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Responsible Discarding of Personal Records Helps Recycling Efforts, and Can Reduce ID Theft and Fraud

COLORADO – October 18, 2014.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Credit Unions held three Community Shred Day Events on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 9 am to 12 pm in Boulder, Greeley, and Ft Collins. These FREE events provided the opportunity for citizens to securely destroy their confidential paper records that will help reduce the likelihood of identity theft and fraud, as well as help our environment by recycling. Over 11,000 lbs of paper records were collected, securely shredded, and recycled.

The event chair, Michelle Ferrera from Premier Members Federal Credit Union proclaimed that it felt good to know that we can help so many people reduce the possibility of identity theft and fraud through proper secure destruction of their useless confidential records. Most participants were grateful for this opportunity and thanked the credit unions for providing a meaningful community service.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Credit Unions is comprised of eleven credit unions in Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer and Weld Counties representing over 240,000 credit union members. These credit unions are united by the true cooperative spirit of People Helping People that credit unions were founded upon over 100 years ago. While they operate separately to serve their members, they cooperatively join together to help our communities in many ways. For information and locations visit www.creditunionsrule.org

The following credit unions join together to host the event: Big Thompson Federal Credit Union, Boulder Valley Credit Union, Colorado Credit Union, Community Financial Credit Union, Elevations Credit Union, ENT Credit Union, Northern Colorado Credit Union, Premier Members Federal Credit Union, Public Service Credit Union, Security Service Federal Credit Union, and Warren Federal Credit Union. A summary of cooperative community involvement includes: **Community Support & Awareness** – Over the past years, our community has experienced devastating fires and floods. Credit Unions of The Rocky Mountain Chapter have stepped up and supported the relief efforts to help the families affected by these life-changing events.

Financial Literacy – Credit unions provide a solid financial education for our community. Credit unions offer Lunch N Learns and evening workshops to help consumers learn more about the importance of savings, how to manage their money responsibly, and use credit wisely.

Advocacy – Members of our credit unions are well represented in legislative affairs both regionally and nationally through our associations with the Mountain West Credit Union Association and the Credit Union National Association.

Sustainability – Over the past years, credit unions have sponsored Community Shred and Electronic ReCycling Days to help citizens dispose of unwanted items in a responsible manner.

Whether you are seeking unbiased financial information or looking for ways to save more money each month, discover a unique website that offers consumers honest information about the benefits of credit unions and how credit unions can help their members achieve their financial dreams. In addition, the website includes:

- Calendar of Community Events
- Calendar of Financial Educational Workshops and financial literacy
- Sponsored Events
- Information about the unique differences between banks and credit unions

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MOUNTAIN WEST
Credit Union Association



About Credit Unions:

Credit Unions in local areas are part of a Chapter - **The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Credit Unions, Mountain West Credit Union Association** is the state association for credit unions. The **Credit Union National Association** is the association that governs credit unions across the United States.

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives. They are based on the deep-rooted philosophies of People Helping People and the four basic principles:

- Democratic governance;
- Each member has one vote, regardless of the size of the member's deposits;
- Member-elected board of directors; and
- Volunteer based.

Credit union models began in Germany in the 1850s when crop failure and famine struck hard and several philanthropists sought to help the farmers who were being taken advantage of by their bankers. By the end of the 19th Century credit unions had taken root in much of Europe. They drew inspiration from cooperative successes and began in the United States in 1901. A Boston merchant desired to help the underserved populations who were forced to rely on risky and expensive financial services from sources like money lenders, and banks.

