

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

March 4, 2024
Date

Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB24-1006 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 23-31-321 as
4 follows:

5 **23-31-321. Wildfire mitigation and preparedness - rural grant**
6 **navigator grant program - creation - administration - reporting -**
7 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
8 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
10 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125.

11 (b) "FOREST SERVICE" MEANS THE COLORADO STATE FOREST
12 SERVICE IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-31-302.

13 (c) "NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION" OR "NGO" HAS THE
14 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-37.5-102 (20).

15 (d) "RURAL GRANT NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM" OR
16 "COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMPETITIVE GRANT
17 PROGRAM AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (2) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL ESTABLISH A RURAL GRANT
19 NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANT MONEY FOR
20 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING OUTREACH AND
21 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE, TO
22 RURAL COMMUNITIES SEEKING TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS
23 RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS.

24 (b) ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 2025, AN NGO ASSISTING ONE OR
25 MORE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH OBTAINING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS
26 RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION OR PREPAREDNESS MAY APPLY TO THE
27 FOREST SERVICE FOR GRANT MONEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICATION

1 AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES THAT THE FOREST SERVICE ESTABLISHES
2 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE COMPETITIVE
3 GRANT PROGRAM.

4 (3) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL CONSULT WITH NGOs THAT
5 CURRENTLY ASSIST OR ARE SEEKING TO ASSIST COLORADO COMMUNITIES
6 WITH WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS TO DEVELOP CRITERIA
7 AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

8 (b) THE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO
9 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST:

10 (I) BE COMPLETED AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE FOREST
11 SERVICE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2025; AND

12 (II) INCLUDE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR AT LEAST THE
13 FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM:

14 (A) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NGO APPLICANTS ASSISTING
15 RURAL COMMUNITIES IN SEEKING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT MONEY FOR
16 WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS;

17 (B) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; AND

18 (C) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED NGOs,
19 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN SELECTED
20 NGOs TO ENSURE NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND FOR PERIODIC
21 REPORTING.

22 (c) (I) AFTER THE FOREST SERVICE HAS CREATED THE COMPETITIVE
23 GRANT PROGRAM, THE FOREST SERVICE, TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY,
24 SHALL CONSULT ON EFFECTIVE USES OF THE GRANT MONEY AND
25 SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES WITH:

26 (A) THE DEPARTMENT;

27 (B) THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN
28 SECTION 24-33.5-1201 (1)(a);

29 (C) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE;

30 (D) A RURAL COUNTY ON THE WESTERN SLOPE;

31 (E) A RURAL COUNTY ON THE EASTERN PLAINS; AND

32 (F) A RURAL COUNTY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE.

33 (II) THE FOREST SERVICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH SELECTED
34 NGOs, SHALL DEVELOP METRICS TO HELP THE FOREST SERVICE ASSESS
35 THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

36 (4) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH
37 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL SUBMIT A
38 WRITTEN REPORT SUMMARIZING THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO
39 THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION
40 2-3-1602 (1)(a) OR, IF THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS, TO BOTH THE
41 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL
42 RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
43 RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE FOREST

1 SERVICE SHALL POST COPIES OF THE REPORTS ON ITS WEBSITE.
2 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE WRITTEN
3 REPORT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES
4 INDEFINITELY.

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
8 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
9 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
10 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
11 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
12 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

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