

#### 4. Reducing Wildfire Risk to Colorado Homeowners

Mentors: [Jude Bayham](#), [Robin Young](#)

Location(s): Throughout Colorado in communities partnering with the Wildfire Research (WiRe) Team: Grand, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel

1. *Extension mentor and application contact information.*

Libby Christensen, Routt County Extension; Jude Bayham, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

2. *In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region/state)?*

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3. *In less than 150 words, please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.*

Wildfire poses a risk to landowners throughout Colorado. Activities such as maintaining defensible space may mitigate risk to one's own property and the property of neighbors. Yet, mitigation activities are not ubiquitous across the state.

Goal: The goal of this project is to increase the adoption of mitigation activities by identifying barriers that prevent individuals and communities from taking mitigative action.

Scope: The project involves compiling a dataset on Colorado communities from a variety of data sources, including the US Census, biophysical data on landscape and vegetation, and community-wide surveys from across the state. The data will be used to estimate econometric and machine learning models to identify barriers to wildfire mitigation adoption.

Objectives: The objectives are to compile the data, analyze the data, and produce factsheets and infographics for presentation to community leaders along with recommendations and strategies to increase mitigation activities in the community.

4. *Which PRU activities are included in the scope of this internship?*

Natural Resources

5. *What student learning outcomes do you anticipate, and are there opportunities for professional development?*

The student will gain experience using R and GIS software to collect, manage and analyze data. The student will learn about wildfire risk.

6. *How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs in your county/region?*

Homeowners and landowners in Colorado face wildfire risk. This project will identify and reduce barriers to risk mitigation activities, which will inform policy and help to reduce wildfire risk across the state.

7. *What is your experience with mentorship? In less than 100 words, please describe your experience with and approach to mentorship.*

I have mentored five graduate students and two high school students through the Poudre School District internship program. My approach is to provide guidance and structure

throughout the internship. I begin with a hands-on approach and transition responsibility to the student as they gain confidence and demonstrate ability.

8. *Are there on-going connections with CSU faculty associated with this project, or is there identified faculty interest?*

Patty Champ is a research economist with the USFS and an adjunct faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

9. *Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?*  
No