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National Fire Protection Association and State Farm Fund Four Arkansas Community Preparedness Day Projects

Little Rock, Arkansas –The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and State Farm awarded 150 winners funding for Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects, including four in Arkansas. Hot Springs Village (Garland County), West Fork (Washington County), Gravette (Benton County) and Bald Knob (White County) will receive \$500 grants to support activities that reduce potential loss of life, property and natural resources to wildfire.

Winning participants worked collaboratively with local fire departments, foresters, school districts and others to come up with projects and describe how this funding would help them reduce their risk of loss from wildfire. Projects range from work with youth, assistance to fire departments, fuel reduction, education and outreach, post–fire recovery and more. Find a full list of award winners, here: http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/national-wildfire-community-preparedness-day/2017-contest-winners?order_src=C365

“We are proud to see Hot Springs Village, West Fork, Bradford, and Gravette continuing their work in community wildfire safety. Community Preparedness Day Project grants are a great offering from our partners at the NFPA and State Farm, and we appreciate their continued support in developing fire adapted communities across the U.S.,” said Travis Haile, Arkansas Firewise Program Coordinator.

West Fork, Gravette, Bald Knob, and Hot Springs Village are communities also involved with the Arkansas Firewise Program – a wildfire preparedness grant initiative that works with the NFPA National Firewise Program to create local solutions for wildfire safety. Arkansas Firewise involves homeowners, community leaders, firefighters, and others in creating fire-adapted communities - places where people and property are safer from the risk of brush, grass, and forest fires. Arkansas currently leads the nation in recognized Firewise communities, with 166 communities active in the program in 2016.

Communities interested in the Arkansas Firewise program should contact Travis Haile at 501-580-9607 or travia.haile@arkansas.gov. The Arkansas Firewise Program is a part of the NFPA National Firewise Communities Program, and is administered through the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC). The mission of the AFC is to protect Arkansas’s forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans.

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.