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NEWS

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Still Time to Register for Annual Fire Ecology Workshop for Educators

GOLDEN, Colo. – Colorado educators have until May 6 to apply for admittance to one of two 2015 Fire Ecology Institutes for Educators, offered for the 14th year by the Colorado State Forest Service. All Colorado educators for grades three through 12 are invited to apply to attend one of the workshops, respectively scheduled for June 7-12 in Durango, Colo., and July 6-11 in Florissant, Colo.

At the weeklong workshops, Colorado teachers visit forests burned in recent wildfires, learn about wildland fire as it relates to forest health and receive materials about forest and fire ecology, fuels mitigation, and fire suppression. Instructors include natural resource professionals, researchers and master educators. Sponsoring agencies and organizations include the CSFS, the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey, The Nature Place, Rocky Mountain Tree Ring Research and U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Recently burned, local sites provide the setting for explorations and lessons from foresters, firefighters, biologists, ecologists and other scientists. Attendees take home a collection of resources including Project Learning Tree activity guides, fire science experiments, materials and information from multiple organizations and agencies.

“These workshops offer teachers the knowledge, experience and materials that align with STEM education standards, and 21st-century skills that provide students with interesting, hands-on lessons about Colorado forests and fire ecology,” said Shawna Crocker, Project Learning Tree coordinator for the CSFS.

The workshop fee is \$300, which includes lodging, meals, materials, instruction and field trips for the entire week. Continuing education credits are available.

For more information, contact Shawna Crocker at 303-278-8822 or visit www.coloradoplnt.org to register online.

The Colorado State Forest Service is the lead state agency for providing forest stewardship and management, fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners in Colorado. Every year, the CSFS helps treat 20,000 acres of forestland, and assists approximately 6,400 landowners and

hundreds of communities to help improve forest health. The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University.

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