

Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program Monitoring and Assessment Status Summary, January 2014

The Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant program (WRRG), created under Senate Bill 13-269 and passed by the 2013 Colorado General Assembly, is focused on projects that reduce the risk for damage to property, infrastructure, and water supplies, and those that limit the likelihood of wildfires spreading into populated areas. \$9.8 million in competitive grant funds will be directed to non-federal lands within Colorado to reduce the risk of wildfire in areas where human development and forested lands overlap, areas often called the wildland-urban interface.

The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) at Colorado State University was selected to carry out an effectiveness monitoring strategy for projects funded by the WRRG program. We are using objective, rigorous quantitative measures of hazard reduction to assess project effectiveness. Pre and post treatment field collected fuel measurements will be analyzed using the Fuel Characteristic Classification System, a peer reviewed fire behavior and effects model, which assigns a straightforward hazard rating across the landscape.

Following the first round of WRRG awards in August 2013, CFRI developed a monitoring sampling protocol to collect data on surface and tree canopy fuels. In fall 2013, CFRI completed fuels monitoring on approximately 1200 acres of WRRG funded projects across Colorado. Additional monitoring is ongoing and will continue on projects funded by the next round of grant awards in May 2014. CFRI will also be assessing equipment purchases made with grant funds, such as chippers and biomass boilers, and the effectiveness of those programs in accomplishing hazard fuels mitigation.

The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute was established in 2005 at Colorado State University to develop, compile, and apply locally-relevant scientific knowledge to achieve forest restoration and wildfire hazard reduction goals in Colorado and the Interior West. The role of CFRI in the WRRG program is to assess hazard reduction and learn from each project to ensure these and future wildfire hazard reduction funds are spent effectively. Technology transfer and workshops will be an integral part of our assessment program, with openness and sharing current scientific knowledge about hazard reduction and forest restoration remaining our core objective.

For more information, contact:

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2013 Funded Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Projects

Map #	Applicant Name	Project Name	Map #	Applicant Name	Project Name
1	Blue Mountain- Forest Stewardship Initiative	Blue Mountain Estates Fire Mitigation Project	22	The City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services	The Colorado Springs Parks and Open Space Wildfire Reduction Project
2	Boulder County	Boulder County Wildfire Partners	23	Timberdale Homeowners Association	Timberdale Ranch 2013 Fire Mitigation
3	City and County of Denver-Parks and Recreation	Denver Mountain Parks Wildfire Risk Reduction Project	24	West Region Wildfire Council in partnership with Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District	Log Hill Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Project
4	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Fire Adapted Communities Implementation Project	25	West Region Wildfire Council on behalf of Ouray County	Top of the Pines Wildfire Risk Reduction and Watershed Protection Project
5	Douglas County	Douglas County			
6	El Paso County	Fox Run Regional Park Wildfire Fuels Mitigation Project			
7	FireWise of Southwest Colorado	Archuleta County Community Chipper Program			
8	Forest Lakes Metropolitan District	Forest Lakes Beneficial Biomass Disposal			
9	Genesee Foundation	Genesee Shaded Fuel Break			
10	Gilpin County Board of Commissioners	Gilpin County Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction			
11	Girl Scouts of Colorado	Magic Sky Ranch			
12	Glacier View Fire Protection District	Glacier View Fire Protection District WUII			
13	Glenwood Highlands Estates Homeowners Association Inc.	Glenwood Highlands Wildfire Mitigation Program			
14	Jefferson Conservation District	Landscape Scale Fuels Reductions; Protecting Communities and Watersheds from Wildlife			
15	Montezuma County Fire Chiefs Association	Low Income Wildfire Risk Reduction Program for Montezuma County			
16	Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.	Grand County Power Lines Tree Mitigation			
17	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Colorado-Big Thompson Headwaters Partnership			
18	Sante Fe Trail Ranch Property Owners Association	Wildfire Mitigation, Forest Health, Fuel Breaks & Watershed Improvement			
19	Summit County and Town of Breckenridge	Summit County Fuels Reduction and Watershed Protection Project			
20	Sunshine Fire Protection District	SFPD Sunshine Canyon Drive Shaded Fuel Break			
21	Sunshine Fire Protection District	SFPD Home Defensible Space and Community Chipping			

