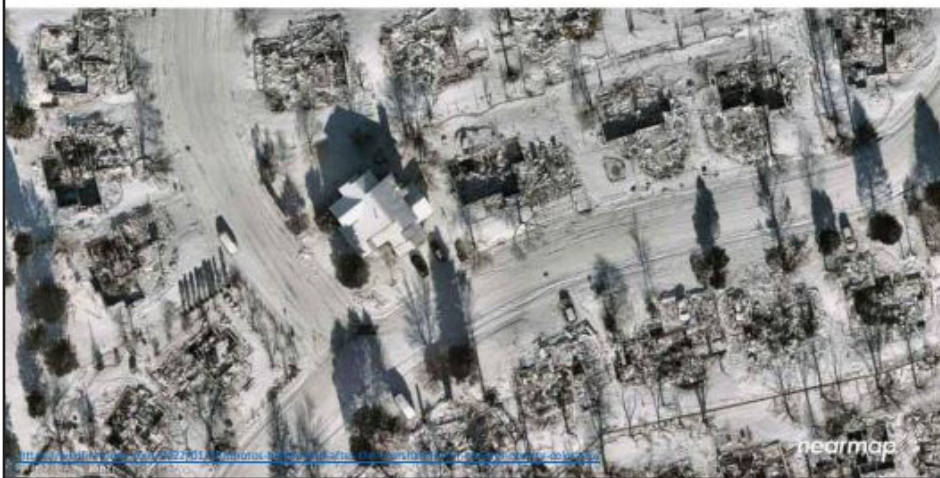


Wildfire Town Hall Meeting, Jan. 19

Experts address danger of local wildfires



Above: One of the most destructive fires in Colorado history started Dec. 30, 2021. The Marshall Fire spread rapidly due to extreme winds and dry fuel and is estimated to have claimed over 1,000 structures and two lives. These two photos show the same homes before and after the fire. *Photos by Bill Gabbert.*

By Marlene Brown
On Jan. 19, wildfire and preparedness experts from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Tri-Lakes Monument/Wescott Fire Protection District, Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management, and Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group (TLUMC EPG) talked about the vulnerability of area communities and addressed how we might prevent a wildfire tragedy in El Paso County.

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) hosted the Wildfire Town Hall meeting at Tri-Lakes United Meth-

odist Church and on Zoom and Facebook Live. About 150 people attended remotely, staying home and warm on the cold day, while a few showed up in person. They asked questions regarding the Marshall Fire in Boulder County and how homeowners in Northern El Paso County can cooperate with local agencies to make their own property less vulnerable to flying embers and create their own safe evacuation plan if the need arises.

"I think that our homeowners understand that wildfire is a regional threat and that frightens them," said Matthew

Nelson, Woodmoor forestry director. He talked with the Tri-Lakes Monument Division chief of Community Risk and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS),

and all agreed that a Town Hall should happen quickly before the teachable moment passed.

Dave Root, CSFS forester, empha-

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