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NEWS

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Local Students Graduate from Master Volunteer Forest Stewards Course

PUEBLO, Colo. – Fourteen students recently graduated from the second-ever Colorado Master Volunteer Forest Stewards course. The 36-hour training was sponsored by the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University Extension and Pueblo County and held at the Extension office in Pueblo.

The six-week course is designed to acquaint participants with key concepts of individual tree care and general principles of natural resource management. After the initial course training, graduates can now volunteer 36 hours in tree assistance to the CSFS, CSU Extension, and local tree boards or other agency partners such as the City of Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and local conservation districts.

“The participants are very enthusiastic and have been a real pleasure to work with these past several weeks,” said John Grieve, district forester for the CSFS Cañon City District. “We all look forward to the participants’ continued learning about trees and forests in our area, as well as the future volunteer possibilities.”

The graduates, all from Pueblo or Pueblo West except Kim Barickman (Rye, Colo.), include: Bobby Akins, Jose Baca, Carl Beeman, Michael Bryant, Anne Casey, Jean Eskra, Lynne Gnaizda-Ranes, Jerry Hoisington, Diane Patterson, Marion Schaeffer, Glenn Walen, Jim Wickers and Edward Wright.

Along with developing trained volunteers in southern Colorado, the program also seeks to develop increased awareness, knowledge and appreciation of trees on the plains and in communities in the area. Anyone interested in becoming a trained Master Volunteer Forest Steward is encouraged to contact Jamie Dahl, CSFS, at 970-988-3667.

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