



# RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter   P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512   Issue No. 82   April, 2017

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## A Letter from the President

For those of you who do not know me, I'm Dale Snyder and I have lived in Davis Ranch for 22 years. I am grateful to be a part of the RCVFD community.

With our coverage area of 110 square miles and the number of response calls rising to over 80 in 2016, the budget demands keep growing every year. 2017 is expected to be no different. In addition to the RCVFD Mountain Festival, an Annual Drive Committee has been established in order to help meet budget concerns.

Jon and Sue Stephens along with Gabrielle Borin have agreed to spearhead the Steering Committee to kick off our Annual Drive.

Amazingly, only about 40% of RCVFD residents in our coverage area contribute donations annually. The new goal of the Annual Drive Committee is 100% contribution by all residents served by RCVFD. In my many years of living, I know some years are much more stressful financially than others. I also know it is much easier for some to give a lot than it is for others to give a little. Please try to give what you can and what you consider your fair share. In the last Ristwatch, Chief Dollard addressed what we could all be facing in the event we are

forced to become a tax-based district. The average annual tax for each property is about \$1 for every \$1,000 of property value. Example: If you have an appraised property value of \$250,000, you would pay \$250 annually for your fair share of a tax-based district. Many property owners would pay more. This option is something no one in the RCVFD coverage area wants to consider. If we all contribute to the Annual Drive effort, this possibility is pushed down the road or eliminated entirely.

Another way to assist RCVFD at no cost to you is when you purchase an item on Amazon, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose RCVFD as your charitable organization. Every time you make a purchase on this website, a portion of your purchase price is donated to RCVFD at absolutely no cost to you. I want to be clear this is not a donation on your part, it is a donation from Amazon thanking you for your purchase. If you would like, you may also contribute online at [www.coloradogives.org/ristcanyonvolunteerfiredepartment/overview](http://www.coloradogives.org/ristcanyonvolunteerfiredepartment/overview) or by clicking the "Donate Now" button on the [www.rcvfd.org](http://www.rcvfd.org) website.

**WE ARE A 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION,  
SO DONATIONS ARE ENTIRELY  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## Letter from the President, cont'd.

With the onset of spring and so far the lack of moisture and high winds, we must all be mindful of the fire danger. We do not want a repeat of 2012!

donations show we are all in full support of the RCVFD volunteers.

Thank you all very much,

Rest assured, when we call, THEY will be there. Let our

*Dale Snyder  
President, RCVFD*



YOUR SAMPLE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE			
IF RCVFD BECOMES A TAX BASED FIRE DISTRICT			
<i>NOTE: Assessor's valuation is a fraction of the sale price. See your Property Tax Statement</i>			
Treasurer's Assessed Property Value**	Tax \$ @ 9.00 mil levy (Crystal Lakes)	Tax \$ @ 10.595 mil levy (Cloudy Pass)	Tax \$ @ 21.142 mil levy (Poudre Canyon)
\$ 10,000	\$ 90	\$ 105.95	\$ 214.20
\$ 15,000	\$ 135	\$ 158.93	\$ 321.30
\$ 20,000	\$ 180	\$ 211.90	\$ 428.40
\$ 25,000	\$ 225	\$ 264.88	\$ 535.50
\$ 30,000	\$ 270	\$ 317.85	\$ 642.60
\$ 35,000	\$ 315	\$ 370.83	\$ 749.70
\$ 40,000	\$ 360	\$ 423.80	\$ 856.80
\$ 45,000	\$ 405	\$ 476.78	\$ 963.90
\$ 50,000	\$ 450	\$ 529.75	\$ 1,071.00
\$ 55,000	\$ 495	\$ 582.73	\$ 1,178.10
\$ 60,000	\$ 540	\$ 635.70	\$ 1,285.20
\$ 65,000	\$ 585	\$ 688.68	\$ 1,392.30
\$ 70,000	\$ 630	\$ 741.65	\$ 1,499.40
\$ 75,000	\$ 675	\$ 794.63	\$ 1,606.50
\$ 80,000	\$ 720	\$ 847.60	\$ 1,713.60
\$ 85,000	\$ 765	\$ 900.58	\$ 1,820.70
\$ 90,000	\$ 810	\$ 953.55	\$ 1,927.80
\$ 100,000	\$ 900	\$ 1,059.50	\$ 2,142.00

### RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule: Meetings at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Rd.

