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Steamboat Area CWPP Open House Thursday, November 12

Steamboat Springs, Colorado – Work is underway to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Steamboat Springs Area. An Open House is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 5 pm. to 7 p.m. at the Steamboat Springs Community Center. CWPPs have been developed for North Routt, the Stagecoach Area, and the Sanctuary and Burgess Creek subdivisions. CWPPs address local interests and concerns regarding public safety, community sustainability, natural resources and how the community will reduce wildland fire. These plans include wildfire history, evacuation plans, fuel hazards and mitigation plans, maps and risk assessments. Much of the information provided in a CWPP is useful for all emergency response efforts.

General information about CWPPs and this planning process will be presented at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the open house. Representatives from local fire protection districts, agencies, home owner associations, and Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation will be available to answer questions and discuss plans for possible hazardous vegetation treatments. Members from the Sanctuary and Burgess Creek Home Owner Associations will be present to share their experience with this process.

This is a community developed plan and public participation is essential in order to set priorities and gather the most accurate and complete information. Everyone is invited to attend the open house and be prepared to: ask questions; offer comments; identify areas and infrastructure that could be at risk from wildfire; and point out needs such as adequate road signage, water supplies, etc.

CWPPs are part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. Colorado Senate Bill 09-001 sets forth that by July 2011 each county will have a CWPP established for the purpose of addressing the wildfire issues/wildfire areas. The CWPPs that are developed for individual areas will be encompassed in the Routt County CWPP.

The project is being led by City of Steamboat Springs, Routt County, and Colorado State Forest Service, with support from US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

For more information please call Colorado State Forest Service at 970-879-0475, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue at 970-879-7170, or Routt County Office of Emergency Management at 970-870-5549. Or visit steamboatfire.com/daily_dispatch or <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/ss-cwpp.html>.

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Note: All participating agencies and organizations are available to provide information about the upcoming open house and their participation in the planning process