



## SB11-110 Open Burning Permit System

### Summary

SB11-110 requires counties with substantial forested area, as determined by the State Forester, to develop an open burning permit system for unincorporated areas of the county by January 1, 2012. A conforming open burning permit system accommodates the disposal of slash, as defined by the bill. The bill requires affected county governments to collaborate with local jurisdictions, sheriffs, and other agencies and to develop an education plan concerning slash-pile burning. Counties developing a permit system must consider existing laws and scientific and applied knowledge of safe burning conditions, and include mechanisms to notify neighbors and individuals with respiratory conditions of permitted burns.

Counties with an existing open-burning permit system are exempt from the bill's requirements until the board of county commissioners alters the existing permit system. The bill also exempts prescribed burns that follow federal and state guidelines and preserves the existing rights of agricultural producers to conduct burning on their property.

### Talking Points

- SB11-110 proposes the safe and efficient disposal of piled slash by burning under controlled conditions. Additionally, burning will be accomplished with consideration of measures that speak to public safety, environmental conditions, and effective use of fire as a management tool.
- The Colorado State Forest Service agrees and supports the use of fire to mitigate unwanted slash in a manner that is safe and efficient.
- The CSFS supports the authority of county commissioners to identify and address the disposal of unwanted slash in a manner that recognizes local needs and conditions.
- The legislation, as written, does not direct the CSFS to perform additional duties or tasks.
- The CSFS may support or provide assistance to counties in identifying and defining the conditions a county may choose to use in their permitting process; such assistance falls within the normal scope of CSFS responsibilities.