NWCCOG’s
Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments is to be responsive to our members' needs and interests by providing guidance and assistance in problem-solving, information sharing and partnership building, advocating members' interests and needs with local, state and federal entities, and providing quality services to our membership that are relevant, effective and efficient.
Preparing the annual report is a great way to take stock of all that we’ve accomplished during the previous year. As you read about our team’s progress in 2013, I hope you’ll marvel at all we’ve been a part of. Our entire staff has made significant progress toward achieving established goals, and much of the work we’ve accomplished sets the stage for a fast-paced, productive 2014.

As I list some of our major accomplishments below, I notice that each of these projects/programs serve three or four counties in neighboring Region 11 in addition to our five member counties in Region 12/NWCCOG. This ability to partner with our neighboring counties gives us the strength in number necessary to bring valuable programs, services, and funding to our regions.

Among our most significant accomplishments for 2013 were:

**Completion of the regional broadband strategic plan.** NWC-COG was the first region to undertake this project. We expect it will lead to significant improvements in broadband capacity, reliability, and cost for the NW corner of the state as we work in 2014 to begin implementing the recommendations from the plan.

**Recapitalization of the Northwest Loan Fund.** We were successful in obtaining $500,000 in funds for business loans in our region. The NLF is an important source of capital for our new and existing local businesses.

**Designated as the Regional Assistance Hub for Connect for Health Colorado.** Supporting 19 assistance sites in 9 counties. Acting as a liaison between the Assistance Sites and Connect for Health Colorado, we will assist with training Health Coverage Guides, and assist Health Coverage Guides in outreach efforts and consumer related issues.

Hallmarks of our work are passion, collaboration, and partnership – for it is through these values that the staff of the NWCCOG is able to take on the challenges that face our region. We are grateful for the participation of so many people who have worked with us in 2013 to achieve our goals and the goals of our member organizations.

We look forward to serving you in 2014. Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Mullen
Executive Director
NWCCOG
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) is a voluntary association of county and municipal governments that believes in the benefits of working together on a regional basis. NWCCOG serves 27 member jurisdictions in a 5-county region. It is located in the northwest portion Colorado just west of the Front Range, and includes the counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit. NWCCOG is the region designated by the State of Colorado as State Planning and Management Region 12. It is in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and is characterized by its mountainous terrain and very high overall altitude. Most of the area is located among the high peaks of the Colorado Rockies. The region is bordered in the East by the Continental Divide, in the north by the State of Wyoming, to the west by Garfield County, and to the South by the Elk Mountain Range in Pitkin County.

The Region is characterized by its rural character and tourism-oriented economy. A main section of the Region has I-70, the State's main east-west transportation corridor, running through it. This enhances the proximity of the Region to Denver/Front Range metropolitan communities. This proximity to a large metropolitan area has contributed greatly to the Region's popularity as a mountain recreational area.

The region’s economy has transformed over time from a combination of mining and agriculture in its early history (1800’s) to recreational tourism today. The quality of life, the mix of local businesses, a skilled work force, a beautiful natural setting, and the international name recognition provided by world-class ski resorts are invaluable underpinnings unique to the region’s economy.
The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Economic Development District (NWCCOG EDD) promotes and coordinates economic development efforts throughout the 5-county region. Our mission is to be a regional leader, working cooperatively with the private and public sectors to enhance the economic conditions, and improve the region’s economic prosperity. The NWCCOG—EDD brings together the essential partners from all sectors, to determine the most appropriate strategies to advance the prosperity of the region.

NWCCOG EDD is led by a board of directors comprised of representatives from local governmental jurisdictions, private sector, and other economic development stakeholders. As a federally-designated district, the NWCCOG EDD receives annual funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

**A LOOK BACK ON 2013...**

**New EDD Characterized by Communication and Collaboration**
In collaboration with our strategic partners, a monthly Economic Development Resources Bulletin was launched with wide distribution to businesses and stakeholders in the region. It lists workshops, training classes, webinars, educational sessions and events, along with information on accessing business capital, grant funding opportunities, and other business incentives available throughout the region.

