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NEWS

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Tree Removal Project Reduces Maysville's Wildfire Risk

SALIDA, Colo. – Yesterday, state, county and local organizations made the town of Maysville safer from wildfire by completing a long-term project to remove more than 100 cottonwood trees in a greenbelt in town. The project also removed hazard trees that posed a threat to local residents, as most of the trees were dead and susceptible to falling.

The Colorado State Forest Service organized the collaborative project, which occurred on Chaffee County property in Maysville and was paid for by CSFS-administered State Fire Assistance grant funding.

Colorado Firecamp crew members were utilized over the summer to fell smaller trees as part of necessary qualifications for a wildland fire chainsaw proficiency course. The Colorado Correctional Industries' Juniper Valley inmate crew out of Buena Vista then worked with the Chaffee County Road and Bridge Department to cut down larger dead trees and load logs into dump trucks bound for the county landfill. Maysville resident Mary Brown, who originally recognized the wildfire risk and brought it to the attention of the CSFS, was frequently on site to help identify property boundaries and provide local knowledge.

“This project will reduce potential wildfire fuels in the town of Maysville, which will make homes safer from a fire that starts within the community,” said Damon Lange, district forester for the CSFS Salida District. “We expect a healthy new forest to emerge quickly now that the unhealthy overstory has been removed.”

Chaffee and Lake County landowners interested in wildfire mitigation assistance and potential funding can contact the CSFS Salida District at 719-539-2579.

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