

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**West Region Wildfire Council Announces Financial Assistance for Wildfire Mitigation**

**MONTROSE, Colo.** – The West Region Wildfire Council is offering financial assistance to accomplish wildfire mitigation projects on private property within Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties. This wildfire mitigation program provides up to a 75 percent cost-share for implementing defensible space around homes, completing landscape-scale fuels reduction projects, conducting neighborhood chipping events, or completing demonstration sites in communities to encourage further mitigation work. Applications will be accepted through December 31 or until available funds have been expended.

Representatives from the West Region Wildfire Council are available to meet with area residents to discuss specific wildfire risk reduction recommendations and help homeowners apply for cost-share funding. Since 2011, the West Region Wildfire Council has worked with homeowners and landowners to design and implement projects that have reduced wildfire risk to homes and communities throughout the region. This ongoing program has provided over \$300,000 in reimbursement funding to offset the costs of wildfire mitigation since its inception.

Residents who are interested in learning more about the program can visit [www.COwildfire.org/grants](http://www.COwildfire.org/grants) or contact the West Region Wildfire Council (970-615-7300) for more information.

The West Region Wildfire Council promotes wildfire preparedness, prevention and mitigation education throughout Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. Their mission is to mitigate loss due to wildfire in wildland urban interface communities while fostering interagency partnerships to help prepare counties, fire protection districts, communities and agencies plan for and mitigate potential threats from wildfire. Further information about grant opportunities, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and resources about wildfire mitigation are available on the WRWC website ([www.COwildfire.org](http://www.COwildfire.org)).

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For information on wildfires and restrictions in the area, call the Southwest District Fire Management Information line (970.240.1070), visit the MIFMU website ([http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2mtc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/)), or follow us on Twitter ([https://twitter.com/SWD\\_Fire](https://twitter.com/SWD_Fire)) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/BLMMontroseFireUnit>).

*The Southwest District Fire Management program covers the BLM Colorado's Southwest District and the Gunnison Field Office (BLM), the Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), and Tres Rios Field Office (BLM) in the Colorado counties of Archuleta, Conejos, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel.*

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