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NEWS

Media Advisory

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Colorado Teachers to Learn About Wildfire at Weeklong Workshop

Note to editors: The Colorado State Forest Service will host a weeklong forestry and wildfire workshop for educators **June 23-28** at the Nature Place in Florissant, Teller County, Colo. Media personnel are invited to join the participants on June 25 as they study the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire and its effects, or other field tours and demonstrations during the week. For more information, contact Shawna Crocker at 303-877-7585 or Ryan Lockwood at 970-491-8970.

FLORISSANT, Colo. – Next week, more than 20 Colorado educators will meet in Florissant, Colo., to attend the 12th annual Fire Ecology Institute for Educators, a weeklong forestry and wildfire workshop offered by the Colorado State Forest Service. The institute, which this year is co-sponsored by the Colorado Geographic Alliance, provides teachers the background and resources they need to educate students about wildfire and its effects.

“With the most destructive wildfire in Colorado’s history still burning in the Black Forest, and the largest wildfire in the state’s recorded history having burned in the foothills northwest of Colorado Springs, the southern Front Range provides the ideal setting for this year’s workshop,” said Shawna Crocker, Project Learning Tree coordinator, Colorado State Forest Service.

This year’s FEI runs from June 23-28 and offers 4th – 12th-grade educators hands-on learning in outdoor classrooms, including last year’s Waldo Canyon Fire and other recent fires in the area. Foresters, firefighters, biologists, ecologists and geographers will offer field demonstrations, experiments and activities to participating educators. Teachers will go home with a collection of materials and classroom resources, including Project Learning Tree activity guides, fire science experiments, fire ecology curricula, multimedia tools and other information from numerous organizations and agencies.

“This program isn’t about any particular fire. It’s a broader program that teaches teachers about wildfires, fire science, ecology and forest health,” Crocker said.

The workshop also includes a field trip to an area where post-fire flooding/erosion mitigation measures are in place. While there, teachers will see demonstrations on how to build fireline.

Participating teachers are required to create standards-based lesson plans and then report back later about how they used the materials with students.

Instructors include natural resource professionals from the CSFS, Colorado Springs Fire Department, USDA Forest Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Geographic Alliance.

Nearly all costs to attend the institute are covered by funds from a National Fire Plan Grant that is administered by the CSFS.

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