2014 Request for Application
HB12-1032 Colorado Forest Restoration Grant
Application Information and Instructions

During the 2009 session, the Colorado General Assembly approved HB 09-1199 to support SB 08-071 extending the Pilot Forest Restoration Program created by HB 07-1130 for an additional four years. HB 09-1199 authorized up to $1,000,000 for each state fiscal year through July 2013 contingent on the availability of funds. Since the repeal of the Forest Restoration Pilot Grant in 2012, the Colorado General Assembly approved HB 12-1032 during the 2012 session, which supports the Forest Restoration Program. Similar to HB 09-1199, HB 12-1032 authorized up to $1,000,000 for each state fiscal year through July 2018 contingent on the availability of funds in the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund.

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, use of forest products and scientifically-based ecological restoration, and where feasible, involvement of the Colorado Youth Corps. Projects may be entirely on private, federal, state, county or municipal forest lands, or on any combination thereof. The state's award share of total project cost shall not exceed 60 percent per project. Matching funds may be provided through cash or in-kind. Federal funds and in-kind contributions are eligible match. Projects must be implemented in area(s) identified in proposal.

This grant is a cost-share program and funds will be distributed according to project accomplishments.

Applicants are encouraged to consider and submit projects that demonstrate a community-based approach to forest restoration. Projects should be designed to have the greatest benefit and impact to the landscape in order to promote overall forest watershed health and provide protection to water resources and supplies. Consider the project's scope of influence and impact across the landscape.

ELIGIBILITY:
Proposed projects must:
- ➢ Meet the grant criteria.
    - o Be located in an area with an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
    - o Address the protection of water supplies, such as water quality, water quantity and / or related infrastructure.
    - o Address one or more of the following objectives, and document and implement accordingly:
        - ▪ 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 non-native 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 as forest products.
    - o Be included in an assessment that:
        - ▪ Identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed area and the desired future condition. Existing ecological conditions may include (a) highly erodible soils on slopes that impact the water quality, (b) over-stocked forests that present wildfire risk, unhealthy trees, reduced water yield, or (c) low species diversity. The desired future condition is the accomplishment of goals, or management activities, outlined in

the Scope of Work that promote the healthy function, structure, and composition of essential ecosystem components. Examples of essential ecosystem components may address (1) age and size class diversity, (2) species diversity, (3) interactions between forest cover and density to water quality and quantity, and fire risk, and (4) relationship between soil erosion and water quality. Forest management plans, natural resource assessments and CWPPs are examples of assessments.

- o Meet the 60/40 match requirement.
    - ▪ Leverage funding through in-kind or cash contributions. In-kind includes donated supplies, equipment use or time. Award recipients and other contributors may support project implementation with their time. Depending on the source of time contribution will determine how much time may be reimbursed and how much time leverages to complete the project. Be sure to account for time by applying the current volunteer labor rate ($22.14 for 2014) at the time of reimbursement request. Equipment use and supplies should be valued at the actual cost or fair market value if receipts are not available. Out-of-pocket expenses exceeding the award amount are part of the leveraged funds. Federal funds are acceptable based on approval from contributing agency. In-kind contributions, such as volunteers or personal labor are acceptable. Matching funds should be clearly identified and firmly committed.
- o Be located within the state boundaries of Colorado.
- o Comply with all applicable federal and state environmental laws
- o Include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders, as well as appropriate governmental representatives, in the design, implementation and maintenance/monitoring of the project.
- o Incorporate current scientific forest restoration and management techniques.

➢ Propose only projects that use machinery or otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the stated program and proposal objectives of the project (i.e. thinning with chainsaws or heavy equipment, vegetation planting, erosion control activities, etc.) will be considered for award to ensure completion of project in allotted timeframe. Prescribed fire (broadcast and pile) are not approved activities for the use of these funds.

➢ Where feasible, contract with an accredited Colorado Youth Corps to provide labor.
- o According the HB07-1130, "In carrying out [this] program and approved projects to provide…, the [Colorado State Forest Service] and stakeholders shall, whenever feasible, contract with the Colorado Youth Corps Association or an accredited Colorado Youth Corps to provide labor."
- o If applicant plans to contract with an accredited Colorado Youth Corps to provide labor, then successful proposal will be required to utilize the Colorado Youth Corps and document contributions and accomplishments.