Operations – 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
 Fire Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
 Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
 Medical Training – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM



## Chief's Report

Five years—sometimes it feels like an eternity and sometimes it feels like yesterday. June 9, 2012 will always be etched in the hearts of those of us who experienced that fateful day—the first day of the High Park fire. A dry, windy morning, not unlike other days, but one that would prove to us that forest fires really can get that big, that fast. As the fire dragged on for nearly three weeks, we all gained a new understanding of the frustration, exhaustion and heartbreak that comes along with a catastrophic natural disaster. As we approach the anniversary, some have a desire to celebrate the resiliency of our community. On the other hand, we want to be respectful of our friends and neighbors who are still working their way back from their losses. And frankly, I have heard from several community members who just want to move on. As chief, a longtime firefighter and a community member, I can have all of those sentiments on any given day.

So let's take what we learned in 2012 to heart. This dry spring is reminding us that fires can happen at any time (as I write this we have had half a dozen Red Flag days in the past few weeks). We must all do our best to establish defensible space around our homes. One of the lessons of 2012 was that this is no guarantee to protect your home, but it can increase your odds. Also, have an

evacuation list and post it somewhere obvious. When the evacuation order comes is not the time to think about what you should take with you. Finally, be extra careful with ignition sources when the fire danger is elevated. We all have slash piles we want to get rid of, but unless we have lots of snow and low winds, nobody should be burning. Also, be extra careful with your backyard fire pits and barbecue grills.

Finally, there is one thing that can really help us help you more effectively—make sure we can find your house by posting your address clearly. We had a medical call recently where the response was delayed because we had trouble locating the residence. A well-placed reflective sign—offered by RCVFD—can help us improve our response. We do have GPS units and map books, but GPS units are not always accurate on our back roads and it takes valuable time to search the map books for an address. Our crazy dirt roads can be a maze (especially in the dark) for people who are not familiar with them. Please help us get to you quickly when you need us.

*Carol Dollard  
Chief, RCVFD*

**This month is also the sixth anniversary of the Crystal Mountain Fire, which burned 3,200 acres and destroyed 15 of our neighbors' homes from April 3rd through 6th, 2011.**



**If you have an  
emergency, always**

**CALL  
9-1-1**



Will RCVFD find you when they need to? Consider purchasing a reflective sign. Just \$15! All we need is your address. Order today! Call Louise Creager at 970.217.6843.

# **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**

New to the area?

When can I burn slash?

Who do I call when I'm hurt?

Will RCVFD come to My house?

How do I build a Fire Wise house?

How do I garden at elevations above 6,400 feet?

What's that bird doing in my yard?



**Learn about these questions and so much more!**

**~ At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open House and  
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day ~**

**Saturday May 6, 2017**

**at your Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Station 1  
11835 Rist Canyon Road ~ From 10 am - 2 pm**

Who else will be there?

Your volunteer Fire Fighters and Emergency Responders!

**PLUS!**

Colorado State Forest Service will be on hand to answer questions about how our forests are regenerating and what you can do to improve your property.

Building a Fire Wise House! Expert Gardener on hand to answer your questions about gardening above 6,400 feet.

Audubon will share the best places to find birds.

**Kids of all ages are welcome!**

We'll have handouts and snacks—and a special guest might let you have your picture taken with him! It's fun for the whole family.

Questions? Call your RCVFD Area Rep, or Louise Creager, 970.217.6843





Jeremy Lawson  
Owner

970.672.6559  
jeremy@lawsonshandyman services.com  
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## Special Requests

I started this column for special, mostly one-time tasks that help keep the RCVFD strong. Not everyone can carry a pager, but many can do a special thing that can free up others for responses. This request is an ongoing task, but not a very frequent one.

As we head into summer, the wild grasses start to get tall around our fire stations. We need to keep our stations looking good and help keep down fire danger around our structures by keeping the grass cut. Historically, there have been responders that

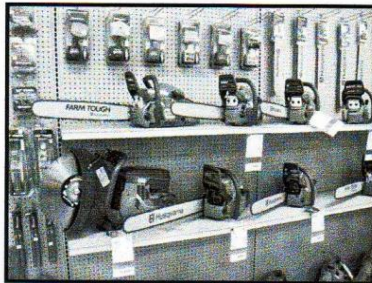
stepped up to do these tasks; however, summer is a busy time for responders (we get the bulk of our calls in the warm months). So in this special request, I am looking for someone to maintain the grounds around one or more of our stations. Typically it involves mowing around the station about once a month. Drop me a note at [chief@rcvfd.org](mailto:chief@rcvfd.org) if you would like to help with this task. Thanks and have a safe summer.

