

FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT STAFF REPORT

DATE: APRIL 23, 2024

TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: DAN DERTZ, DIRECTOR OF OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CC: SCOTT MCELDFOWNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JILL WELLE, SENIOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION SPECIALIST
DYLAN WILLIAMS, WILDFIRE MITIGATION SPECIALIST

SUBJECT: FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION (FRWRM) FUELS AND FOREST HEALTH GRANT AWARD FOR SANDSTONE RANCH OPEN SPACE PROJECT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

APRIL 23, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To support the BOCC wildfire initiative, promote a healthy forest and protect natural resources at the Sandstone Ranch Open Space (SROS) from negative wildfire and post-fire impacts, Douglas County made application to the Forest Restoration Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant program offered by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The FRWRM grant program was established by SB 17-050 and provides funding to reduce the risk of wildfire to people, property and infrastructure, and promote forest health and restoration. The program is a 50% reimbursement match for eligible expenses. The 2023 FRWRM program offered approximately \$5,200,000 in funding for fuels projects and an additional \$2,000,000 for capacity building projects. The SROS property has been identified as high risk for wildfire and in its current state may result in high loss from wildfire. DC successfully leveraged \$354,000 to pursue forest restoration and wildfire mitigation actions on the SROS.

II. REQUEST

A. Request

Staff requests the Board accept the grant award.

B. Background

This grant will support continued forest management work at Sandstone Ranch. Wildfire is identified as the number 1 natural hazard threat in DC. This project supports actions in the DC Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), the DC Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and Sandstone Ranch Forest Management Plan, developed in partnership with the CSFS. CSFS provides DC forest management services and expertise through an MOU. Many Front Range forests, including DC need significant management to protect values at risk and create wildfire resilient landscapes. This project was identified through annual forest management planning in collaboration with DC wildfire mitigation, OEM and CSFS supported by accompanying forest management plans. Matching funding for this grant is through annual Open Space and Natural Resources (OSNR) budget allocations for new forest management projects. This funding opportunity leveraged approved budgets, increasing scope, scale, investment in management activities and fiscal efficiency.

Projects in this proposal support themes in the Colorado Forest Action Plan (FAP) including Forest Conditions, Living With Wildfire, and Watershed Protection which are all critical components to support award under the FRWRM program. This proposal includes forest products utilization including sawlogs and firewood. These products increase efficiency of treatment costs through contractor benefit. OEM has recognized this area for potential response and suppression operations. Treatment costs for the silica mine tussock moth removal will be high as this unit is steep terrain and difficult access and is slated for helicopter logging operations.

The 2 Projects identified under this proposal will treat an additional 150 acres, protecting highly valued resources. The Forest management treatments are science-based and support Front Range ponderosa pine and mixed conifer wildfire resilient landscapes. This FRWRM project builds on previous treatments, including the shaded fuel break along cow camp road, tussock moth mortality infestations and Gambel oak management. The shaded fuel break along cow camp road was a recommendation of and supported by the DC Wildfire Action Collaborative (WAC).

These treatment areas build on previous treatments and complement the over 800-acre *Greater Larkspur* Forest Management Project spearheaded by the CSFS. The Greater Larkspur project reduced fuels on over 800 acres across three neighboring properties including the Haystack Ranch, Perry Park community and the SROSpace. This valuable project contributes significantly to protecting values at risk in both the natural and built environments and protecting livelihoods in southwestern Douglas County bordering the Pike National Forest. These efforts significantly increase the effectiveness of wildfire response and suppression efforts.

C. Location

The Sandstone Ranch Open Space property is located at 8309 S Perry Park Road, Larkspur, CO 80118, in the Southwestern portion of Douglas County, adjacent to the Pike National Forest.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff has evaluated the FRWRM Grant Agreement, and the Board may accept the grant award as it complies with the County approval standards and policies.

ATTACHMENTS

FRWRM Pre-award Letter

Revised Scope of Work

FRWRM Application Package



5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
(970) 491-6303
Fax: (970) 491-8645

January 31, 2024

Dear **Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources**,

I am pleased to inform you that your application for the 2023-2024 Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program, **Sandstone Ranch Forest Restoration Project**, has been approved for funding in the amount of **\$354,000**.

At this time, please schedule a time to meet with your local CSFS Field Office Forester for a pre-implementation meeting to; (1) develop your final scope of work (SOW) and incorporate required standards and guidelines including best management practices, (2) discuss the documentation and reimbursement request procedures, and (3) answer any other questions you may have.

Your local CSFS Field Office Forester is Supervisory Forester, **Spencer Weston**, who can be reached at **(303) 660-9625** or Spencer.Weston@colostate.edu.

A draft SOW based on your application is included with this letter. Once the final SOW is completed by you and your local CSFS forester, the CSFS Field Office will submit it electronically to the FRWRM Program Specialist, Kahla Montrose, **no later than March 8, 2024**. Official Award Packets will be prepared and distributed after the final SOW is received. Reimbursement procedures and cost documentation requirements will be described in the Award Packet.

Project work may not begin until grant recipients have signed the official Project Award Notification and initialed the final SOW and returned it to the Program Specialist. Please note that any efforts, activities, or expenses that occur prior to the official award notification will not be eligible for reimbursement or match.

Please reach out to myself or your local CSFS field office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kahla Montrose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kahla Montrose
Forestry Program Specialist

Colorado State Forest Service Financial Assistance Program

Attachment A: Scope of Work

Project Name: #17 Sandstone Ranch Forest Restoration

CSFS Account Number: 1929415

Work to be completed/deliverables:

Project Summary

Primary goals of fuels reduction & forest stand improvement on the Sandstone Ranch County Open Space. Total project acreage of 150 acres is split between two forested stands.