➢ Discuss project relevance to the Colorado State Forest Action Plan (Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy). Project goals and objectives are encouraged to align with the overarching strategies and/or thematic strategies or tactics. These strategies and tactics help focus efforts to manage Colorado's important forest landscapes.
- o The Colorado State Forest Action Plan (follow link for background of assessment and strategy, and access to the publications and appendices) is a set of companion documents required by the 2008 Farm Bill to help guide where we direct resources to best focus management efforts and achieve desired future conditions. All forest management activities planned and implemented shall consider projects in the higher priority areas of Colorado's important forest landscapes and/or where the opportunity exists to affect larger landscapes and leverage additional resources.

➢ Identify project location. Location information will be used to determine in which priority level landscape the project is located according to the Colorado State Forest Action Plan.

- o Project locations will be related to priority landscape level according to one of the national theme maps, Conserve Working Forest Landscapes, Protect Forests from Harm and Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests (Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment, pages 70-72). Consult your CSFS District for assistance to identify your project's location using either latitude/longitude or legal description.
- ➢ Be completed within the designated18-month project period.
   - o Complete all activities that meet performance measures and **acres to be treated as** proposed in the Scope of Work for full payment. Partial completion will result in partial reimbursement based on CSFS evaluation of project progress.
- ➢ For successful proposals that are awarded funds, report, upon project completion, to the Colorado State Forest Service on the positive or negative impact and cost effectiveness of the project. Compare proposed budget and actual expenses considering activities accomplished according to Scope of Work (i.e. project was under budget, more acres were accomplished, project required leverage of more matching contributions to complete, etc.). Include electronically-provided digital before and after photos in the Final Closeout Report. Provide the CSFS a shapefile (digital map data) for treated areas.

OBJECTIVES

All projects must address the protection of water supplies in addition to one or more of the other listed 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, chipping, mastication, and planting of trees in deforested areas (only mechanical operations). All projects must follow Forestry Best Management Practices for Protecting Water Quality in Colorado.

Reduce the Threat of Large High-Intensity Fires:

Projects will mitigate the threat of wildfires by reducing fuel loads and 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:

Projects will restore ecosystem function and incorporate the ecological values of old and large trees as appropriate based on scientific research. Describe to what extent old and large trees will be retained. Is there a particular ecosystem function or ecological value why old and large trees are preserved within the proposed project area?

Replant Trees in Deforested Areas:

Projects will provide for reforestation in areas negatively impacted by wildfire, insects and disease or other large-scale disturbance. 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. Identify species selected for reforestation project.

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. Be specific by describing which forest products will be generated from the project, if they will be donated, if they will be processed by local timber industry, and other information substantiating the intended use of forest products from project activities.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1) All blocks are fill-in enabled and character locked. Applicants must fit all information into the allotted character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation. **Applications that have been modified for any reason after the final deadline will be considered ineligible by the review committee. Applications must meet all requirements to be considered eligible. The Colorado State Forest Service reserves the right to reject any or all applications.** The scoring information is outlined on page 7.

2) Application guidelines by box number:
   - ➢ **Box 1 & 2-** Use a unique and simple name for the project. Basic applicant and community at risk information. Include the name of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and where we can obtain a copy (be sure the CSFS has an electronic copy of the CWPP).
   - ➢ **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 contributors' space. If the contributors name contains a number spell out that number so that it will not add 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 box 3 and 4's match totals different yielding an inaccurate budget. Be sure to check your number entries, calculations and transfers. Consider cost-effectiveness when preparing budget. Awarded projects must leverage matching contributions according to the proposed match percentage of total project cost. For example, if application proposes to match 50 percent of total project cost, regardless of proposed total project cost, award recipient must leverage matching contributions 50 percent of actual total project cost.
   - ➢ **Box 5-** Provide basic summary information about the objectives, application of the Colorado State Forest Action Plan to project concept, application of CWPP (see box 6 instructions), participation in Firewise Communities/USA (http://www.firewise.org/usa-recognition-program.aspx?sso=0), and expected outcomes including specific communities directly affected by project, acres to be treated, total project cost per acre, specific project location and youth corps participation. Acres accomplished are actual acres treated and not acres affected. If project proposes to partner with an accredited Colorado Youth Corps, then the project must incorporate them in the implementation. Be sure to document accordingly in the Final Closeout Report. Also, be sure to address how relevant objectives will be achieved within boxes 7 or 9.
   - ➢ **Box 6 –** Describe how the grant funds will be spent. Be sure expenditures are relevant to the project's scope of work outlined in box 9. Applicants are encouraged to describe how leveraged funds are likely to be allocated to the project.
   - ➢ **Box 7 –** Briefly describe the area to be treated through the proposed project including watershed details (i.e. watershed location, proximity to critical water sources, level of community dependence on identified water resources, etc.) forest types, land ownerships, acreage for each landowner, and values at risk to be protected. Discuss the current forest condition and what is need or purpose for this project. Describe the scope of influence of this project across the

