



2025-2026 Grant Application

Capacity Building Projects

Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM)

Grant Program

Established by SB 17-050

Application Instructions

Applicants must reference the [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) for important eligibility criteria and supplemental resources. Adobe Acrobat or the free Adobe Reader software should be used when completing this application. Write in complete sentences and provide sufficient details for reviewers to understand all aspects of the proposed project. All blocks are fill-in enabled and limited to a certain number of characters. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation. **Do not scan or alter the application form. Altered applications will not be accepted.**

A. Applicant Information

To receive FRWRM grant funds, the applicant or their designated fiscal agent must be registered with the IRS and have a tax identification number. By default, the applicant is expected to serve as the fiscal agent and will be responsible for managing all financial transactions related to the grant. If the applicant organization will not be the direct fiscal agent for contracting purposes, clearly identify the proposed fiscal agent below. For the purposes of this grant program, a fiscal agent is defined as a separate entity that agrees to ensure that awarded grant funds are used to carry out project objectives described in this application and the resulting grant agreement, if awarded. The fiscal agent must remain unchanged throughout the full term of the grant.

Name of Project:	
Applicant:	
Type of Organization:	
Fiscal Agent (if different than applicant):	
Contact Person/Title:	
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
County(s) where project work will occur:	
Phone:	
Email:	
If a FRWRM application has been submitted for this project in previous cycles, select all cycles that apply: ☐ N/A ☐ <u>2024-2025</u> ☐ <u>2023-2024</u> ☐ <u>2022-2023</u> ☐ <u>Pre-2022</u>	
☐ Yes ☐ No	Is this application associated with a separate Fuels & Forest Health application?
☐ Yes ☐ No	If yes to the above, is this proposed Capacity Building Project contingent upon funding of the Fuels & Forest Health Project?
☐ Yes ☐ No	By checking yes, you acknowledge that additional attachments beyond the allowable support letters, contract bids, and maps are unallowable and will not be considered.

Payment Structure & Flow of Funds

If the proposed project requires payments to be made by third-party participants (e.g., landowners within an HOA who will pay initial treatment costs and later be reimbursed by the awardee), clearly justify and describe how payments for project activities will be handled. This includes identifying who will pay invoices (applicant, specific partners or landowners, etc.), the process and timeline for the third-party participants to be reimbursed by the awardee or fiscal agent, documentation methods that will be used to verify payment and reimbursements, and any other relevant details related to third-party agreements that will be in place. If this section is left blank, it will be assumed the applicant or fiscal agent will pay for all project expenses directly and no third-party model will be used, if awarded.

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

B. Eligibility

This section includes a checklist of **required** elements for each application. Applications that do not include all items below (any items checked “No”), will be considered ineligible. Instructions on using the Colorado Forest Atlas to generate the required maps and determine if a project is located within/near the WUI can be found [here](#).

Required 1-page map showing the <i>specific</i> project area IN the Colorado Forest Atlas with the 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan Composite Priority theme and Social Vulnerability Index visible is attached. ☐ Yes ☐ No
The project area is within or near the WUI of Colorado confirmed via the Colorado Forest Atlas. ☐ Yes ☐ No
The Colorado Wood Utilization & Marketing (CoWood) program has been contacted, in 2025, regarding this project. Applicants must send an email that includes a brief project description, the project name, location, and entity that is listed on the FRWRM application submission to csfs_cowood@colostate.edu . ☐ Yes ☐ No Date of Correspondence:
Forest products and/or wood utilization businesses have been contacted regarding this project. All applicants are required to contact wood utilization businesses unless the applicant is utilizing all woody materials or the project does not include a fuels reduction component, in which case select N/A. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A plan for utilizing forest products/woody materials generated by the project is included in the project proposal. If utilization is not a viable option, applicants must describe what will occur to materials generated from the project. Projects that don't include a fuels reduction component can select N/A and provide additional details in section <i>M. Forest Product Utilization</i> . ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Relevant county officials have been consulted on this project and the required letter of support is attached. Acceptable county officials may be commissioners, sheriff's office representatives, county forester/forestry staff, or wildfire coordinators. CSFS staff do not qualify as county officials. Applicants may not write their own support letter. Additional criteria can be found in the RFA. ☐ Yes ☐ No
Matching funds have been confirmed prior to submitting this application. If selected for funding, verification of committed match contributions will be required. Additional details can be found in the RFA. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Project Readiness: By checking yes, you confirm project work is ready to begin upon award notification, in accordance with the timeline details provided in this application. Applicants should be prepared to initiate the first phase of work (hire staff, purchase equipment, issue call for bids, etc.), within the first year of the award. Applicants should not apply for grant funding unless projects are ready for execution.

