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

HB22-1012 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

Amend printed bill, page 2, strike lines 2 through 18 and substitute:

"SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-310, amend (1.5)(c) and (4)(b)(III); and add (4)(b)(V), (4)(b)(VI), and (8.3)(a)(III)(C) as follows:

23-31-310. Forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program - technical advisory panel - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1.5) Legislative declaration. The general assembly hereby:

(c) Declares that it intends to provide aid and guidance for catastrophic wildfire risk mitigation and forest health improvements by authorizing a competitive grant program to:

(I) Assist with funding community-level actions across the entire state that are implemented to protect populations and property in the wildland-urban interface; and to

(II) Promote forest health and the utilization of woody material, including traditional forest products and biomass energy;

(III) Help communities with forested areas prevent and recover from wildfire incidents by removing dead trees and other potential fuel as well as debris that has resulted from an incident of wildfire or insect infestation; and

(IV) Ensure that efforts described in subsection (1.5)(c)(III) of this section are undertaken in a manner that minimizes the amount of carbon that enters the atmosphere.

(4) Eligibility requirements. To be eligible to receive funding under this section, a project must:

(b) Address one or more of the following objectives for the purpose of protecting water supplies:
(III) Replanting native trees in deforested areas if such areas exist in the proposed project area; and

(V) Reducing post-fire soil erosion through the use of aerial mulching, seeding with native seed mixes, and related actions; or

(VI) Promoting the recovery of forested lands from wildfire incidents by removing dead trees in areas with safety concerns arising from the areas' proximity to communities, roads, trails, or structures.

(8.3) Grant program. (a) The forest service shall develop and administer the program in consultation with the technical advisory panel created in subsection (5) of this section. In developing the program, the forest service shall:

(III) Require a grant applicant to demonstrate that:

(C) For a proposed project to remove dead trees near communities, roads, trails, or structures pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(VI) of this section, areas of salvage and exclusions from salvage are identified based on ecological data, taking into account site-specific features, and guidelines for the preservation of key biodiversity attributes are created that ensure adequate riparian buffers and mitigate soil and forest recovery disturbances from the tree removal process.".

Strike pages 3 through 5.

Page 6, strike lines 1 through 9.

Renumber succeeding section accordingly.

Page 1, strike lines 101 through 103 and substitute "Concerning healthy forests.".