**Expanded Partnerships With Key Stakeholders**
Over the course of 2013, NWCCOG EDD built a strong network of stakeholders in the economic development arena, and fostered collaborative efforts via bi-monthly EDD working group meetings.

**NWCCOG – EDD Hosted Smart Growth America Workshop**
NWCCOG was one of only 22 communities across the country to receive a free technical assistance workshop from SGA in 2013. This is a grant funded program from US EPA’s Office of Sustainable Communities. Smart Growth America (SGA) is a non-profit organization that provides communities with technical assistance and strategies to create healthy communities.

**New EDD website: [www.nwcoloradobusiness.org](http://www.nwcoloradobusiness.org)**
In early 2014, a new website was created to serve those looking for information on starting a business in the region, as well as government and community stakeholders looking for ways to promote doing business.

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**NWCCOG Region’s Top 5 Key Industries:**
Our approach is that the most efficient and effective means of adding jobs is to drive growth in the industries which are already strong within the region. Our work in 2013 focused on developing projects and programs that fit under the six core objectives, and that served to strengthen the region’s key industries. These are the top 5 for NWCCOG’s Region: (based on employment figures):

- **Tourism and Outdoor Recreation**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Financial Services**
- **Creative Industries**
- **Infrastructure Engineering**

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**6 Core Objectives Identified**
**Focus Efforts Toward Growth and Sustainability**
These core objectives are directly aligned with the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade’s (OEDIT) core objectives identified in the Colorado Blueprint, the statewide strategic economic development plan:

1.) Build a Business-Friendly Environment
2.) Recruit, Grow, and Retain Business
3.) Increase Access to Capital
4.) Focus on Projects that Bolster Tourism
5.) Educate & Train the Future Workforce
6.) Cultivate Innovation and Technology

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The AAAA is the designated regional planning and service agency for aging services in Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. Resources made available under the Older Americans Act and State funds are used to finance those activities necessary to achieve elements of a comprehensive and coordinated community based system of services for persons over the age of 60, especially those with the greatest social or economic need, and their family caregivers. Services offered by the AAAA are intended to assist older Americans to live independently and with dignity, in their own communities, by removing barriers and providing continual care for more vulnerable older adults.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Launch of Network of Care Program and Website
The Network of Care provides resources for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans, as well as their families, caregivers and service providers. The Region 12 Network of Care website, part of the Colorado ADRC (Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado) network, is coordinated by the Community Living Services & NWCCOG in conjunction with many local partners. This comprehensive, internet-based resource is a multilingual, community-based site that provides information regarding long-term care support and services, as well as relevant information and education to the seniors and persons with disabilities who live in our region.

AAAA Expands Staff with Addition of Program Specialist
This new position enabled AAAA to develop the Network of Care website that provides online resources and educational opportunities. The Program Specialist also assists in the design, implementation, and ongoing operation of regionally coordinated and streamlined information—including accessing systems to community living services, assistance, and support options. We’re pleased to welcome Erin Fisher to our team.

Alpine Area Agency on Aging Staff Receive Certifications
Jean Hammes, Alpine Area Agency on Aging Program Director, and Erin Fisher, Alpine Area Agency on Aging Program Specialist, were awarded the Certified Information and Referral Specialist (CIRS) designation from AIRS - The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. AIRS improves access to services for individuals, families, and communities by providing a professional umbrella for all information and referral providers. The CIRS designation is a measurement of documented knowledge reflecting specific competencies and related performance criteria.

Older Americans and Senior Awards Ceremony
Every year since 1963, May has been a month to celebrate the vitality of older adults and their contributions to our communities. The Regional Advisory Council's 25th Annual Senior Awards Ceremony was held on May 8th in conjunction with Older Americans Month. The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 was Unleash the Power of Age. The celebration was well attended with many seniors who were recognized for their contributions to their communities.

