of work.

Agents who worked cooperatively with another agent or specialist have determined who will report what outputs so that efforts are not double counted.

1. **Program Outcomes**: describe the outcomes/impacts that occurred as a result of these educational efforts:
   - **Immediate (learning) changes**:
     - Number of program participants reporting increased skill in relation to:

     | Total # of Respondents | # Reporting Change | % Reporting Gain | Increased Skill in |
     |------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
     | 283                    | 279                | 99%              | Identification of native and non-native plants found in Colorado. |
NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION SUBTEAM
Statewide Contribution Report
Environmental Horticulture Work Team
Natural Resources and the Environment Core Competency Area
Program Year 2008

• Immediate (learning) changes continued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Respondents</th>
<th># Reporting Change</th>
<th>% Reporting Change</th>
<th>Awareness Increased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>Impact of weeds and why it is important to control them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>The value of native plants for landscaping uses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Short/medium term (action) changes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Respondents</th>
<th># Reporting Change</th>
<th>% Reporting Change</th>
<th>Behavior Changed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Began or increased weed control efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>256</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Began planting or increased planting of natives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Stayed on trails to prevent erosion and damage to native plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>Educated others about the value of native plants for landscaping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>Left wild plants to produce seed rather than collecting or picking wildflowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Educated others about the impact of weeds on native plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Asked for native plants at a local garden center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Long-term (conditions): - social, economic, civic, environmental.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres Impacted</th>
<th>Behavior Changed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,154,025</td>
<td>Weed control efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150,973</td>
<td>Planting of natives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Additional Inputs: Describe additional local inputs (your county or assigned area) that were engaged or invested in this program effort:

$27,745 User fees generated through this program effort.

98 different agencies partnered with in this program effort. These include employers/agencies of NPM participants and any other collaborating agencies which cosponsor NPM in the various counties. Examples of these partners from across the state are shown below:

Bear Creek Lake Park
Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Boy Scouts of America
NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION SUBTEAM
Statewide Contribution Report
Environmental Horticulture Work Team
Natural Resources and the Environment Core Competency Area
Program Year 2008

Carson Nature Center/South Platte Park
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation (Garden of the Gods City Park)
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
Colorado City Parks Department
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado State Parks
Colorado Weed Management Association
Colorado Welcome Center
Cortez Cultural Center
County Weed Programs – Garfield, Eagle, Jefferson, Pitkin, San Miguel Counties.
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Parks & Recreation
Earthlinks
FFA
Fort Collins Natural Areas Program
Gore Range Natural Science School
Hawkins Preserve
Ken Caryl Ranch Association
Larimer County Open Lands
Lone Mesa State Park
Lookout Mountain Nature Center/Jefferson County Open Space
Majestic View Nature Center
Mesa County Weed Management
Mesa Verde Museum Association
Mountain Park Environmental Center
National Park Service
Plains Conservation Center
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
Pueblo Parks Department
San Juan Mountains Association
Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado
U. S. Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

3. Describe successful efforts to reach new and/or underserved audiences locally in this POW area:

Custer County
- Our Native Plant Master volunteers led numerous wildflower walks/hikes, educated the High Altitude Garden Club on penstemons and native conifers, and spoke at home owner association annual meetings on noxious weeds.

Jefferson County
- In an effort to reach out to a more urban and diverse audience, a Native Plant Master course was held for the first time at Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora.
Eagle and Garfield Counties
- NPM knowledge aided ethnobotany consultants’ work with Ute tribes.

Phillips County
- With Venture Capital Grant in summer 2007 and through spring and summer 2008, I partnered with Master Gardener, Lisa Brewer, 4-H, FFA, Eagle Scouts and City of Burlington to build a demonstration garden in Old Town, Burlington. The garden demonstrates the use of native plants in our landscape.
- Our evaluation was done with surveys and plant evaluation forms. We raised awareness with 64% of participants who learned the difference between natives and nonnative, that less water is required, specific soils and environments are required and what natives grow best locally in a landscape design. Of those participants, 52 % are interested in doing more with native plants including participating in the “Go Green with 4-H”.
- With the brochure and sign designating partnerships and CSU as funder, we potentially can be viewed by 15,000 people who visit Old Town and the Welcome Center. The Demonstration Garden is at the entrance of Old Town.

