

Huerfano County Rural Living 101 Workshop well attended

By Charles Bryant
Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager

On Saturday March 10th, Huerfano County held the first annual Rural Living 101 Workshop. Nearly 40 residents of Huerfano, Las Animas, and Pueblo counties attended the event. Huerfano County recognized that due to the recent influx of new citizens to the area, many may be unfamiliar with the basics of rural living. In a cooperative effort to aid new and veteran area citizens alike in understanding the unique issues rural property owners face, fifteen presenters from local, state and federal agencies provided in-depth presentations covering a number of topics.



Topics included: ***Law Enforcement in Rural Areas***, presented by Huerfano County Sheriff Bruce Newman, Colorado State Patrol Master Sergeant Shawn Olmstead and Huerfano\Las Animas District Attorney Henry Solano, ***“The Code of the West”***, presented by Huerfano County Commissioner Max Vezzani, ***“Identification and Management of Riparian area Pheratophytes”***, presented by Tony Arnhold of the local NRCS office, ***“Drought and Drought Preparedness”***, presented by Huerfano County CSU Extension Agent Carl Beeman, ***“Care of Forests on Your Property”***, presented by

Derek Sokoloski and Mark Loveall of the USFS, ***“Fire Mitigation”***, presented by Paul Branson, Huerfano County Fire Mitigation Manager, ***“Emergency Preparedness”***, presented by Larry Sanders, Huerfano County Office of Emergency Management, ***“Noxious Weed Control”***, presented by Charles Bryant, Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager, ***“USDA Nuisance Wildlife Control Services”***, presented by Shane Koyle of the USDA, ***“Winter Road Maintenance”***, presented by Huerfano County Administrator, John Galusha, and ***“Availability of IT Services in Huerfano County”***, presented by Jeff Byland and Anthony Luginbill of the Huerfano County IT Department.

The above listed topics provided a quality opportunity for area residents to engage in open dialogue with these government officials\entities and helped to provide the answers to many of the questions and concerns that attendees had. By combining these diverse set of topics, it helped to galvanize the cooperative relationships formed amongst the participating government officials and bring into focus the interconnected roles that each of us play in our rural communities. Plans are underway to make the ***“Rural Living 101”*** workshop an annual event, and we will strive to improve the attendee experience in upcoming years. Special thanks to the UAWMCA for providing the valuable insight, resources, and knowledge that made this program possible. The ***“Noxious Weeds of Colorado”*** booklets provided by Nicholas Bankston, Fremont County Noxious Weed Manager, were a huge hit and were all gone within 5 minutes. Thanks Nick!