In 2013, 10,194 consumers were served and 44,389 units of services were provided through the Older Americans Act and State Funds for Senior Services.
The Energy Management Program, also known as Weatherization, weatherizes low and moderate income homes to reduce their fuel consumption and heating costs. Services include insulation, caulking, weather-stripping, and the installation of storm windows, and new energy-efficient furnaces and refrigerators. NWCCOG is a local administering agency under the Weatherization Assistance Program, and is under contract to the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) Weatherization Program. Weatherization has helped preserve affordable housing units in the region. By reducing a household’s energy consumption and heating costs, these families have more income available to spend within their local communities. In addition to reducing energy consumption and heating costs, the weatherization process corrects any health and safety problems found, such as gas leaks and carbon monoxide problems. The Weatherization Program has a main office in Silverthorne and a field office in New Castle. In addition to weatherizing homes within the NWCCOG region, NWCCOG also weatherizes homes in Chaffee, Clear Creek, Garfield, Lake, Moffat, Park, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

A Year of Education and Certifications
CEO requires that each local Weatherization agency have at least one State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Certified Asbestos Inspector on staff. CDPHE requires that all individuals performing asbestos related activities in single-family residential dwellings, schools, and public and commercial buildings in Colorado be certified by the State in the discipline in which they are working. The NWCCOG’s Weatherization team, under the leadership of Steve Getz, took the necessary steps to ensure NWCCOG was in compliance. In fact, the entire team earned the EPA Certified Asbestos Inspectors title, thus enabling them to perform work on the homes in our region that need weatherization assistance.

In April, the Weatherization staff attended a training on sealing air leaks in a home. This training was unique in that instead of our staff traveling to Denver to be trained in a classroom or on mock work sites in a training facility, the trainer came to us where the team was able to work on actual houses already being weatherized in our region. Our Weatherization team members were enthusiastic about receiving this training because it helped them achieve additional energy savings for our clients.

All of the Weatherization field staff attended the Building Performance Institute’s (BPI) training program and possess a BPI certification in their position-related discipline. All field staff were also certified in OSHA-safe work practices, and were certified as renovators with the EPA Lead Program. The BPI is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to establish technical standards to ensure the home renovations and weatherization workforce is following strict protocols. Individuals that have been trained, tested, and certified to BPI’s nationally recognized standards use the house-as-a-system approach to improving the performance of existing homes – an approach proven to reduce annual utility bills by as much as 20 percent or more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdictions Inside Region 12</th>
<th>Number of Homes Weatherized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle County</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Basalt</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Eagle</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Gypsum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand County</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Granby</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Grand Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Kremmling</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Walden</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitkin County</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Aspen</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit County</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Dillon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Silverthorne</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Glenwood Springs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Steamboat Springs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdictions Outside Region 12</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 165

STEVE GETZ
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Under the leadership of Gene Morse, the Elevator Inspection Program (EIP) inspects and issues permits for commercial and residential conveyances (elevators, lifts, dumbwaiters, and escalators) to ensure safe conveyances throughout the region. The program began in 1993. NWCCOG has entered into an MOA with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment - Division of Oil and Public Safety as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) under the Elevator and Escalator Certification Act. NWCCOG member jurisdictions are invited to sign a “Letter of Agreement” with NWCCOG, agreeing to adopt the elevator codes for conveyances. NWCCOG’s elevator inspectors work cooperatively with each jurisdiction’s building department to implement the program in that jurisdiction. The EIP now serves Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Routt, and Summit counties which includes most of the cities and towns within those counties.

**Total Number of Elevators Inspected in 2013:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle County</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Basalt</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Eagle</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Gypsum</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Minturn</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Red Cliff</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Vail</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand County</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Fraser</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Granby</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Grand Lake</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Hot Sulphur Springs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Kremmling</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Winter Park</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Walden</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Aspen</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit County</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Dillon</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Frisco</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Silverthorne</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Carbondale</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Glenwood Springs</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Steamboat Springs</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Members w/in Region 12</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdictions Outside Region 12</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENE MORSE
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In July of 2013, NWCCOG was selected to be a Connect for Health Colorado Regional Assistance Hub. The hub is a liaison between the Assistance Sites and Connect for Health Colorado. The Hub Coordinator will assist with training Health Coverage Guides, assist Health Coverage Guides in outreach efforts, and assist them to handle consumer related issues. The role of the Hub Coordinator is to provide support for 19 Assistance Sites in 9 counties. The Hub also assists in the identification of overall system needs, issues, and helps develop strategies to improve efficiency and effectiveness of implementation at the statewide level.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

