

Proclamation

BOARD OF OURAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DECLARING ADMIRATION, RESPECT AND DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND

RESPONDING AGENCIES WHO ASSISTED WITH THE SIMMS FIRE

WHEREAS,

on the afternoon of May 19, 2022, the Simms Fire ignited off of Government Springs Road, near Wild Cat Canyon, quickly burning over 300 acres, prompting an immediate evacuation of all homeowners within a 5 mile radius of the fire; and,

WHEREAS,

the Simms Fire completely destroyed the Stauffer home and property, and sadly their family cat suffered fatal injuries; and,

WHEREAS,

during the evacuation, Rudy Stauffer, who was about to lose his home and property, pleaded with first responders to leave his land and go help his neighbor who was housebound and unable to evacuate themselves; and

WHEREAS,

the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse worked quickly and tirelessly to evacuate all homeowners in the evacuation zone; and,

WHEREAS,

Government Springs residents Jace Munson and Brad Hudson were instrumental in assisting with area evacuations and put their own personal needs aside to help their fellow neighbors; and,

WHEREAS,

Ouray County would like to extend its deepest gratitude to Scott Hawkins, Montrose County Emergency Manager who assumed the role as the incident Emergency Manager while ours was out of the country; and

WHEREAS,

In the early hours of the incident, Montrose County Communications Director, Katie Yergensen, answered numerous phone calls from concerned residents and helped to give critical evacuation information until the fire hotline was setup and the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse took over taking calls; and,

WHEREAS,

staff from the Emergency Management Departments in Delta County, Gunnison County and San Miguel County worked together and offered their help and support; and

WHEREAS,

Ouray County wishes to thank members of Montrose Fire Protection District, Horsefly Fire Association and Hotchkiss Fire for their assistance; and

WHEREAS,

Ouray County extends its gratitude to Ouray County Sheriff Justin Perry and Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard, along with their deputies, for their seamless unity and dedication to safety of life; and,

WHEREAS,

Ouray County is proud of the hard work and dedication to public communication and messaging offered by their Public Information Officer, Jennifer Peterson, Montrose County Public Information Officer Katie Yergensen, Montrose County Digital Communications Manager, Erika Story, and U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer, Kimberlee Phillips; and,

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WHEREAS,

Ouray County wishes to thank Ouray County Administrator Connie Hunt for her support and leadership along with Montrose County management, staff, and elected officials for their partnership and help, specifically: Administrator Jon Waschbusch, Montrose County Road & Bridge staff, Montrose County Event Center staff, Commissioner Roger Rash, Commissioner Sue Hansen and Commissioner Keith Caddy; and,

WHEREAS,

Ouray County Social Services Director Carol Friedrich was instrumental in setting up a temporary shelter at the Ridgway Secondary School; and,

WHEREAS,

special thanks are given to the crew with Black Hills Energy for their help in keeping utilities safe in the area; and,

WHEREAS,

Ouray County recognizes Cornerstone Club as an invaluable ally who provided vital egress and ingress for evacuations and responding agencies; and,

WHEREAS,

Ouray County extends its respect to the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control who managed this incident through challenging circumstances, and offered support and superior guidance to our local responding agencies; and,

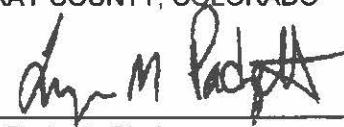
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County proclaims June 28, 2022 "A Day of Admiration, Respect and Deepest Gratitude" to all individuals and responding agencies who assisted in the Simms Fire response.

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO



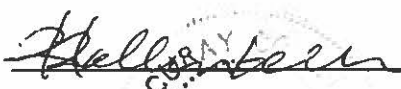
Lynn M. Padgett, Chair



Jake Niece, Vice-Chair



Ben Tisdell, Commissioner Member



Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder
By: Hannah Hoffenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board