*Carol Dollard*

### Poudre Valley



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## Actual Car Insurance Claim Quotes

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.

I pulled in to the side of the road because there was smoke coming from under the hood. I realized there was a fire in the engine, so I took my dog and smothered it with a blanket.

I saw a slow moving, sad faced old gentleman as he bounced off the roof of my car.

I knew the dog was possessive about the car but I would not have asked her to drive it if I had thought there was any risk.



I Marvin Rist created this Capstone project in 2012 to remember my Rist Family History & Jacob Flowers. I am focusing my future in Solar Power and hope to rebuild Rist Canyon by mapping the area with heat sensing technology. I believe that shielding the areas with solar technology, can put our sun to use and detect highly sensitive areas which are fire igniting. Using a mixture of silicone at the base of many trees can act as a barrier against spreading fire, while storing water to help keep the ground more cool during hot temperatures. Gridding the land into color zones and using microcontrollers with heat sensors can help firefighters to respond to areas more effectively before fires even start. Using the George Rist ditch theory is a good idea as long as the water is routed to the areas where heat sensing is mostly active, while storing water in reservoirs. Solar power and wind turbine are good for tree shielding and wind shifting that reduce the areas hot temperatures and directing high winds to areas that need to cool faster. Using good inverters would then help homeowners save money on their electric. Email: [MarvinRistWatch@yahoo.com](mailto:MarvinRistWatch@yahoo.com)

Marvin Rist is a descendent of the Rist brothers who logged in the canyon and ran a sawmill. He is selling his 2012 Rist Canyon capstone video for \$5 to help RCVFD raise money. (See ad above) If you are interested in buying this video, please contact Marvin at: [marvinristwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:marvinristwatch@yahoo.com)

Many thanks to Gene Martin, Stove Prairie, John Benshoof, Stringtown, Buckhorn and Jon Stephens, Stove Prairie for the restored Annual Drive barometer sign on the Buckhorn! Looks great, guys!







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## 2017 Mountain Festival News

**Save the date! Sunday, September 3, 2017**

**In 1996, we hosted our first Richard Schmid Fine Art Auction.** It was held in a hay field. The art was hung in an old, surplus, army tent. We raised more money for our volunteer fire department that year than in any of the previous twenty years of our existence, and the RCVFD mountain festival was born!

**After the High Park Fire** devastated our community in 2012, the mountain festival became a way for our local residents to participate with the broader Colorado community in rebuilding our department, renewing our connections, and rejuvenating our spirits.

**Every year since 1996,** we have combined a fine art auction with the mountain festival. This year, however, we are taking a break from fine art, and are focusing more attention on our mountain festival. We hope to bring people from all over Colorado and even Wyoming to help us celebrate our mountain heritage, have fun voting on their favorite lifted trucks, and drop a few dollars into our donation fire boots. The book sale will be bigger than ever, and there will be opportunities to buy local crafts and bid on gift baskets. With plenty of activities to keep the kids engaged, and onstage music for all, the mountain festival is a great way to spend your Labor Day Sunday, and give something back to one of Colorado's original mountain communities. Whatever your reason for coming to the festival, everyone comes to have a great time!

### **Activities include:**

- Larimer County Sheriff K-9 demonstration
- Thousands of books in their very own tent; used books for every interest organized by category and author
- Old-Fashioned Bake Sale with goodies and treats to satisfy any craving
- Local arts & crafts, jewelry, clothing, and gifts
- FREE lifted truck show, and all our fire trucks on display; vote for your favorite
- Firehouse Gift Basket Drawing, with a wide variety of amazing deals
- Clown, face painting, balloons, climbing wall, jump-tent and obstacle course, and other activities for kids of all ages
- Educational booths from a variety of organizations including RCVFD, Larimer County Search and Rescue, CSU Forestry, Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, Overland Mountain Bike Club, and many others
- Great food vendors and FREE ice cream and Noosa yogurt
- FREE parking and FREE admission as always
- Live bands and entertainment on the main stage
- Visits from Smoky Bear





## 2017 Mountain Festival News, cont'd.



The festival coordinators and chairs are hard at work already, planning for another great fundraising festival for the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. Contact the festival coordinators or one of our festival activity chairs to join in the fun!

