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NEWS RELEASE

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Color Country wins prestigious Pulaski Award

Cedar City – The Color Country Fire Management Area of southwestern Utah and northern Arizona will receive the prestigious Pulaski Award 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Cedar City Interagency Fire Center, 1770 West Kitty Hawk.

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, issues this national award annually for outstanding contributions to wildland firefighting and America’s wildland firefighters. Color Country – a multi-agency partnership that covers 14 million acres – is being recognized for its outstanding interagency approach to managing wildfire in southern Utah and northern Arizona.

“The seamless and synergistic nature of the group’s accomplishments enhances safety for firefighters and the public, saves tax dollars, and results in other efficiencies across the landscape,” writes NIFC Chair Timothy Murphy.

Color Country includes lands administered by five ranger districts of the Dixie National Forest, three Bureau of Land Management field offices, two national parks and five national monuments (National Park Service and BLM), Utah state lands, Arizona State Trust Land, and the Shivwits and Kaibab Paiute Indian reservations. It covers five counties in Utah and two in Arizona.

Color Country agencies have been working collectively on regional fire suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, training, and public education since the early 1990s. This cooperative approach has proven to be more successful and cost-effective. It allows for a cohesive approach to managing fire across jurisdictional lines.

The Pulaski Award is presented on the recommendation of the fire directors at NIFC. The award is named for a forest ranger who led a crew to safety during the Montana/Idaho inferno of 1910.

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