

Park Highlights Cooperative Fuels Management Projects Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Fire Plan – Hazard Fuels Reduction

In spring 2005, Rocky Mountain National Park co-hosted an orientation tour for legislative staff to learn about interagency fuels reduction projects occurring in the greater Estes Valley. Members of the northern Colorado senate and congressional delegation, Grand and Larimer County Commissioners, local officials, community residents and media joined agency representatives for a fuels management field tour.



Fire Management Officer Jesse Duhnkrack talks to the group about fuels reduction projects at Rocky Mountain National Park.

The day began with a visit to a proposed fuels reduction project on U.S. Forest Service land near the community of Pinewood Springs to view a forest prior to fuels treatment and understand the need for action. The tour continued with a stop at the site of the 2002 Big Elk Fire to learn about wildfire impacts. A working lunch followed, with presentations on Mountain Pine Beetle impacts in Grand County; community fuels mitigation and Firewise education projects in the Windcliff subdivision; and finished with a session on the importance of implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The afternoon field sessions focused primarily on collaborative fuels reduction efforts, including a slash pile burning demonstration by the YMCA of the Rockies staff. The tour concluded with a discussion about prescribed fire management and a site visit to view a completed thinning project along the national park boundary.

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) is an interagency program designed to reduce wildland fire risk through sustained fuel treatments along Colorado's Front Range. The FRFTP is comprised of federal and state land management agencies, local governments, conservation organizations and other interest groups.

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