

The Crystal Fire Contact: Colorado
Tree Farmers
Phone : (970) 658-5050
ColoroadStateTreeFarm@gmail.com



Colorado Tree Farmers

Press Release

THE CRYSTAL FIRE

Let's Get Growing

Bellvue, Colorado May 14, 2012: On Saturday, May 12th the **Colorado Tree Farmers** organized an event to help neighbors start building a new forest in an area where wildfire and the pine beetle have been devastating the old.

More than **100 children** along with parents and grandparents attended

Over **300 seedlings** were donated by the Colorado State Forest Service and planted in the burn area to start a new forest.

Eight organizations as well as county, state and federal officials participated.

The goal was show the next generation of forest landowners how to grow a new forest that will be healthier and more resistant to fire and insect infestation.

Children learned how to plant a tree and help it grow. They learned how to protect their new forest, live harmoniously with the wildlife in it and prepare for the emergencies that can arise.

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US Senator Mark Udall, State Representatives Randy Fischer and John Kefalas, and Larimer

county commissioner Steve Johnson all helped plant.



Representatives from the following organizations were available to answer questions:

- Colorado State Forest Service and Society of American Foresters - showed kids how to plant a tree

and start a new forest

- Larimer County Tree Farmers and Project Learning Tree –showed kids how to keep your trees healthy and safe
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife –helped kids understand how to live with the wildlife in their woods

- Larimer County Emergency Services and Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department – discussed how to prepare for emergencies before they happen



- United States Forest Service – talked to kids about being good neighbors