### **Festival Coordinators**

**[festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org](mailto:festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org)**

Jenn Nolte

Vicky Jordan

Karen Steadman

Bridget Tisthammer

### **Festival Chairs**

Advertising:

Leisa Taylor

[taylorle@msn.com](mailto:taylorle@msn.com)

Bake Sale:

Lisa Diederich

[diederich@toast.net](mailto:diederich@toast.net)

Book Sale:

Carolyn Stanley

[cloud9sewing@gmail.com](mailto:cloud9sewing@gmail.com)

Craft Booths:

Position Open!

Firefighter's Tent:

RCVFD

[chief@rcvfd.org](mailto:chief@rcvfd.org)

Food Trucks:

Bridget Tisthammer

[bridget@frii.com](mailto:bridget@frii.com)

Gift Baskets:

Karen Steadman

[houseofelk@yahoo.com](mailto:houseofelk@yahoo.com)

Ice Cream Tent:

Shane Downing

[shane@tracydowning.org](mailto:shane@tracydowning.org)

Off-stage Entertainment:

Vicky Jordan

[vjordan678@gmail.com](mailto:vjordan678@gmail.com)

Onstage Entertainment:

Jennifer Nolte

[jennifer.nolte@uchealth.org](mailto:jennifer.nolte@uchealth.org)

Plant Sale:

Ann Nichols

[chopin18@aol.com](mailto:chopin18@aol.com)

Truck Show:

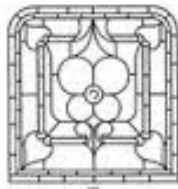
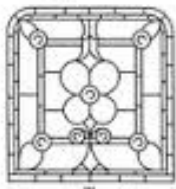
Chris Steadman

[houseofelk@yahoo.com](mailto:houseofelk@yahoo.com)



### **Are You Crafty?**

We are looking for a new Craft Booth Chairman. Please contact [festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org](mailto:festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org) if you would like to find out more!



## **CALLING ALL GARDENERS!**

We will be having our popular PLANT BOOTH at the RCVFD Festival again this year, so please start rooting and planting your cuttings so they will be well established in time for the Festival. You can donate both indoor and outdoor plants. If you would also like to help at the Plant Booth during the Festival you can volunteer for a 1 or 2-hour shift between 9 am and 5 pm. (9 am for set-up, 10 to 4 pm for helping with sales, and 4 pm for tear-down.) Call Ann Nichols at 416-8494.



## Your Local Real Estate News

### Buckhorn ~ Stove Prairie ~ Rist Canyon



#### Top of the Hill

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LouiseCreager@gmail.com

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#### Nature Lovers Paradise

- ★ Over 27 Acres – 2 Lots
- ★ Lovely Views
- ★ Barn/Shop and Garage
- ★ Privacy and Seclusion
- ★ 30 Minutes to Town



#### Along the Poudre Getaway

- ★ .2 Acres – 360 square feet
- ★ Cute Cabin – 1 Open Bdrm/1 Bath
- ★ Room to Add On
- ★ Privacy and Seclusion
- ★ Fenced area

## Classified Ads and Community Submissions

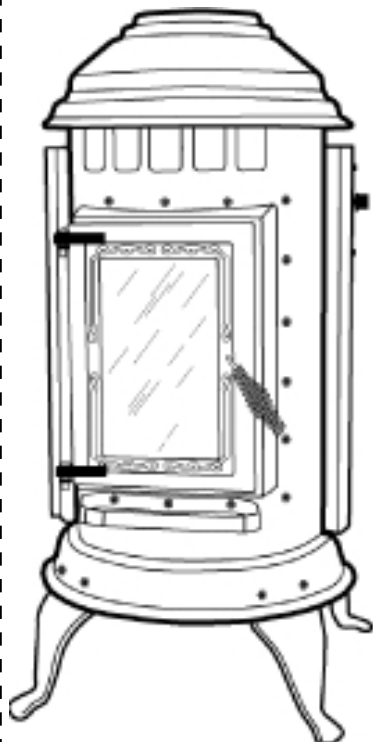
### Something to sell or rent? Place an ad in the Ristwatch!

If you're like me, you've had trouble selling stuff because people don't drive to Rist Canyon to look at small or single items. Why not advertise to your neighbors?

Just \$1 per line for a 2 inch ad! No businesses, please. For business ads, please see the ad under "Here's My Card".