Prescription

Prescription at cow camp will be a mechanical thinning. A masticator will be utilized where the terrain allows on gambel oak and understory regen up to ~6" dbh. Gambel oak will be reduced by around 80%, remaining gambel oak will be open grown and left in clumps in strategic areas according to CSFS standards. Other native shrubs will not be targeted. Majority of the ponderosa pine regen will be removed, especially where it is growing under the canopy, or within 10 feet of the dripline of more mature trees. The mature ponderosa pine trees are mostly in the 12"-16" dbh range. Any trees larger than this will be left to increase age class diversity and lesser trees will be removed around those >16". Existing gaps in the canopy will be utilized and increased in size and number. Trees left standing will be chosen to create a mosaic of age and size class as well as varying density across the landscape. Snags will be marked and left standing for habitat trees. Target basal area (BA) will be in the 40-60 range to reflect historical standards. Slash will be 10-15% lop and scatter, the rest will be broadcast chipped or mulched and spread with the masticator. Chip depth is not to exceed 2 inches to prevent vegetation suppression, and is not to be broadcast against the base of trees. Boles will be collected and removed, stumps cut flush.

At silica mine the prescription will be the same for the lower terrain where access allows for the usage of heavy machinery. On steep and rocky slopes a helicopter will be utilized in a helicopter logging operation, where trees will be cut on site, removed to centralized location with easy access, and processed there. Slope aspect will be taken into account when marking trees for removal. North slopes will be left denser (80-100 BA) and south slopes will be left sparser (40-60 BA). Slash will be lop and scatter to a maximum 12 inch depth. Prescriptions for both units will reflect the Sandstone Forest Management Plan developed by CSFS, with reference to GTR 373, Principles and Practices for the Restoration of Ponderosa Pine and Dry Mixed Conifer Forests of the Colorado Front Range. All CSFS best management practices will be followed along all riparian corridors.

Utilization & Slash Management Plan

The project is expected to harvest a min, of 40-50 log truck loads of sawlog & firewood sized DF & PP trees that will be used by local sawmill Oaklands Ranch (Sedalia, CO). Any wood not accepted by Oaklands will be utilized as firewood by JCK/Sweetmans Enterprises (Henderson, CO) and/or Hammond Firewood (Elizabeth, CO).

Budget Details

Award: \$354,000

Match: \$354,000 (50%)

Approved budget items include contractual costs to complete the fuels reductions work. Supplies/materials, personnel/labor, and indirect costs are not a part of the budget.

Milestone dates:

Spring-summer 2024: Project layout, contractor site visit for bids, contractor selection. Prior to operations commencing nesting bird surveys will be completed per MBTA guidelines.

Summer-fall 2024 - Begin ground-based mechanical treatments, starting with cow camp management unit (MU) which should be completed before winter (60 acres). Submit reimbursements as necessary.

Fall-winter 2024 - Begin ground-based mechanical removal of lower elevations at silica mine MU until weather ceases operations (~20 acres). Submit reimbursements as necessary.

Spring 2025 - resume ground-based operations at silica mine MU. Begin cutting for helicopter removal unit. Submit reimbursements as necessary.

Summer-fall 2025: completion of all ground based and helicopter operations for silica mine MU (70 acres). Submit reimbursements as necessary.

Fall-winter 2025: Project completion, including landing rehab & any other erosion control and clean up. All grant reimbursements and final reporting complete.

Project Completion deadline: **April 1, 2028**

Final Report and reimbursement request due to local CSFS Field Office: **May 1, 2028**

Standards or Guidelines: Best Management Practices must be followed for all forest management/fuels mitigation work completed under this award. Refer to the handbook [Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado](#) for more information.

Supervisory foresters: Please add any relevant guidance documents (examples below). Delete those that are irrelevant, and then delete this red text.

- CSFS guidelines for [Defensible Space](#) and [Fuelbreaks](#)
- [Principles & Practices for Restoration of Ponderosa Pine & Dry Mixed-Conifer Forests of the Colorado Front Range \(gtr 373\)](#)
- [Forest Restoration in the Southwest \(gtr 310\)](#)
- [To Masticate or Not: Useful Tips for Treating Forest, Woodland, and Shrub Vegetation \(gtr 381\)](#)
- [Mulching: A Knowledge Summary and Guidelines for Best Practices on Colorado's Front Range](#)

All work completed under this award must be certified as meeting minimum Colorado State Forest Service standards prior to any reimbursement being made to the award recipient. CSFS Grant Reimbursement Request Package will be used to both request reimbursement and to certify that work has been completed to minimum standards.



2023-2024 Grant Program Application

Fuels & Forest Health Projects

Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation
Grant Program

Established by SB 17-050

Application Instructions

Applicants should use Adobe Acrobat or the free Adobe Reader software to edit this PDF application for the most reliable results. Write in complete sentences and provide as much detail as needed for reviewers to understand all aspects of proposed projects. All blocks are fill-in enabled and limited to a certain number of characters. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

Note: Additional support materials beyond the allowable support letters, maps and contract bids will not be considered.

A. Applicant Information

To receive Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant funds, the applicant or fiscal agent must be registered with the IRS and have a tax identification number. Fiscal agents often take responsibility for financial or other types of transactions for another entity. If the applicant organization will not be the direct fiscal agent for contracting purposes, list the name of the desired fiscal agent. For the purposes of this grant application and the resulting grant agreement, a fiscal agent is a separate entity that agrees to assure that a project will use awarded grant funds to accomplish the activities described in the grant application and the resulting grant agreement.

Note: The fiscal agent must remain unchanged during the full period of the grant.

Name of Project:	
Applicant/Fiscal Agent:	
Type of Organization:	
Contact Person/Title:	
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
County:	
Phone (Work/Cell):	
Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is this application associated with a separate Capacity Building application?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes to the above, is the proposed Capacity Building Project contingent upon funding of this Fuels & Forest Health Project?

