

Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Programs Compilation



Purpose:

Funding for wildfire mitigation available in Colorado is dispensed by many agencies and organizations with varying allowable activities, deadlines and match requirements. This compilation is intended to be a resource for individuals, organizations and government entities seeking to navigate the wildfire mitigation funding landscape in Colorado. Corrections or additions to the compilation are welcome, please email courtney.young@state.co.us.

Questions:

For questions about specific funding opportunities, please use the contacts listed. For questions about this tool, please contact Courtney Young, Wildfire Mitigation Program Facilitator with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, courtney.young@state.co.us

Last Updated:

8/3/2023

Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Funding Opportunities										Can fund personnel time?	Award range	Deadlines	Match required	Contacts
State	Program or Opportunity	Funding entity	Type of funding	Eligible land	Eligible applicants	What is funded								
	Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (2024) Grants, Fuel and Forest Health Projects	Colorado State Forest Service	Grant	All lands; up to 50% federal lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community groups Local government entities Public and private utilities State agencies Local government entities Local community groups Local government entities Public and private utilities State agencies Nonprofit groups 	Fuels and forest health projects which strategically reduce the potential risk for damage to property, infrastructure, water supplies and other high-valued assets as a result of wildfire and/or limit the probability of fire spreading into populated areas and promote forest health. Eligible expenses include personnel time, supplies & materials, contractual services and indirect costs. No post-fire rehabilitation activities and no equipment purchases.	Yes	NA	October 10, 2024	50% match of the total project cost or 25% match for qualifying projects in areas with fewer economic resources.	Local field office			
	Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (2024) Grants, Capacity Building	Colorado State Forest Service	Grant	All lands; up to 50% federal lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community groups Local government entities Public and private utilities State agencies Nonprofit groups 	Capacity building grants increase local capacity to reduce wildfire risk. Eligible expenses include personnel & labor, equipment which will enhance local capacity to implement and maintain hazardous fuels reduction and indirect costs.	Yes	NA	Fall 2024	50% match of the total project cost or 25% match for qualifying projects in areas with fewer economic resources.	Local field office			
	Wildfire Mitigation Incentives for Local Government Grant Program	Colorado State Forest Service	Grant		Local government entities	Grant funds are available to match revenue raised by local governments for forest management or fuels reduction, or for local governments to expand existing, long-term programs dedicated to forest management and wildfire mitigation. Project types include: fuel breaks, forest thinning, fuels reduction, outreach and education efforts directed at property owners and other members of the public, and any other means of forest management or wildfire mitigation as determined appropriate for funding by CSFS. Capacity-building projects that will provide local governments with the resources and staffing necessary to plan and implement forest management or wildfire mitigation efforts are eligible for grant awards.	Yes	NA	April 5, 2023	50% match of the total project cost or 25% match for qualifying projects in areas with fewer economic resources.	Local field office			
	Colorado's Water Plan Grants, Watershed Health & Recreation Projects	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Grant	All lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government entities (non federal) Private entities (invested coalitions, mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and/or partnerships) Governmental entities - municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties State of Colorado agencies Tribes Nonprofit groups and partnerships Conservation and water conservancy districts 	The purpose of the Water Plan Grant (WPG) funding is to make progress on the critical actions and measurable objectives identified in Colorado Water Plan Grants in the Watershed Health & Recreation category can support planning, design, or projects. This grant program does not fund fuel treatments.	Yes	NA	December 1 and July 1	50% match is required for all construction projects and a 25% match is required for all plans or studies.	Chris Sturm- CWCB			
	Wildfire Ready Watersheds	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Grant	All lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government entities (non federal) Private entities (invested coalitions, mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and/or partnerships) Governmental entities - municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties State of Colorado agencies Tribes Nonprofit groups and partnerships Conservation and water conservancy districts 	The program focuses on the development of Wildfire Ready Watershed action plans and implementation of projects designed to mitigate post wildfire impacts. Applicants will be accepted for capacity building, planning, engineering, and implementation to address the susceptibility of values at risk to wildfire hazards.	Yes	NA	Accepted on a rolling basis	25% match required for capacity building, planning and engineering grants. 50% match is required for implementation grants.	Chris Sturm- CWCB			
	Wildfire Mitigation Measures Subtraction	Colorado Department of Revenue	Subtraction on state income tax	Private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private landowners Estates Trusts 	Eligible applicants may claim a subtraction on their Colorado Income tax return for certain costs incurred in performing wildfire mitigation measures on their property in a wildland-urban interface area within Colorado. The subtraction is equal to 50% of the qualifying costs for performing wildfire mitigation measures. The total subtraction a taxpayer can claim per tax year is limited to \$2,500. Qualifying costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> payment to a contractor to perform wildfire mitigation measures; or the cost of a chainsaw if purchased primarily for wildfire mitigation measures; or the cost to rent an all-terrain vehicle, truck, tractor, or trailer if rented primarily to perform wildfire mitigation measures. Landowners are eligible for a state income tax credit to reimburse the costs incurred in performing wildfire mitigation measures on the landowner's property. A landowner with a federal taxable income at or below \$100,000 for the income tax year commencing on or after January 1, 2023 is allowed a state income tax credit in an amount equal to 25% of up to \$2,500 in costs for wildfire mitigation measures.	No	\$2,500	Annually (April 15th)	50% match				