☐ Yes ☐ No

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 RFA.

☐ Yes ☐ No

C. Project Summary

Provide a brief narrative summarizing the proposed 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: (or future projects using equipment purchases, if applicable)	
Estimated acres in project/planning area: (i.e., if CWPP is being developed, estimate the acres within the CWPP boundary area) Acreage can be measured using the measure tool in the CO Forest Atlas.	
Estimated acres* to be treated annually with purchase, if applicable: *Only include planned acres within project boundary. DO NOT include areas that are inoperable, inaccessible, or untreatable “reserves” within project areas.	
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 50% of the total project acres.	
Estimated cost/acre: Include contractor bids as attachment, when possible.	
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) and year completed or revised.	
Will this project involve a contract with an accredited Colorado Youth or Veterans Corps Association? If yes, list the group’s name. Letter of support required to receive preference points.	
Will this project result in the protection of water supplies? If yes, provide details in Section E. <i>Project Relation to Forest Action Plan</i>	
In the instance of the project being partially funded, is it still viable with reduced outcomes (i.e., is the project scalable)? Briefly explain.	

D. Project Goals and Objectives

Clearly describe the goals and objectives of the proposed project and how they align with the overall FRWRM Program goal of reducing wildfire risk to people, property and infrastructure in the WUI, while promoting forest health and restoration and the utilization of woody material. Specifically address how the project will increase local capacity to plan and implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health projects and to what extent. Capacity building actions must be tied to these goals and objectives and will need to be referenced later in this application.

Goals should be broad (i.e., increase community fire awareness and knowledge), while objectives will be more specific to the actions taken to achieve the project goals (i.e., host 5 wildfire-themed community events each year during grant period). In general, objectives are more numerous as multiple objectives may be created towards meeting your project's stated goals. Goals and objectives should be tailored to the type of capacity building request. For example, for an equipment purchase request, goals and objectives should be tailored to the specifics of what the equipment will be used for and not just the purchase of the equipment. For increased staffing, (i.e., wildfire outreach coordinator), indicate the specific goals and objectives for that position.

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 Forest Action Plan

The FRWRM Program aligns with the specific Colorado State Forest Action Plan (FAP) Themes (T) and Goals (G) listed below. Briefly explain how the project objectives 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. **Note:** *Most projects will not align with every FAP Theme and Goal listed below. Applicants should address only those that apply.*

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 G2: Improve resiliency of critical water infrastructure.
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All information for the project must fit into the allotted 1,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

F. Project Relation to Local Measures

Clearly describe how the project complements any local measures that reduce wildfire risk to people, property and infrastructure that the impacted communities have adopted or plan to adopt. Describe how the project aligns with specific goals and/or priorities of an approved CWPP (or similar plan) and list any project-specific actions that will occur to meet or move plan goals forward. Reference the RFA for examples of local measures.

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

G. Matching Contributions

This section is for matching contributions only. DO NOT include grant-requested funds in this table. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet a minimum 1:1, or dollar-for-dollar, match requirement. For example, for a total project budget of \$100,000, the grant request would be \$50,000 and the required match would also be \$50,000 (50%).

Applicants with proposed projects located in areas of fewer economic resources (identified by cross-hatching in SVI layer) are eligible for a reduced match rate of 25%, or a 3:1 grant to match ratio. For example, for a total project budget of \$100,000, the grant request could be \$75,000 with a minimum match of \$25,000 (25%).