NWCCOG part of Connect for Health Colorado Assistance Network

TJ Dufresne was named to lead the Connect for Health Colorado Regional Assistance Hub - one of 6 hubs across the state selected to provide coordination for in-person assistance for customers of Connect for Health Colorado - the new health insurance marketplace which opened in October. Connect for Health Colorado hub sites are an integral part of the Assistance Network to help Coloradans easily navigate the new insurance marketplace.

Community outreach essential for program success

Once the Marketplace opened, there was a push for community outreach efforts. The outreach efforts included community presentations, visibility at community events, health coverage enrollment events, school and library outreach, media exposure through news articles and as well as radio, and some print advertising. The goal of our outreach efforts was to drive consumers to shop the Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace either on-line, by phone with the Customer Service Center, or in-person with one of our Health Coverage Guides. Daily support calls for our Health Coverage Guides allowed for real time support, troubleshooting assistance, and technical problem identification.

Open Enrollment Sign-ups

As the Open Enrollment Period comes to an end for health coverage in 2014 (March 31, 2014) there was a final push for health coverage enrollment and planning for our next steps.

Through March 31, 2014, enrollment numbers in the region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>1,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garfield</td>
<td>1026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moffat</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitkin</td>
<td>1571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Blanco</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routt</td>
<td>1352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>1068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6,908</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TJ DUFRESNE
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The Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) offers business loans that will create or retain jobs and bring a value added product or income to the local economy in the 9 Northwest counties (Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt & Summit). The NLF loans money for start-up and expanding businesses that may not qualify for traditional financing. Loans can be used for such things as purchasing equipment, inventory, raw materials, existing businesses, buildings, or renovation of current business. The money can also be used for payroll or accounts receivable financing.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Recapitalization of the fund and addition of new Director
The loan fund was re-capitalized with $500,000 from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Anita Cameron was hired as Director of the NLF. Her many years in the banking industry make her the perfect fit to re-build the program and guide businesses to the best funding scenario.

Education, Communication, and Outreach
By-laws and policies were developed in collaboration with the newly-formed loan committee which is comprised of representatives from each of the 9 counties the program serves. Business forums, expos, and community gatherings facilitated the dissemination of information about the program.

Applications and Inquiries
Interest in the program was high, resulting in six applications being submitted and analyzed. Additionally, many inquiries were received, during which callers were guided to the appropriate combination of resources.

Success Stories
Liberty Skis based in Avon, a prior recipient of a loan from the NLF during their start-up phase, was awarded the 2013 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Exporting.

Above and Beyond 4x4 Guides, at 4 Eagle Ranch near Wolcott, received a start-up loan from the NLF in 2010. “The NLF took a chance and believed in my dream. I had a good business plan, but could not get traditional financing because it was a start-up business. Now, I have paid off my loan to the NLF, and have successfully acquired bank loans to expand my business,” said owner Craig Lowman.
NWCCOG recognized that access to broadband services to connect to the Internet and other online services is vital to economic development and quality of life in the region. Therefore, in 2013, NWCCOG embarked on a strategic planning effort focused on improving access to broadband for an eight county area, which consists of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties, and the City of Glenwood Springs and Town of Carbondale. This project was funded, in part, through a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Forming the team
A steering committee made up of one representative from each of the eight participating counties guided this strategic planning process. Steering committee members brought a wide range of skills, knowledge, and experience.

Surveys and Workshops
Surveys and workshops were conducted by OHlvey during the summer months to gather data, educate, and collaborate on important elements of the project. The survey collected data on actual broadband speeds versus advertised speeds which provided a benchmark for each community. Mid States Consultants also created an asset map for the region through research and fieldwork, which provided valuable information on the region’s existing infrastructure and gaps that need to be filled.