	State Income Tax Credit for Wildfire Mitigation (18BZ-1007)	Colorado Department of Revenue	Tax credit	Private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private landowners Estates Trusts Government entities Tribes Nonprofit groups involved in fire mitigation or land management 	Awards of conservation corps or State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams crew time to complete on the ground fire mitigation work. Or cash awards for fire mitigation workforce development training. No defensible space projects.	No	Up to \$625	Annually (April 15th)	75% match				
	Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program: Workforce Development	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Grant	All lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private landowners Estates Trusts Government entities Tribes Nonprofit groups involved in fire mitigation or land management 	Awards of conservation corps or State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams crew time to complete on the ground fire mitigation work. Or cash awards for fire mitigation workforce development training. No defensible space projects.	No	6 to 25 weeks of crew work or up to \$100,000	Fall 2024	None for crew awards, 25% of award for cash awards.	Courtney Young- DNR Alison Leitch- DNR			
	Community Wildfire Assistance Program - Fuel Cost	Bureau of Land Management	Grant and technical assistance	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local fire departments Counties Municipalities Universities Resource conservation districts Nonprofit groups Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments (who choose to apply as sub applicants) are considered sub applicants and must submit sub applications to CO-DMEM. *Must be a participating jurisdiction in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. *Competitive inside CO for state's FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. 	The program's goal is to reduce hazardous fuels. Grant funds can support activities such as hazardous fuels reduction, thinning, chipping, outreach and education. Allowable expenses are not limited to these activities and applicants are encouraged to speak with a Fire Mitigation Specialist located at each BLM office. Outside the grant program, Fire Mitigation Specialists can also provide assistance writing CVPPs, creating fuels reduction plans, conducting home assessments, and support FireFest events, outreach, etc.	Yes	NA	Annually in the fall	None but encouraged	Fire Mitigation Specialist at your local BLM office			
	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIS) Program	Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments (who choose to apply as sub applicants) are considered sub applicants and must submit sub applications to CO-DMEM. *Must be a participating jurisdiction in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. *Prioritized to impacted communities, then statewide. *Competitive inside CO. 	Capability & capacity building (NOT equipment purchases), mitigation projects (defensible space, fuels reduction/vegetation management, ignition resistant building materials, post-wildfire flooding prevention & sediment reduction measures), project scoping, management costs.	Yes	\$50,000-000 federal share	December 15, 2023	25% from non-federal source, 10% for economically disadvantaged rural communities)	Mark Thompson			
	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments (who choose to apply as sub applicants) are considered sub applicants and must submit sub applications to CO-DMEM. *Must be a participating jurisdiction in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. *Prioritized to impacted communities, then statewide. *Competitive inside CO. 	Capability & capacity building (NOT equipment purchases), mitigation projects (defensible space, fuels reduction/vegetation management, ignition resistant building materials, post-wildfire flooding prevention & sediment reduction measures), project scoping, management costs.	Yes	Varies based on amount FEMA provides following presidential disaster declaration.	12 months after the declaration date.	25% from non-federal source.	Mark Thompson			
	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Post-Fire	Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments (who choose to apply as sub applicants) are considered sub applicants and must submit sub applications to CO-DMEM. *Must be a participating jurisdiction in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. *Prioritized to impacted communities, then statewide. *Competitive inside CO. 	Capability & capacity building (NOT equipment purchases), mitigation projects (defensible space, fuels reduction/vegetation management, ignition resistant building materials, post-wildfire flooding prevention & sediment reduction measures), project scoping, management costs.	Yes	Varies based on amount FEMA provides following a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant declaration.	March 31 of the federal fiscal year following the FEMA declaration.	25% from non-federal source.	Mark Thompson			
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Financial and/or technical assistance	Non-industrial private forest or agricultural lands, tribal lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners Indian Tribes Those with an interest in the agricultural or forestry operations Water management entities Local and municipal governments Tribes States Non-profit groups 	Forest management for ecological restoration, improving wildlife habitat, and to reduce fire hazard and facilitate prescribed burning. Prescribed grazing management to plan intensity, frequency, timing, and duration of grazing and/or browsing to manage fuel continuity and loading to reduce wildfire hazard and/or facilitate desired conditions for prescribed burns.	No	Varies	Applications reviewed continuously with an annual cut off typically near the end of each calendar year.	Some landowner investment required	Contact local NRCS Office			
