



NEWS RELEASE

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Grand County Firefighter Receives Colorado State Forest Service Award

GRANBY, Colo. – May 5, 2016 – Schelly Olson, Grand Fire Protection District Assistant Chief, Administration/Public Education, was presented this week with a 2015 Colorado State Forest Service External Partner Special Recognition Award. The award is presented to individuals who make significant contributions to the agency’s efforts and mission.

Olson has actively promoted wildfire mitigation and preparedness and promoted the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Firewise Communities USA and active forest management to reduce vegetative fuel hazards in Grand County. She has a strong background in fire management, having been a full-time member of the Grand Fire Protection District since 2011, and prior to joining the district, she was a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Grand Lake and worked at Grand County EMS and Granby Medical Center. She also is a CPR and First Aid instructor.

“In Grand County, if you need any information whatsoever regarding wildfire in the urban interface, Schelly Olson is a go-to resource,” said Ron Cousineau, district forester for the CSFS Granby District.

As chairperson of the Grand County Wildfire Council, Olson spearheads numerous projects that help to reduce Grand County residents’ susceptibility to wildfire, such as securing grant funds for wildfire mitigation efforts on private lands and spreading public awareness about defensible space through workshops, newspaper articles and public meetings.

Cousineau says that last year Olson proved to be an invaluable partner by helping to secure access to a project area that will help to address the threat of wildfire to the Town of Grand Lake and the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, promoting healthy forest regeneration and reducing the threat of hazardous trees for public safety.

“She tactfully negotiated access on the HOA-maintained road, which was a sensitive subject to the local residents, and ensured the project could continue to move forward,” he said.

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) provides technical forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.