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## **El Pomar and Anschutz Foundation commit \$500,000 to wildfire mitigation**

**Colorado Springs, Colo. – April 26, 2018** – Fire mitigation is one clear way to develop fire resilient communities, and on Tuesday Trustees of El Pomar Foundation announced a \$250,000 grant for fire mitigation efforts in El Paso County. Anschutz Foundation likewise recognizes the critical importance of consistent mitigation efforts and has pledged an additional \$250,000 toward fire mitigation in El Paso County.

Discussions with The Colorado Springs Fire Department, The City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County and the El Paso County Sheriff's office revealed the significant efforts all departments have made across El Paso County in the past decade as they've partnered with local contractors, chipping services, neighborhood organizations and homeowners to complete mitigation projects and raise awareness for the importance of the work.

"It's been proven, the more we do together the more effective we can be," said Chief Ted Collas, Colorado Springs Fire Department, "but we have more work to do." The drought which followed the Tussock Moth infestation has created a large number of dead trees and biomass on the ground. Chief Collas continued, "with these grants we have the opportunity to tie many efforts together to create substantive fuel breaks. We are very excited, and we want to make sure our citizens are aware of how El Pomar and the Anschutz Foundation are working with us to keep the community safe."

Through its Wildland Fire Fund El Pomar has granted more than \$5 million to support more than 70 volunteer fire departments and other first responders across the state. Together with support for organizations responding to the immediate needs of citizens during and following fires such as Hayman, Black Forest, Waldo Canyon, Lake George, Beulah, 117 and others, El Pomar Trustees have a long history of bolstering Colorado's communities during crisis.

"El Pomar Trustees are committed to investing in the future, and this mitigation effort aims to prevent future catastrophic fires and the devastating consequences that may occur," said El Pomar Chairman and CEO William J. Hybl. He continued, "partnerships are necessary to tackle complex issues, and by enhancing public/private partnerships, working with other foundations and many public agencies in El Paso County we intend to do our best to ensure this community is less vulnerable."

While efforts may begin as early as June experts within the Colorado Springs Fire Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Department will work together to prioritize areas of concern and identify the assets and equipment needed.

*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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