	Community Wildfire Defense Grants, CVDP Development or Update	U.S. Forest Service	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and municipal governments Tribes States Non-profit groups 	The development and revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The implementation of projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old. Projects can include: planning efforts; wildfire prevention; education; outreach including property assessments; training; hazardous fuels reduction including defensible space, the creation of fuel breaks, thinning and prescribed fire; restoration projects; mitigation maintenance; monitoring; and limited equipment purchase.	Yes	Up to \$250,000	Tentative release first week of August, 90 day open period	10%, may be waived for underserved community	General agency contact CSFS_CWDP@colostate.edu			
	Community Wildfire Defense Grants Implementation	U.S. Forest Service	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and municipal governments Tribes States Non-profit groups 	The development and revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The implementation of projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old. Projects can include: planning efforts; wildfire prevention; education; outreach including property assessments; training; hazardous fuels reduction including defensible space, the creation of fuel breaks, thinning and prescribed fire; restoration projects; mitigation maintenance; monitoring; and limited equipment purchase.	Yes	Up to \$10M	Tentative release first week of August, 90 day open period	25%	General agency contact CSFS_CWDP@colostate.edu			
	Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Spaces (RSOS) in CO, Colorado	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Grant	Private and public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit groups U.S. Federal government agencies State government agencies and other political subdivisions of the state Local and municipal governments Tribal governments and organizations Educational institutions Conservation Districts, Regional and local collaborative efforts Fire Safe Councils and/or Wildfire Councils Non-profit organizations Groups that promote hazardous forest fuel reduction treatment projects in partnership with local, state or private entities Fire departments Tribes City or county governments 	Forestry projects that have a direct nexus to watershed health and wildlife habitat improvement. Projects that align with the priorities and strategies outlined in the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) will be most competitive. Within the RMRI, this round of funding has prioritized three focal watersheds: (1) the Upper Arkansas; (2) the Upper South Platte; or (3) select watersheds in Southwest Colorado (see map below). Project activities may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat restoration practices specific to priority dry conifer forest types and aspen forest types. Restoration of both age class structure and to improve forest stand structure diversity habitat and restore that will help return to target fire regimes. 	Yes	None	November	None but encouraged	Kerrie Neff- Southeast Rivers Program Manager			
	AIM: Action, Implementation and Mitigation	Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc.	Grant	Non-federal land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit groups U.S. Federal government agencies State government agencies and other political subdivisions of the state Local and municipal governments Tribal governments and organizations Educational institutions Conservation Districts, Regional and local collaborative efforts Fire Safe Councils and/or Wildfire Councils Non-profit organizations Groups that promote hazardous forest fuel reduction treatment projects in partnership with local, state or private entities Fire departments Tribes City or county governments 	Wildfire risk reduction work including but not limited to: hiring contractors, running cost share programs, defensible space, home assessments, and prescribed fire; capacity building, personnel, planning, and equipment under \$5,000.	Yes	\$10,000- 575,000	October 27, 2023	100% non-federal match	Mitch Dahlike- Wildfire Mitigation Specialist 719-922-1749			
	Matching Awards Program	National Forest Foundation	Grant	National Forests and Grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501(c)(3) nonprofits Universities Federally recognized Native American tribes Municipality or county Title 12 special districts eligible to receive distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas 501(c)(3) non-profit land conservation organization that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas, e.g., land trusts Colorado Parks and Wildlife 	Projects which improve ecosystem structure, function, and diversity. Projects must contain a civic engagement component in addition to the forest health objective.	Yes	New applicants encouraged to request under \$30,000	Fall 2023	100% non-federal match	Kerry Morris- Conservation Awards Manager 406-830-3358			
	Stewardship Impact	Great Outdoors Colorado	Grant	Owned by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Municipality, county or other political subdivision of the state Land trusts or other private party where the land is permanently protected by a conservation easement or conservation restriction Federal agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501(c)(3) nonprofits Universities Federally recognized Native American tribes Municipality or county Title 12 special districts eligible to receive distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas 501(c)(3) non-profit land conservation organization that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas, e.g., land trusts Colorado Parks and Wildlife 	Projects that include resource conservation or outdoor stewardship	Yes	\$100,000-\$300,000	Concept paper deadline: October 26, 2023 January 15, 2024	Variable	https://www.goco.org/about/our-staff			
	Conservation Service Corps	Great Outdoors Colorado	Grant	Owned by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Municipality, county or other political subdivision of the state Land trusts or other private party where the land is permanently protected by a conservation easement or conservation restriction Federal agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501(c)(3) nonprofits Universities Federally recognized Native American tribes Municipality or county Title 12 special districts eligible to receive distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas 501(c)(3) non-profit land conservation organization 	Fire fuels mitigation including the use of chainsaw crews performed by certified conservation service corps crews.	No	Minimum of two weeks of work.	July 26, 2023	10% match	Scott Segstrom, CYCA Executive Director			