

Fire Adapted Colorado

Starting and Growing a State-wide Network



History

Why and How We Got Started



The Catalysts



**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK

- + 2014 – FAC Annual Workshop
- + Opportunity to become the “glue” that would bind Wildfire Councils in Colorado together – provide mentoring through sharing and learning
- + Colorado Wildland Fire Conference looking for a 501c3 to operate under

FACO is born!

- + 2015: Four interested groups met in August
- + Picked a name, drafted Bylaws, and picked agency liaisons
- + Started monthly conference calls
- + Oct. 2015: CO Wildfire Conference – rolled out FACO and solicited potential BOD members

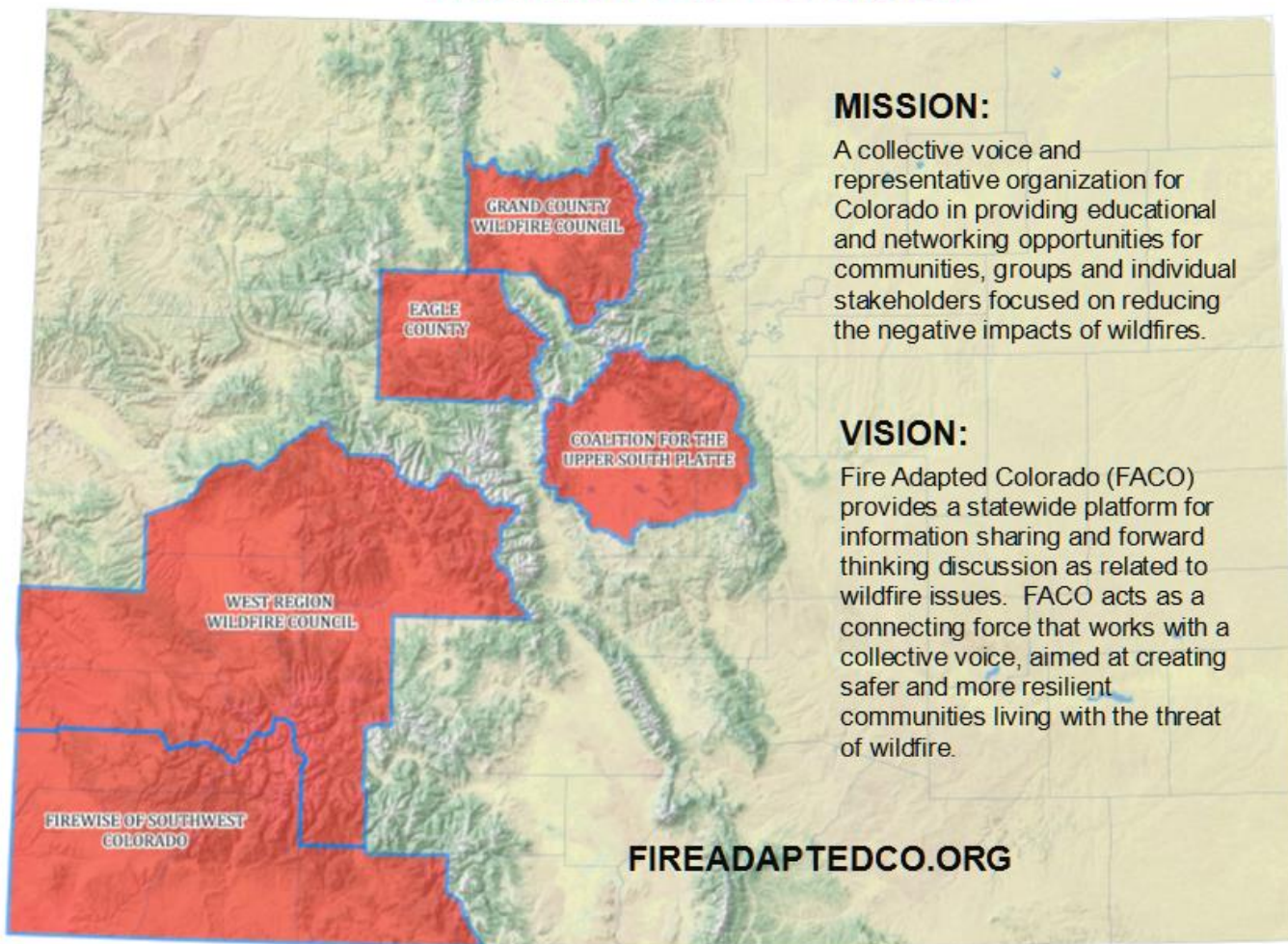
FACO is Born!

- + Jan. 2016: 7-member BOD and 5 Agency Liaisons in place
- + Feb. 2016 – Held first in-person BOD meeting
- + July 2016 – Developed a Work Plan and received funding from The Watershed Center





FIRE ADAPTED COLORADO



MISSION:

A collective voice and representative organization for Colorado in providing educational and networking opportunities for communities, groups and individual stakeholders focused on reducing the negative impacts of wildfires.