### Have some interesting news or photos?

If you have fire department or community news or photos that you'd like to share, we'd love to publish them! Send submissions to [ristwatch@rcvfd.org](mailto:ristwatch@rcvfd.org). Images need to be black and white in .pdf format. Thanks!



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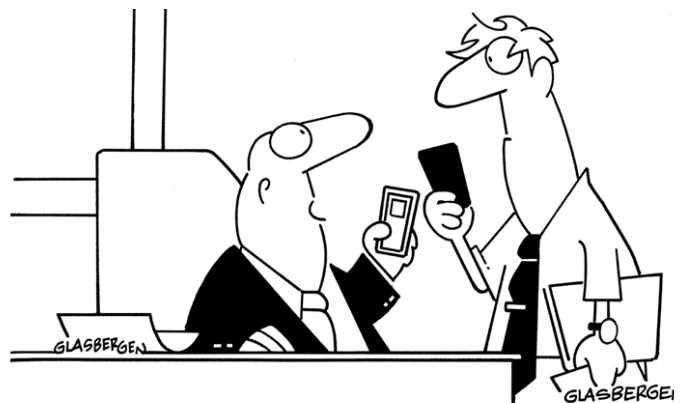
## 2017 Annual Fundraising Drive

An Annual Drive Steering Committee has been appointed to work with the Area Representatives to increase the percentage of residents donating to the RCVFD. The committee held their first meeting on Sunday, April 9th.

Please help us maintain our donation based Fire Department. The alternative is to become a property tax-funded Fire Protection District. This would become necessary if our Annual Drive donations fail to cover our operating budget. We can do this by all of us supporting the RCVFD.

If you have any questions, please contact your Area Representative. See the back page of this Ristwatch for contact information. Thanks!

*Jon Stephens  
Annual Drive Steering  
Committee Chair*



"Which weather app are you using? Mine is forecasting a plague of locusts and scattered showers of fire and brimstone."



## Here's My Card . . .

### CANYON SPIRIT GALLERY

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Web: <http://www.canyonspiritgallery.com>  
Hours: Thurs & Fri - Noon to 5pm  
Sat - 10am to 5pm



"Connecting with Community...  
Connecting with God"

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Sky Corral Lodge 482-3237  
8233 Old Flowers Road Bellvue



### Irrigation & Landscaping

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[Highaltitudeinc@gmail.com](mailto:Highaltitudeinc@gmail.com)

Fire clean-up  
& restoration

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## "Advertise in the Ristwatch"

(Reaches over 1000 homes!)

### Ad size - Rates

Full Page - \$75

Half Page - \$50

Quarter Page - \$35

Business Card - \$15

The Ristwatch reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any article or ad at any time. We base this decision on our responsibility to our readers. We will not knowingly print any article or ad that is misleading or untruthful. Articles submitted to the Ristwatch are a representation of the author and not necessarily an endorsement by the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.



# Wildlife Post Fire

There have been many questions since the High Park Fire about how the wildlife is doing. Many who live in the area have seen that, with the regrowth of the new vegetation, the wildlife have been doing just fine. From a wildlife standpoint, fire is good and has had many benefits for the wildlife in the area.

## **GETTING RID OF THE OLD AND BRINGING IN THE NEW**

One of the benefits of fire is that it burns the old vegetation that has less importance for more of the wildlife. If we look at areas where there were large stands of Lodgepole Pines, we saw that there was little to no growth on the forest floor. Because of this, there were a smaller number of animals that could use these areas. After the fire, the canopies were now gone, nutrients were released into the soil and now a wide variety of plants were able to come back. This greater diversity will be able to support a more diverse wildlife population.

In several of the areas, there was also a lot of dead blow-down that made getting through the forest much more difficult. After the fire, these areas opened up and now allow for better movement.

Some of the areas burned so hot that the soil was burned as well. It took three years, but these areas finally saw life return and are doing well. Even in these areas where there was nothing, we still saw wildlife.

## **WILDLIFE RESPONSE TO FIRE**

Luckily, wildlife has evolved with fire and is actually pretty smart when it comes to staying out of its way. Some fires do move quickly and wildlife can be trapped, but wildlife is usually good about getting out of the way. In moderate to low burn areas, the wildlife

will actually move to the area that has just burned. Firefighters out there know this is the safer place to be, because the area has burned and won't burn again. To my knowledge, the wildlife have not taken any Wildland Firefighting classes and so they do not do this because of training. Instead, they are going to where the food is. In the moderate to low burn areas, grasses will immediately begin to emerge. These new grasses are full of nutrients and the animals love them. During all of the fires we have had, I have seen deer, elk and other animals in these freshly burned areas eating away.