Contributors: Specify the name of each match contributor and the dollar amount/value 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, contributions from landowners or partners, or other grant funds. Applicants must identify and confirm match contributions prior to applying and provide details in the budget narrative. If selected for funding, applicants will be required to submit verification of committed match contributions. Additional criteria can be found in the RFA.

In-kind Match: In-kind match includes non-monetary contributions such as donated supplies, equipment, services, or volunteer labor directly related to the project. Donated time must be accounted for using the current CSFS volunteer labor rates (\$38.74/hour for 2026). In-kind contributions must be quantified and justified in the budget narrative.

Providing match beyond the minimum 50% requirement will result in additional scoring preference. Successful applicants that receive this preference must provide the proposed match ratio to receive full grant reimbursement. Preference only applies to match greater than 50% regardless of reduced match rate eligibility.

Contributor Name(s):							TOTAL
Cash Match:							
In-kind Match: (Hourly rate can't exceed \$38.74)							
TOTAL:							
List grant program name(s), award year & entity awarded for any grant funds being used as match:							

H. 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 G. *Matching Contributions*. Please ensure that budget numbers are calculated correctly.

Personnel/Labor: Includes expenses directed toward applicant's staff time or labor, valued at actual salary amounts, and may include fringe benefit expenses (billable rates are unallowable).

- Grant administration activities such as compiling paperwork for reimbursements and reports cannot be included as part of the grant share but are considered cash match.
- Sweat equity (homeowner or volunteer labor) cannot be included as part of the grant share or cash match but is considered an in-kind match and should be accounted for using the current CSFS volunteer labor rates of \$38.74 per hour for 2026.

Supplies/Materials: Include expenses for supplies or rental equipment necessary to complete project activities.

Contractual Services: Include expenses that will be contracted out to a third-party, including agreements with CSFS.

Equipment: Include anticipated expenses for the direct purchase of equipment. Equipment must be purchased and owned by the award recipient.

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, and routine administrative services). Indirect costs paid by the grant may not exceed 15% of the grant total. If applicable, additional indirect costs (beyond 15%) may be used as cash match but must be documented with an established rate and included with this application.

Anticipated project revenue: List all 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 and request funding based on the \$2,500 per acre.

Examples of Ineligible Expenses: Equipment repairs/parts/maintenance (oil changes, tires, chains), PPE (gloves, hard hats, vests, etc.), food/beverages, fundraising/investment costs, selling/marketing costs, office supplies, postage, computers/technological devices, and expenses that don't directly relate to accomplishing proposed work.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET All budget line items must be described in Section I. Budget Narrative	Grant Share (\$ Amount requested)	Match (Carry over from Section G.)		TOTAL
		Dollars	In-Kind	
Personnel/Labor:				
Supplies/Materials:				
Contractual Services:				
Equipment:				
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 .		

I. Budget Narrative

Describe in detail **each budget line item** listed in Sections *G. Matching Contributions* and *H. Total Project Budget*. Clearly explain how specific project costs were estimated. For example, equipment costs should be justified **and** supported by bids or details of known costs from recent research and per-hour labor rates should be detailed.

Describe the role of each entity/partner 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, and how it will further the project objectives. Describe any opportunity to leverage grant funds with other funding sources.

Be as specific as possible when explaining how the funds will be allocated and provide sufficient justification. Attach bids or contract estimates from industry, if applicable. If supplies are in the budget, be sure to describe the specific types of anticipated supplies and ensure they are allowable expenses.

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

J. Project Area Description and Current Capacity

Describe the area(s) and current capacity of locations where planning efforts, increased staffing and/or projects using equipment purchase(s) will take place. Project area description should include geographical description, land ownership breakdown, acres, and the communities in which the project(s) will take place. If project relates to a utility, describe utility service area, population served, and infrastructure/water supplies protected. Project locations should be focused on specific areas and not too broad in scope (county-wide descriptions/maps are too broad, unless proposed efforts will be conducted at a broad scope).

