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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 02-02-11
Time: 1115 hours

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TITLE: COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN GRANT

Fort Collins, CO – Poudre Fire Authority has received a sub-grant supporting the updating of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The current CWPP (<http://www.poudre-fire.org/about/pdf/pfaCWPP.pdf>) was written in 2006 and has reached the end of its planning cycle. The new CWPP will benefit from updated data to renew emergency response plans and public outreach initiatives.

A CWPP uses a variety of mapping and field analysis methods to assess the hazards and vulnerabilities in the wildland-urban interface. This allows the Poudre Fire Authority to prioritize wildfire mitigation and preparedness activities in coordination with community members and cooperating agencies. Such activities include pre-incident planning, homeowner education, and forest management recommendations.

Poudre Fire Authority's jurisdiction encompasses 235 square miles, much of which is to some degree vulnerable to fires in grass, brush, or forests. This includes 50 square miles (32,000 acres) in the foothills of the western portion of the jurisdiction.

The northern Front Range suffered the Four Mile Fire near Boulder, the Reservoir Road Fire near Loveland, and several smaller fires this past September and October, including the Big Horn Fire that threatened several homes in Poudre Fire Authority's jurisdiction. These incidents highlight the importance of wildfire mitigation preparedness at the individual and municipal levels. Though fortuitous, the timing of this project is coincidental. The Poudre Fire Authority originally applied for the Colorado State Forest Service sub-grant in October 2009, and was awarded the grant in August 2010. The project is scheduled for completion in September 2011.

The Colorado State Forest Service secured funding for this project from the U.S. Forest Service as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas is also a cooperating partner with this project for city owned land.

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