



## Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program 2026 Report

*Prepared for the House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources  
and the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources  
April 13, 2026*

### Purpose of the report

To update the House and Senate Agriculture Committees annually on information regarding the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant Program administered by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), as required in Senate Bill 17-050.

### Background

The FRWRM Grant Program was created through Senate Bill 17-050 which consolidated the Colorado Forest Restoration Grant Program (administered by the CSFS) and the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program (administered by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources). The program is designed to assist with funding community-level actions across the state to do the following: 1) reduce the risk to people, property and infrastructure from wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI); 2) promote forest health and the utilization of woody material including traditional forest products and biomass energy; and 3) encourage forest restoration projects. Projects may be located on one or more ownership types including private, state, federal, municipal, county, etc. All grant funds must be used on lands within the state of Colorado.

Additional legislation in 2019-2022 made modifications to the program including supplemental or increased funding, modifying match requirements for projects located in areas of fewer economic resources, and expanding eligible land ownership types.

Two types of projects are eligible for funding through this program:

- 1. Fuels and forest health projects:** Projects must: a) 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 wildfires spreading into populated areas; and b) promote forest health through scientifically based forestry practices that restore ecosystem functions, structures and species composition.
- 2. Capacity-building projects:** Projects to purchase equipment that will address unmet implementation needs at the local level. In 2022 eligible activities were expanded to include staffing necessary for local governments, community groups and collaborative forestry groups to plan and implement fuels and forest health projects. Capacity awards are limited to 25% (\$2 million) of the total available funds on an annual basis.

### FRWRM grant process

The CSFS annually releases a call for applications in late summer with applications due in the fall. A technical advisory panel reviews applications and makes recommendations to the State Forester. The State Forester approves the recommendations and awards are made the following year. There are occasions where an off-cycle application process has occurred due to legislative actions through additional funding and safety clauses. Table 1 identifies the amount of funding received and awarded each year and Table 2 identifies the breakout between Capacity Building and Fuels and Forest Health Project requests and awards since the program was created in 2017.

Table 1: FRWRM Funding Received and Awarded by Year

FRWRM Funding Received and Awarded by Year					
Funding Cycle	Severance Funding Received	General Funding Received	Total Funding Awarded	Acres Planned	Funded Applications
2017-2018	\$152,628	\$954,545	\$1,053,499	1,115.5	24
2018-2019		\$954,545	\$986,053	1,826.2	15
*2019		\$1,000,000	\$212,967	220	4
2019-2020	\$1,050,000.00		\$2,045,867	2,254.3	25
2020-2021	\$419,623	\$1,000,000	\$1,505,203	1,116.5	17
**2021		\$14,000,000	\$7,424,301	5,613.9	54
2022-2023		\$10,200,000	\$14,994,592	9,690.2	70
2023-2024		\$8,000,000	\$7,241,580	3,715.1	31
2024-2025		\$8,000,000	\$7,040,000	3,155.9	37
2025-2026		\$8,000,000	\$8,539,512	3,107.9	35
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$1,622,251	\$52,109,090			
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$53,731,341</b>		<b>\$51,043,573</b>	<b>31,815.5</b>	<b>312</b>

\*Year 2019 - several awards were made in the summer of 2019 with applications previously unfunded from the 2018 round due to additional funding provided by the Colorado General Assembly. New applications were accepted in the fall of 2019 for a 2019-2020 round of funding and additional awards were made in early spring of 2020.

\*\*The 2021 Legislative session provided an additional \$6 M in funds via SB21-054 and an annual appropriation of \$8 M via SB21-205.

Table 2: FRWRM Capacity Building vs. Fuels Projects Awarded by Year

FRWRM Capacity Building vs. Fuels Projects Awarded by Year						
Funding Cycle	Funding Awarded	Number of Projects Funded	Funded Capacity Building Projects		Funded Fuels Projects	
			Number	Amount Awarded	Number	Amount Awarded
2017-2018	\$1,053,499	24	4	\$72,405	20	\$981,094
2018-2019	\$1,199,020	19	1	\$40,000	18	\$1,159,020
2019-2020	\$2,045,867	25	3	\$91,043	22	\$1,954,824
2020-2021	\$1,505,203	17	5	\$186,086	12	\$1,319,117
2021	\$7,424,301	54	4	\$204,980	50	\$7,219,320
2022-2023	\$14,994,592	70	21	\$3,241,937	49	\$11,752,655
2023-2024	\$7,241,580	31	9	\$1,471,652	22	\$5,769,929
2024-2025	\$7,040,000	37	14	\$1,343,014	23	\$5,696,986
2025-2026	\$8,539,512	35	9	\$1,866,745	26	\$6,672,767
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$51,043,573</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$8,517,861</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>\$42,525,712</b>