B. Eligibility

This section includes a checklist of **required** elements for each application. If the application does not include all of the items below (any items checked "No"), the application will be considered ineligible. Instructions on using the Colorado Forest Atlas to generate required maps and determine if project is located within the WUI are listed on page 3.

Did you attach required 1-page map showing project area IN the Colorado Forest Atlas with the 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan Composite Priority theme and Social Vulnerability Index visible?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the project located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) of Colorado?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Have you contacted the Colorado State Forest Service Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing (CoWood) program as required?</p> <p>CoWood: Tim Reader, Program Specialist of Utilization & Marketing, (970) 247-5250 or tim.reader@colostate.edu</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date of Correspondence:</p>
<p>Have you contacted forest products or wood utilization businesses or incorporated wood utilization as required?</p> <p>All applicants are required to reach out to wood utilization businesses unless the applicant is utilizing all woody materials.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Do you have a required plan for utilizing forest products/woody materials generated by the project?</p> <p>If utilization is not a viable option, applicants must describe what will occur to materials generated from the project.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Have you consulted with county officials on this project and attached a required letter of support?</p> <p>Acceptable county officials may be commissioners, sheriff's office representatives, forester/forestry staff, or wildfire coordinators.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Do you have required formal commitment for matching funds?</p> <p>Matching funds confirmation can be communicated through letters of support.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>By checking yes, you indicate that the contents of this application are accurate to the best of your knowledge and you agree to all contracting requirements, including reporting and monitoring requirements, as outlined in the Request for Applications.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

From the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#) homepage, launch the Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner application to create a project area, determine if project is within the WUI, and view and print maps of the project area with both the Composite Priority Theme and Social Vulnerability Index layer visible. The Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner application requires users to create an account with the Colorado Forest Atlas, free of charge, before they can access the application. Account requests are usually approved within 1 day of submitting the request.

2020 Forest Action Plan Composite Theme

The Composite Priority Map prioritizes areas that address combined Themes of Forest Conditions, Living with Wildfire and Watershed Protection. The Forest Conditions Theme Priority Map evaluates threats such as insect and disease disturbance, canopy fire and land use conversion. The Living with Wildfire Theme Priority Map evaluates wildfire risk including the wildland urban interface, drinking water assets, forest and riparian assets combined with burn probabilities. The Watershed Protection Theme Priority Map evaluates improving and maintaining quality of water and infrastructure by looking at infrastructure and predicted post-fire erosion rates. More information on the 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan and Themes can be found on the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#) Homepage.

Additional risk maps, such as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) map or other Forest Action Plan Theme maps such as Watershed Protection or Forest Conditions, may be included and should be clearly labeled.

Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

Projects located partially or fully in areas identified as having Fewer Economic Resources may match 25% in cash and/or in-kind match to 75% grant funds for the total project budget. All other projects must match 50% in cash and/or in-kind match to 50% grant funds for the total project budget. When viewing the SVI, the project areas located within the cross-hatching indicate a project is eligible for a 25% match. Additional information on the SVI and how areas of fewer economic resources are defined can be found on the Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner application in the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#).

Instructions for creating REQUIRED project area map with the Composite Priority and SVI layers visible, and determining if the project is located in the WUI ([Click here to view step-by-step images of this process](#)):

1. Launch the Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner application.
2. Navigate to the *Analyze Project Areas* section in the menu on the left and click the **"Manage Project Areas"** button. A *Manage Project Areas* menu box will open.
3. Click the "+" button in the bottom right corner of the *Manage Project Areas* menu to create a new project area. The project area can be created by using the drawing tool within the application or you have the option of uploading an existing shapefile or kml file containing the project area if you already have one. Shapefiles must be in a compressed zip folder and projected in NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N coordinate reference system. When uploading a shapefile, you must press the **"Select"** button and then click on your shapefile in the map (it should turn green when selected) and click **"Finish"**.
4. After you've created the project area, select the project area within the *Manage Project Areas* box to activate this project area.
5. Expand the *Explore Map Themes* in the menu on the left and click the **"Landscape Characteristics"** and turn on the **"Wildland Urban Interface"** layer. If your project area falls within or touches the Wildland Urban Interface layer, you can answer "YES" on this application question. You can now turn the layer off.
6. Expand the *View Reference Layers* and turn on required **"Social Vulnerability Index"** layer and any relevant layers, such as *County Boundaries*. If your project area falls within the cross-hatching, that indicates you are eligible for a 25% match.
7. Expand the *Explore Map Themes* icon and click the **"2020 Forest Action Plan"** icon and enable the **"Forest Action Plan Composite"** layer. Adjust the *Theme Transparency* in order to see any relevant Reference Layers.
8. Scroll down on the left-hand side of the page to the **"Print Map"** function and click on **"Print Map."** Click the check mark inside a circle on the map to indicate the area surrounded by the dashed rectangle is the area that should be printed, and then click **"Print."**
9. The application may run a few minutes while creating a map. A Composite Priority map with the SVI layer and project area boundaries will be created. This 1-page map is **required** to be attached to your application.

If further assistance is needed, reference the [user manual](#) on the Colorado Forest Atlas support page or contact us using the form on the [Colorado Forest Atlas Contact page](#).

C. Project Summary

Provide a brief narrative summarizing the overall project and answer the questions listed below.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 500-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

Estimated number of homes directly affected by this project:	
Total number of acres* to be treated: Acreage can be measured using the measure tool in the CO Forest Atlas	
Estimated federal acres (if applicable): Project must maintain continuity (within 1-mile) across a landscape including federal lands and the total federal acres must be less than combined total of non-federal acres.	
Estimated cost/acre:	

Is this project identified through a community-based collaborative process (CWPP, FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan, or similar)? If yes, please list plan name(s).	
What year was the CWPP/similar plan completed or revised?	
Will this project involve a contract with an accredited Colorado Youth or Veterans Corps Association? If yes, please name the group. Letter of support required to receive preference points	
Will this project or future projects utilizing purchase(s) result in the protection of water supplies?	
In the instance of the project being partially funded, is it still viable with reduced outcomes (i.e., is the project scalable)? Briefly explain.	

