

Residents Moving Mitigation Forward in Southwest Colorado

FireWise of Southwest Colorado



National Wildfire Mitigation Award Winners

2017

Rebecca Samulski Asst. Director FireWise of SW CO

Jim Tencza Timberdale Ranch La Plata County

2016

Peggy Beach Loma Linda Archuleta County

Les Kole
Deer Valley Estates
La Plata County

East Canyon Ambassadors Montezuma County

2015

Pam Wilson
Director
FireWise of SW CO

Judy Winzell Falls Creek Ranch La Plata County

Three of 12 awards came to Neighborhood Ambassadors in SW Colorado in 2016



Planning Efforts

FW Communities, Community Assessments and CWPPs, Social Science Research

Firewise Communities USA Recognition



ARCHULETA COUNTY:
Timber Ridge Ranch – Aug.

MONTEZUMA COUNTY:
Wingspread – Dec.
Cedar Mesa Ranches – Dec.

Southwest Colorado now supports 15 Firewise Communities

Community Assessments

Durango Ridge Ranch
Foxfire Ranch
Shenandoah Highlands
Shenandoah Estates
Wingspread (MZ)
Alpine Lakes Ranch (AC)





Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Almost in Draft:

Lake Purgatory

Greater Lemon Area, including Aspen Trails



Living with Wildfire

Archuleta County

700 Assessments / Surveys

La Plata County

850 Assessments / Surveys

Montezuma County

450 Assessments / Surveys

No Surprise

- Residents rated their fire risk lower than assessors
- Homeowners expect fire service to save their home
- Most don't understand insurance

Living with Wildire

Archuleta County

700 Assessments / Surveys

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Surprises

- People support the use of managed fire
- The number of people that said they had done some mitigation
- Lots of people not opted into Rev. 911
- Most comfortable with 50% cost share
- Lack of awareness of tax subtraction for mitigation

Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative

Monthly meetings w/good participation

Good progress on Wildfire Risk Assessment for Dolores Watershed

HRVA modeling

Two Field Trips

Secured a \$250K CAFA grant for work around Joe Moore Reservoir





Slash Removal Programs

Chipping and Burning

Chipper Rebate Program

76 rebates -- \$16,320

Chipping Expenses: \$49,698

Mitigation Expenses: \$47,161

327 Acres Treated

2635 Volunteer Hrs Value = \$68,405



Archuleta Slash Depots

Still running three depots 1) Archuleta Landfill

- 2) Pagosa Lakes POA
- 3) Arboles

2016

- 15,500 cu. yds. of material
- 6,600 vol. hrs.
- 500 ac. treated





Burning Slash



Cedar Mesa Ranches and Vallecito







Community Mitigation

Montezuma County

Wingspread



It started with a community assessment by Becca, followed by some individual property assessments...

Admiring the fire tool cache that's available for all residents to access





Wingspread





Then came the mitigation work:

- Mowing adjacent to roadways
- Cutting brush and hauling slash
- Chipping slash

Firewise Communities Recognition

– Dec. 2016 --

Cedar Mesa Ranches

First Community Slash Weekend

 Collected slash for three weekends, then brought in air curtain burner

• 240 volunteer hours

Firewise Communities Recognition -- Dec. 2016 --



Cedar Mesa Ranches

Tamarisk Removal Project

- Surveyed all 139 properties from road, 10 miles of road
- Treated 30 properties
- Over six weeks, methodically cut all tamarisk and simultaneously sprayed the stumps with a Garlon/diesel mix
- Over two weeks, burned slash piles



11 volunteers -- 140 hours



Community Mitigation

La Plata County

'Tween Lakes

Since 2013, 'Tween Lakes residents have been work steadily on road ROW mitigation.







The HOA purchased a pole saw so volunteers can trim lower branches of the ponderosa

'Tween Lakes

2016 - A Very Good Year:

- 3.6 acres treated
- 23 volunteers
- 425 hours

Community potluck to thank volunteers

Timberline View Estates

Couldn't see the houses through the trees!

Treated about four acres on three parcels of common space, directly impacting 21 homes

Held two community chipping events





Sailing Hawks





Created a 100-foot wide fuel break on the SE side of the subdivision

- Cleared shrubs around two community water tanks
- Continued with d-space work

Timberdale Ranch

Treated approximately 107 acres using three different grants





Timberdale Ranch



La Plata BOCC, DFPC, CSFS, and Sen. Bennett's office Hosted a VIP tour in September



Falls Creek Ranch

Bought Equipments and Organized their Slash Disposal Site



Purchased an air curtain burner as well as additional equipment this year – flatbed trailer, etc. to help with slash hauling Hired day laborers to help maintain slash site and burn accumulated piles of slash from 2015



Drop-off site for compostable bags of pine needles (for eventual burning)

Falls Creek Ranch

Established a "firewood" pile and started building a shed to house their air curtain burner



Rockwood Community

Shaded fuel Break Along CR 200



15.7 acres treated on both sides of county road

100-foot deep multi species shaded fuel break on south side

Used two contractors and Southwest Conservation Corps

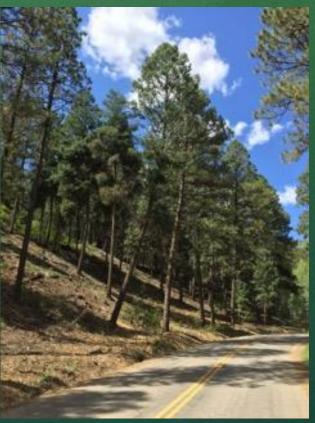
Supported by:

- 2 businesses
- 3 HOAs
- 3 private individuals

Rockwood Estates







Rockwood Estates





Rockwood Estates





Project resulted in:

- 22 cords of primo firewood to Daybreak Rotary Club
- Six 10-ton dump truck loads of wood
- Rotary estimates an additional 10-15 homes will receive wood this year

CSFS WUI Grant

Vallecito

7 projects

18.4 ac.

\$34,770

Archuleta County

27 projects 69.7 ac. \$71,435





Working Better Together

Hosted two workshops for regional partners – May and November

- May: Insurance, Timber Supply Study, Biomass Updates
- Nov: Celebrated the Year of Good Fire in SW CO



Ponderosa Pine Connection

