

Are you receiving calls about the Colorado Fires? Governor Hickenlooper has asked us to direct anyone who wants to help to www.HelpColoradoNow.org, the official website of the Department of Local Affairs' Office of Emergency Management.

Draft NWCCOG 2011 Update to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) Now Available for Review

The 2011 Regional Water Quality Management Plan, or "208 Plan", is a technical revision of the NWCCOG 208 Plan that was last approved in 2002. This plan is adopted pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act as implemented through Colorado Water Quality Control Act. The Colorado General Assembly adopted the Colorado Water Quality Control Act "to protect, maintain, and improve where necessary and reasonable, water quality for public water supplies, for protection and propagation of wildlife and aquatic life, for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses" (CRS 25-8-102).

The primary goal of the 208 plan is the protection of the existing water quality and designated uses of waters in the region. The NWCCOG 208 plan region consists of the area within Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. NWCCOG is the designated regional water quality management agency responsible for water quality planning within this region.

The draft updated chapters of the 208 Plan can be found on [NWCCOG's website HERE](#). The NWCCOG Council will consider the updated 208 Plan for approval at their July 26th meeting in Steamboat Springs. Please send comments on draft section to [Lane Wyatt](#) (970.485.0561) by July 13th.

Weatherization Team Celebrates Another Successful Year at Annual Training Day Picnic



The NWCCOG Weatherization Team had a successful year, weatherizing more than 300 homes throughout the region. Pictured above (l to r): Chas Steele, Nate Speerstra, Steve Getz, Aaron Simmons, Rob McKeon, Victoria Swain, Tim Summers, Sean O'Connell, Doug Jones, Tom Dunlap. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work!

NWCCOG Offers Facilitation Services to Member Jurisdictions

Did you know that NWCCOG offers facilitation services to its members? NWCCOG staff will facilitate your jurisdictions' town council/board or BOCC retreat, or other community/public meeting. Liz Mullen recently facilitated the Town of Grand Lake's Board retreat on May 31-June 1. "Liz Mullen did a great job in her role as facilitator for our annual Board of Trustees retreat. Several Board members commented that this year's retreat was among the best in memory. Clearly, Liz's contributions as facilitator played a part in that success" says David Hook, Grand Lake Town Manager. Please contact [Liz Mullen](#) for more information.

Economic Development Stakeholders - SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, July 27, 2012 is the date that the NWCCOG, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade is gathering in Frisco for the first Regional Economic Development Partnership Progress Meeting. Each participant will be asked to bring their community's top priority economic development project to undergo "project triage" - an examination of the project, determination of the next stage of the project, analysis of barriers to the project's progress, and channeling resources of the regional and state partners to help move your projects toward successful completion. Be on the lookout for your invitation to this productive event, and please contact [June Walters](#) for more information.

NWCCOG/NLF Sponsors MountainConnect event in support of improving broadband capacity and reliability throughout Colorado

MountainConnect 2012, an annual conference of IT professionals, economic and rural broadband developers, ISPs, elected officials and concerned constituents was held in Breckenridge June 10 and 11. The packed agenda covered topics from planning for middle mile and last mile connectivity, to funding programs, to lessons learned by LTPTs, to wireless and satellite options, to policy opportunities for broadband development.

You've heard it for years now - We're way behind in broadband capability and access. Globally, the US is ranked 25th and within the US, Colorado is ranked 21st. The NWCCOG, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Information Technology and the Eagle Net Alliance, will be gathering and guiding Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs) to expand abundance and access to, and redundancy and reliability on, broadband and wireless capability in Region 12. Organizational first steps have been made by Town of Walden NWCCOG rep, Mark White and Grand County IT Director, Martin Woros, as first members in LTPTs covering the two northernmost counties in our region. The NWCCOG is seeking interested parties from public and private sectors to join the existing LTPTs and/or create the LTPT(s) to help Summit, Eagle and Pitkin counties progress in this arena. Please contact [June Walters](#) for more information, and when you receive the NWCCOG's Broadband Survey, please, PLEASE complete the survey, take the broadband speed test and return it as soon as possible!! Help us help your communities improve telecommunications

Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative Update

by [Abbie Cobb](#), CBBC Coordinator

In June, Tom Clark, Mayor of Kremmling and NWCCOG Councilmember, announced his resignation from the CBBC. We want to say thanks and wish him luck with all he has on his plate. His hard work and contribution to the CBBC over the years is very much appreciated. We will miss you Tom! A new CBBC chair will be appointed at the July 20 Steering Committee meeting.