*Estimated number of acres should only include treated acres within project boundaries and should not include areas that are inoperable, inaccessible, or untreated “reserves” within project areas.

D. Project Relation to Forest Action Plan

The goals of the FRWRM Program, to reduce wildfire risk in the WUI and promote forest health and wood utilization, align with the Colorado State Forest Action Plan (FAP) Themes (T) and Goals (G) listed below. Briefly explain the project objectives and clearly describe how they align with each of these FAP Goals, where applicable. Describe the specific approaches that will be taken to meet these Goals and explain how they are scientifically supported. Reference the [FAP](#) for details on each Theme, Goal, Strategy and Approach.

FAP Theme 1 (T1): Forest Conditions

G1: Keep forests as forests.

G2: Improve forest productivity.

G3: Promote adaptive management.

FAP Theme 2 (T2): Living With Wildfire

G1: Promote community fire adaptation.

G2: Reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.

G3: Promote the role of fire in ecological processes.

FAP Theme 3 (T3): Watershed Protection (Additional preference given for proposal that include the protection of water supply)

G2: Improve resiliency of critical water infrastructure.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,500-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

E. Project Relation to Local Actions

Clearly describe how the project objectives align with the specific goals and objectives of an approved CWPP (or similar plan). Describe any local measures that reduce wildfire risk to people, property and infrastructure that the communities have adopted or plan to adopt (e.g., wildfire mitigation overlay zoning, participation in [Firewise USA®](#) program, hazard mitigation planning, forest management planning/implementation, existing slash/mulch collection or chipping programs, adoption of, or plans to adopt, county/local building codes for wildfire mitigation, demonstrated ongoing citizen outreach and education about wildfire risk, existing CWPPs/similar plans, etc.).

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

F. Matching Contributions

This section is for matching share only. DO NOT show grant-requested funds in this table.

Contributors: Please specify the name of each match contributor and the dollar amount of each contribution.

Cash Match: Cash match is defined as direct funds made available to the project applicant (or their fiscal agent) for use in achieving work through the proposed project. This could include cash on hand, commitments from lending institutions or contributions from landowners with a signed letter indicating their commitment.

In-kind Match: In-kind match includes donated supplies, equipment, staff time or volunteer time/sweat equity directly related to the project. Donated time will be accounted for using current volunteer labor rates (\$31.51/hour for 2023).

Applicants are required to demonstrate an ability to match requested grant funds for a minimum of a 1:1, or dollar-for-dollar, grant to match ratio. For example, if the total project budget is \$100,000, the minimum match would be \$50,000 and the grant funding request would be \$50,000 (50%).

Proposed projects located within areas of fewer economic resources (cross-hatching in SVI layer) are required to match the requested grant funds for a minimum of 3:1, grant to match ratio. For example, if the total project budget is \$100,000, the grant-funding request would be \$75,000 and the minimum match would be \$25,000 (25%).

Providing match beyond the minimum 50% requirement is allowed and will result in additional scoring preference for projects that are located outside of fewer economic resource areas. Because of this preference, successful applicants that propose additional match in this application must provide the proposed match ratio in order to receive full grant reimbursement.

Contributors: (Please specify)							TOTAL
Cash Match: (Dollars)							
In-kind Match: (Hourly rate can't exceed \$31.51)							
TOTAL:							

G. Total Project Budget

This section should reflect the entire budget for the proposed project. The grant share column should reflect the state grant funds being requested in this application. The match columns should carry over information from Section E. *Matching Contributions* of the application. Please ensure that budget numbers are calculated correctly.

Personnel/Labor: Includes expenses directed toward staff time or labor (valued at actual salary amount).

- Grant administration activities such as compiling paperwork for reimbursements and reports cannot be included as part of the grant share, but is considered a cash match.
- Sweat equity (such as homeowner or volunteer labor) cannot be included as part of the grant share or cash match, but is considered an in-kind match at the volunteer hourly rate of \$31.51 per individual.

Supplies/Materials: Include expenses for supplies or rental equipment used to complete project activities. Proposals for capital equipment purchases must be submitted in a separate Capacity Building application.

Contractual Services: Include expenses that will be contracted out to a third-party.

Indirect Costs: Include a wide variety of items not specifically broken out in the budget known as facilities and administrative costs (utilities, phone, copying, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing agent's time, and routine administrative services). Indirect costs paid by the grant may not exceed 10% of the grant total. Additional indirect costs (beyond 10%) may be used as cash match but must be documented with an established rate.

Anticipated project revenue: List anticipated cost offsets or revenues generated from the utilization of forest products or woody biomass. Any revenue generated by the project must be factored into the grant request. For example, if the cost for treatment is \$3,000 per acre but utilization will decrease the cost to \$2,500 per acre; show the \$500 per acre as revenue, request funding based on the \$2,500 per acre.

Examples of items that are not reimbursable or eligible to use as match: Equipment (i.e., chainsaws, tools), equipment repairs/parts/maintenance (i.e., oil changes, tires, chains), food/beverages, fundraising/investment/selling/marketing costs, decoration, office supplies, postage, telephone charges, computers/technological devices, and costs that don't directly relate to accomplishing proposed work.