VISION:

Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO) provides a statewide platform for information sharing and forward thinking discussion as related to wildfire issues. FACO acts as a connecting force that works with a collective voice, aimed at creating safer and more resilient communities living with the threat of wildfire.

FIREADAPTEDCO.ORG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pam Wilson (Firewise of Southwest Colorado), *Chair*
- Jonathan Bruno (Coalition for the Upper South Platte), *Vice-Chair*
- Lilia Falk (West Region Wildfire Council), *Treasurer*
- ~~Schelly Olson~~ (Grand County Wildfire Council), *Secretary*
- Eric ~~Lovgren~~ (Eagle County)



LIAISONS

- Carmen Thomason (Bureau of Land Management)
- Sheryl Page (US Forest Service)
- Kirk Will (Division of Fire prevention and Control)
- Courtney Peterson (Colorado State Forest Service)
- Michelle Medley-Daniel (The Watershed Center)





FACO and the FAC Learning Network

The FAC LN supports several state-wide networks

State-wide networks talk once a month to share and learn from each other

Financial support from the FAC LN will allow FACO to offer several learning exchanges or peer assists annually

Moving Ahead

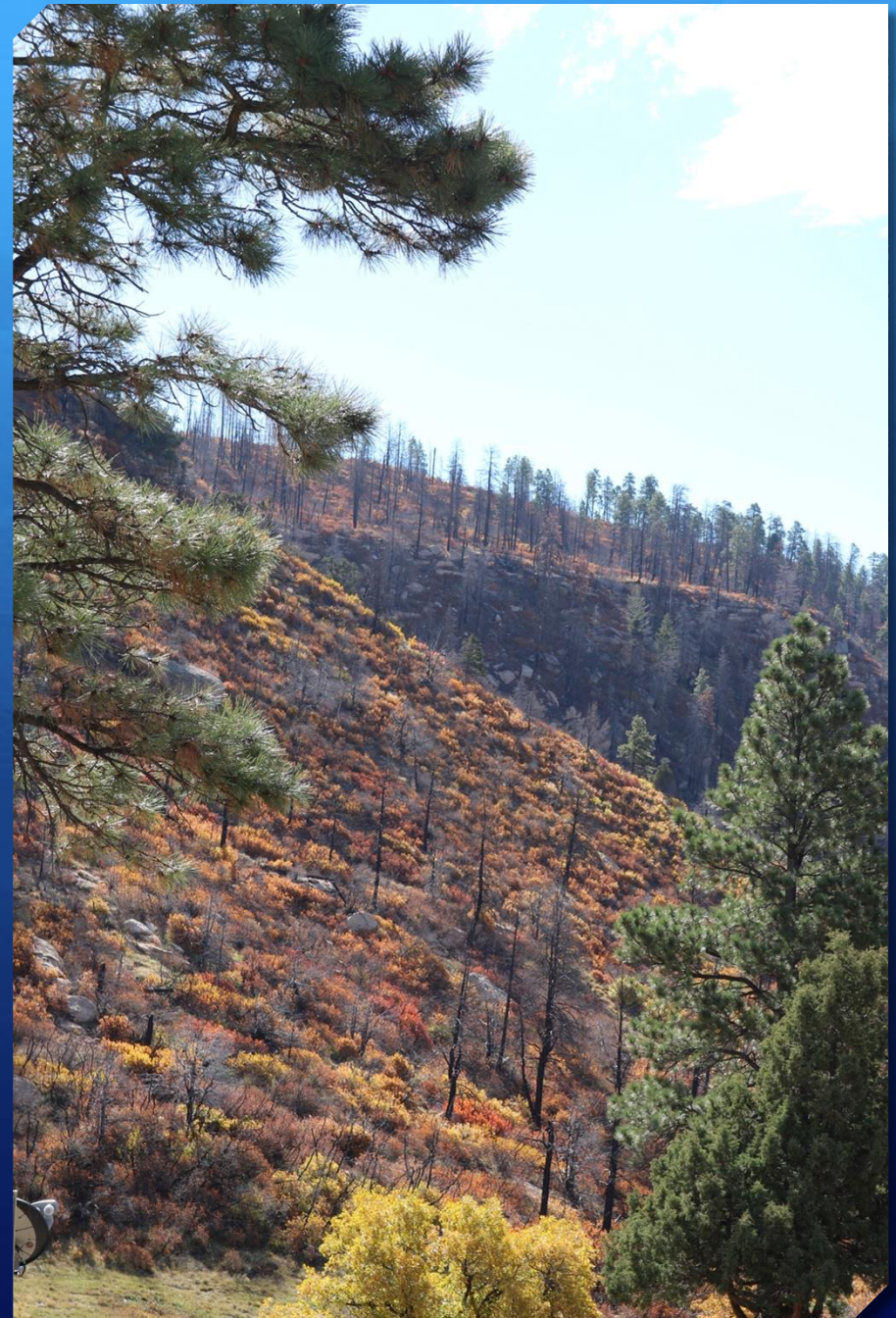
Goals and Projects





Objectives

- ❖ Colorado Wildland Fire Conference
- ❖ Information Sharing
- ❖ Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities and Mentoring
- ❖ State-wide Directory of Wildfire-Centric Organizations



