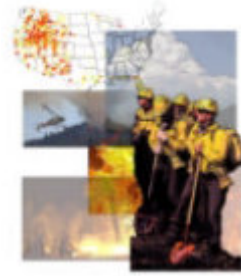


# National Fire Plan Education/Prevention Colorado



“What Are You Waiting For?” was the theme for Wildfire Prevention and Education Month in southwest Colorado. Local, state, federal, and non-profit partners joined together to showcase how the National Fire Plan is being put into action. Participants toured demonstration sites showing mitigation treatments completed by a hydromower, hand thinning, and draft horses. Mesa Verde National Park shared the success of their recent fuels reduction work, which saved many of their employees’ homes and historic structures in 2002. A tour to private property that went undamaged during the Valley Fire showed that defensible space does work.



The Durango Fire & Rescue Authority hosted a Firewise Workshop; scholarships from the San Juan Public Lands Center helped volunteer fire department personnel, emergency service personnel, and local residents who could not otherwise have attended.

Screenings of the “After the Fire” video were held in Pagosa Springs, Bayfield, Durango, Ignacio, and Cortez. The video was developed to alert residents to the dangers still facing them in the aftermath of the Missionary Ridge and Valley fires. The video promotes the benefits of defensible space. State Rep. Mark Larson and State Sen. Jim Isgar hosted a Town Hall meeting in Pagosa Springs to show the video and talk about reducing wildfire hazards.

After the Missionary Ridge Fire, the Durango Fire & Rescue Authority developed a PowerPoint presentation on the fire’s history, and they took their show on the road. The San Juan Public Lands Center (FS/BLM ) and the San Juan Mountains Association staffed fire prevention booths at an Ag Expo in Cortez and a Home Show in Pagosa Springs. Mitigation specialists were busy responding to requests from homeowners for wildfire mitigation assessments.

Informational meetings were held in Montezuma County to explain a mapping process that the County and Office of Community Services developed to identify areas of high wildfire risk. Many activities were funded by the San Juan Public Lands Center and a grant that the San Juan Mountains Association received from the National Forest Foundation. Other partners include the Colorado State Forest Service, Durango Fire & Rescue Authority, local fire departments, Office of Community Services, and KSUT public radio, the media sponsor. In addition to announcing event information, KSUT hosted a weeklong series of interviews with mitigation contractors, fire department personnel, and others about the benefits of wildfire hazard mitigation. For more information: Allen Farnsworth, Mitigation Specialist (970)385-1207