Current capacity should assess the current capacity within the project area to treat slash, conduct outreach, build community collaboration around wildfire risk reduction, etc., and baseline metrics for these should be included. For example, if your proposed project is for increased staffing for fuels and forest health project prioritization and planning efforts, describe the current gaps in planning that your community has and include all relevant baseline metrics associated with prioritization and planning efforts (i.e., # of staff dedicated to this effort, # of acres/projects being planned/year, etc.). Include associated layers (i.e. Risk Viewer) to highlight ongoing risks, where necessary. While capacity building projects are *typically* more broad than fuels and forest health projects that are focused on specific project areas, you may choose to focus on the current landscape within your area, both the physical landscape and the need for community actions as well as the current social landscape for outreach and engagement. Be as specific as possible to your locality and/or treatment area(s).

All information for the project must fit into the allotted 3,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

K. Capacity Building

Describe how the proposed project will enhance local capacity to reduce wildfire risk, encourage forest health and restoration projects and promote the utilization of woody materials. Be sure to tie capacity building efforts to the outlined goals and objectives described in section *D. Project Goals and Objectives* and current capacity described in section *J. Project Area Description and Current Capacity*.

Planning efforts should include specific and measurable activities such as the number of stakeholder outreach and engagements, the target audience and expected outcomes (i.e., development, mapping and prioritization of fuels reduction projects).

Proposals to support staffing should describe the position(s) and responsibilities and how efforts will support long-term capacity for planning and implementation of fuels and forest restoration activities.

Projects that include the purchase of equipment should describe any related training and safety measures to address safe use of purchase(s). If possible, quantify the annual anticipated use of equipment (i.e., run time, number of individual projects).

Successful applicants will 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.

L. Strategic Value of Project

Explain the strategic nature of any planning areas or projects that will use equipment purchase(s) or involve proposed position(s). Identify if the proposed projects or planning areas will be implemented across land-ownership boundaries, build on prior or planned fuels reduction efforts, or contribute to a larger landscape-scale treatment effort. Indicate if the project is located within a priority area identified in a completed CWPP (or similar plan) or Forest Action Plan map themes. 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 1,000-character space. Characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

M. Forest Product Utilization and Slash Management

Promoting the utilization of woody material generated by project work for traditional forest products and biomass energy is one of the primary FRWRM Program goals. Describe plans for utilizing forest products/woody material from planned project sites. Name the specific product(s) if applicable.

Slash management plans are **required** for all projects that include fuels reduction regardless of utilization opportunities. Be sure to discuss plans for removal/disposal of slash and non-merchantable materials using approved methods such as chipping, mulching, grinding, pile burning, etc.

Capacity Building projects that won't include a fuels reduction component during the life of the grant should discuss utilization and slash management plans or ideas more broadly for future fuels reduction work that will occur as a result of these grant dollars.

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. Attach current bids or contract estimates from industry, if applicable. The [Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing](#) website has information on wood utilization.

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

N. Partners, Supporters and Collaboration

Applicants are encouraged to include relevant community and stakeholder support in the design, implementation, and self-monitoring of proposed projects. Describe collaboration that will occur with participating groups, organizations, landowners, etc., and describe the details of their contributions to the project. Specify conversations with **required** county officials and the details of how the proposed project aligns with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning. Describe how an accredited Colorado Youth Conservation or Veteran Corps organization, if any, will be included in the project. Letters of support from relevant organizations, financial institutions, landowners and/or industry are allowable attachments to include with your application. **Participating landowners must be confirmed prior to applying and awarded applicants will be required to submit verification documents during pre-award period.** If landowner participation has not *fully* been confirmed, justify the reasoning and explain the plan for obtaining landowner interest and support in the program/project, if applicable. In this case, you may check 'yes' to the Project Readiness question in section B.

