



La Plata County
Colorado

ACCOUNTABILITY · INTEGRITY · RESPECT

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For more information, please contact Alison Layman at (970) 749-2703

October 13, 2022

State funding facilitates La Plata County fire mitigation efforts

Visiting crews will begin extensive wildfire mitigation efforts on 83 miles of roads throughout La Plata County next week. Initial efforts in October will begin with mitigation along County Road 117 as well as the Vista de Oro subdivision on the Fort Lewis Mesa. Media is invited to observe work at Vista de Oro, currently scheduled for Oct. 17, 18, 21, 24, 25 and 27. A map of the targeted area is available online:

https://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments/emergency_management/decreasing_wildfire_risk.php

The work will be funded through the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Plan (COSWAP), which was created to administer funds via the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The Colorado Legislature passed SB21-258 to provide wildfire mitigation funding to protect life, property and infrastructure.

The first grant project that La Plata County will implement utilizes State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT). A Department of Corrections (DOC) SWIFT crew will spend 10 weeks in La Plata County improving the safety of evacuation routes throughout the county and clearing wildfire fuel within the County right-of-way. COSWAP pays the crew directly for their wildfire mitigation work via a grant focused on workforce development.

The crew will work in the Vista de Oro subdivision to clear oak and pinyon juniper growing next to subdivision roads. The amount of fuels is high and provides a direct path for wildfire to impact vital egress routes. Approximately one mile of C.R. 117 also will be treated during this October project.

In 2023, SWIFT will return to La Plata County to complete wildfire mitigation along county-owned rights of way. A notice will be sent to all landowners adjacent to county roads where wildfire mitigation will occur informing them of the scheduled dates of treatment:

County Road	Location/District	Miles to be treated
117 (October 2022)	Fort Lewis Mesa	1
142	Rafter J/Durango Fire	2.5
Vista De Oro Subdivision (October 2022)	Fort Lewis Mesa	Extensive work within subdivision

124	Fort Lewis Mesa	3.7
105	Fort Lewis Mesa	6.25
245	Upper Pine River	4.74
213	Durango	2.42
500 & 501	Upper Pine River	3
521	Los Pinos	5
523	Los Pinos	2
310	Los Pinos & SUIT	10
318	Los Pinos & SUIT	1.5
321 & 322 & 323	Los Pinos	4

For more information, directions and to make arrangements for subdivision access please contact Alison Layman, Wildfire and Watershed Protection Fund Coordinator, 970-749-2703 alison.layman@co.laplata.co.us