The animals that were in these areas started to show unique characteristics as well. I saw deer and elk with black faces from having their noses in the ash. After awhile, I started to see deer and elk that almost looked black in color because they spent so much time in the burn. Their hair was getting covered with the black from the trees and ground. One thing I did notice, as did others, were elk whose antlers became very dark to almost black from rubbing them on the burned trees.

Wherever the deer go, so go the mountain lions. During the fire the mountain lions were able to move quickly enough to get out of harm's way. Once things pass, they go where the deer are, which is into the black. With the increase in forage and habitat, the deer have been doing great. Because of this the mountain lions are fat and happy as well.

Then there are the bears. Luckily, we had just started a bear study in the area



when the fires broke out and so we were able to observe some movements of bears in response to the fires. Like the other wildlife, they were not dumb and left the area and went to areas a little less warm. One bear that was being studied enjoyed living in the Poudre Canyon. During the fire, it decided to take a vacation and head down to the Sylvan Dale area. It stayed there until it was time to go into its den for the winter and then found its way back to its old den site in the Narrows. The next year it came out and continued to move around in the Poudre Canyon once again.

Post fire, the bears have had many benefits as well. Though bears are omnivorous (they eat meat, grubs, veggies and the occasional picnic basket), their diet is made up of less meat and more of the other stuff. With the new and young plants growing, there have been more choices for them to choose from. With the decomposing trees, grubs are also plentiful, much to the delight of the bears.

*Cont'd. on next page*



# Wildlife Post Fire, cont'd.

## BENEFITS TO THE WILDLIFE

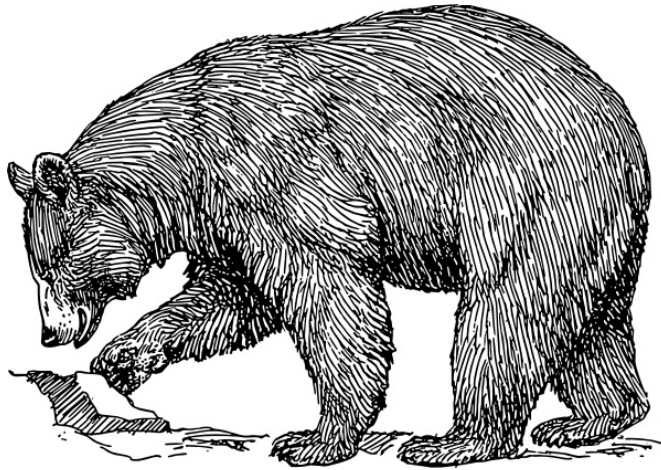
While it may not seem like it, there are many benefits of the fires to the wildlife. Opening up old dense forests and providing more variety of plants, mosaic patterning of the habitat and successional habitats all benefit a more diverse wildlife population. When the forest is the same age and type, it does not offer as much diverse habitat or as high a quality of habitat. Removing portions allows for better diversity in the woods.

## NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Unfortunately, there were some negative impacts on some of the wildlife too. Some wildlife were not able to escape the flames. Many small or burrowing animals tend not to be able to run as fast or hide in their burrows when a fire comes through and it can be detrimental. There were some larger animals that did not make it either, getting stuck in difficult places and not able to get out.

Some bears found that since nobody was around during the evacuations, the getting was good and decided to help themselves to the unoccupied homes. This created some additional messes that homeowners had to deal with when they returned. The following year we saw an uptick in bear calls in some of these areas, but with the help of the homeowners, calls went back down the next year.

There were also the rains that came later and turned the crystal clear rivers into what looked like mudslides. This created siltation in the rivers which can be harmful to the fish, the bugs and the vegetation. While there was concern for



the fish and their ability to live in these harsh conditions, we did not see any major fish kill. There were also concerns about the bugs, but they seemed to make it through as well. Luckily for the rivers, the next year brought more than enough water to clean out the debris and restore the rivers back to what we have all come to enjoy.

