



Wildfire Matters Review Committee

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Agenda

- Background
 - Who we are
 - What we do
- Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Divisions
 - Policy and Legislative Affairs
 - Forest Planning and Implementation
 - Forestry Services
 - Communications and Communities
 - Science and Data
- Questions

Background

- The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry in the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.
- As Colorado's lead state agency for forestry, the CSFS provides a wide range of forestry services through focused programs that deliver measureable, impactful results, using a non-regulatory approach, strategic partnerships and personalized service. With field offices across the state, the CSFS works with residents and partners to improve the health of Colorado's forests.

Who we are

- We have approximately 150 (full-time and part-time) staff; more than 70 seasonal employees; several interns; and 17 field offices throughout the state. 6 ADs with 6 corresponding divisions



What we do

- Leadership, resources, and guidance in forest management
- Wildfire risk reduction and community wildfire protection planning
- Adaptive forest management that addresses climate change
- Wood utilization and marketing support
- Outreach and education to youth and adults
- Insect and disease detection, surveys and response
- Forest monitoring, inventory and data analysis
- Seedling trees and other plants for conservation projects
- Urban and community forestry assistance



What we do



Five-Year Strategic Plan 2021-2025

- Goal 1: Forestry Leadership
- Goal 2: Proactive Forest Stewardship
- Goal 3: Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration
- Goal 4: Visibility
- Goal 5: Organizational Excellence



Policy & Legislative Affairs

- New Division and Associate Director for the CSFS
- Why?
 - To help execute § 24-33-201



- Duties
 - Forest health report
 - MOU Updates
 - Joint work planning
 - Publications
 - Cooperation with Feds
 - Annual report of accomplishments



Forest Planning & Implementation

- The CSFS received \$10.3M in funds over the last two fiscal years for upgrades and improvements to the Seedling Tree Nursery.



- We are now working through Colorado State University Facilities to select an Architectural/Engineering firm to handle proposed renovations.

FP&I

- The Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant program, created in 2017 and recently expanded with 21-205 is designed to assist with funding community-level actions across the state. The CSFS annually awards funds through a competitive application cycle.
 - 205 moved funding from Tier II severance taxes to GF and increased the amount from ~ \$1M to \$8M.
- The CSFS received 121 applications during the 22-23 cycle; and awarded 70 applicants across 22 Colorado counties.
- The next application period for FRWRM will occur from August-October 2023 with awards planned for spring of 2024 using the next \$8M received from general funds.

FP&I

- The Incentives for Local Government (ILG) Grant Program, administered by the CSFS, provides funding assistance to local governments that dedicate revenue for mitigation efforts.
 - The CSFS released a call for applications in March 2023, received 36 applications requesting \$15.4M. 28 applications were approved in 16 Colorado counties.

Forestry Services

- Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) continues to be a very productive program.
 - Currently have 23 separate on-going projects with the United State Forest Service (USFS) for over 15K acres
 - Currently have 10 projects with the Bureau of Land Management



FS

- Recently (August 2022), CSFS received \$1.99M from the USFS to expand CSFS Capacity in a new program called Shared Stewardship Surge.
 - Increase boots on the ground for projects with funding associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act. Money was matched this last legislative session in the Long Bill with the state's share going to 5 foresters for the next 4 years.
 - The USFS as tentatively indicated they will continue to support the SSS in large part to due to the investment from the state. We are expecting another federal investment around October.

Communications & Communities

- Wildfires are a natural part of Colorado's forests. If you live in the wildland-urban interface in Colorado, where homes and other structures intermingle with wildland vegetation, you are at risk of being affected by wildfire. Planning ahead and taking action can increase the likelihood your home survives when a wildfire occurs.
- Home Ignition Zone Guidebook has been produced in Spanish and is available online



C&C

- Live Wildfire Ready Campaign
 - Campaign created and funded by 22-007
 - URL is live! (livewildfireready.org); billboards, public radio sponsorships and social media ads
 - Partners are actively customizing and sharing via a toolkit
 - Still under construction and will run again in 2024
 - CSFS MUST/WILL provide a comprehensive report to this committee



**LIVE
WILDFIRE
READY**



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WILDFIRE
READY**

PREPARE YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FOR WILDFIRE

Wildfire is a part of nature in Colorado. Grasses, shrubs and trees provide fuel for wildfires. If your home is located in or near the natural vegetation of Colorado's grasslands, shrublands, foothills or mountains, you live in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and are at risk from a wildfire. If you live in the WUI, take action to prepare your home and property.

Start living wildfire ready with these simple, practical, low-cost actions.

- Regularly clear leaves, pine needles and other debris from your deck, roof and gutters.
- Rake and remove pine needles and leaves 5 feet from your home.
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from your home, preferably uphill, and never on or under your deck.
- Move items under your deck or porch to a storage area.
- Prune branches hanging over your roof and within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Remove flammable material within 6 vertical inches of your home's siding.
- Mow grasses to 4 inches or less within 30 feet of your home.
- Clear brush, shrubs and other plants within 10 feet of propane tanks and gas meters.
- Screen attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents and wall-in areas below decks and stilt foundations with 1/8-inch metal mesh.

The more you do to prepare and plan ahead, the more likely your home will survive a wildfire.



To learn more, consult a local natural resource professional, fire department or organization trained in wildfire mitigation practices where you live, or visit LiveWildfireReady.org.

Live Wildfire Ready is generously funded by the State of Colorado.



OUTFRONT



Science & Data

- The CSFS Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment is being released today July 18.
- CSFS GIS Team is working with CFRI to update the all lands treatment database.
- The CSFS forest carbon accounting framework will be completed fall 2023. The CSFS hired a Forest Carbon Specialist this spring to support the project.
- The CSFS statewide biomass assessment will be completed by the end of 2023.

S&D

- The CSFS is hosting 18 Warner College of Natural Resources (CSU) undergraduate interns this summer
 - Interns are supported by a combination of base, project, and Federal funds





Questions?

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