

ONE LIGHTNING STRIKE AWAY FROM MEGAFIRE

COLORADO STEPS UP WILDFIRE MITIGATION WORK



MARIANNE GOODLAND, COLORADO POLITICS

Liana Salaiz of Mile High Youth Corps clears small trees as part of a wildfire mitigation project near Evergreen.

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND
marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com

One lightning strike.
One unattended campfire.
One drought season.
That's how far away Colorado is from the next megafire, warned Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Gibbs, a certified wildland firefighter, was on the front lines of the Cameron

Peak fire two years ago.

"The 2020 fire season taught us that the status quo of our forest health and wildfire mitigation programs are no longer cutting it," he said.

Gibbs, along with other state and local officials, joined Gov. Jared Polis on Monday, visiting one of the 49 state-funded projects intended to address wildfire mitigation, touring a private property in Jefferson County,

which faces the highest wildfire risk in the state.

"We need to up our game on fire preparedness," Polis said, surrounded by state and county officials and with a crew of seven from the Mile High Youth Corps, the boots-on-the-ground young people who are gaining job skills, as well as protecting homes and people from wildfire danger.

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A NEW FEE

Colorado's 27-cent retail delivery fee takes effect, drawing criticism. **Page 2**

WATER PLAN

Water Board makes an update, but how to pay for it still in question. **Page 4**