



Protecting Property from Wildfire

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Colorado State Forest Service

Mission: To achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

- The CSFS is the lead state agency providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners
- Agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU
- Provides staffing for the Division of Forestry at DNR
- State Office in Fort Collins; 4 Areas consisting of 18 field offices throughout Colorado

Role in Wildland Fire

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

- Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes
- Create Fire Adapted Communities
- Safe and Effective Fire Response



CSFS focus: Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities

DFPC focus: Safe and Effective Fire Response

Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

Goal: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives

CSFS Role:

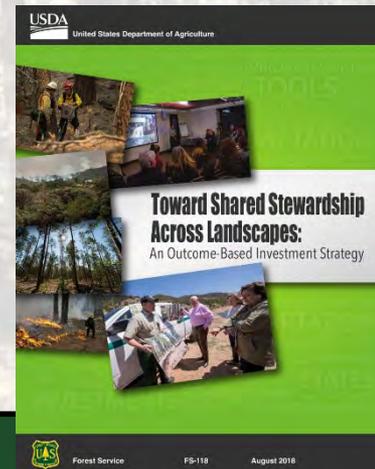
- Facilitate forest management and fuels mitigation on state and private lands
- Administer state and federal grants for treatments
- Engage with local, state, federal partners on collaboratives focusing on forest management across boundaries in priority landscapes
- Utilizing latest tools and science to treat the right acres in the right areas utilizing the most effective treatments

Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

Goal: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives

Opportunities for County Government

- Facilitate forest management and fuels mitigation on county-owned properties
- Engage with local, state, federal partners on collaboratives focusing on forest management across boundaries in priority landscapes



Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

National program that allows the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration projects on federal lands

- Colorado and Utah were the first states to test-pilot the GNA starting in the year 2000
- GNA expanded to a national program in the 2014 Farm Bill
- Through GNA, the CSFS has the authority to conduct forest treatments on the 11 National Forests in Colorado

Benefits of the GNA

- Allows for greater contracting and staffing efficiencies between agencies to get more work done on the ground
- Provides a more effective way to accomplish cross-boundary forest management and fuels reduction efforts



Create Fire Adapted Communities

Goal: Communities consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire

Tools:

- Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP)
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- State and federal grants for treatments and planning efforts
- Land Use Planning





Codes & ordinances

Defensible space and resilient structures -- **Firewise** principles

Public and responder awareness and preparedness -- **Ready, Set, Go!**

Fuels management near communities -- fuels buffer

Prevention education

Local capacity

CWPP

Local partnerships - agreements

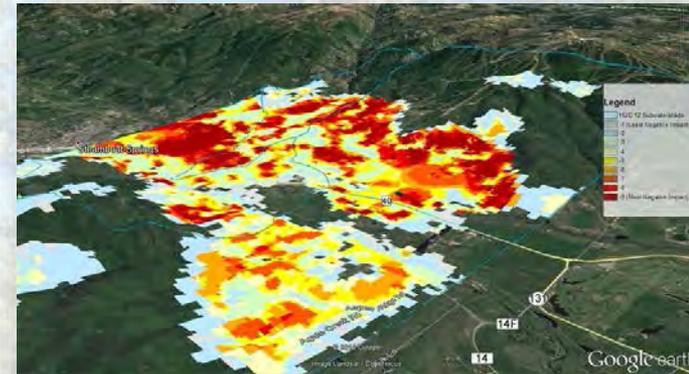
Safe evacuation routes or internal safety zones

Fire Adapted Communities

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal

The Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP) is a web-mapping tool that provides access to statewide wildfire risk assessment information in Colorado

- Information utilized for:
 - Local, County CWPPs
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans (County, State)
 - Landowner and Community Awareness
 - Wildfire Response Planning
- Enhancements
 - Updated fuel layers to account for changes in vegetation due to fires and insect activity
 - Updated WUI housing density, population
 - Utilized Colorado specific data for burn probability and weather



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) 2003

- Authorized and defined in Title I of the HFRA
- Renewed emphasis on community planning
- Opportunity for communities to work with federal agencies and other stakeholders to identify fuels reduction projects
- Requires the CSFS to provide minimum standards

SB09-001 – Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

- Requires counties to identify wildfire hazard areas in unincorporated (non-municipality) areas by January 1, 2011
- Within 180 days of identification, counties must develop a CWPP
- To date, there are 47 county-wide CWPPs

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- Positive, solution-oriented planning process to address challenges such as local firefighting capability, the need for defensible space around homes and subdivisions, and where and how to prioritize land management on both federal and non-federal land
- Areas to improve:
 - Work with communities/counties to update existing plans: incorporate latest science regarding home survivability and effective vegetation treatments, and re-evaluate cross-boundary treatments
 - Analyze barriers to implementation and implement solutions with communities

Land Use Planning Resources



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Introduction

This guide provides detailed, Colorado-specific information about how to assess a community's risk of hazards and how to implement several land use planning tools and strategies for reducing a community's risk.



Read the Guide

To read the guide or specific chapters, look for the purple Table of Contents on the top right and the previous/next buttons on the bottom of each page.



