**Envision Chaffee County**

**Vision #1** – Healthy Landscapes/Balance Recreation

**Focus Areas for Research, Models and Future Ideation – How might we.......**

1. Mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire and enhance our forest ecosystems
2. Build upon our success of collaborative water resource management to enhance our knowledge and planning of our future resource needs
3. Balance recreation development and wildlife needs
4. Effectively influence public and private agencies to collaborate on issues
5. Educate/engage the public about natural resource challenges so they are part of the solution
6. Help fund and empower collaboration and efficiency with federal agencies to manage our lands, water and wildlife
7. Utilize non-federal funding and generate markets for forest products to fund projects

**Brainstorming Outcomes - Challenges by Focus Area**

1. Healthy Forests (48 points)
* Mitigate the risks and impacts of catastrophic wildfire (22)
* Maintain or enhance the integrity of our forest ecosystems (17)
* Identify and protect the critical ecosystem services provided by our natural environment (9)

Research Models & Resources: See scanned homework form.

1. Healthy Water (34 points)
* Define and ensure future water resources (quality & quantity) (30)
* Protect our watershed/water resources from impacts of drought/fire/population growth (3)
* Use/plan our water supply (1)
* Supply water for increasing municipal/industrial uses without compromising agriculture
* Protect water resources

Research Models & Resources: Voluntary Flow Mgmt. Program, LCOSI (Lake County Open Space Initiative), Superfund clean-up Leadville, Arkansas Basin Water Forum Round Table, NASA CO Geological Survey mine drainage water quality, Sid Goodwell – Rio Grande River Cons. Land and River Mgmt., USGA & UAWCD – water balance study, AHRA – Rec Management plan process, Trout Creek multi-use project, FRY-ARK project, Bike/car share programs, Re-using gray water, Natural storage, Beavers, Applying difference economic models to water, Climate assessments – future water supply, Israel – technology & desalinization, Australia – best use, Colorado water plan, compact with Kansas, Colorado compact, Rights of personhood to CO River, Taylor River – flows mgmt. plan, Poudre River Report Card, Walton Family Foundation, TNC- Colorado River

1. Educate (28 points)
* Educate/engage the public about natural resource challenges so they are part of the solution (14)
* Create a knowledgeable user that is empowered (11)
* Increase capacity to educate residents and visitors about issues (2)
* Include science and technology education at community level (1)
* Educate community’s undaunted expectations
* Educate that we have a limited influence and ability
* Ecosystem management and education
* Instill respect for the environment

Research Models & Resources: Buffalo Creek Biking – dispersed camping, Boulder CO Parks & Open Space, Other state agencies – CDOT, Ecotourism models domestic and abroad, Youth education models, Mountain Manners & Leave No Trace

1. Healthy Wildlife (23 points)
* Balance recreation development and wildlife needs (14)
* Identify and protect critical wildlife habitat (7)
* Improve/protect critical wildlife habitat (2)
* Protect wildlife diversity

Research Models & Resources: (See below – combined with Outdoor Recreation group)

1. Funding (21 points)
* Restore USFS/BLM funding (11)
* Fund these projects (6)
* Get the money (4)
* Fund forest thinning and restoration

Research Models & Resources: Water utilities, Roundtables – CO Water Cons. Board, AHRA – Vol. Flow Program, San Juan Forest Health Collaborative, Rio Grande Water Fund, California – private bonds. Other Ideas: Tax on Front Range water bills, sales tax, water conservancy contributions, combine managing agencies, nonconventional funding.

1. Management (20 points)
* Effectively influence public and private agencies to collaborate on issues (15)
* Create a new model for public support of public land management (5)
* Create collaborative management plans
* Manage growth and tourism

Research Models & Resources: Public Lands Partnership Coordinator (CMC, BLM, USFS), AHRA Arkansas Headwaters Recreational Area, Salida Mountain Trails, Friends of Fourmile, Citizens Task Force, REI & Patagonia have fundraising programs, OHV registration funding, Salida Mnt Trails Opt-in fund @ local eateries, Chamber of Commerce, Lodging Tax & GOCO

1. Outdoor Recreation (18 points)
* Create a model of balance of recreation and conservation that can be duplicated (10)
* Bring in the outdoor recreation industry to help our stewardship efforts (4)
* Reduce the impacts of recreation on the environment and competing demands (4)
* Manage increasing recreational uses to protect the environment

Research Models & Resources: AHRA – CPW & BLM property management agreement (USFS), Ark. River Vol. Management plan, County open space program and county-wide management plans, Models from other fast growing and/or high recreation communities, Lake County Open Space Initiative, AHRA Citizens Task Force, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (and other similar areas dealing with wildlife pop), Trail system that have user fee or membership (Cortez), Other permitting systems (Deschutes R.). Other Sectors: nonprofits and models that we use to pay for services, Traffic control (roads/bridges), US Military – impacts to lands (restoration and fire), Also look at places where the model failed to learn lessons about – what not to do, National Park and State Park Systems – “Pay to Play” and Conservation easements (especially ones with public access).

**Exploration and Insight Development for TOP Challenges by Ranking**

1. Mitigate the risks and impacts of catastrophic wildfire
2. Maintain or enhance the integrity of our forest ecosystems
3. Define and ensure future water resources (quality & quantity)
4. Educate/engage the public about natural resource challenges so they are part of the solution
5. Create a knowledgeable user that is empowered
6. Balance recreation development and wildlife needs
7. Identify and protect critical wildlife habitat
8. Restore USFS/BLM funding
9. Effectively influence public and private agencies to collaborate on issues
10. Create a model of balance of recreation and conservation that can be duplicated