Please be sure the totals from section E match totals below – totals in green and the totals in red must match.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET All budget line items must be described in Section G. Budget	Grant Share (\$ Amount requested)	Match (Carry over from Section F.)		TOTAL
		Dollars	In-Kind	
Personnel/Labor:				
Supplies/Materials:				
Contractual Services:				
Indirect Costs:				
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET				
Anticipated Project Revenue (from wood or biomass utilization)		To calculate match %, divide the Total Match (purple box) with the Total Project Budget (blue box). If match is less than 50% (25% if eligible) of the total project budget, the application will be disqualified .		

H. Budget Narrative

Describe each budget line items listed in Sections F. *Matching Contributions* and G. *Total Project Budget*. Clearly explain how specific project costs were estimated. For example, estimated per-acre costs of contracted work should be supported by bids or known costs from previous or similar projects. Per-hour labor rates should also be explained. Describe the role of each entity involved in project implementation, the known terms of contracts associated with the project, and the nature of in-kind contributions. Clearly explain any anticipated project revenue or cost-savings, how revenue is factored into the grant request, intended use of any revenue generated and how it will further the

objectives of the program. For example, will the revenue allow more acres to be treated? Describe any opportunity to leverage grant funds with other funding sources. Be as specific as possible when explaining how the funds will be allocated. Attach bids or contract estimates from industry, if applicable.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 2,000-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

I. Project Area Description and Current Conditions

Describe the project area and current conditions including: geographical description, forest type, land ownership breakdown and acres, and the communities in which projects will take place including population, number of homes and structures, utilities and other values at risk. If project relates to a utility, describe utility service area, population served, and infrastructure and/or water supplies protected. **Participating landowners or organizations must be confirmed prior to applying.** Project locations should be focused on specific areas and not too broad in scope (county-wide descriptions/maps are too broad). The current condition description should describe the general current forest conditions (e.g., species composition, tree density, health, etc.). Provide details and explain how conditions were evaluated. Address how the project reduces hazardous fuels and/or improves forest conditions and to what extent.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 2,000-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

J. Project Prescription and Scientific Foundation:

Describe the prescription and scientific foundation for the project and the specific practice standards that will be applied to achieve the desired outcomes of the project. Descriptions should be detailed and measurable and may include: the distance fuels mitigation work will be conducted from homes and structures, target basal area for forest thinning, target fuel loading, target percentage for the reduction of continuous tree and shrub canopy cover, etc. Describe how invasive species will be managed during project implementation as well as how wildlife impacts will be considered. Be sure to include a plan for slash management, if applicable.

Prescriptions should specifically address how projects will comply with Colorado Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs). The scientific foundation should be substantiated by a reliable and professional resource with proper interpretation and recognized as appropriate to the local conditions found on the project site. Resources include publications such as CSFS guidelines and/or research articles from relevant studies appropriate to Colorado (e.g., research on Front Range forests by the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute and/or the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership), management plans, and the expertise of CSFS foresters, consultants or other professionals. [CSFS guidelines](#) include Forestry BMPs, thinning standards, and guidelines on defensible space, fuels mastication, shaded fuelbreak development, etc. Contact your local [CSFS Field Office](#) for assistance generating the project prescription.

Successful applicants may be required to submit a more detailed description prior to a grant award from the CSFS.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 2,500-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

K. Strategic Value of Project

Explain the strategic nature of the project. Identify if the proposed project will take place adjacent to or in close proximity to other planned or previously treated forest areas on state, municipal, private or federal lands. Explain whether the project will be implemented across land-ownership boundaries and if it is part of a larger landscape-scale treatment effort. Is the project within a priority area identified in a completed CWPP or FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan? Describe the benefits the project will have to the respective community or residents. Explain how the proposed project will serve as a catalyst for future forest management projects.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,500-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

L. Forest Product Utilization

Describe plans for utilizing forest products/woody material from planned project sites or incorporating utilization into planning and project development efforts. Name the specific product(s) if applicable. Visit the [Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing](#) website for further information on wood utilization.

Applicants are **required** to contact CoWood representative Tim Reader at (970) 247-5250 or tim.reader@colostate.edu for information on incorporating wood utilization into projects. List the names and dates of communications with any businesses that have been contacted regarding wood utilization. If any partnerships with industry are planned, provide those details also. Attach current bids or contract estimates from industry (if applicable).

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,500-character space. **Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.**

M. Partners and Supporters

Describe coordination that will occur with participating groups/organizations and include partner contributions to the project. Specify conversations with county officials, including names, dates and locations, and describe how an accredited Colorado Youth Conservation or Veteran Corps organization, if any, will be included in the project. Include letters of support from relevant organizations as attachments along with formal commitments from financial institutions, landowners and/or industry.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

N. Timeline

Provide a timeline for the project including project beginning and end dates as well as project milestones with specific targets for completion. **All projects funded in this cycle must be completed by April 1, 2028.**

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

O. Maintenance/Sustainability

Outline long-term plans to monitor and maintain the improved landscape conditions achieved through implementation of the proposed project. Monitoring and maintenance activities that do not use grant dollars are expected to occur after the project period to sustain the benefits of the treatments. Identify who will plan and provide the project monitoring and maintenance services, how the work will be funded, what monitoring and maintenance will be needed to sustain the long-term benefits and at what frequency monitoring and maintenance will be necessary.

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,500-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

Note: Additional support materials beyond the allowable support letters, maps and contract bids will not be considered.

The following page provide guidance to applicants on criteria the Technical Advisory Panel will use to score and evaluate applications.

Project Relation to Forest Action Plan (Section D)**Score: /5 pts**

Are project objectives clearly defined and do they align with specific FAP goals, and the overall FRWRM Program goals? Are the approaches to meet project objectives described, appropriate and scientifically supported?

Project Relation to Local Actions (Section E)**Score: /5 pts**

Does the project fit into the goals of a specific CWPP or other similar collaborative plan? Have the community(s) adopted local measures to reduce wildfire risk?

