

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0276.01 Thomas Morris x4218

HOUSE BILL 16-1019

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Becker K., Buck, Hamner, Singer, Thurlow

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jones and Roberts, Baumgardner, Cooke, Merrifield

House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING INCREASED AUTHORITY TO USE BROADCAST BURNING AS
102 A TOOL TO PROMOTE WATERSHED RESTORATION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. The bill adds broadcast burning, the method by which fire is applied generally to most or all of an area within well-defined boundaries, to the types of projects and methods for which the state forest service may award grants from the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund and the forest restoration program cash fund to help restore community watersheds.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **amend**
3 (3) (g) (IV) and (6) (a) (II) as follows:

4 **23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds**
5 **created - repeal.** (3) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
6 context otherwise requires:

7 (g) "Wildfire risk mitigation" or "fuel mitigation treatments"
8 means preventive forest management projects or actions, which meet or
9 exceed forest service standards or any other applicable state rules, that are
10 designed to reduce the potential for unwanted impacts caused by
11 wildfires, including:

12 (IV) The secondary treatment of woody fuels by lopping and
13 scattering, piling, chipping, removing from the site, BROADCAST
14 BURNING, or prescribed burning; and

15 (6) **Community watershed restoration.** (a) In order to support
16 communities and land managers in moving from risk reduction to
17 long-term ecological restoration so that the underlying condition of
18 Colorado's forests supports a variety of values, particularly public water
19 supply and high-quality wildlife habitat, the forest service shall:

20 (II) Facilitate and work collaboratively with the division of fire
21 prevention and control, landowners, local governments, including
22 conservation districts created pursuant to article 70 of title 35, C.R.S., and
23 county noxious weed program administrators and other appropriate
24 parties, including any electric, gas, and water utilities in the affected area,
25 to design prescribed fire AND FUEL MITIGATION TREATMENT projects and
26 to encourage increased responsible use of prescribed fire AND FUEL

1 MITIGATION TREATMENTS as a tool for restoring healthy forest conditions
2 consistent with programs established pursuant to section 25-7-106 (7) and
3 (8), C.R.S., and section 24-33.5-1217, C.R.S. The forest service shall
4 emphasize providing training and technical assistance for landowners,

5 **SECTION 2. Applicability.** This act applies to conduct occurring
6 on or after the effective date of this act.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.