

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## El Pomar's Wildland Fire Fund Deploys Additional \$72,500 in Grants in Response to Colorado Wildfires

**Colorado Springs, Colo. – Nov. 13, 2020** — El Pomar Foundation has announced that its Wildland Fire Fund has granted a combined \$72,500 to support nine fire departments and fire protection districts in Northern Colorado and the Pikes Peak region.

The agencies receiving grants include the Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Department in Glen Haven, Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department in Bellvue, the Big Elk Meadows Volunteer Fire Department in Lyons, Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District in Laporte, Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District in Red Feather Lakes, Glacier View Meadows Volunteer Fire Department in Livermore, and the Southwestern Highway 115 Fire Protection District in Colorado Springs. Grant funding will support critical apparatus replacements, repairs and wildland firefighting equipment and supplies in the wake of recent major fires such as the Cameron Peak, East Troublesome and Wild Horse Fires.

“The wildfires in Northern Colorado have been devastating,” said Kathay Rennels, former Larimer County Commissioner and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Rural-Urban Initiatives at the Colorado State University System. “Emergency and fire professionals have done such an outstanding job to slow and contain the fires, and there are not enough words to express the gratitude they deserve. With the water supplies for so many people being affected, the scorched ground needing years of mitigation and restoration, and the wildlife and their habitats so hugely impacted, the damage left behind will be experienced for years to come with other outcomes still unknown. These grants from El Pomar are meeting needs that otherwise would go unnoticed. Their intentional funding around local need has been one of the strongest partnerships across the state in recent years.”

These funds are being deployed in addition to grants allocated from El Pomar's Wildland Fire Fund in late October to support Red Cross chapters around the state in their efforts to aid those displaced by fires, as well as a grant in September to the National Forest Foundation to aid re-forestation efforts on the Western Slope.

“We know that this year's devastating wildfires continue to impact communities all across Colorado, in particular as the danger encroaches further on the wildland-urban interface,” said President and CEO Kyle Hybl. “Our hope is that these grant dollars will aid critical preparations now to repair, restore and restock apparatus, equipment and supplies that will help with future readiness.”

Started in 2002, El Pomar Foundation's Wildland Fire Fund assists with the immediate emergency needs of volunteer fire fighting agencies and first responders throughout the state of Colorado. Since the Fund's inception, it has addressed the needs of volunteer firefighters and first responders across the state, including during the Black Forest, South Fork and Lake George fires, and more recently supported the National Forest Foundation with reforestation efforts following the Grizzly Creek Fire, and Colorado's American Red Cross chapters with fire victim displacement efforts. More information about the Wildland Fire Fund can be found at <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/el-pomars-funds/>.

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937. To learn more about El Pomar Foundation please visit [www.elpomar.org](http://www.elpomar.org).*

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