Budget (Sections F, G & H)**Score: /10 pts**

Do costs seem reasonable and/or justified for the proposed work? Are expenditures clear, and have utilization revenues been considered and explained? Does the budget provide effective leverage for other funds or in-kind contributions? Are quotes or cost justification for project work included? Are budget calculations accurate?

Project Area Description/Current Conditions (Sections I)**Score: /10 pts**

How well is the project area defined? Are current conditions detailed and clear? All allowable maps included will be considered (2020 FAP Composite Priority map, other FAP theme maps, CWPP maps, etc.). Do the maps align, and in what priority value is the project located? Is the project likely to be effective in reducing risk to identified values?

Project Prescription and Scientific Foundation (Section J)**Score: /10 pts**

How appropriate are the standards and prescriptions to achieve the project and grant program's objectives within the current forest condition? Do the scientific standards reflect best available information? Are applicable Colorado Forestry BMPs addressed? Have applicants consulted with experts? Have CSFS guidelines been integrated? Are the prescription standards detailed and measurable?

Strategic Value of Project (Section K)**Score: /5 pts**

Does the project tier to a county plan or relevant CWPP? Is there an emphasis on a regional approach? Is it adjacent or in close proximity to other planned or previously treated areas? Will the project achieve results at a meaningful scale?

Forest Product Utilization (Section L)**Score: /5 pts**

Has the applicant made an effort to include wood utilization and do utilization plans appear to maximize the possibilities? Has the applicant corresponded with any wood products businesses? Are details provided?

Partners and Supporters (Section M)**Score: /5 pts**

Does the project maximize use of partners and supporters? Are partner contributions clearly articulated? Has partner communication been discussed? Letters of support will be reviewed, including required letter from county official.

Timeline (Section N)**Score: /5 pts**

Is the timeline organized with clearly defined beginning and end dates, project milestones (outreach, mitigation, hiring, etc) and specific targets completed at specific times? Does the proposed timeline seem achievable?

Maintenance/Sustainability (Section O)**Score: /5 pts**

Is there an appropriate plan to maintain the project after completion? Does the maintenance plan include details of who will accomplish maintenance tasks, how the work will be funded and how often activities will occur?

Additional Consideration/Preference**Score: /5 pts**

Additional points will be given to applications that demonstrate:

- Additional leverage of resources and collaboration
- Adoption of local measures to reduce wildfire risk
- Partnership with youth and/or Veterans Groups
- Protection of water supplies



Colorado Risk Reduction Planner

<https://co-pro.coloradoforestatlas.org>

Sandstone Ranch Forest Restoration

Represents priority areas where goals from the forest conditions, living with wild re, and watershed protection themes can be achieved on the same management footprint by a project or activity.

Created on:

