

The High Park Fire



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David and I were thinking about retirement in the summer of 2012, and after seeing about 40 homes in both Grand and Larimer Counties, the Glacier View property easily rose to the top of the list. Nothing could compare to the house, acreage and beauty. We closed one week before the High Park Fire was sparked. In fact, we had driven down from Denver (where we still work for Denver Public Schools) to look at flooring for the new house, and we saw a small puff of smoke coming up directly west of Fort Collins. I remember saying, "Good thing it is not close to our new home." Later that afternoon we drove over to Estes Park via Devil's Gulch Road. To the north we were stunned to see an enormous plume of angry dark smoke tinged with red.

Shortly after that trip to Fort Collins, I left for North Carolina for a beach vacation with my sisters and niece, who brought along her laptop. I checked inciweb.nwccg.gov/ as often as I could for updates on the fire. As I prayed for our neighbors and the wildlife, I said to my husband, "This is our vacation home for now. I would rather it go than the home of someone who lives here full time." When our new Glacier View neighbor told us the fire was in view on a nearby rocky ridge, our area was evacuated that day. Then blessedly, the fire blew back on itself and containment began.

Almost three years later, we have put in new carpet and are about to lay new tile in other rooms. Our Glacier View home is a refuge and respite from the city. We are avid outdoor folks and love exploring the area with our doggies. I have joined the Glacier Gals (2015 Treasurer) and Livermore Women's Club, we have enjoyed good food and welcoming neighbors at Glacier View potlucks, and I have volunteered at the yummy pancake breakfasts. We plan to fully retire to this wonderful community within two years. It is truly a special place.



← View from out south deck toward Mummy Range



← Hiking Killpecker Trail with Penny & Gracie