

## 16. Strengthening collaboration around wildfire mitigation

Mentors: [Libby Christensen](#), [Seth Davis](#)

Location: Routt County

### Extension mentors and application contact information

Field agent: Libby Christensen (FCS and 4-H Agent, Colorado State University Extension, Steamboat Springs, CO; [lchristensen@co.routt.co.us](mailto:lchristensen@co.routt.co.us))

Campus contact: Seth Davis (Forest & Rangeland Stewardship, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; [seth.davis@colostate.edu](mailto:seth.davis@colostate.edu))

In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region/state)? This project will take place in Routt County in the northwestern region of Colorado.

In less than 150 words, please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives. The overall goal of the internship is to provide the student with opportunities to develop their extension skills with specific emphasis on facilitating interactions between state land management agencies, CSU extension, local non-profits, municipalities, and communities to support development of a burgeoning wildfire council. The scope of the work done by the intern may include facilitation and moderation of planning meetings, implementation and analysis of survey tools, and inventory or mapping of prioritized project locations. Specific objectives include: (1) continued development of relationships between CSU Extension and community stakeholders within the northern Colorado region, (2) acquisition and analysis of objective datasets that are consistent with identified project goals, and (3) production of analytical products that extension agents and community partners can use to support programming efforts.

Which PRU activities are included in the scope of this internship? Natural Resources and Community Development

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development? By the end of the internship the intern develop important skills necessary to: (1) develop a stakeholder engagement strategy that is appropriate for a diverse set of stakeholders including private and public land managers, (2) effectively write grants for federal and community based funders, and (3) manage complex projects relying on primarily volunteer support.

How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs in your county/region? In 2019, stakeholders in Routt County established the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council. The council is comprised of a broad group of representatives from county and city government; federal, state and local agencies; as well as community groups and private individuals. The group had its first meeting in December 2019 to start defining its charter, mission, and priorities. Over the next few months, the group has identified chartering a non-profit and applying for the Bureau of Land Management grant as the top two priorities. Yet, at this point, the Council does not have dedicated staff. An Extension intern could provide much need capacity, at a particularly difficult time of year.

What is your experience with mentorship? In less than 100 words, please describe your experience with and approach to mentorship. Both mentor contacts have significant experience training mentees in multiple settings and contexts. Dr. Christensen has worked previously with CSU Internship mentees on analyzing community wildfire protection plans, and Dr. Davis regularly interacts with and oversees progress of undergraduate and graduate students.

Are there on-going connections with CSU faculty associated with this project, or is there identified faculty interest? This project will extend an ongoing collaboration between Christensen and Davis to train interns interested in Extension careers for development of integrated community plans. Previous collaboration supported by this program resulted in a manuscript submission to the *Journal of Extension* with Extension intern.

Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing? Travel within the county and surrounding communities will be covered.