Colorado Wildland Fire Conference

- + Held every 18 months
- + Fiscal agent / accounting
- + Set up SOPs
- + FACO offers additional bodies to increase capacity and build depth
- + Assist with theme and location selection
- + FACO BOD available to assist with decision making if necessary



FACO Sponsorship:

- 15 Scholarships
- Evening Social
- One luncheon

A Collective Voice

- + Provided input into wording of bill to re-authorize the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant (\$1M annually)
- + Letter of Support to Governor and elected officials regarding renewal of the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant
- + Working with the Governor's office to proclaim May Wildfire Awareness Month (Western States Proclamation)



Peer to Peer Learning Opportunities

Learning Exchanges

What is a Learning Exchange?

A learning exchange is an in-person mutual exchange of information among two or more parties that are interested in learning from each other's successes and failures.



Reciprocal * Active * Adaptive * Participatory

“Rules” for Learning Exchanges

- + Co-design the objectives
- + Be an active participant and learner.
- + Disconnect from phone and email.
- + Invest in relationship-building with other participants.
- + Share your knowledge and experience and ask critical questions.

Remember, in an exchange, the learning is the joint responsibility of all participants, not just the host!



Learning about Watersheds

- *Priorities for work*
- *Working with agency partners*
- *Working with post-fire grant funders like FEMA*
- *Engaging homeowners in efforts*



Learning about Watersheds



Learning about Neighborhood Ambassadors





Neighborhood Ambassador Meeting

Opportunity for two-way exchange between FAC practitioners and home owners.

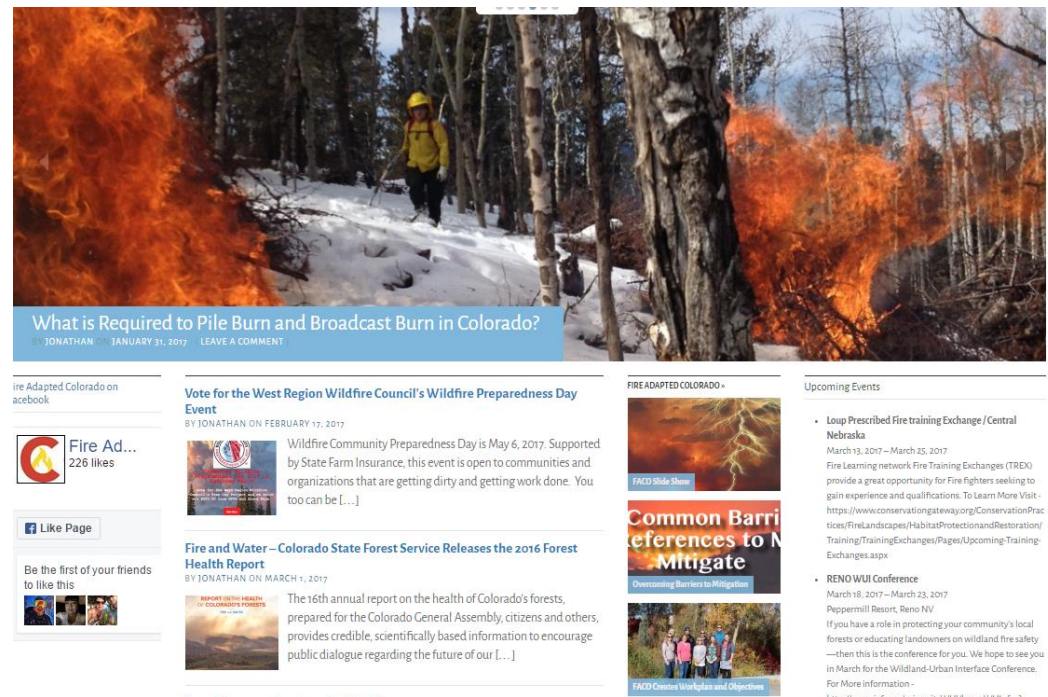
Info Sharing

*West Region Wildfire Council
and FireWise of Southwest
Colorado met to discuss
cost-share and other
incentive programs for
homeowners*



Other Learning Opportunities

- + Facebook page
- + www.fireadaptedco.org has weekly blog post
- + Podio: an online forum and workspace for sharing information and asking questions
- + State-wide Directory of Wildfire Centric Organizations





Moving Forward

What's Next?

Moving Forward



- *Search for additional BOD members*
- *Setting up MOU to become fiscal agent for a CO-based wildfire research team*
- *2017 Learning exchange*



Becoming a Member of FACO

Board Member

Core Member

Affiliate Member



Questions
Anyone?

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