



NEWS RELEASE

Contact for Reporters:

Adam Moore

719.587.0915

adam.moore@colostate.edu

csfs.colostate.edu 

Baca Grande POA Receives Grant to Prepare for Wildfires

ALAMOSA, Colo. – June 7, 2020 – The Baca Grande Property Owners Association has received a \$245,000 2019 State Fire Assistance grant to reduce the wildfire risk within the community, with an emphasis on creating healthier, more fire resistant common lands. Baca Grande POA applied for the grant in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service.

The Colorado State Forest Service works with the U.S. Forest Service to administer the State Fire Assistance grant program as a tool to help communities with wildland fire mitigation. “The fact that Baca Grande POA’s proposal was successfully chosen among proposals from 17 other western states shows the very serious wildfire risks in this community and the efforts the community is willing to make to reduce their wildfire risk,” said Adam Moore, supervisory forester in the CSFS Alamosa Field Office.

Baca Grande POA will have until the end of 2022 to reduce the wildfire risk on 300 acres of land. Grant-funded projects will focus on creating fuelbreaks along common land with residents providing match by creating defensible space around homes. Baca Grande Emergency Services will spearhead the project and its crews and contractors will conduct the mitigation.

The general scope of the work is to remove ladder fuels, such as tall grass, shrubs and dead branches, and thin the number of trees to create separation between vegetation on the forest floor and the tree canopy, in order to reduce the chances of a high-severity wildfire. Remaining trees will be pruned to reduce the chances of a fire climbing into the top of a tree. Material will be either chipped, brought to the burn pit or made available to Baca Grande members for firewood.

The Baca Grande Firewise Committee is reminding residents that the majority of the land in the Baca is privately owned, so residents have an important role to play in reducing the risk of wildfire to their home and property while also decreasing the community’s overall risk. Residents can:

- Create defensible space around their homes, and report their hours or expenses to the Baca Grande Firewise Committee.
- Participate in educational events and community work days.
- Become active in the Baca Grande Firewise Committee. The committee can be reached at bacafirewise@gmail.com.

“This grant ties in nicely with our new Community Wildfire Protection Plan to help us reduce the community’s wildfire risk and improve readiness,” said Fire Captain Jim Vanderpool of Baca Grande Emergency Services. Residents may direct questions to info@bacapoa.org.

Other communities or municipalities in the San Luis Valley interested in reducing their wildfire risk should contact Moore at (719) 587-0915.

The Colorado State Forest Service (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. The CSFS provides professional forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. The CSFS Southwest Area serves southwestern Colorado from field offices in Salida, Alamosa, Durango, Gunnison and Montrose. For more information, visit csfs.colostate.edu.