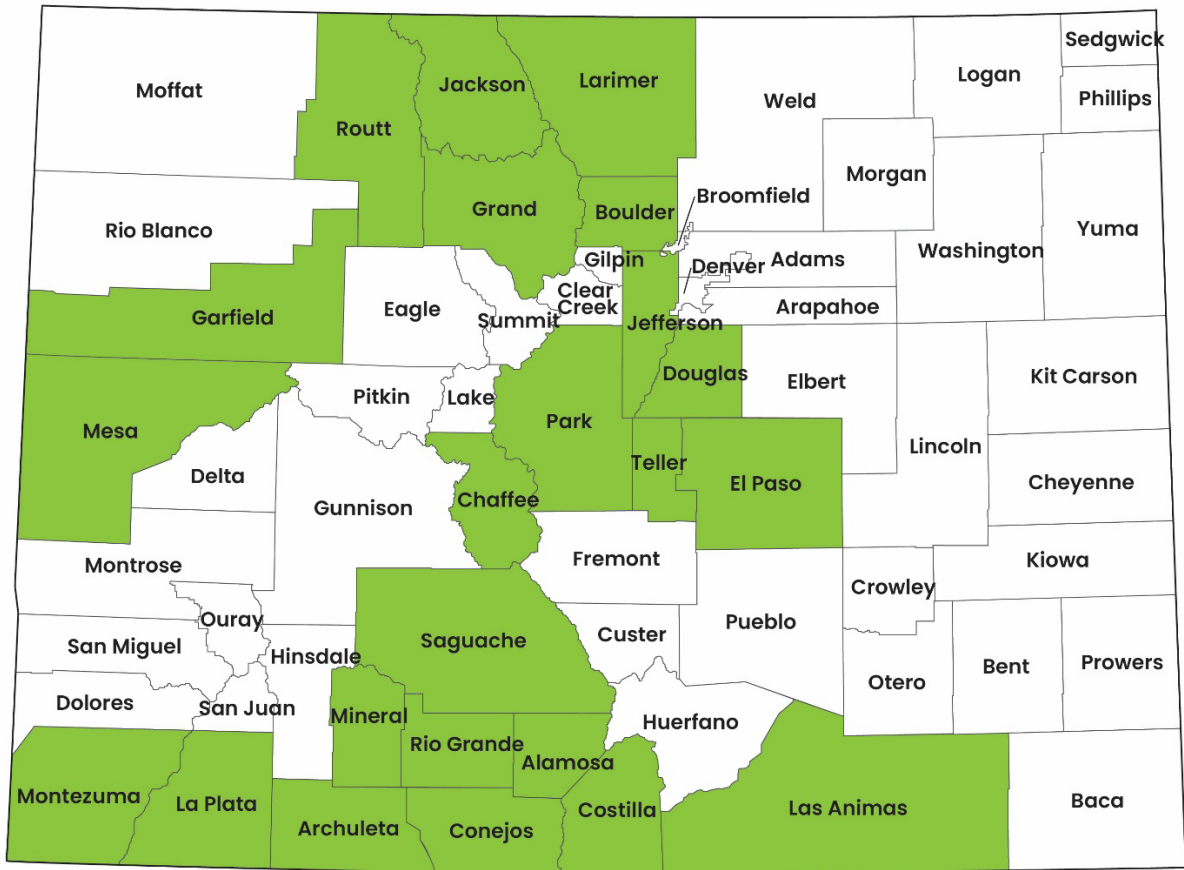
### 2025-2026 FRWRM grant cycle summary

The CSFS received 83 FRWRM applications during the 2025-2026 call for applications. The total amount of funding requested was just over \$20 million for increased staffing, equipment purchases, and fuels and forest health treatments on approximately 11,300 acres. Based on the FRWRM technical advisory panel recommendations the CSFS issued awards to 35 applicants totaling just over \$8.5 million. The distribution of requests and awards for the 2025-2026 cycle by county is shown in Table 3 and the distribution of awards by county is shown in Figure 1.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FRWRM Request and Awards by County