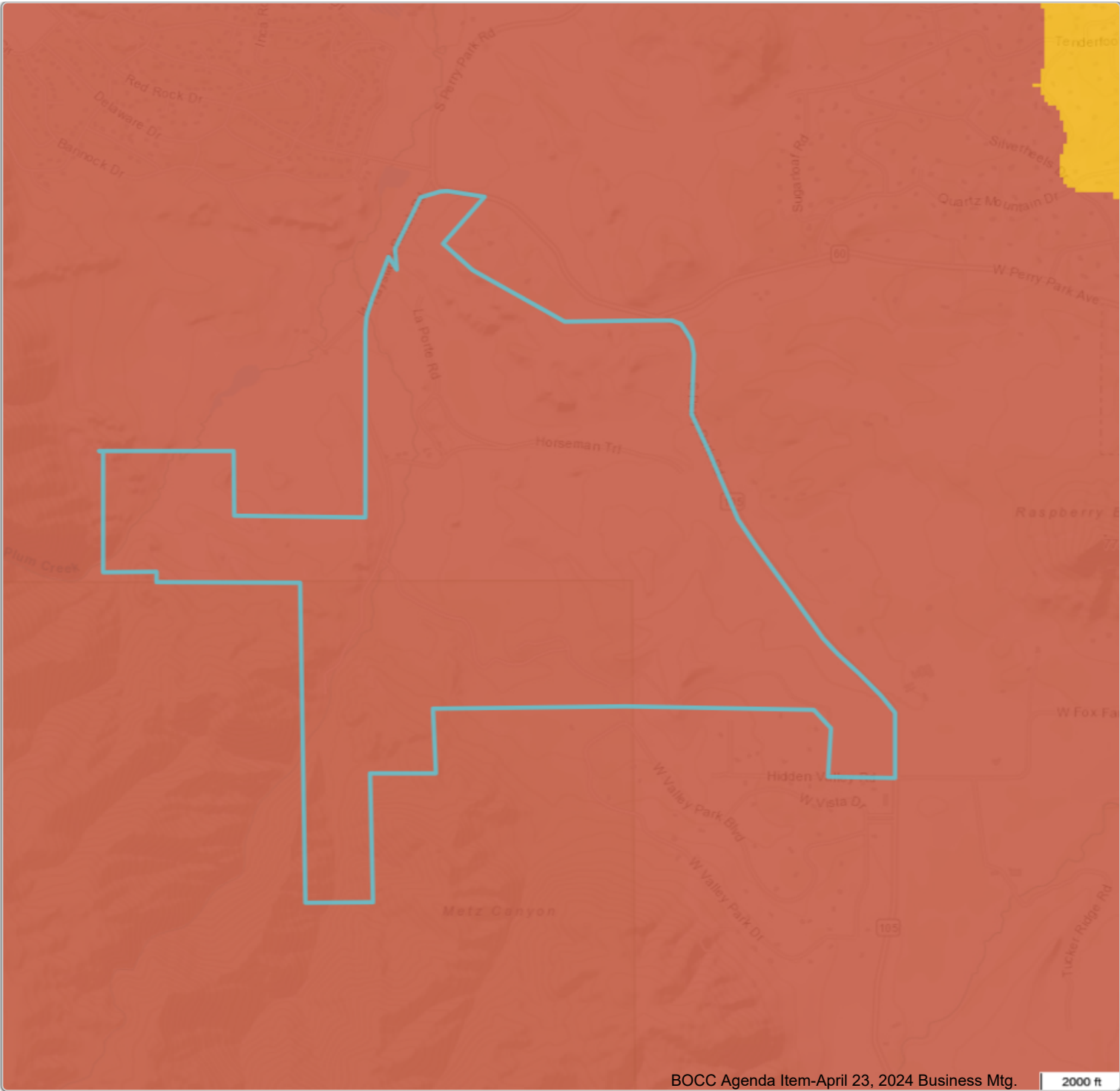
10/16/2023, 11:19 AM

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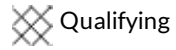
Legend

<https://co-pro.coloradoforestatlas.org>

Counties



Social Vulnerability Index



Forest Action Plan Composite



Lowest

Highest

October 5, 2023

Dear FRWRM Selection Committee,

Douglas County wildfire mitigation offers support for the Sandstone Ranch Forest Restoration project. This proposed project lies within the South Platte Watershed and the RMRI footprint. This project builds on previous treatments in this critical southwestern corner of Douglas County abutting the Pike National Forest. The completion of this 150 acre project will tie into the Greater Larkspur Project that has been implemented over the past three years (2020-2023, 770 acres) which will result in over 900 acres of contiguous forest treatments across multiple ownerships, protecting critical water sources, communities, and land investments. This area is identified as a critical area for treatment in the DC CWPP and the DC HMP. The project encompasses multiple themes in the CSFS FAP and has strong support from the Douglas County Wildfire Initiative Team (DCWIT) led by Douglas County Commissioner Abe Laydon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Welle".

Jill Welle, CWMS
Senior Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Douglas County Building Division

2023-2024 FRWRM Application Checklist & Comment Form

Please attached this form to the single PDF application prior to submitting to Kahla

Applicant Name:

Project Name:

Supervisory Forester:

Field Office & CSFS Area:

*If project falls within multiple supervisory foresters jurisdictions, all pertinent supervisory foresters may elect to submit this comment sheet with the application. Please only submit 1 application with all comment sheets attached.

Total match provided:

Total Project budget:

Match %:

Is 1 page map attached with the following visible:

SVI layer

Composite priority layer

Is project in area of fewer economic resources? Yes No

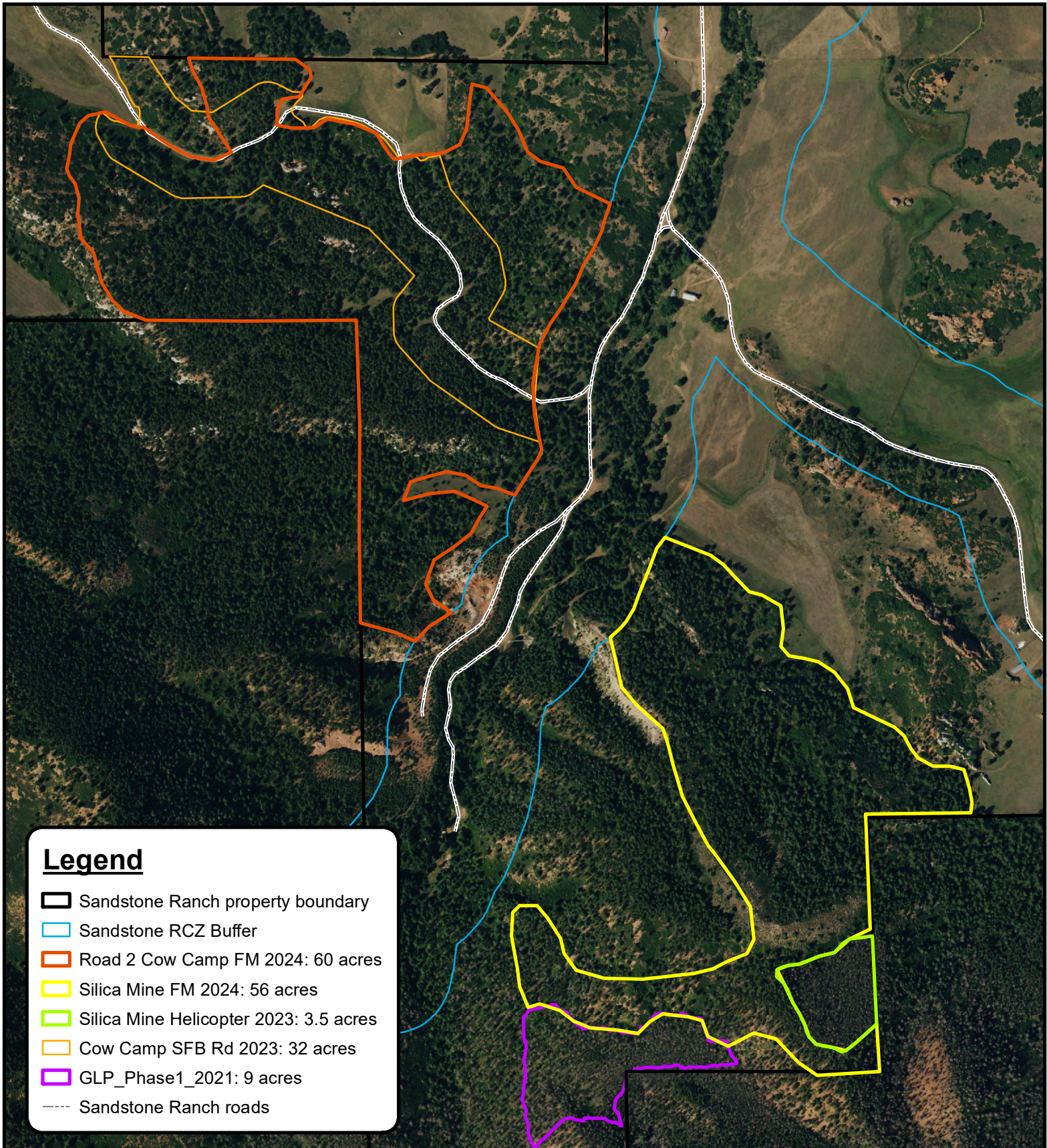
Is county letter of support attached? Yes No

