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Arapahoe County Firewood Harvest in Deer Trail a Success

Unique event offered residents opportunity to stock up on free wood for winter

Deer Trail, Colo. --- Last weekend, Arapahoe County offered a unique opportunity for local residents to cut and collect firewood from Richmil Ranch Open Space in Deer Trail.

In preparation for opening Richmil Ranch Open Space to the public later this year, Arapahoe County conducted some area cleanup moving many of the down trees to a single location to minimize potential fire hazards. A total of 17 truckloads of free firewood were taken by area residents.

“The event was a win-win for everyone,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who serves District 3, which includes portions of Aurora, Centennial, Foxfield and the communities of eastern Arapahoe County. “Residents received free firewood to heat their homes in the winter, and they, in turn, helped the County remove unwanted debris left onsite during the 1965 flood.”

Richmil Ranch Open Space was purchased by Arapahoe County in 2007 in an effort to preserve 352 acres of prairie, agricultural and riparian woodlands which are home to deer, wild turkey, raptors and a variety of native plant species. The Open Space allows for continued agricultural and ranch use in specific areas to help preserve the County’s agricultural and ranching history.

This park would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax. Since then, the County has protected more than 18,000 acres of land that preserve natural habitat and wildlife corridors, connected miles of trail and enhanced parks that provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Spaces, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and/or sign up to receive the Arapahoe County Open Spaces e-newsletter.

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To download a photo click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/>

Resident Firewood Event: Residents received free firewood to heat their homes in the winter, and they, in turn, helped Arapahoe County remove unwanted debris left on Richmil Ranch Open Space during the 1965 flood.