Building the Strategic Plan
Using the data that was compiled thru all efforts, the steering committee developed and finalized the Regional Broadband Strategic Plan that will be used as the blueprint to significantly improve broadband capacity, reliability, and cost for the NW corner of the state. NWCCOG will begin implementing the recommendations from the plan in 2014.
The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) was formed as a result of Rural Resort Region’s initiative - Seniors in Our Mountain Communities: Challenges and Opportunities. This project collected data on the growing senior population in our region and identified the gaps in services. One of the priority gaps was transportation, not just within a particular county, but in the public transportation options available to travel across county boundaries to access healthcare facilities and other services. In response, the RTCC was formed to be the local coordinating council for a 7-county rural area of northwest Colorado including Jackson, Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin Counties.

Under the leadership of Susan Juergensmeier, the RTCC is working to improve transportation coordination and options for the veteran, senior, disabled, and low-income adult populations. The RTCC’s efforts are focused on coordinating the existing public and private transit providers with other human services providers by promoting, enhancing, and facilitating seamless access to transportation services through a coordinated system that is easily available to customers from anywhere in the region.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Mountain Ride beginning to take shape
The One-Call-One Click Call Center, being referred to as Mountain Ride, will offer comprehensive information on local transportation options with a phone call or click of a mouse - providing better local coordination and improved services for veterans and others in need of specialized travel arrangements, including non-emergent medical transportation.

In 2013, the team visited several similar call centers throughout the United States to compile best practices for implementation and on-going operations, as well as, potential billing mechanisms to help the project be self-sustaining. The team also worked with various agencies, both inside and outside of the region, to build the awareness of and partnerships with the RTCC to ensure the success of the project. The RTCC call center will be located in Silverthorne, Colorado.

The contract for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant for the new One-Click One-Call Center was received from the Colorado Department of Transportation in October 2012. The $321,600 grant will fund the One-Click One-Call Center for two years at which time we anticipate it will be self-sustaining.
Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Region

The Northwest All-Hazards Emergency Management Region (NWAHEMR) is a ten-county region located in the northwest corner of the state. It is comprised of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties. An Executive Board/Steering Committee, made up of each county’s emergency manager as well as discipline representatives, meets on a regular basis to develop strategies to improve the emergency preparedness of the region through the use of homeland security grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. NWCCOG provides fiscal management and program coordination for the NWAHEMR.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Upgrade and testing of community communications

The team, led by Chris Bornholt, Emergency Manager of Garfield County, completed purchasing 800 Mhz radios for each of the public works departments in the region. Additionally, the Public Works Functional group completed an exercise to practice using the 800 DTR system.

Hazmat Software and Protective Equipment

The 360 HazMatID software was upgraded for each of the five hazmat teams in the region. Hazmat Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was purchased for each of the 13 hospitals/medical centers in the region.

Grant for continued progress

In late September, NWAHEMR was awarded a 2013 State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) in the amount of $191,036. The SHSG projects include: 1.) new generation fire shelters for public works departments throughout the Northwest Region, 2.) a hazmat training trailer, 3.) support for the NW NUWAIX Exercise in Mesa County in April of 2014, which is a 4-5 day multiagency exercise with the Department of Energy, FEMA Region 8, Mesa County, and the Northwest Incident Management Team, 4.) a mobile generator for the Town of Kremmling, and 5.) replacement air monitors for hazmat and fire response agencies in Mesa County. The last three projects will be completed in 2014.

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**Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ)**—“QQ” includes towns, counties, and water and sanitation districts in the Headwaters Region of Colorado. Its purpose is to enable members to protect and enhance the quality of the region’s waters, while facilitating the responsible use of those resources for the good of Colorado’s citizens and environment. QQ monitors water development activities and legislative initiatives that affect water quality or quantity in the basin of origin. The QQ Committee meetings provide a forum for members to formulate policies and strategies, and make decisions. The QQ staff co-lead by Victoria Jarvis, and Lane Wyatt, provides members with legislative, informational, coordination, supportive, and technical assistance to further intergovernmental cooperation and increase members’ political clout with state and federal agencies.