Do you recommend funding this project? Yes No Maybe

Do you recommend this project for monitoring? Yes No I Don't Know

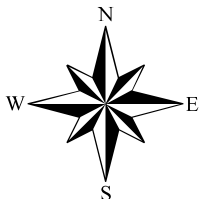
Supervisory Forester Comments on application:

DCOS Sandstone Ranch: Forest Restoration & Fuel Breaks



Legend

- Sandstone Ranch property boundary
- Sandstone RCZ Buffer
- Road 2 Cow Camp FM 2024: 60 acres
- Silica Mine FM 2024: 56 acres
- Silica Mine Helicopter 2023: 3.5 acres
- Cow Camp SFB Rd 2023: 32 acres
- GLP_Phase1_2021: 9 acres
- Sandstone Ranch roads



0 410 820 1,640 2,460 Feet

Prepared By:
Colorado State Forest Service
Franktown Field Office





Colorado Risk Reduction Planner

<https://co-pro.coloradoforestatlas.org>

Sandstone Ranch Forest Restoration

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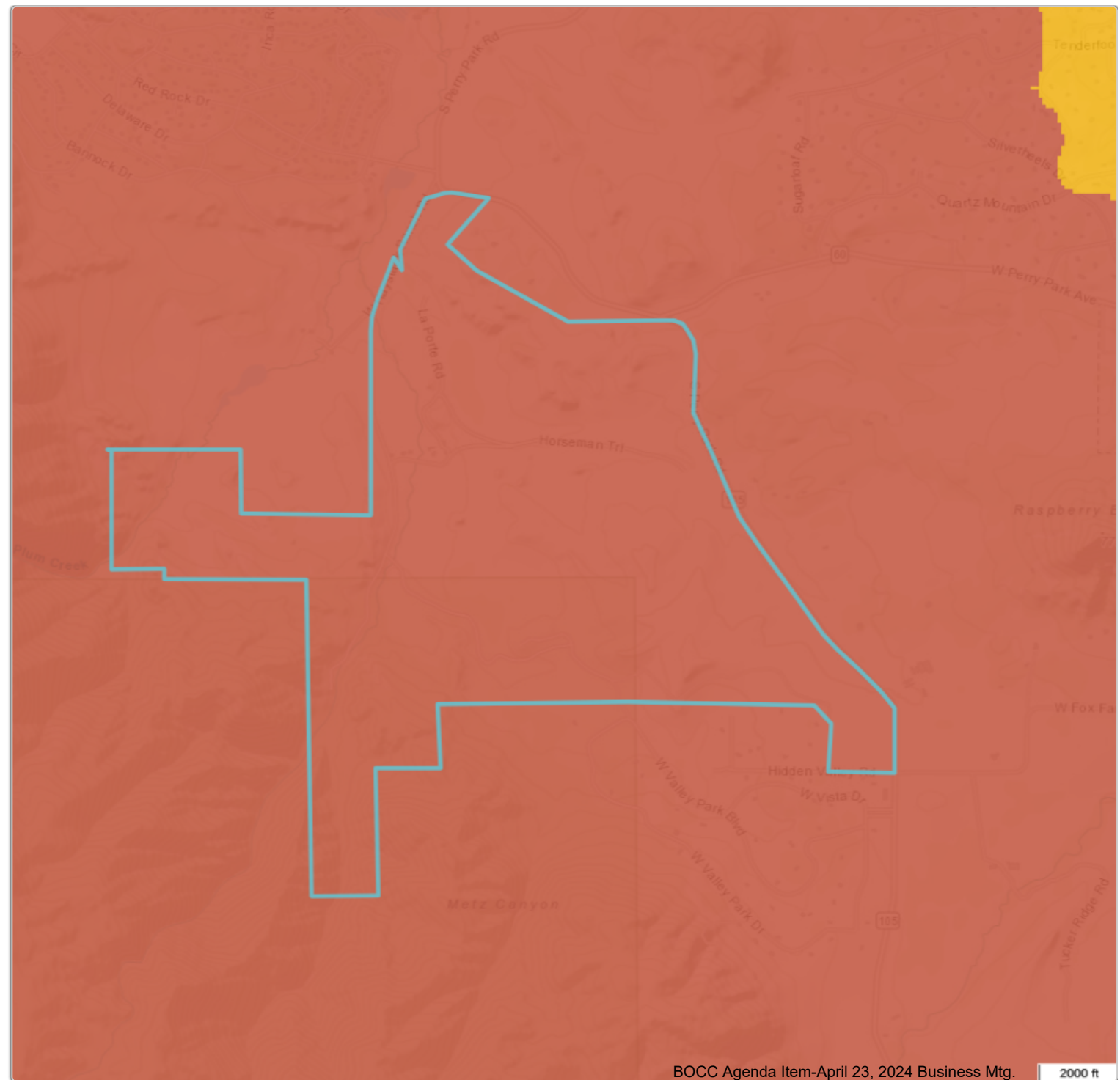
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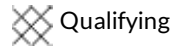
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Counties



Social Vulnerability Index



Forest Action Plan Composite



Lowest

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