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Contact: Ashley Downing, Wildfire Adapted Partnership

Phone: (970) 385-8909

Email: adowning@wildfireadapted.org

FireWise of Southwest Colorado to Become Wildfire Adapted Partnership

As of October 1, 2018, FireWise of Southwest Colorado will be changing its name to Wildfire Adapted Partnership. The organization has been around since 2003, starting as a grassroots effort after the Missionary Ridge Fire. Since that time, FireWise has operated under a fiscal agent but received its own 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status this summer. Therefore, it is now its own standalone nonprofit under the new name Wildfire Adapted Partnership.

Wildfire Adapted Partnership inspires, motivates, educates and serves individuals, organizations and communities joining together to protect lives and property from wildfire. It has wildfire education and mitigation incentive programs in all 5 southwest Colorado counties: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan.

The Neighborhood Ambassador Program is the backbone of Wildfire Adapted Partnership. Volunteer ambassadors serve as catalysts within their communities encouraging their neighbors to become aware, proactive, and more prepared for wildfires. There are approximately 150 volunteers participating in the Ambassador Program representing 95 subdivisions/communities throughout southwest Colorado. On average Ambassadors and other members of their communities donate 20,000 volunteer hours annually completing outreach and wildfire risk reduction activities.

Additionally, Wildfire Adapted Partnership provides reimbursements to homeowners who complete wildfire mitigation activities through incentive programs such as the Chipper Rental Rebate and Defensible Space Site Visit and Cost Share programs. In the last year and a half, the organization has completed approximately 450 free site visits, providing homeowners with guidance on how to protect their properties from wildfire and has spent more than \$275,000 in rebates to homeowners and communities who completed fire mitigation activities.

To learn more about Wildfire Adapted Partnership and its programs, please visit its new website, at www.wildfireadapted.org or call its Durango office at 970-385-8909.

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