Pueblo County
- Several youth organizations received training by Native Plant Master participants in 2008. These include:
  - 80 girls at a residence camp;
  - 72 youth at Pueblo Youth Naturally summer camps;
  - Over 500 fifth graders who attend monthly classes at the Mountain Park Environmental Center.
- Newspaper articles resulting from native plant programming:
  - Pueblo Chieftain, 3 articles, potential audience 55,000
  - Pueblo West View, 1 article, potential audience, 30,000
  - Greenhorn Valley News, 1 article, potential audience 5,000

Southwest Colorado (Montezuma/Dolores/LaPlata)
- We were fortunate to have a Navajo herbalist join our course at Hawkins Preserve this year. He hopes to use the information he learned in the course as a bridge between traditional Navajo plant knowledge and western scientific knowledge. He plans to use this new understanding in his presentations at local schools and for the Boy Scouts of America.

4. Provide a description of program accomplishments (bullets), a success story, or provide highlights of anecdotal or qualitative data that demonstrates the value or effectiveness of this program effort locally.

Eagle and Garfield Counties
- Pitkin County weed manager uses NPM knowledge to counsel public on revegetation plans and to encourage citizens to voluntarily manage noxious weed infestations.
- Land manager of 300 acre ranch used NPM knowledge to encourage management to actively increase weed control efforts resulting in ability to sell certified weed free hay.
- “Because the purpose of the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger and Master Naturalist programs is to educate and inform the public about the fragile forest resources, the NPM course is a perfect companion to the Forest Conservancy’s Volunteer Wilderness Ranger and MN programs. In 2009, we plan to integrate the information learned through the NPM course into our training programs.” [Forest Conservancy in partnership with the White River National Forest trains volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and forest stewards.]
- Roaring Fork Transportation Authority director uses NPM information in land manager role as well as for outreach/education efforts.
NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION SUBTEAM
Statewide Contribution Report
Environmental Horticulture Work Team
Natural Resources and the Environment Core Competency Area
Program Year 2008

- Ethnobotany expert uses NPM information in consultations with BLM, USFS, NPS, and professional archeological groups and also in consultations with Ute Cultural Rights and Protection representatives and Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation representatives. Also as consultant with TRA’s Ute Ethnobotany demonstration garden project in Grand Junction. Gardens will focus on the Ute’s cultural uses of native plants.
- “I teach natural science programs to people of all ages for the Gore Range Natural Science School. The NPM class improved my botany skills and enhanced my understanding of individual plant roles in the ecosystem. I am now able to share this information with thousands of people that attend our programs or visit our nature centers. My hope is that through education, we can promote stewardship, and this program was beneficial to me as a student and as a teacher. “
- Integral to work of Environmental Education Ranger at State Park as well as in her role as a Certified Interpretive Guide (through NAI). Teaches many youth.
- NPM serves to educate Home Owner Associations. One HOA obtained a county grant to eradicate noxious weeds by their increased awareness via NPM program.
- Increased knowledge of Betty Ford Alpine Garden docents,

Boulder County
- “Pointed out native plants & invasive weeds to Boulder County volunteers (Forestry improvement projects).
- “When hiking with friends, I inform them of native plants & identify weeds & non-native plants. ”

Custer County
- Custer County has a large garden club (>70 members). Many of the 2008 NPM participants belong to the garden club, thus being able to reach a much larger audience.

El Paso County
Course participants are:
- Planting more natives in their backyards;
- Gaining a greater understanding of how to identify plants;
- Using the information a lot at work;
- Using information in naturalist walks they lead;
- Gaining a greater appreciation of native plants.

Gilpin County
- I am working with the Colorado Weed Management Association Invasive Ornamental Committee on developing a brochure and website to teach the difference between native plants and noxious weeds. (All too often, weed managers, both experienced and new, have eradicated native plants that only bear a superficial resemblance to noxious weeds.) I delivered a program on this at the Annual meeting.
- We held a weed booth which was staffed by Native Plant Master Participants (and a few Master Gardeners) at our County Fair -- we had over 200 people stop by to learn about noxious weeds and some of the natives that can be confused by weeds.
- At our first annual Garden party, we had tours of the many native plants in our garden, along with a weed booth -- about 41 people attended.
- One participant in the NPM class discovered a new small patch of diffuse knapweed in her neighborhood. She talked to the homeowners and worked with them to eradicate it.
- NPM participants led 3 wildflower walks for the general public’s knowledge (including weeds!)
Listed below is a selection of responses to a survey question asking how NPM participants used information from NPM courses:

- "I initiated a ‘donation’ program for our common area in our neighborhood. The proceeds ($485) are to be used to restore the area with native grasses and seeds."
- "Educating public and fellow volunteers in the State Parks, and in my work with NecroSearch (identifying areas for investigation in the search for buried homicide victims)."
- "As a master gardener and Jefferson clinic assistant, I have had numerous questions from the public on native plants to use in the yard and how to control weeds in the local environment."
- "I am regularly on the agenda of our mountain town meeting as "the weed committee" to report on weed topics. My mountain community has a town e-mail list of several hundred people, and I use this to post weed information and images at appropriate times of the year. I organize scentless chamomile weed pulls for the school children when school opens each year. People ask me to ID plants on their property."
- "I co-teach a class offered through Free School Denver: Denver Radical Urban Gardeners. Two classes this last summer revolved around discussion, study and identification of native, non-native and noxious weeds."
- "I developed a series of plant courses for the Colorado Mountain Club and have taught more than 360 volunteers about native and nonnative plants."
- "I have felt a lot more confident in conducting classes for middle school kids on invasive weeds impact and control methods. I have also used the knowledge gained as I participate as a volunteer on the Aurora Open Space Board."
- "In my private landscape design/build business, I have incorporated more native plants and communicated to my clients their unique benefits."
- "In my volunteer service-learning projects on school grounds, I have used only native plants in creating the theme based gardens: schoolyard habitats, Colorado natives, etc., and am incorporating a majority of native plants in a historic campus project."
- "I believe that my efforts have had a lasting impact on plant choices made by this organization (Habitat for Humanity of Denver)."
- "Knowledge gained via Native Plant Master courses has been directly transferred to those in the community through noxious weed eradication projects locally."
- "Transformed yard to natives, lectured to college biology classes and environmental organizations, wrote books."
- "Work for a local parks department and incorporate knowledge gained by including more natives and more aggressive weed control on public properties."

From Kimberly Tamkun, Master Naturalist, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program:
"The knowledge has been extremely useful in my contact with the community in leading tours along the Poudre River, Cathy Fromme Prairie and Coyote Ridge Natural Areas. People are very interested in controlling and understanding the alien plants in the area."

Two County Extension Horticulturists were trained to a sufficient confidence level that they led their first Native Plant Master course. They will provide program leadership in 2009 and future years.

Four Native Plant Master trainers, an Extension Agent, and an NRCS Range Specialist participated in a Wray area field trip learning about High Plains and sandstone bluff native wildflowers and grasses suitable for xeric landscape uses.
Southwest Colorado (Montezuma/Dolores/LaPlata)

- It is important to have the involvement and cooperation of the Colorado Native Plant Society (NPS) in Native Plant Education efforts. Since the beginning of Native Plant programming in SW Colorado, we have involved the participation of the SW Chapter of the NPS and its’ President Al Schneider. They have provided input for programming and Mr. Schneider has participated as a guest presenter at the Hawkins Preserve course. This year, Mr. Schneider has reviewed the Native Plant Master manual for SW Colorado and has provided suggestions to the home office of the program in Jefferson County. He will be the instructor for the NPM course at Lone Mesa State Park in 2009. Mr. Schneider was the co-discoverer of a new plant species at the park in 2008 which was described in a news release in Today@ColoradoState.

Southwest Colorado (San Miguel/W Montrose)

- One of our course locations is at Priest Lake, a little used or maintained USFS campground with a small lake. Because of our courses, our San Miguel County Weed Manager and our local USFS personnel were made aware that there is yellow toadflax in the lake bed (the lake has been drained due to the dam being removed). Because of this, the weed is being controlled. It was so heartening to see the population decreased more than 50% the following year.

- A local landscaper now assesses seed mixes to determine amount of native vs. non-native species for revegetation projects (!)

- “I convinced my neighbor to spray for oxeye.”

6. As a result of program evaluation, implementation or community input; are there changes or suggestions you have for this work team, its plan of work or the contribution report?

Eagle and Garfield Counties

- The current deadline for NPM volunteers to get CSUE their Educational Contact Record in is December 31. The Impact Survey also goes out late in the year. This is the same timeframe we need to summarize the data for the Contribution Reports and Impact Survey Summary. Add to all of this the busy holiday season and the potential result is incomplete data sets when Impact Surveys and Ed Contact Records are not returned in a timely manner.

Jefferson County

- A fundraising committee has been formed from sub-work team members. Immediate goal is to obtain additional funding to support current Colorado native plant education programming through user fees, sponsorships, grants and gifts. Long term goal once state program is adequately funded is to expand Native Plant Master Program nationwide by franchising the concept to other state Extension programs.

Larimer County

- A more centralized reporting system and volunteer tracking system might be helpful.

High Plains Area

- Our customer base is at the building awareness stage with some at the increasing knowledge of and appreciation for High Plains Natives. Our focus is to work through the Logic Model for learning with our target audience in order to build their knowledge, skills, and confidence in order to empower individuals to take leadership on land stewardship and native plant conservation/appreciation.

Southwest Colorado (San Miguel/W Montrose)

- It would be nice to include impacts in state-wide news release, if you are not doing so already.