CBBC is developing public education messages related to all-hazard forest issues with a focus on awareness of the falling tree hazard. The beetle-kill forests in the NW Region are extremely susceptible to this problem given the time frame of the MPB epidemic. Messages will also touch on fire safety and the importance of personal preparedness and responsibility.

An updated mapping project, done in cooperation with the USFS and CSFS, has begun. New maps will show all of the treated areas in the CBBC region along with projects that are underway or waiting to be treated (with committed funding). After identifying the areas that have not been treated, the CBBC will work with the USFS and CSFS to help prioritize the areas still needing treatment.

Alpine Area Agency on Aging Sponsors Successful Caregiver Conference on June 20th

Over 150 persons attended this year's Caregiver Conference held on June 20th at the Glenwood Springs High School. This year's conference event featured Dr. Jason Schillerstrom, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Schillerstrom presented two sessions: "Understanding The Aging Brain" in the morning and in the afternoon "Identifying Cognitive Impairments and Depression in Elders". A service vendor fair featuring 28 organizations, and a lunch by Haute Bistro Catering were also part of the event.

Thank you to Ainhoa Bujan, Linda Byers, Dana Damm, Joy Davis, Kim DuBois, Judy Martin, Sherry Rogstad, Hilda Sykes, Sunny Dunn Linn and Debby Sutherland, for all their help with this conference. Thank you also to the sponsors of this year's event: NW Area Agency on Aging, NWCCOG-Alpine Area Agency on Aging, Northwest Options for Long Term Care, Senior Programs-Garfield County Department of Human Services, and the Pitkin, Garfield and Eagle County Departments of Human Services.

Three Individuals from NWCCOG's Region Complete New Falls Prevention Specialist Certification

Three individuals from NWCCOG's Region Complete New Falls Prevention Specialist Certification Three individuals from the region recently completed training and officially have been designated as Falls Prevention Specialists at the Summer 2012 Academy on May 22. The certification includes the multi-components of falls prevention, the anatomy of a fall, the components of balance, where people fall, and becoming an instructor in the community for falls prevention courses. Congratulations to Lori Damon (Grand County), Pat Aden (Summit County) and Christi Couch (Pitkin County) for attaining this new professional certification funded from the John Snow Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project award. The John Snow Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project grant was written and implemented in partnership with the Consortium for Older Adult Wellness (COAW) and NWCCOG-Alpine Area Agency on Aging. For more information, please contact [Jean Hammes](#), AAAA Director.

I-70 Coalition Update

by Margaret Bowes, Program Manager

Twin Tunnels Project

In October 2011, the Colorado Transportation Commission approved \$60 million in funding for the Twin Tunnels project. According to CDOT, the Twin Tunnel project proposes to address safety issues and improve traffic flow at the Twin Tunnels east of Idaho Springs, one of the most critical congestion bottlenecks on the I-70 Mountain Corridor. This project, pending federally required approvals, will build a third lane on eastbound I-70, beginning west of the Twin Tunnels and continue east to the base of Floyd Hill, where eastbound I-70 currently becomes three lanes. The project does not include westbound Twin Tunnel or westbound I-70 improvements, and the project does not violate the long-term solution for the I-70 Mountain Corridor as outlined in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. During construction, traffic will be rerouted around the Twin Tunnels and placed on an improved frontage road. If the project receives the federally required approvals, construction would begin in the spring of 2013, and be open for traffic by October 2013. Pre-construction activities will result in some lane closures during the summer of 2012.

CDOT's Prioritized Recommendations for Improving I-70

As directed by HB 11-1210, CDOT considered a host of short term mobility solutions for the I-70 mountain corridor and reported these recommendations back to the House and Senate Transportation Committees. The full report is available via the I-70 Coalition website at <http://tinyurl.com/739sftp>. Many of the options would require further studying, and local, state or federal authorization.

How Healthy are the Counties in NWCCOG's Region? The 2012 County Health Rankings Report Provides Data on Overall Health of Counties Across the U.S.

The health of a community depends on many different factors, including the environment, education and jobs, access to, and quality of, healthcare and individual behaviors. A new report by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute ranks Colorado counties according to their summary measures of health outcomes and health factors. Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is while health factors represent what influences the health of the county. The summary health factors rankings are based on weighted scores of four types of factors: behavioral, clinical, social and economic, and environmental. More specifically, data was collected on key factors that affect health such as: smoking, obesity, binge drinking, access to primary care providers, rates of high school graduation, rates of violent crime, air pollution levels, liquor store density, unemployment rates, fast-food restaurants, physical inactivity, and number of children living in poverty. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborated with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on this project.

So, how healthy are NWCCOG member counties? Here's how our counties rank: (*note: Jackson County [along with Hinsdale, Kiowa, Mineral and San Juan counties] was not ranked, however they are included in the overall study and data tool*).

