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NEWS

Media Advisory
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Two Glenwood Springs Communities Recognized for Becoming “Firewise”

Note to editors: The Colorado State Forest Service, Glenwood Springs Fire Department and Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Grand Junction Office will recognize Glenwood Highlands and the Canyon Creek Homeowners Association as Firewise Communities/USA® at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, at the Glenwood Springs Fire Department, 806 Cooper Ave., Glenwood Springs. **Media personnel and the public are invited to attend this free event.**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – The Colorado State Forest Service, Glenwood Springs Fire Department and Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Grand Junction Office will recognize Glenwood Highlands and the Canyon Creek Homeowners Association as Firewise Communities/USA® on Nov. 3 in Glenwood Springs. These communities are the first in Garfield County to become nationally recognized Firewise Communities/USA®.

“The Firewise program has encouraged the homeowners here to assess their neighborhood for wildfire mitigation projects and find ways to reduce their overall risk,” said Kamie Long, assistant district forester for the Colorado State Forest Service Grand Junction District. “This program has also improved communication between the communities and the local fire department.”

To become a Firewise Community/USA®, communities must:

1. Obtain a wildfire risk assessment from the state forestry agency or fire department
2. Form a Firewise board
3. Create an action plan based on the wildfire risk assessment
4. Conduct a “Firewise Day” event
5. Invest a minimum of \$2 per capita in local Firewise actions for the year

Using the program’s five-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides residential risk-reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live.

“For the Glenwood Highlands and Canyon Creek subdivisions, becoming recognized as Firewise communities was a grassroots effort by the homeowners,” said Long. “For a while they were acting as

individual homeowners, improving and mitigating their own plots of land, but soon realized the overall benefit to working as a larger group, as a community.”

The public recognition will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3 at the Glenwood Springs Fire Department, 806 Cooper Ave., Glenwood Springs.

For more information about the event, contact Ron Biggers, deputy fire marshal for the Glenwood Springs Fire Department, at 970-384-6433. For more information about becoming a Firewise community, contact the CSFS Grand Junction District at 970-248-7325.

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