[Start Reading](#)

www.planningforhazards.com

Fire Adapted Communities

Opportunities for County Government

- Develop and maintain County CWPPs
- Land Use Practices (landscaping, vegetation, building, infrastructure)
- Evacuation preparedness (planning, practice)
- Slash disposal
- Fuels reduction on county-owned lands
- County Mitigation Specialist



Funding Opportunities

- State
 - Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program (FRWRM)
 - Colorado Mitigation Tax Subtraction
- Federal
 - Western Wildland Urban Interface Competitive Grants
 - Community Assistance Funds Adjacent to National Forests Lands (CAFA)

Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program

Created under Senate Bill 17-050, combined the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program administered by DNR and the Colorado Forest Restoration Grant Program administered by the CSFS into one grant program administered by CSFS. Funds projects that reduce the risk of damage to property, infrastructure and water supplies, and those that limit the likelihood of wildfires spreading into populated areas.

Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program Summary

Year	Grant Funds Requested	Grant Funds Awarded	# of Applicants	# of Awardees
2013	\$4,858,766	\$3,912,872	55	25
2014	\$10,305,407	\$5,439,012	90	64
2015	\$2,339,254	\$1,257,109	36	27
2016	\$2,852,836	\$1,038,161	39	16
2017 (FRWRM)	\$3,739,671	\$1,053,499	66	24
Total	\$24,095,934.00	\$12,700,653.00	286	156

Funds are directed to non-federal lands within Colorado. To date, the program has awarded 156 projects throughout the state.

WRRG Success Story: Keene Ranch

Dawson Butte Open Space is a 1028-acre recreation area in Douglas County that adjoins the Keene Ranch subdivision. The subdivision is made up of 247 lots that range in size from 5 to 35 acres, and the primary vegetation type is Gambel oak, which resprouts vigorously after treatments.

Due to concerns of fire starting on the publicly utilized open space and moving into the community, or vice-versa, Douglas County received funding through the WRRG Program in 2013 to treat 134 acres. The Colorado State Forest Service did the layout and project administration, which included creating firebreaks in Gambel oak within the community boundary and reducing hazardous fuels in adjoining ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. Keene Ranch received another grant in 2014 and treated 327 acres over two years on 74 properties, which included treating the trail system in the open space along the community boundary.

Landowners are currently maintaining these treatments every other year, which is essential to maintain treatment effectiveness. Douglas County also received funding in 2015 for additional work on the Dawson Butte property to improve forest health and reduce fire hazard.



Before (top) and after (bottom) fuels treatments near a residence at Keene Ranch. Photos: Meg Halford, CSFS

Funding Opportunities

CSFS Natural Resources Grants and Assistance Database

Natural Resources Grants & Assistance Database

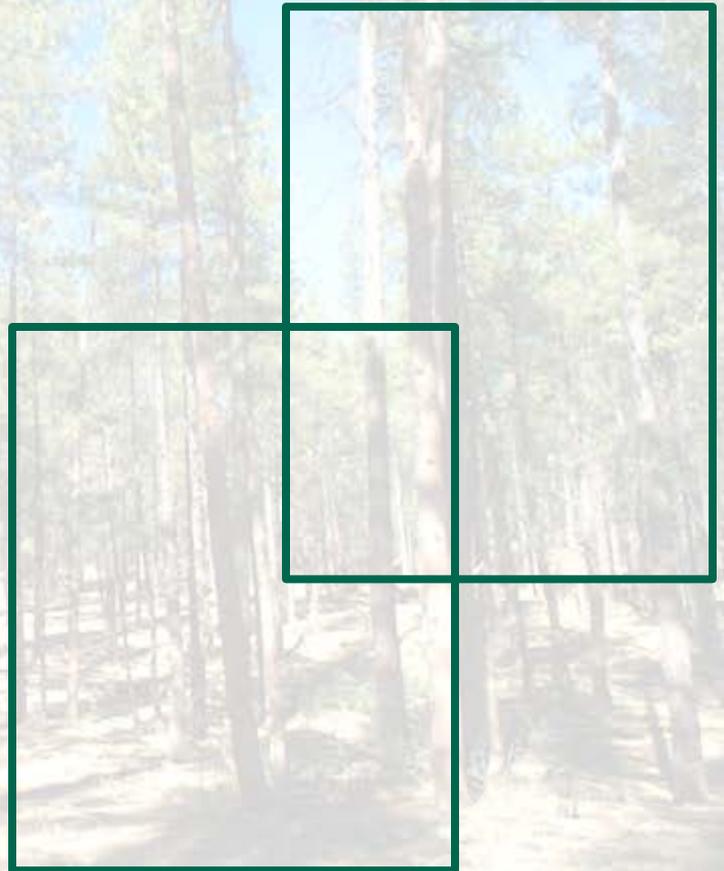
Display by Categories: Choose one or more categories below for a list of grants/assistance opportunities that match your criteria. [Click here](#) for an advanced search. [Click here](#) to return to the welcome page.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Agroforestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Bioenergy, renewable energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Business development, marketing assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community assistance, rural development | <input type="checkbox"/> Community wildfire protection plan development | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic, social programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Education, outreach, training | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental, sustainability issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewise communities | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and wildlife habitat improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest health, restoration, rehabilitation |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian forest health, restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology, GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban and community forestry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed protection, restoration, water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Woody biomass, wood utilization | |

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/natural-resources-grants-database/>

Publications

- All CSFS publications are available to download on website
- Print copies are available
- Examples include:
 - Defensible Space Quick Guide
 - Firewise Construction
 - CWPP Guidelines
 - Fuelbreak Guidelines





Questions?