Health Outcomes - Rankings in the State:

Eagle County - 3
Grand County - 28
Pitkin County - 1
Summit County - 5
Garfield County (City of Glenwood Springs and Town of Carbondale are NWCCOG Members) - 17
Routt County (City of Steamboat Springs is a NWCCOG Member) - 9

Health Factors - Rankings in the State:

Eagle County - 11
Grand County - 15
Pitkin County - 2
Summit County - 4
Garfield County (City of Glenwood Springs and Town of Carbondale are NWCCOG Members) - 29
Routt County (City of Steamboat Springs is a NWCCOG Member) - 3

Visit [NWCCOG's Data Page](#) for the summary report on Colorado, as well as a link to the complete data tool.

Colorado Mountain College Offers New Course for Certification of Professional Caregivers

Between January through May of 2012, Colorado Mountain College (CMC) offered a new course at Rifle, Edwards, and Glenwood Springs locations to certify professional caregivers. Congratulations to the 32 individuals who recently completed their coursework and are the first class of graduates of the new Personal Care Attendant training.

Nancy Drew Cowdrey, former Encore! Project Manager with Colorado Mountain College, helped to organize, find the instructors, and work with the three CMC campuses to offer the course to help meet training needs in one of the fastest-growing career fields in the country. The 13-week course provided hands-on training for those wanting to become a home care aide, patient care provider, family caregiver or volunteer for elderly, chronically ill or disabled individuals.

Funding Opportunities

Below is a list of current funding opportunities. For links to full announcements on these and other funding opportunities, visit NWCCOG's Grant Opportunities Page

Federal Funding Opportunities:

America's Media Makers - National Endowment for the Humanities. Grants for projects that expand or deepen the audience's understanding of a subject: for example, museum exhibitions, book/film discussion programs, or other formats that enhance the programs' humanities content, engage audiences in new ways, and expand the distribution of programs. Deadline: August 15, 2012.

America's Great Outdoors: Landscape Stewardship Program - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - funding available to non-profit organizations and tribal groups for the creation and/or capacity growth of community-based landscape conservation coalitions. Deadline: July 31, 2012.

Advancing Informal STEM Learning -National Science Foundation. Invests in research and development of innovative and field advancing out of school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning and emerging STEM learning environments. Preliminary proposals due August 14, 2012.

Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants - National Endowment for the Humanities. Deadline: June 28, 2012.

Service Area Competition (SAC) New, Competing Continuation, and Supplemental Application Technical Assistance - Health Resources and Services Administration. Deadline: July 25, 2012.

Family Connection Grants: Combination Family-finding/Family Group Decision-making Projects Grants. Administration for Children and Families. Deadline: July 10, 2012.

Transitional Living Program and Maternity Group Homes -Administration for Children and Families. Deadline: July 10, 2012.

State Funding Opportunities:

Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Program - Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Funding has been reinstated. Applications will be available by August 1, 2012. Deadline: December 3, 2012.

Private Foundation & Other Funding Opportunities:

Bank of America Charitable Foundation - Grants for Nonprofits Addressing Local Workforce Development and Education Needs. Deadline: July 2, 2012.

Access Fund Preservation Grant Program - Grants to Enhance Climbing Conservation Programs. Deadline: August 1, 2012.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - Center for Sharing Public Health Services: Shared Services Learning Community. Deadline: August 29, 2012.

Funding Opportunities (continued)

Multi-Arts Production Fund (MAP) - Support for contemporary arts performing projects. Deadline for letters of inquiry: October 17, 2012.

Wells Fargo Foundation & National Fish & Wildlife Foundation - Grants for Community Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Projects. Deadline for pre-proposals: July 2, 2012.

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation - for projects designed to strengthen the national infrastructure of the professional nonprofit dance, jazz, presenting, and/or theater fields; or to improve conditions for the national community of professional performing artists in those fields. Deadline: July 2, 2012.

The Office Depot Foundation - Grants to Help Children Succeed in School and Life; Enable Nonprofit Organizations to Become More Efficient and Effective; Assist People and Businesses in Preparing for and Recovering from Disasters; and Strengthening Local Communities through Grants, Donations and Volunteerism applications accepted through October 2012.

The Finish Line Foundation - for active youth lifestyle program. Deadline: June 30, 2012.

The Wells Fargo Foundation - priorities include arts and culture, education, economic development, health care and human services. Deadline: July 1, 2012.

Open Meadows Foundation -Support for Projects That Are Led By and Benefit Women and Girls. Deadline: August 15, 2012.