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***COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE PROVIDES FINANCING TO STEAMBOAT SPRINGS BUSINESS***

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo.** – The Colorado State Forest Service recently provided a forest business loan to allow a Steamboat Springs land management contractor to create a wood product that helps prevent post-wildfire erosion. Rogue Resources, Inc., received the capital equipment loan to produce Wood Straw<sup>®</sup>, which is spread on burned ground to reduce water flows. Funds also will be used to expand Rogue’s product line and add additional employees to its Steamboat Springs facility.

“Thanks to the Colorado State Forest Service, the Upper Arkansas Area Development Corporation and the Shade Fund, our company was able to obtain the necessary funding to construct Colorado’s first manufacturing facility to produce Wood Straw<sup>®</sup> erosion control mulch,” said Rogue Resources Controller Trent Jones.

Rogue Resources’ new production facility should be operational by the end of the year.

“Our Board of Directors realized the need for creative leadership in commercial lending for Colorado’s emerging forest businesses, and for judiciously balancing the lending risk of this emerging business and industry,” said Jeff Ollinger, president and administrator for the UAADC.

The Shade Fund, of the Conservation Fund, is partnered with the CSFS on the financing for Rogue Resources.

“Shade Fund is proud to provide capital for Rogue’s expansion,” said Rick Larson, Shade Fund director. “Wood Straw<sup>®</sup> makes innovative use of beetle-kill trees for erosion control, and creates new employment in Colorado’s forest products industry.”

Tim Reader, CSFS wood utilization and marketing forester, says this is the third Colorado forest product business to receive a loan under a CSFS partnership with the UAADC. Funded by State House Bill 1199, the Forest Business Loan Fund provides lending capital to small and emerging forest product businesses that cannot qualify for traditional lending programs.

For more information, call (970)247-5250 or visit <http://csfs.colostate.edu/cowood/fblf.html>.