landscape and how it contributes to the effectiveness of neighboring completed treatment areas. Also, be sure to describe how the project will address the implementation of strategies and/or tactics identified in the Colorado State Forest Action Plan. Consider the concept of the project. For example: a project may focus forest management activities to reduce impacts of wildfire, and forest insects and diseases; work with partners to enhance protection of watersheds and water supplies outside the WUI; and/or advocate landscape approaches to protect communities. *Tip: projects proposed with willing landowners and specific locations identified at the time of application deadline will compete best.*

- ➢ **Box 8** – Describe the benefits to and how the project will improve the protection of water supplies, including water quality, water quantity and associated water infrastructure. Identify water supply or water infrastructure. Identify the benefits and/or impacts to the water end-user.
- ➢ **Box 9** – Outline the project's scope of work, including details on methods, locations, purposes for proposed treatments, and how relevant Best Management Practices are applied. The scope of work also should be aligned with the budget narrative (box 6). The specific details of the project need to address any forest product specifications and utilization standards, as appropriate to the treatment, as well as the forestry practice standards and scientific foundation used to guide project design and implementation. Practice standards and other specifications will be the ruler to measure successful accomplishment of project. The scientific foundation should be substantiated by a reliable and professional resource with proper interpretation. Proposed treatments should be appropriate for the ecological conditions of the landscape and desired outcome of the project. Resources include publications such as CSFS guidelines and/or research articles, management plans, and the expertise of CSFS foresters, consultants or other professionals. Examples of CSFS guidelines include Best Management Practices, thinning standards, defensible space, mastication, etc. and may be found at http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/pub-csfs2.html. Explicitly identify which publication, or professional technical resource, will be applied in project design and implementation. Remember to be concise.
  - o *An example of a scope of work is*: A 300 to 315 foot wide fuelbreak, depending on slope, 20 miles long will be created within the common space around the perimeter of Firesafe Village. Grant funds will be used to contract with Firesafe Contracting Service who will use a brush masticator where possible and hand crews to complete the work in steeper areas. CSFS Mastication Operational Guidelines in conjunction with CSFS Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions and Communities will be applied for the design and implementation of the project. Grant funds also will be used to create and print firesafe brochures in this and surrounding subdivisions. Community members will provide cash match to help fund the contractor services, and will provide a combination of in-kind time and cash match to distribute firesafe brochures.
- ➢ **Box 10** - The project timeline should include such things as: begin/end dates, milestones, quarterly accomplishments, etc. to convey that projects will be completed within the allotted timeframe. Projects shall initiate project implementation within first three months following award notification.
  Tip: projects proposed with willing landowners and dedicated matching contributions at the time of application deadline will compete best. Specify level of commitment and preparedness from landowners and leveraged resources.
- ➢ **Box 11** – Provide details how a variety of stakeholders were involved in the development of the proposed project and how such stakeholders will be engaged in the implementation of the project. Please specify if an accredited Colorado Youth Corps Association will be involved in the project implementation and provide details.

➢ ***Box 12*** – Outline plans to maintain the improved landscape conditions achieved through implementation of the proposed project. Maintenance activities are expected to occur after the project period to sustain the benefits of the treatments and do not intend to use grant dollars to fund. Identify who will plan and provide the project maintenance services, how the maintenance work will be funded, what maintenance will be needed to sustain the long-term benefits and at what frequency, timeline, will maintenance be necessary.

