



Colorado State Forest Service
5060 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
970.491.6303; FAX 970.491.7736
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>

NEWS

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Contact: Joe Duda

970.222.8690

jduda@lamar.colostate.edu

\$1 Million in Grant Funding Available for Community Forest Restoration and Water Protection Projects

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — The Colorado State Forest Service is requesting proposals for the \$1 million Colorado Community Forest Restoration (CFR) grant program established by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill 07-1130. Applications are due by 4 p.m. MDT July 27, 2007, and awards will be announced in late August.

“We are excited about opportunities this new grant program provides local landowners and other stakeholders to address forest health challenges and protect water supplies,” said Jeff Jahnke, Colorado State forester. “We thank the Colorado General Assembly for establishing the program and the Colorado Water Conservation Board for providing the funding for the grants.”

The purpose of the grant program is to encourage diverse local stakeholders to work together to develop forest restoration proposals that protect critical water supplies and address related forest health challenges such as wildfire risk reduction, community protection, ecological restoration and woody biomass utilization.

Landowners and others with the legal authority to contract for work on properties where projects are being proposed may apply for a grant. All projects must be associated with a completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan that has been approved by the Colorado State Forest Service. Additional consideration will be given to projects that involve the Colorado Youth Corps Association or another accredited Colorado Youth Corps.

The state share of total project cost may not exceed 60 percent per project. Grant recipients will be required to match up to 40 percent of the total project cost through cash, stumpage, in-kind contributions or federal funds.

A Technical Advisory Panel convened by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources will review project applications. The Colorado state forester will make final selections and notify successful applicants.

Applications and additional information about the CFR grant program are available on the Colorado State Forest Service website at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>.

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