**A LOOK BACK ON 2013...**

**Colorado Water Plan begins development**

In 2013, the Governor announced that the Colorado Water Conservation Board was to begin work on the Colorado Water Plan in conjunction with many stakeholders throughout the state. The goal of the plan was to address the gap between supply and demand, address issues related to current and future droughts, address water rights transfers from agriculture to municipalities creating a “buy-and-dry” condition in the agriculture industry, and other important issues. The NWCCOG QQ Committee worked with our constituents to represent their interests in the development of the plan.

**Colorado River Cooperative Agreement Signed**

In May 2013, this historic agreement was signed by the Denver Water Board and 18 Western Slope entities. The QQ Committee worked alongside our stakeholders to forge the agreement intended to protect watersheds in the Colorado River Basin while allowing Denver Water to develop future water supplies. The agreement is the result of more than five years of negotiations creating a new spirit of cooperation over water resources.

**Additional Legislative Input**

The QQ Committee was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 13-019 which, in part, allows for irrigators and other water users to reduce their water consumption to ameliorate the effects of drought on low stream flows, without penalty. Previously, if a water user reduced their consumption, they could lose a portion of their water rights. This important measure is needed to ensure that water sharing arrangements do not result in future losses going forward.

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**TORIE JARVIS**  
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Watershed Services—NWCCOG has been the designated regional water quality management agency for the region since 1976. In that capacity, NWCCOG’s Watershed Services completes and implements a water quality management plan for the NWCCOG Region, in compliance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. The Watershed Service program, under the leadership of Lane Wyatt, also reviews development applications and local land use regulations to determine consistency and compliance with the 208 Plan.

A LOOK BACK ON 2013...

Peru Creek clean-up
Watershed Services completed a Nonpoint Source pollution control grant for the clean-up of 3 abandoned mine sites in Peru Creek about 15 miles upstream from Keystone Ski Area. The work was contracted to the Colorado Division of Mining, Safety and Reclamation who oversaw the installation of Best Management Practices to reduce the load of heavy metals reaching the stream. Other aspects of the project included a detailed water quality evaluation of the remedial potential in the Peru Creek watershed and community outreach on the project and abandoned mine issues in general.

Grand Lake water clarity
Watershed Services continues to work with Grand County, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and other stakeholders in an effort to determine how to improve water clarity in Grand Lake. The issue is complicated largely due to the operation of the Colorado Big Thompson project which pumps water from downstream sources into Grand Lake where it is released into the Adams Tunnel and diverted to the Big Thompson River near Estes Park. Grand Lake has Colorado’s first and only water quality standard for the protection of water clarity in a lake, which is fitting as it is Colorado’s largest natural lake and its location at the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Review and comments on development applications
Watershed Services continues to work with members to evaluate potential water quality implications of development applications, 1041 permit applications, wastewater treatment plant site applications and other land use matters. In 2013 nine projects were sent to NWCCOG for review and comment.

LANE WYATT
Director
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In 2013, NWCCOG leveraged $210,891 in member dues into total revenues of $3.8 million for a variety of programs and services that benefitted the region. NWCCOG members and the dues they pay make NWCCOG possible, and provide the infrastructure, staffing, and technical assistance to bring these vital programs to our region. Membership dues are a mere 5% of NWCCOG’s total budget, but allow our region to be eligible to receive the federal funding ($2.1 million) and state funding ($335,000) to offer these regional programs and services, funding that individual jurisdictions are not eligible for on their own.
2013 Financials

Total Revenues by Funding Source:
$3,845,603

- Federal Grant Funds (49%)
- State Grant Funds (9%)
- NWAHEMR Funds (7%)
- NWCCOG Dues (5%)
- Other Dues (QQ, CARO) (4%)
- Elevator Inspection Revenue (12%)
- Other Local Funding (7%)
- General & Indirect (7%)

