



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEVADA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL ACCEPTS 100<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY CHAPTER**

The Nevada Fire Safe Council will accept its 100<sup>th</sup> community as an official chapter on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The 100th chapter, Green Ranch, includes an area west of Lakeside Drive along Evans Creek. To celebrate the milestone event, the Fire Safe Council will host a celebration on August 28th from 12:30-2:30 at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. Local Fire Safe Chapter leaders, volunteers and fire personnel from federal, state and local agencies are invited to attend. The event is free and open to the public.

“This is an exciting day for the Fire Safe Council,” said Andrew List Director for the Nevada Fire Safe Council. “What this means is that more homeowners are stepping up and taking responsibility to make their home and property fire safe. In the long term, this means less loss of lives and property and wildfire events that are shorter and less costly to suppress.”

Green Ranch will be one of the 25 chapters to benefit from a \$1 million Nevada Fire Safe Council grant secured through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) for fuels reduction efforts. The funds will be administered through the Nevada Fire Safe Council in coordination with Washoe County, the Sierra Fire Protection District, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, the City of Reno Fire Department, the Carson City Fire Department, East Fork Fire and Paramedic District and the Nevada Division of Forestry.

A portion of SNPLMA funding will be used to reduce hazardous fuels along the Evans Creek area. The project is designed to reduce the hazardous and flammable fuels from the area adjacent to the Green Ranch Fire Safe Chapter to the United States Forest Service boundary. This will minimize the chance of a fire beginning on United States Forest Service land moving into the community along Evans Creek.

“Even though we live inside the city limits we still have a huge wildfire threat, said Paul Richards, Green Ranch Chapter leader. “Just last week we saw homeowners in Reno lose their homes due to a lack of defensible space. We are pleased to be recognized as the 100<sup>th</sup> chapter for the Nevada Fire Safe Council and receive assistance to protect our community against the threat of wildfire. We would like to encourage other members of our community to do the same.”

SNPLMA funds are generated from the sale of surplus public lands in the Las Vegas Valley and are available to various public agencies and non-profit organizations for specific purposes. This is the second year that funds are available for wildfire threat reduction efforts on federal, state, and private lands.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council, a non-profit organization, was formed in August 2000. The first chapter, located in the Virginia City Highlands, was formed on February 25, 2002. The Nevada Fire Safe Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses and representatives from local, state and federal government agencies, which share a common interest in preventing the loss of life and minimizing the loss of property from wildland fires.

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