

## Rocky Mountain National Park Distributes Fire Funding Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Fire Plan – Community Assistance

In 2005, Rocky Mountain National Park distributed \$32,000 in federal funding to assist local communities with a variety of wildland fire protection projects and educational programs. As part of the National Fire Plan, the Community Fire Assistance program is designed to enhance wildland fire protection of communities surrounding the park.

An Interagency Fire Education Coordinator position has been funded through the Colorado State Forest Service to work throughout the Estes Valley this summer to distribute fire information, conduct Firewise education programs, perform community outreach activities and coordinate property evaluations for local residents. The communities of Allenspark and Grand Lake are utilizing the funding to begin developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The plans identify how a community will reduce its risk from wildland fire and are developed by local citizens and fire protection district volunteers with assistance and support from county, state and federal agencies. The plans address wildfire response capability, evacuation requirements and protection of homes and other structures. They identify and prioritize necessary fuel reduction projects and enhance the opportunity for the community to compete for potential funding and agency assistance to implement community established projects.

Another National Fire Plan grant program, Rural Fire Assistance, provided funding to enhance fire protection capabilities of local volunteer fire departments. Allenspark, Estes Park, Glen Haven and Grand Lake received a combined total of \$30,000 to purchase wildland fire equipment and conduct training for volunteer firefighters.



*Funding from Rocky Mountain National Park assisted with training, equipment, and education.*

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