

# 2009 Application Information

## HB09-1199 Colorado Community Forest Watershed Restoration Grants

During the 2009 session, the Colorado General Assembly approved HB09-1199 that supports SB08-071 and extends the Pilot Forest Restoration Program created by HB07-1130 for an additional four years. HB09-1199 authorized up to \$1,000,000 for each of the next three state fiscal years, 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, and scientifically based ecological restoration. Projects may occur 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.
- Complete all activities and **acres** identified in the proposal for full payment; partial completion yields partial reimbursement payments.
- Be located within the state boundaries of Colorado.
- Be located in an area with an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Address the protection of water supplies, such as water quality, water quantity and / or related infrastructure.
- 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, especially for prescribed burning activities.
- Include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders, as well as appropriate governmental representatives, in project design, implementation and monitoring.
- 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. Existing ecological condition may include highly erodible soils on slopes that impact water quality or over-stocked forests presenting risk of wildfire, unhealthy trees, reduced water yield, and low biodiversity within herbaceous understory. 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.

- Upon project completion, provide a report 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 the Scope of Work.
- Leverage funding through in-kind, cash or stumpage matching contributions.

**Please Note:** Projects will be given additional consideration if the implementation involves a contract with the Colorado Youth Corps Association or another accredited Colorado Youth Corps.

## **SCORING**

- All grants will be scored based on the following:

<b>Area covered by an <u>approved</u> Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)</b>		<b>Yes = Eligible for scoring</b>	<b>No = Ineligible</b>	
<b>Meets the 60/40 match requirement</b>		<b>Yes = Eligible for scoring</b>	<b>No = Ineligible</b>	
<b>Addresses Protection of Water Supplies</b>		<b>Yes = Eligible for scoring</b>	<b>No = Ineligible</b>	
<b>Includes Ecological / Desired Future Condition Assessment</b>		<b>Yes = Eligible for scoring</b>	<b>No = Ineligible</b>	
1	Does the project address the protection of water supplies? (Note: preference will be given to projects that clearly define how they protect a water supply.)	Best = 5	Least = 0	
2	Does the project address additional objectives listed? (Note: preference will be given to projects that address additional objectives and clearly describe plans.)	Best=4	Least=0	
3	Is the project clearly identified on the map? (Note: preference will be given to projects with areas most accurately detailed on a map.)	Best=5	Least=0	
4	Is this project achievable? (Time, goals, budget, etc.)	Yes = 1	No = 0	
5	Is this project measurable? Are successes clearly identified? (Number of acres treated, restoration, fire risk reduction, water supply protection, etc.)	Best = 3	Least = 0	
6	Does the project plan to accomplish treatments across large contiguous areas? (Note: defensible space projects are encouraged to contribute to a larger project, not as a stand-alone.)	Best-5	Least=0	
7	Does the applicant clearly show collaborative elements and partners? (Confidence level.)	Best = 5	Least = 0	
8	Does the project incorporate current scientific information?	Best = 5	Least = 1	
9	Does the project effectively leverage state funding?	Best = 5	Least = 0	
10	Does the project involve an accredited Colorado Youth Corps in implementation?	Yes = 1	No = 0	
11	Does the application address future maintenance of the project area?	Clearly Defined= 2	Mentioned not defined = 1	None = 0

## **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, 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 mitigate the threat of wildfires 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. The Colorado State Forest Service is 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.

### **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.

### **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. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation. **Applications that have been modified for any reason 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.**

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 where we can obtain a copy.
- **Box 3 & 4** - The totals in these boxes are added 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 contributor's name contains a number, spell out that number so that it will not be added to 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 enter the grant amount requested into box 3, as that will make the match totals of boxes 3 and 4 different and points will be deducted if these boxes do not match. See page 2 of this document for a description of hard vs. soft match.
- **Box 5** - Provide basic summary information about the objectives, expected outcomes, cost and implementation strategy.
- **Box 6** - Briefly describe the area to be treated through the proposed project, including watershed details, forest types, land ownerships, acreage and values at risk / to be protected.
- **Box 7** - Briefly describe the scientific foundation for the treatments outlined in the project. Proposed treatments should be appropriate to the ecological conditions of the landscape and desired outcome of the project.
- **Box 8** - Describe how the project will improve the protection of water supplies, including water quality, water quantity and associated water infrastructure.

- **Box 9** - Outline the project's scope of work, including details on methods, locations and purposes for proposed treatments, and specify a completion timeline. The Scope of Work should explain **exactly** how the grant dollars will be spent on this project. Unlike the overview, this section should include the 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. The project timeline should include such things as: begin / end dates, milestones, quarterly accomplishments, etc.
  - *An example of a Scope of Work:* 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.
- **Box 10** - Provide details on how diverse stakeholders were involved in the development of the proposed project and how such stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation. Please specify if an accredited Colorado Youth Corps Association will be involved in the project implementation and provide details.
- **Box 11** - Outline plans to maintain improved landscape conditions achieved through implementation of the proposed project.
  - *Some examples of clearly defined planned maintenance would be:* describing who would be responsible for planning and performing project maintenance work in the future and how the work would be funded.

3) Do not include photos in the application or as attachments. Only a map of the project area may be included as Attachment A.

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### **Application Due Dates**

This 2009 Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants Program application form must be used. This form can be downloaded from the Colorado State Forest Service website at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>.

The application form should be filled out and **submitted electronically to your local CSFS District Forester by 4 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, December 2, 2009**. Please specify COLORADO FOREST RESTORATION GRANTS in the e-mail subject line. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Districts will conduct a preliminary review and ranking of submitted applications. **Districts will forward all applications electronically to Naomi Marcus at [naomi.marcus@colostate.edu](mailto:naomi.marcus@colostate.edu) by 4 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, December 16, 2009.**

### **For More Information**

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