

Dr. Jim Ippolito has been working with Rock Canyon High School (Highlands Ranch, CO) students on a project entitled “Analyzing goat browsing as a form of wildfire mitigation”. The project concept focuses on the use of goats to browse vegetation within Front Range forest understories, with the hopes that less understory fuel leads to less likelihood of fires reaching forest crowns. Dr. Ippolito has been providing sampling, analysis, and statistical details for the students and their project.

The students were very successful at a recent regional science fair, winning six different awards including first place in the Earth and Environmental Senior Division, second place for the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, received the Denver Mensa Award, ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Award, and the Geoscience Excellence from the Association for Women Geoscientists.

The students went on to compete at the Colorado State Science Fair, held on April 6 and 7, 2018 at Colorado State University. They received 1st place in the Senior Environmental Sciences category, were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to CSU per year per student, the Colorado Biology Teachers’ Association Award, and the Fort Collins Conservation District Award.