Total Expenditures by Program:
$3,836,299

- Weatherization (39%)
- Alpine Area Agency on Aging (14%)
- Elevator Inspection (10%)
- General & Indirect (6%)
- NWAHEMR (7%)
- Regional Business (6%)
- Affiliated Programs (QQ, SWQC) (5%)
- Northwest Loan Fund (3%)
- Economic Development District (2%)
- RTCC (2%)
- Broadband (2%)
- WaterShed Services (2%)
- Regional Assistance Hub (1%)
- GIS Services (1%)
- Outside programs (CBBC, CARO) (1%)
- CO Health Foundation (<1%)
NWCCOG would like to thank all those who served on the 2013 Council for making all of these accomplishments possible.

- Eagle County
  Keith Montag, County Manager

- Grand County
  James Newberry, Commissioner

- Jackson County
  Lanny Weddle, Commissioner

- Pitkin County
  Rob Ittner, Commissioner

- Summit County
  Karn Stiegelmeier, Commissioner

- Aspen
  Steve Barwick, Town Manager

- Basalt
  Mike Scanlon, Town Manager

- Carbondale
  John Hoffmann, Trustee

- Dillon
  Tim Westerberg, Councilmember

- Eagle
  Jon Stavney, Town Manager

- Fraser
  Jeff Durbin, Town Manager

- Frisco
  Bill Efting, Town Manager

- Glenwood Springs
  Dave Sturges, Councilmember

- Granby
  Jynnifer Pierro, Mayor

- Grand Lake
  Jim Peterson, Trustee

- Gypsum
  Jeff Shroll, Town Manager

- Hot Sulphur Springs
  Hershal Deputy, Mayor

- Kremmling
  Tom Clark, Mayor

- Minturn
  Jim White, Town Manager

- Montezuma
  John Carney, Trustee

- Red Cliff
  Jake Spears, Councilmember

- Silverthorne
  Stuart Richardson, Councilmember

- Snowmass Village
  Jason Haber, Councilmember

- Steamboat Springs
  Walter Magill, Councilmember

- Vail
  Stan Zemler, Town Manager

- Walden
  Jane Berry, Town Manager

- Winter Park
  Drew Nelson, Town Manager
Staff & Contractors

Steve Allen
Elevator Inspector

Neal Ashforth
Weatherization Installer

Chris Bornholt
NWAHEMR Chair & Coordinator

Mike Bugielski
Weatherization Auditor/Inspector

Anita Cameron
Director, Northwest Loan Fund

Abbie Cobb
CBBC Coordinator

Tyler Cose
Weatherization Installer

TJ Dufresne
Coordinator, NW Regional Assistance
HUB Connect for Health Colorado

Jodi Flory
GIS Contractor

Erin Fisher
Director, Network of Care

Steve Getz
Director, Weatherization

Barbara Green
General Counsel

Jim Green
Weatherization Installer

Jean Hammes
Director, Alpine Area Agency on Aging

Mark Hox
Weatherization Installer

Victoria Jarvis
Co-Director, Water Quality/Quantity Committee

Doug Jones
Weatherization Field Supervisor

Susan Juergensmeier
Mobility Manager

Amy Lange
Fiscal Assistant

Shanna Koenig Camuso
Co-Director, Water Quality/Quantity Committee

Michael Kurth
Fiscal Officer

Rachel Lunney
Director, Economic Development District

Gene Morse
Director, Elevator Inspection

Liz Mullen
Executive Director

Sean O’Connell
Weatherization Auditor/Inspector

Sherry Rogstad
Administrative Assistant

Aaron Simmons
Weatherization Auditor/Inspector

Bill Simonds
Elevator Inspector

Nate Speerstra
WX Site Supervisor (Silverthorne)

Charles Steele
Weatherization Installer

Tim Summers
Weatherization Installer

Victoria Swain
Weatherization Program Assistant

Cora Winters
Elevator Inspection Program Administrative Assistant

Lane Wyatt
Co-Director, Water Quality/Quantity Committee
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director – Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

by fax to (202) 690-7442
or email at program.intake@usda.gov