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

O. Timeline

Provide a timeline with clear project start and end dates, key milestones (major qualitative checkpoints), and measurable targets (quantitative goals). Include metrics and describe how progress will be tracked at each stage of the project. Vague timelines will not score well. **All projects must be completed by March 31, 2030.**

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

P. Maintenance & Sustainability

Explain how the proposed project will be sustained over time to maintain and/or enhance increased capacity. Be sure to consider and include details, where relevant, on outreach/education within the community, commitments from landowners receiving treatments, self-monitoring, etc.

Projects that include planning and staffing should describe how plans will be used over time and how position(s) will be supported beyond the life of the grant. If the project includes project identification/prioritization and prescription development, describe the commitment to implement projects after completion of grant.

If equipment purchases are requested, describe how equipment will be cared for and used beyond the life of the project. The expectation is that the equipment will be used and maintained by the awardee for a minimum of five years following the grant. Clearly address who will maintain purchase(s), what will be done and how, when this will be accomplished and how often, etc.

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

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

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

Project Summary (Section C)**5 pts**

Project is well summarized, and all questions are answered fully and correctly.

Project Goals and Objectives (Section D)**10 pts**

Project goals and objectives are detailed, clearly defined, tied to project-specific actions, and align with the FRWRM Program goals. Specific details are provided on how the proposal will increase local capacity to plan and implement treatments and to what extent.

Project Relation to Forest Action Plan (Section E)**5 pts**

Project objectives clearly align with specific FAP goals and the approaches to meet project goals are well described, reasonable and scientifically supported. Project-specific examples are provided.

Project Relation to Local Measures (Section F)**5 pts**

The project clearly aligns with specific goals/priorities of local CWPP or similar collaborative plan and project-specific examples are provided. The project complements multiple local measures that impacted community(s) have adopted (or plan to adopt) to reduce wildfire risk.

Budget (Sections G, H & I)**15 pts**

All costs are sufficiently justified for the proposed work and expenditures are detailed, clear and allowable. Utilization revenues are incorporated and explained. Match is sufficient, contributions are confirmed and described, and all budget numbers are calculated correctly. Partner roles and contract terms are adequately detailed.

Project Area Description and Current Capacity (Sections J)**10 pts**

The project area is well defined and not too broad in scope. Current capacity is detailed, measurable and a sufficient explanation for how estimates were determined is included. Included maps align and project is in a high priority area.

Capacity Building (Section K)**10 pts**

Current capacity is clearly described and ties back to project goals and objectives and current capacity. Project will enhance local capacity to reduce wildfire risk, promote forest health and encourage wood utilization. Where applicable, planning efforts include specific and measurable activities, position responsibilities are described and efforts will support long-term capacity, equipment purchases address related training/safety measures.

Strategic Value of Project (Section L)**5 pts**

The project is near other planned or previously treated areas, will be implemented across land-ownership boundaries, and has an emphasis on a regional approach. The project ties to a county plan or relevant CWPP and will achieve results at a meaningful scale. Any FAP maps included are labeled and relevance and significance are well explained.

Forest Product Utilization/Slash Management (Section M)**5 pts**

An adequate effort has been made to include wood utilization and plans maximize the possibilities. Specific plans and products are described where applicable. Details on correspondence with utilization businesses are provided, and a sufficient slash management plan is included.

Partners, Supporters and Collaboration (Section N)**5 pts**

The project maximizes partners and supporters, and the details of their contributions are clearly articulated. Specific details of how the project aligns with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning are included. Letters of support will be reviewed, including the required letter from a county official. All participating landowners have been confirmed.

Timeline (Section O)**5 pts**

The timeline is organized with clearly defined start and end dates, key milestones and measurable targets. Metrics include details relevant to any outreach, planning, staffing, purchasing timelines, etc., and progress tracking details are provided. The proposed timeline seems achievable.

Maintenance & Sustainability (Section P)**5 pts**

A plan for how the project will be sustained after the grant period concludes includes details of who will accomplish maintenance tasks, how the work will be funded and how often activities will occur. Where relevant, additional details include outreach, landowner commitments, self-monitoring efforts, equipment care and maintenance, etc.