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NEWS

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Last Call for Wildland-Urban Interface Grant Applications

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – The deadline is fast approaching to apply for 2013 State Fire Assistance Wildland-Urban Interface grants, and has already passed in some areas. Some Colorado State Forest Service districts are still accepting applications for the competitive program, which makes funds available to homeowners associations, subdivisions, fire departments, counties and other groups to implement projects that mitigate wildfire hazards in the wildland-urban interface.

WUI grant funds can be used for hazardous fuels reduction and fire education or planning. Projects affiliated with approved Community Wildfire Protection Plans receive priority, and all grants require a 50-percent match from recipients.

Recent misinformation about CSFS wildfire mitigation grants has recently appeared in some media outlets. For WUI grants, applications must be submitted directly to the appropriate CSFS district office, and specific deadlines vary by district (there is not a statewide deadline of July 20, as was recently reported).

The CSFS also has recently received many questions about tax breaks available for fuels mitigation work completed by private landowners. Colorado landowners with property located in a wildland-urban interface area may qualify to receive a tax exemption for the costs of wildfire mitigation work for income tax years 2009 through 2013, if the property is part of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan approved prior to fuel mitigation expenses being claimed. Landowners may subtract from federal taxable income 50 percent of actual out-of-pocket expenditures in performing wildfire mitigation measures, up to a maximum of \$2,500. For detailed information and specific limitations on the program, contact the Colorado Department of Revenue or a tax adviser.

Additional information about the WUI grant program and other CSFS funding opportunities is available online at www.csfs.colostate.edu under the “Funding Opportunities” link. This information is updated throughout the year to reflect open application periods.

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