## **SPRING MEANS BEARS**

With the warm temperatures finally making their way to Colorado, and hopefully sticking around for longer than a couple of days, it means that spring is upon us. Spring means flowers blooming, grass greening and bears coming out of their dens after a long winter's nap. When the bears come out, they are very hungry, but you can't blame them, they haven't eaten for six or seven months. I think any of us would be hungry!

When the bears go into hibernation their digestive systems shut down. In spring when they come out, they need to get their systems working again, so they turn to eating grass. They will do this for awhile before they start looking for other sources of food.

Once they start looking for food, they can get into trouble depending on the year. If it is a cool spring and food is

limited, the bears will turn to the other food source, human food.

After enjoying the nice winter of not having to bring in trash right away or put up the bird feeders when not around, it is again time to become bear aware. Doing a few easy things will help to reduce the number of negative encounters that occur between bears and homeowners. Some of these are:

- Don't leave trash out and only bring it out the morning of trash pick up
- Bring in bird feeders at night and when not at home
- Don't feed pets outside
- Put livestock/chicken feed inside secure buildings

While these might take a little extra time, it will save a mess down the road and maybe even a bear's life.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call me at 970-692-1733 or email me at [chad.morgan@state.co.us](mailto:chad.morgan@state.co.us).

*Chad Morgan*

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# Notes from Stove Prairie School

From Debra Randol

## Happy Spring!

### Attendance Area

The Stove Prairie attendance area extends from Davis Ranch Road to the west, from the south at mile marker 19 in Buckhorn Canyon and north to Poudre Canyon. To register, visit the Poudre School District web site at: [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and choose School Registration.

### Preschool Screening on Friday, April 28

On Friday, April 28, from 1:30 to 3:00, parents may bring pre-school-aged children to Stove Prairie to attend the annual Preschool Open House. Come and enjoy some refreshments while you consider what Preschool at Stove Prairie can do for your child. No appointment necessary, you can meet the teacher and make new friends. Call Manda Theilig, Preschool Site Director, at 488-6585 with any questions.

Children ages 3-5 may attend preschool here at Stove Prairie, BASE Camp. We hope to see you here! 😊

### Registration for 2017-2018 K-5 Students

People are encouraged to register *new* students for next year at your earliest convenience. Once school lets out for the summer, the next opportunity to register is in August. The PSD web site has enrollment forms, just choose Student Registration.

### Year-Round Fundraising in Partnership with Businesses

Thank you to the community members who help the school. We find these opportunities helpful:

- Shop at King Soopers ~ for \$5, the PTO sells gift cards with \$5 on it. Every time you load it up with funds, a nice percentage comes to the

PTO. Then, pay for gas and groceries with your loaded gift card ~ an awesome opportunity for the school.

- Box Tops for Education are found on hundreds of your favorite products including Betty Crocker, Nestle, Ziploc, Avery, Hefty, Kleenex, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, Hanes, Nature Valley, and MANY more! Every Box Top you turn in to Stove Prairie is worth ten cents for our school and that adds up fast! Just send those to the school.

*Thank you!*

*Debi Randol*

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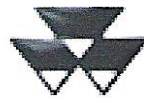
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# Ancient Bristlecone Unscathed as Beetles Ravage Forests

SALT LAKE CITY — The bristlecone pine is not only the world's longest-lived organism, but it is also virtually immune to the pine beetle attacks that are decimating conifer forests around the West, according to new research from Utah State University and the U.S. Forest Service.

In a study released in November, researchers concluded that the properties that help individual trees survive for up to 5,000 years on wind-hammered alpine ridges may also serve these pines well in repelling the beetle outbreak that scientists attribute to a warming climate, reported The Salt Lake Tribune.

“Bristlecone grows in these extreme harsh environments. The ability to grow here and live a long time is enhanced by having high resin and dense wood. That happens to help against beetles,” said Barbara Bentz, an entomologist with the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station in Logan. In prior studies, Bentz has documented that a pattern of increasingly mild winters has allowed pine beetles to survive from year to year in lower elevations and complete their reproductive cycle in a single year.

Bentz and colleague Karen Mock of USU's Department of Wildland Resources were intrigued by growing tree mortality, apparent in aerial surveys in high elevation areas in the Great Basin mountain ranges between Utah and California. When explored on the ground, these stands told an interesting story: Limber pines were suffering from the phloem-eating beetle, but bristlecone growing in their midst were largely unscathed.