2025-2026 FRWRM Request and Awards by County									
County	Amount Requested	Number of Applications Received	Number of Awards	Awarded Capacity Building Projects	Awarded Fuels Projects	Acres Awarded	Total Match Provided	Awards in Areas of Fewer Economic Resources	Amount Awarded
Alamosa	\$431,738	2	1	\$-	\$60,000.00	52	\$62,324	0	\$60,000
Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache	\$252,281	1	1	\$151,368.75	\$-	N/A	\$56,000	1	\$151,369
Archuleta	\$31,000	2	2	\$9,000.00	\$22,000.00	10	\$11,212	2	\$31,000
Boulder	\$309,700	3	2	\$-	\$258,750.00	150	\$272,343	0	\$258,750
Boulder, Jefferson	\$291,000	1	1	-	\$291,000.00	97	\$306,300	0	\$291,000
Boulder, Larimer, Weld	\$450,000	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Chaffee	\$248,090	1	1	\$248,090.25	\$-	N/A	\$512,090	1	\$248,090
Clear Creek, Jefferson	\$812,945	2	0	-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Douglas	\$2,465,422	4	3	\$-	\$926,130.00	695	\$1,685,410	0	\$926,130
El Paso	\$450,358	4	2	\$-	\$255,592.00	173.68	\$276,949	0	\$255,592
Garfield, Mesa	\$262,500	1	1	\$262,500.00	\$-	N/A	\$87,500	1	\$262,500
Gilpin	\$192,500	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson	\$36,826	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Grand	\$40,564	1	1	\$40,564.00	\$-	N/A	\$72,648	1	\$40,564
Gunnison	\$372,928	2	1	\$-	\$322,927.84	120	\$322,928	0	\$322,928
Huerfano	\$191,436	2	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Huerfano, Las Animas, Costilla, Alamosa, Pueblo, El Paso, Fremont	\$300,000	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Jackson	\$526,060	2	2	-	\$526,060.00	101.61	\$724,421	0	\$526,060
Jefferson	\$1,709,331	8	2	\$-	\$992,681.80	180	\$492,682	1	\$992,682
Jefferson, Park, Douglas	\$276,000	1	1	\$276,000.00	\$-	N/A	\$300,000	0	\$276,000
La Plata	\$997,480	6	2	\$-	\$510,890.00	168	\$337,864	1	\$510,890
Larimer	\$2,656,913	11	4	\$166,391.20	\$894,750.00	393	\$1,066,368	3	\$1,061,141
Larimer, Boulder	\$576,949	1	1	\$-	\$576,949.40	165	\$576,949	1	\$576,949
Las Animas	\$450,000	2	1	\$-	\$350,000.00	325	\$379,104	0	\$350,000
Las Animas, Huerfano, Pueblo	\$1,018,429	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Mesa	\$326,252	2	1	\$-	\$232,202.20	192.6	\$232,249	0	\$232,202
Mineral	\$523,561	2	1	\$-	\$20,876.16	5	\$20,876	0	\$20,876
Montezuma	\$143,175	1	1	\$143,175.00	\$-	N/A	\$155,824	0	\$143,175
Park	\$750,204	3	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Rio Grande	\$16,550	1	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Routt	\$1,628,060	5	2	\$569,655.38	\$258,000.00	193	\$935,664	0	\$827,655
Saguache	\$398,895	2	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Summit	\$821,282	2	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
Teller	\$173,958	1	1	\$-	\$173,958.03	86.97	\$174,126	1	\$173,958
Statewide	\$321,050	2	0	\$-	\$-	0	\$-	0	\$-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,453,438</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$1,866,744.58</b>	<b>\$6,672,767.43</b>	<b>3107.86</b>	<b>\$9,061,831</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$8,539,512</b>

Figure 1: 2025-2026 FRWRM Awards by County



## Additional information requested by SB17-050

SB17-050 requests that the CSFS share additional data regarding the grant program on an annual basis. Table 4 includes a summary of projects, funding awarded and completed, and data metrics described in legislation including: acres treated, average treatment costs, amount and use of wood products and woody biomass, and number of jobs created.

