



June 27, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Wildfire Matters Review Committee  
**FROM:** Clayton Mayfield, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-5851  
**SUBJECT:** Recent Wildfire Legislation

## Summary

This memorandum provides a brief overview of wildfire-related legislation from 2020 to 2024. It includes all staff-identified bills related to wildfire, including bills introduced by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Bills are organized by category and identify impacted state agencies. The memorandum also includes information on appropriations, transfers, and other associated costs of the legislation.

## Categories of Wildfire Legislation

Wildfire-related legislation can generally be divided into one of three categories based on the programs or activities addressed: preparedness, response, and mitigation. These categories include wildfire-related programs or activities as follows:

- **Preparedness**—a range of activities that lead to safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire prevention and management, including planning, coordination, mobilization, and community outreach.
- **Response**—resources and actions or support by personnel responding to a wildfire incident, including resources for responding personnel.
- **Mitigation**—activities intended to reduce the potential for unwanted impacts, including vegetation management, fuels treatment, forest management, and structure hardening.

Legislation may span multiple categories and involve several state agencies. Similarly, individual programs or activities might match more than one category.

Table 1 below shows the total number of bills by category, as well as the total costs of all bills in that category. This may include direct appropriations, transfers, and expenditures from continuously appropriated cash funds for all bills, even those that did not become law. Costs do not include expenditures from federal funds.

**Table 1**  
**Bills by Category with Total Costs, 2020-2024**

Category	Bills	Costs*
Preparedness	8	\$42.3 million
Response	18	\$109.2 million
Mitigation	26	\$101.2 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$252.7 million</b>

Source: Legislative Council Staff.

\*totals include costs of bills that did not become law.

Table 2 shows the total number of bills by state agency. Note that several bills involve state enterprises, which are largely self-funded, government owned businesses created by the state. Additionally, the Colorado State Forest Service is represented as a distinct state agency; however, it is connected to both Colorado State University and the Department of Natural Resources.

**Table 2**  
**Bills by Agency, 2020 - 2024**

Agency	Bills
Department of Public Safety (CDPS)	22
Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)	19
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	7
Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)	3
Enterprise	3
Department of Higher Education (DHE)	2
Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)	2
Department of Revenue (DOR)	2
Office of the Governor (GOV)	1
Department of Agriculture (AG)	1

Source: Legislative Council Staff.

Finally, Table 3 on the following pages provides a list of legislation from 2020 to 2024, with category, agency, and cost information provided.

## Additional Information

For further detail, LCS Staff previously prepared two additional memorandums covering wildfire legislation and spending:

- [State Legislation Related to Wildfire from 2014 to 2022](#)
- [Updated Wildfire-related Funding in Colorado, FYs 2016-17 through 2022-23](#)

**Table 3  
Wildfire Legislation List by Category, 2020-2024**

Preparedness							
Session	Bill Number	Short Title	Costs	Agency A	Agency B	Agency C	Agency D
2020	<a href="#">HB 20-1171</a>	Remote Camera Wildfire Alert Pilot Program	\$2,000,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2020	<a href="#">SB 20-018</a>	Homeless Outreach Programs To Reduce Wildfire Risk	\$100,000	DOLA	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-166</a>	Colorado Fire Commission Recommendations	\$1,108,800	CDPS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1148</a>	Wildfire Camera Pilot Program	\$2,000,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 22-206</a>	Disaster Preparedness And Recovery Resources	\$36,000,000	DOLA	CDPS	GOV	AG
2024	<a href="#">SB 23-032</a>	Wildfire Detection Technology Pilot Program	\$720,368	CDPS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">HB 24-1006</a>	Assist Rural Community Wildfire-Related Grant Application	\$300,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">HB 24-1343</a>	Wildfire Evacuation Modeling Grant Program	\$120,000	CDPS	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>\$42.3 million</b>				

