

2008-2009 Application Information

Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants

During their 2008 session, the Colorado General Assembly approved SB 08-071 that extended the Pilot Forest Restoration Program created by HB 07-1130 for an additional four years. SB 08-071 authorized up to \$1,000,000 for each of the next four years contingent on the availability of funds in the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund as described in HB 08-1398. In addition to these funds, federal funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 have been provided thanks to the efforts of Sen. Wayne Allard. These two funding sources will be combined this year to provide **up to \$2,000,000** in grant funds. The Colorado State Forest Service administers the program, and funding is awarded through a competitive process that prioritizes collaboration, protection of communities and water supplies, and scientifically based ecological restoration. Projects may be entirely on private, federal, state, county or municipal forest lands, or on any combination thereof.

The state share of total project cost shall not exceed 60 percent per project. Matching funds may be provided through cash, stumpage or in-kind contributions.

ELIGIBILITY:

Proposed projects must:

- Meet the grant criteria.
- Meet the 60/40 match requirement.
- Be located in an area with an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Address the protection of water supplies.
- Address one or more of the following objectives:
 - Reducing the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions, structures, and species composition, including the reduction of nonnative species populations.
 - Preserving old and large trees to the extent consistent with ecological values and science.
 - Replanting trees in deforested areas if such areas exist in the proposed project area.
 - Improving the use of, or adding value to, small-diameter trees.
- Comply with all applicable federal and state environmental laws.
- Include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders, as well as appropriate governmental representatives, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project.
- Incorporate current scientific forest restoration information.
- Include an assessment to:
 - Identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed area and the desired future condition.
 - Report, upon project completion, to the Colorado State Forest Service on the positive or negative impact and cost effectiveness of the project.
- Leverage funding through in-kind, cash or stumpage matching contributions.

SCORING

➤ All grants will be scored based on the following:

| Area covered by an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) | | Yes = Eligible for scoring | No = Ineligible | |
|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Meets the 60/40 Match Requirement | | Yes = Eligible for scoring | No = Ineligible | |
| Addresses Protection of Water Supplies | | Yes = Eligible for scoring | No = Ineligible | |
| Includes Ecological/Desired Future Condition Assessment | | Yes = Eligible for scoring | No = Ineligible | |
| 1 | Is this project achievable? (time, goals, budget, etc.) | | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| 2 | Is this project measurable with success clearly identified? (# of acres treated, restoration, fire risk reduction, water supply protection, etc.) | | Best = 3 | Least = 0 |
| 3 | Is the applicant clearly showing collaborative elements and partners? (confidence level) | | Best = 5 | Least = 0 |
| 4 | Does the project incorporate current scientific information? | | Best = 5 | Least = 1 |
| 5 | Does the project address the protection of water supplies? (Note; preference will be given to projects that clearly define how it protects a water supply) | | Best = 5 | Least = 0 |
| 6 | Does the project effectively leverage state funding? | | Best = 5 | Least = 0 |
| 6 | Does the application address future maintenance of the project area? | Clearly Defined= 2 | Mentioned not defined = 1 | None = 0 |

OBJECTIVES

Protect Water Supplies

All projects must include forest treatments that result in the protection of water supplies. This objective can be achieved by reducing the risk of wildfire to watersheds or to water treatment and/or storage facilities; through forest management practices including, but not limited to, thinning, selective harvest, clearcutting, prescribed fire, chipping, mastication, and planting of trees in deforested areas. All projects must follow Colorado's Best Management Practices for Protecting Water Quality.

Reduce the Threat of Large High-Intensity Fires:

Projects will address fire mitigation by reducing excessive competition among trees and restoring ecosystem function, structure, and species composition, including reduction of non-native species populations. To be considered, all projects must be in an area covered by an **approved** Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and should address a priority described in the plan. Colorado State Forest Service is the agency responsible for approving Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Preserve Old and Large Trees to the Extent Consistent with Ecological Values and Science:

Projects will restore ecosystem function and incorporate the ecological values of old and large trees as appropriate based on scientific research.

Replant Trees in Deforested Areas:

Projects will provide for reforestation in areas negatively impacted by wildfire, insects and disease or other large-scale disturbances. Reforestation will be prioritized in areas that have not been, and are not likely to be, adequately restocked by natural processes. Emphasis will be given where planting trees protects water supplies and conserves and restores natural and social values.

Improve the Use of, or Add Value to, Small Diameter Trees:

Projects will emphasize the utilization of small diameter material and other woody biomass that results from forest treatments. Communities are encouraged to submit projects that improve the cost-effectiveness of treatments through utilization of woody material.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1) All blocks are fill-in enabled and character locked. Applicants must fit all information into the allotted character space. **Applications that have been modified for any reason will be considered ineligible by the review committee.**

2) Application guidelines by box number:

- **Box 1 & 2** - Basic applicant and community-at-risk information. Include the name of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and information about where we can obtain a copy.
 - **Box 3 & 4** - The totals in these boxes add automatically when all data is entered into the fields and you tab to the next fill-in enabled box. Do not enter numbers into the contributors' space. If the contributor's name contains a number, spell out the number so that it will not be added into the total column. Check that all numbers add up correctly and have transferred correctly to the Official Use Only box on the top of page 1. Do not put the grant amount requested into Box 3, as that will make the match totals in boxes 3 and 4 different and points will be deducted. See page 2 of this document for a description of hard vs. soft match.
 - **Box 5** - The project area description should give a **brief** overview of the project to point out the objectives and clearly show the need for work in this area.
 - **Box 6** - The scope of work should explain exactly how the grant dollars will be spent on this project. Unlike the overview, this will provide specific details of the project. Remember to be concise. Say exactly what will be done with grant funds, not what you expect the reviewer wants to hear.
 - *Scope of work example:* A 300-foot wide fuelbreak 20 miles long will be created around the perimeter of Firesafe Village. A brush masticator will be used where possible and hand crews from the Firesafe Contracting service will complete the work in other areas. Approximately 125 individual lots will be treated using hand crews, creating adequate defensible space around the homes. Grant funds will be used to create and distribute firesafe brochures in this and surrounding subdivisions....
 - The project timeline should include such things as begin/end dates, milestones, quarterly accomplishments, etc.
 - **Box 7** - Describe the contributions each partner will make to the project by stating the contributing partner's name and what they will be contributing to the project such as manpower, equipment, matching funds, etc.
 - **Box 8** - Clearly show the benefits of the project and who, what, when, where, and why of how this project will remain effective over time. Include all applicable timeframes, milestones, and measurables.
 - Defined planned maintenance means describing who would be responsible for planning and performing project maintenance work in the future and how the work would be funded.
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Application Due Dates:

The standard application form for 2008 must be used and is available on the Colorado State Forest Service website: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/>. This form should be completed in its entirety and submitted electronically by the posted deadline.

ATTENTION: Colorado Community Grants Committee (CCGC)

All applications must be received by 4 p.m., MDT on **October 10, 2008. Send electronic applications to jduda@lamar.colostate.edu. Applications will be reviewed by the CCGC and applicants will be notified about the status of their applications in early November.**