

N ational Fire Plan

Education/Communication

Colorado

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[Check it out!](#) Learn about current efforts to prevent unwanted damage from wildfire on private and public lands in southwest Colorado by going to just one Web site - the Southwest Colorado Fire Information Clearinghouse.



The San Juan Public Lands Center (FS/BLM), Colorado State Forest Service, and the Office of Community Services (OCS) at Fort Lewis College sponsor the site, which became operational last fall. The site was initially designed to inform local residents and agencies of the many rehabilitation and recovery efforts going on in the aftermath of the Missionary Ridge and Valley Fires. The partners wanted to provide easy access to all the resource, social, and economic information that residents might need.

Over time, the Southwest Colorado Fire Information Clearinghouse website expanded to include information on current fires, defensible space, mitigation contractors, and more. The site also contains reports like the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Report, the Missionary Ridge Timber Salvage Environmental Impact Statement, and Community Fire Plans (CFPs).

Largely due to the great deal of cooperation among the partners, the site has proven to be the perfect repository for many of their products, like the Community Fire Plans and Community Wildfire Series. The CFPs were a collaborative effort between these partners, local fire departments, and counties; however, when these were completed in May of 2002, it was unclear whether the plans belonged on the county, CSFS, OCS, or FS/BLM website. The same was true for the Community Wildfire Series -- informative articles written by OCS staff -- on defensible space success stories and issues like the pinyon pine die-off. It soon became evident that the Clearinghouse website was the ideal host for these articles and reports.

A mailing list option, offering subscribers updates about current happenings, was added this spring, and has been set up so that any of the partners can send out updates.

Funding for the webmaster's time is provided by the federal agencies with OCS and CSFS offering in-kind services. The address is www.southwestcoloradofires.org.

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