3) ***Map:*** A single map of the project area must be included as an attachment to the application form. Photos are not to be included in the application or as attachments.
   ➢ Map must fit on a single 8 ½" x 11" page.
   ➢ Include title, scale, north arrow, legend/appropriate labels.
   ➢ Clearly outline specific project area. Reimbursements for funded projects will only apply to specific areas proposed in the completed application form.

4) Additional documentation may be requested and required prior to awarding successful project proposals.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

This 2014 Colorado Forest Restoration Grant Program application form must be used. This form can be downloaded from the Colorado State Forest Service website at http://csfs.colostate.edu.

The **FINAL** application form should be filled out and **submitted electronically to** your local CSFS District **no later than 4:00 pm MDT on Thursday, March 20, 2014.** Be sure to include the project area map in the e-mail with the completed application form. Be sure to identify the proposal and map files with a name relevant to the project. It is recommended to select a unique name to reduce confusion with other projects. Specify COLORADO FOREST RESTORATION GRANTS and a project keyword in the e-mail subject line for map and completed application form.

Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Applications received after 4:00 pm MDT on Thursday, March 20, 2014 will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Contact your local CSFS District for district-specific deadlines or if further assistance is necessary to prepare an eligible grant proposal. Proposals will undergo a review at the local district level prior to a statewide interagency panel review process. All applicants will be notified of the status of their applications by Summer 2014.

For Questions or More Information

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SCORING

> All grants will be scored based on the following (53 points possible):

Project 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	
Does the project involve an accredited Colorado Youth Corps in implementation? Note: additional consideration given to projects utilizing accredited Colorado Youth Corps.	Yes = 1	No = 0	
Is the project located within a Firewise Community/USA?	Yes = 1	No = 0	
Is the project concept identified in the Colorado State Forest Action Plan?	Yes = 1	No = 0	
Is the project identified within a CWPP?	Yes = 1	No = 0	
1	Does the project address the protection of water supplies? (Note: preference will be given to projects that clearly define how the project will protect an identified water supply, watershed, or water treatment facility)	Best = 5	Least = 0
2	Does the project address additional objectives: reduce threat of large high intensity fires, preserve old and large trees, replant trees in reforested areas and/or improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees? (Note: preference will be given to projects addressing additional objectives and clearly describing how each additional objective will be addressed within application boxes 7 or 9.)	Best=4	Least=0
3	Is the project clearly identified on the map? (Note: preference will be given to projects with areas most accurately specified on map-consider scale, specific v. general area, proper labels, legibility, etc.)	Best=5	Least=0
4	In which priority landscape level is the project located? (Note: location information from the application will be used to determine location of project area according to Colorado State Forest Action Plan maps. Preference will be given to those projects in the highest priority forest landscape)	Highest=4	Lowest=0
5	Is this project achievable? (time, goals, budget, cost-effectiveness, etc. Be aware of the project period and secure contributor(s) commitment)	Yes! = 2	Maybe = 1 / No = 0
6	Is this project measurable with success clearly identified through performance measures and specifications (scope of work)? (acres treated for restoration, fire risk reduction, water supply protection; residual stand or re-vegetation density; species selection for planting, removal, retention; chip depth; etc.)	Best = 3	Least = 0
7	How well does the project plan to accomplish treatments across a large scale? (Note: projects are encouraged to contribute to a larger project and not stand-alone)	Best-5	Least=0
8	Is the applicant clearly showing collaborative elements and partners? (Note: this is confidence-based in evaluating how well the project engages collaboration in the planning, design, implementation and maintenance phases of the project)	Best = 5	Least = 0
9	Does the proposal include and reference current scientific information, including practice and utilization standards, and discuss it accurately?	Best = 5	Least = 1
10	Does the project effectively leverage state funding? (Note: 40% =1, >40%-<50%=2, 50%-<75%=3, 75%-<100%=4, 100% or more=5)	Best = 5	Least = 1
11	Does the application address the long-term benefits and future maintenance to promote longevity of the project area-what is planned and budgeted to sustain benefits of restoration efforts?	Clearly Defined= 2	Mentioned, not defined = 1
12	Does the project discuss application of appropriate use of Best Management Practices?	Best = 3	Least = 0
13	Does the project intend to utilize forest products?	Yes = 1	No = 0