Table 4: 2026 FRWRM Legislative Reporting Data

Completed FRWRM Project Data							
Funding Cycle	Amount Awarded	Number of Projects Awarded	Number of Projects Completed or Closed	Total Acres Treated	Average Treatment Cost Per Acre	Number of Jobs Created	Amount and Use of Wood Products and Woody Biomass
FY 2017-18	\$1,053,499	24	24	1,610.05	\$2,975.69	110	Firewood: 660 cords, 50 loads, 1,187 CCF. Sawlogs: 100 logs, 45 cords, 100 CCF. Chips: 190 loads, 4,683 cu yds, 5,875 tons. Posts & poles: 250, 16 cords. POLs: 972 cu yds
FY 2018-19*	\$1,199,020	19	19	1,254.44	\$2,084.26	36	Firewood: 1,433 cords, 2,849 tons. Sawlogs: 50 tons, 117 CCF. Chips: 41 loads, 5,448 cu yds, 113 tons.
FY 2019-20	\$2,045,867	25	25	2,890.8	\$2,228.99	70.5	Firewood: 5,098.5 cords, 14 loads. Sawlogs: 2,700 logs, 461 loads. Chips: 53,016 cu yds. Posts & poles: 1,050. POLs: 900 cu yds
FY2020-21	\$1,505,203	17	16	1,115.38	\$2,636.43	9	Firewood: 3,120 cords. Sawlogs: 1,300 cords, 4 loads, 1,128 tons. Chips: 141,352 cu yds, 381.5 tons.
CY 2021**	\$7,424,301	54	44	4,446.53	\$2,839.25	72	Firewood: 2,769 cords, 78 loads, 3,333.5 tons, 573.21 CCF. Sawlogs: 2,700 logs, 54 loads, 2,144.7 tons, 12.5 CCF. Chips: 195 loads, 6,827 cu yds.
FY 2022-23	\$14,994,592	70	26	2,642.11	\$2,717.68	16	Firewood: 2,058.5 cords, 246 loads. Sawlogs: 398 cords, 31 loads, 625 tons. Chips: 15,244 cu yds. Posts & poles: 225. Transplants: 230.
FY 2023-24	\$7,241,580	31	3	54.1	\$1,858.37	0	Firewood: 30 cords. Sawlogs: 20 CCF.
FY 2024-25	\$7,040,000	37	6	22.5	\$3,700	3	Firewood: 15 cords.
FY 2025-26	\$8,539,512	35	0	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$51,043,573</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>14,076</b>	<b>\$3,506.78</b>	<b>316.5</b>	<b>Firewood: 15,184 cords, 388 loads, 6,182.5 tons, 1,760.27 CCF. Sawlogs: 5,500 logs, 1,743 cords, 550 loads, 3,947.7 tons, 249.5 CCF. Chips: 426 loads, 226,570 cu yds, 6,370 tons. Posts &amp; poles: 1,525, 16 cords. POLs: 1,872 cu yds. Transplants: 230.</b>

## Demand for the grant program

The passage of SB21-205 moved funding for the FRWRM program from Tier II severance taxes to general funds and increased the amount from just over \$1 million annually to \$8 million. With consistent increased funding for the program, the CSFS has been able to invest resources in additional outreach and assistance for development of projects and incorporated several changes to the program including removing a funding cap for individual applications. The number of applications and amount of dollars requested has continued to grow annually even as the program has received additional investments from the state (Table 5).

Table 5: FRWRM Grant Program Funding Request History

FRWRM Grant Program Funding Request History							
Funding Cycle	Number of Grant Requests	Amount of Funding Requests	Number of Projects Funded	FRWRM Funding Received	Funding Awarded to Projects	Number of Projects Unfunded	Funding Request Shortfalls
2017-18	66	\$3,739,670	24	\$1,107,173	\$1,053,498	42	-\$2,686,172
2018-19	47	\$3,245,567	19	\$1,954,545	\$1,199,020	28	-\$2,046,547
2019-20	54	\$4,066,229	25	\$1,050,000	\$2,045,867	29	-\$2,020,362
2020-21	65	\$5,077,742	17	\$1,419,623	\$1,505,203	48	-\$3,572,539
2021	92	\$14,709,848	54	\$14,000,000	\$7,424,300	38	-\$7,285,548
2022-23	122	\$29,719,400	70	\$10,200,000	\$14,994,591	52	-\$14,724,808
2023-24	82	\$21,608,241	31	\$8,000,000	\$7,241,580	51	-\$14,366,661
2024-25	100	\$25,196,441	37	\$8,000,000	\$7,040,000	63	-\$18,156,441
2025-26	83	\$20,453,438	35	\$8,000,000	\$8,539,512	39	-\$11,913,926
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>\$127,816,580</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>\$53,731,341</b>	<b>\$51,043,571</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>-\$76,773,009</b>



*Photo: Falls Creek Ranch volunteers and summer employees gathered after spending the morning chipping slash and stacking firewood. Falls Creek Ranch HOA.*

The Falls Creek Ranch HOA was awarded FRWRM funding in 2020 to begin the first phase of a larger project addressing wildfire risk across the 940-acre community. This initiative protects 337 residents and a vital drinking water source for SW Colorado and NW New Mexico. To-date, FRWRM funds have supported treatments on 165 acres, along with capacity building funds to purchase a woodchipper.

The chipper has been essential in managing slash, producing wood chips repurposed for animal bedding and community gardens. The HOA also shares the chipper with other Firewise USA communities to extend the programs regional impact. This project exemplifies how FRWRM funding can empower communities to collaborate, educate, create jobs, and achieve critical forest health and wildfire mitigation goals.