



Summer is one of the busiest times of year for outdoor recreation in Southwest Colorado, making stewardship and collaboration more important than ever. This month, we're sharing updates on wildfire impacts, new support for the Coalition, and opportunities to celebrate and care for our public lands.

Fire Season Updates

Wildfires have had a significant impact across Southwest Colorado this summer, reminding us how important it is to work together to protect both our communities and our public lands.

The Montelores Coalition extends our sincere gratitude to the firefighters, emergency responders, dispatchers, law enforcement officers, and support personnel working tirelessly to protect lives, property, and natural resources during this challenging fire season. We also recognize the many volunteers, partner organizations, and community members supporting response efforts behind the scenes. Thank you for your dedication and service.

Temporary closures and fire restrictions remain in place throughout the region. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has temporarily closed public access to the Lone Dome State Wildlife Area in Dolores and Montezuma counties due to the Ferris Fire. In addition, portions of the San Juan National Forest remain closed, and fire restrictions may change as conditions warrant.

Before heading outdoors, check current closures and fire restrictions and to respect all emergency closures to help protect both the public and firefighters.

Current information can be found at:

Ferris Fire Website: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cosjf-ferris-fire>

San Juan National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife: <https://cpw.state.co.us/>

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control: <https://dfpc.colorado.gov/>

Virga Foundation Invests in the Montelores Coalition

The Montelores Coalition is excited to announce that we have received a \$5,000 unrestricted grant from the [Virga Foundation](#).

The Virga Foundation supports organizations working to strengthen communities, conserve natural resources, and create lasting positive impacts across the American West. We are honored to be among the organizations they have chosen to support.

This award marks the Coalition's first unrestricted funding, providing valuable flexibility to strengthen our organization, respond to emerging opportunities, and continue advancing collaborative recreation and conservation efforts throughout Montezuma and Dolores counties.

We are incredibly grateful to the Virga Foundation for its investment in the future of the Montelores Coalition and look forward to continuing this important work with the support of partners who believe in regional collaboration and stewardship.



Learn More About the Montelores Coalition!

This summer, we're launching a new video series designed to help community members better understand who the Montelores Coalition is, how we're organized, and the work we're doing across Southwest Colorado. Our [first video](#) introduces the Coalition's structure, including the roles of the Executive Committee and the Roundtable, and how they work together.

Whether you're new to the Coalition or have been following our work for years, this series offers a behind-the-scenes look at how collaboration helps turn local priorities

into action.

Race Sponsorship Supports Recreating with Stewardship in Mind

The Montelores Coalition is proud to sponsor this year's [Boggy Draw Beat Down](#). As a sponsor, we will be adding an insert into the race packet about trail care and stewardship.

Events like the Beat Down celebrate the outstanding recreation opportunities in our region while also promoting responsible trail use, stewardship, and community involvement. We wish all participants, volunteers, and organizers a successful event and thank them for helping care for the places we all enjoy.

As summer continues, the Montelores Coalition looks forward to beginning implementation of our first Strike Team projects (County Road 39, Cleanup and Noxious Weed Mitigation at Hawkins Preserve, and Rico Derelict Fence Removal) and continuing to build partnerships that support conservation, outdoor recreation, and stewardship across Southwest Colorado.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to protect and enhance the landscapes that make Montezuma and Dolores counties such special places.

PS - Be on the lookout for information coming soon about our volunteer day opportunities and if you are looking for more ways to get involved, apply for the Southwest Conservation Corps Day Crews!

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