Their inquiry builds on a study published last year by USU graduate student Curtis Gray and colleagues who observed beetles' behavior after exposing them to volatile compounds released by various pine species. They were capturing volatiles off unmolested bristlecone

pine high in Nevada's Cave and Spring Mountains when they noticed nearby stands of limber pine had been ravaged by beetles.

So Gray gathered volatiles off both species to conduct his lab experiments. His team encased the trees' foliage in a bag and pulled air through for 30 minutes, concentrating their volatile compounds into 3-inch glass straws. They analyzed the chemical profiles of these compounds, then set up an experiment in which beetles were offered a choice from among limber volatiles, bristlecone volatiles and plain air.

“They would sit there with their little antennae and move them back and forth and decide which way to go. They always went to limber pine. If the choice was between plain air and bristlecone, they would more often go to plain air,” Gray said. “They were attracted to certain compounds in the limber that were absent from the bristlecone. We strongly believe it is not one chemical. It is the combination and ratio of them.”

Bentz's team set out to quantify beetles' impact on the various tree species found in the Great Basin's isolated alpine islands, then figure out what bristlecone has going for it.



*Cont'd. on next page*



## Ancient Bristlecone, cont'd.

Researchers surveyed stands in various Great Basin ranges in the summer of 2014, from Utah's Cedar Mountains in the east, Nevada's Ruby Mountains in the north and the White Mountains to the west in California. They selected areas where limber pine and Great Basin bristlecone overlap and aerial surveys indicated severe tree mortality. With Gray's help, they identified sites that were also accessible by foot. These trees grow in steep rocky terrain between 8,500 and 11,500 feet in elevation, so they are difficult to reach, especially when you are lugging 50 pounds of equipment, Gray said.

Like other high-alpine pine species, limber and bristlecone have short needles that cluster in groups of five and can live for centuries clinging to exposed rocky outcrops. Whereas the oldest bristlecones are 4,000 to 5,000 years in age, limbers top out at around 1,000 to 2,000 years. The oldest known limber pine is at least 1,700 years old, inhabiting Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Bristlecone comes in three species whose ranges do not overlap: Great Basin; foxtail pine, found in the Sierra Nevada; and Rocky Mountain, found in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.

Inside fixed-radius plots, Forest Service researchers Sharon Hood, Matthew Hansen and James Vandgriff examined every tree exceeding 5 inches in diameter, as well as every beetle-attacked tree in larger zones. Not one of the Great Basin bristlecones had been killed by beetles. In fact, hardly any had even been penetrated.

"We found maybe three or four out of several thousands where they tried to attack and there was no reproductive success," Bentz said. Meanwhile, the

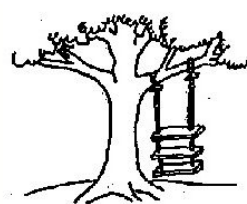
nearby limber pines showed mortality rates of 7.2 percent in the Schell Creek Range to 34.4 percent in the Rubies. The team took core samples to analyze the wood itself for differences that could explain why beetles left bristlecone alone.

"Bristlecone had eight times the quantity of chemical defense compounds than limber in the same stands," Bentz said. And the quality of the trees' resins may also be a factor since the two species harbor compounds that were not present in the other's resin. The research also found bristlecone had more resin ducts and denser sapwood and heartwood.

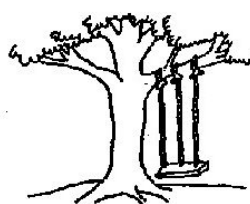
Bentz and Mock suspect there is a complicated evolutionary relationship between beetles whose life cycles hardly last a year and trees that persist across millennia. One advantage bristlecones may hold is their ability to produce cones and seeds up until the end of their long lives, enabling it to project a genetic signal of resistance for a very long period.

*Reprinted with permission from  
the Tree Farmer Alert,  
January 25, 2017 edition*

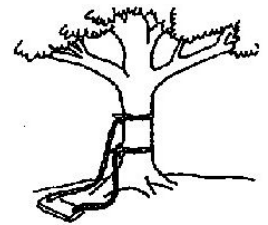
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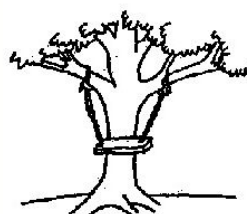
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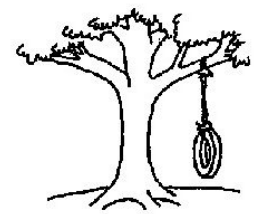
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