Response							
2020	<a href="#">SB 20-056</a>	Surplus Military Vehicles Highway Use If Firefighting	\$3,375	DOR	-	-	-
2020	<a href="#">SB 20-057</a>	Fire Prevention & Control Employee Benefits	\$24,552	CDPS	-	-	-
2020	<a href="#">SB 20-098</a>	Disaster Response First Informer Broadcaster	-	N/A	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">HB 21-1042</a>	Water Storage Tanks Grant Program	\$5,000,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-012</a>	Former Inmates With Fire Service Experience	-	CDPS	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-113</a>	Firefighting Aircraft Wildfire Management And Response	\$30,800,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-240</a>	Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus	\$30,000,000	DNR	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1111</a>	Insurance Coverage For Loss Declared Fire Disaster	\$66,800	DORA	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1323</a>	Updates To State Forest Service Tree Nursery	\$5,000,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">SB 22-002</a>	Resources For Volunteer Firefighters	\$1,000,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">SB 22-080</a>	Wildland Fire Investigations	\$3,000,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">SB 22-114</a>	Fire Suppression Ponds Water Rights	\$19,428	DNR	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">HB 23-1060</a>	Updates to State Forest Service Tree Nursery	\$5,382,500	CSFS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">HB 23-1075</a>	Wildfire Evacuation and Clearance Time Modeling	\$45,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">HB 23-1240</a>	Sales Use Tax Exemption Wildfire Disaster Construction	\$72,267	DOR	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 23-013</a>	Fire Investigations	\$2,764,021	CDPS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 23-161</a>	Financing to Purchase Firefighting Aircraft	\$26,000,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">SB 24-169</a>	State Firefighter PERA Job Classification	-	CDPS	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>\$109.2 million</b>				

**Table 3 Cont.**  
**Wildfire Legislation Overview by Category, 2020-2024**

Mitigation							
Session	Bill Number	Short Title	Costs	Agency A	Agency B	Agency C	Agency D
2020	<a href="#">HB 20-1004</a>	Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation	\$333,537	DOLA	-	-	-
2020	<a href="#">HB 20-1057</a>	Modify Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program		- CSFS	-	-	-
2020	<a href="#">HB 20-1142</a>	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program		- Enterprise	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">HB 21-1008</a>	Forest Health Project Financing		- Enterprise	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">HB 21-1180</a>	Measures To Increase Biomass Utilization	\$2,500,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">HB 21-1208</a>	Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise	\$5,000,000	CDPS	Enterprise	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-054</a>	Transfers For Wildfire Mitigation And Response	\$13,000,000	CSFS	CDPS	DNR	
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-170</a>	Wildland Fire Mitigation Cooperative Electric Association		- DORA	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-221</a>	Projects Under Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program		- CSFS	-	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-237</a>	Create Forest Health Council In DNR	\$668	CSFS	DNR	-	-
2021	<a href="#">SB 21-258</a>	Wildfire Risk Mitigation	\$29,800,000	DNR	CSFS	CDPS	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1007</a>	Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation		- CSFS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1011</a>	Wildfire Mitigation Incentives For Local Governments	\$10,000,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1012</a>	Wildfire Mitigation And Recovery	\$7,300,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1132</a>	Regulation And Services For Wildfire Mitigation	\$100,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1166</a>	Incentives Promote Colorado Timber Industry	\$203,500	CSFS	-	-	-
2022	<a href="#">HB 22-1379</a>	Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration Funding	\$20,000,000	DNR	CSFS	-	-
2022	<a href="#">SB 22-007</a>	Increase Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outreach Efforts	\$800,000	CSFS	CDPS	-	-
2023	<a href="#">HB 23-1096</a>	Wildfire Resilient Homes		- CSFS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">HB 23-1273</a>	Creation of Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program	\$100,000	CDPS	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 23-005</a>	Forestry and Wildfire Mitigation Workforce	\$1,560,034	DHE	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 23-139</a>	State Severance Tax Trust Fund Allocation	\$10,000,000	DNR	-	-	-
2023	<a href="#">SB 23-166</a>	Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board	\$259,302	CDPS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">HB 24-1024</a>	Extend Outreach Campaigns Wildfire Risk Mitigation	\$40,000	CSFS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">HB 24-1300</a>	Home Sale Wildfire Mitigation Requirements		- CSFS	-	-	-
2024	<a href="#">SB 24-028</a>	Study Biochar in Wildfire Mitigation Efforts	\$240,834	DHE	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>\$101.2 million</b>				

Source: Legislative Council Staff.