

Colorado State Forest Service
HB09-1162 — Concerning Intergovernmental Cooperation for the Purpose of
Mitigating Wildfires



Summary

On or before July 1, 2011, each local government that owns any land located inside the territorial boundaries of a county, and that contains at least 50-percent forest land, or land that constitutes a wildland area, will be required to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the county. The purpose of the agreement is to mitigate forest land/wildland fires that affect the contiguous land of the local government and county. Utility providers will be consulted.

This legislation specifies what the IGA will address, including:

- roles and responsibilities of the parties;
- procedures for cooperation and coordination;
- management objectives for wildland fire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, suppression, reclamation, and rehabilitation;
- designation of fiscal and operational authorities;
- description of available resources;
- reimbursement and billing procedures;
- actions to be taken if one party fails to meet obligations.

Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation may allow mitigation resources that are under the control of a fire department to enter their lands.

A new IGA is not mandatory if existing agreements satisfy the requirements of this legislation.

Talking Points

- Wildfires do not recognize political boundaries.
- Intergovernmental cooperation between county and local government that mitigates wildfire risk improves public, infrastructure, and resource protection.
- The bill identifies and specifies the content of mitigation plans and agreements.
- Clarification of authorizing and cooperative roles between county and local governments increases mitigation and protection efforts.

Legislation takes effect August 5, 2009.