



LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FORESTRY/AGROFORESTRY IN COLORADO UPDATED NOVEMBER 2010



PROGRAM	ELIGIBLE LAND	SIGN-UP PERIOD	ANNUAL PAYMENT	EASEMENT	COST SHARE	CONTACT	POTENTIAL PRACTICES SUPPORTED
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Cropland, depending on Environmental Benefits Index	As announced	Yes	No	Assistance up to 50%	Farm Service Agency local offices http://www.fsa.usda.gov	Tree/shrub planting
Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)	Cropland and marginal pastureland (adjacent to water course or body)	Continuous	Yes, plus various incentives	No	50% plus various incentives	Farm Service Agency local offices http://www.fsa.usda.gov	Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, riparian forest buffer, living snow fence
Conservation Stewardship Program	All private land in agriculture production, including forestland	Continuous	Yes, but payments may not exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during a five-year period	No	No	Natural Resources Conservation Service local offices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov	Develop and implement a forest management plan that includes installing or maintaining conservation practices
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	All private land in agriculture production, including forestland	Ongoing, with batch periods; applications ranked by state and local priorities	Yes, for some management practice incentives, 1 to 10 years	No	EQIP provides up to 75%	Natural Resources Conservation Service local offices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov	All practices that provide solutions to identified state and local resource concerns
Forest Agriculture for Tax Status Program (Forest Ag)	Private forestland producing wood products (40 acres or more)	Annually; application materials due by Oct. 1 (requires an approved forest stewardship management plan)	No, forestlands receive similar tax valuation as that of traditional agricultural lands	No	No	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	“Forest Ag” tax classification does not preclude participation in other programs
Forest Legacy Program (FLP)	Non-industrial private forestland	As announced	No	Yes	25%	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Protection from development

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Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)	Non-industrial private forestland	Continuous	No	No	No	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Provides technical and planning assistance
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	Non-industrial private forestland	As announced	No	Yes	Yes	Natural Resources Conservation Service local offices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov	Protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species in identified forested areas
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	Most private wetlands	Continuous	No	Yes	Assistance up to 100%	Natural Resources Conservation Service local offices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov	Practices necessary to restore wetland for wildlife benefits
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	All private land	Ongoing, with batch periods; applications ranked by state and local priorities	No	No	Assistance up to 75%	Natural Resources Conservation Service local offices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov	Tree/shrub establishment, windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, forest stand improvement, riparian forest buffer, prescribed burning and forest site preparation
Various wildlife interest groups	Private and public	Ongoing	Possible	Possible	Usually	Quail Unlimited http://www.qu.org Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation http://www.rmef.org Pheasants Forever http://www.coloradopf.com	Vegetative planting and management practices
Local programs	Private	Ongoing	No	No	Varies	Colorado Association of Conservation Districts http://www.cacd.us	Various practices such as windbreak/shelterbelt establishment for living snow fence

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION IN COLORADO UPDATED NOVEMBER 2010



PROGRAM	ELIGIBLE LAND	SIGN-UP PERIOD	ANNUAL PAYMENT	EASEMENT	COST SHARE	CONTACT	POTENTIAL PRACTICES SUPPORTED
Emergency Supplemental Funds (ESF)	Non-industrial private forestland west of Interstate 25	Continuous	No	No	Yes (up to \$470 per acre)	Colorado State Forest Service district offices, which manage counties west of Interstate 25 http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Forest stand improvement and hazardous fuels reduction (no prescribed fire)
Wildland-urban Interface Competitive Grants (SFA ¹ – NFP ²)	Non-federal lands	Ongoing, based on funding approval (projects with an approved CWPP ³ receive priority)	No	No	50%	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Forest stand improvement for hazardous fuels reduction, including defensible space, thinning, slash disposal, fuelbreaks, assessments, planning, monitoring and prescribed fire
Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA ⁴)	Fire departments that serve populations of 10,000 or less	Based on funding approval	No	No	50%	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Training and equipment
Community Forest Watershed Restoration Grants	All forestlands	Based on funding approval (requires an approved CWPP)	No	No	State will match up to 60% of cost	Colorado State Forest Service district offices http://www.csfs.colostate.edu	Watershed protection, forest restoration and fuels mitigation
Income Tax Deduction for Wildfire Mitigation	Private forestlands	Through tax year 2013	Deduct up to \$2,500 of actual mitigation costs on income tax	No	No	Colorado Department of Revenue http://www.taxcolorado.com	Hazardous fuels reduction around structures, including defensible space, fuelbreaks, thinning of woody vegetation, secondary treatment by lopping and scattering, piling chipping, slash removal and prescribed burning

(See acronym key for Community Assistance Programs on next page)

¹ SFA (State Fire Assistance) grants are provided to state forestry organizations to maintain and improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-federal lands; funds are provided under authority of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act and the National Fire Plan.

² NFP (National Fire Plan) was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, and addresses five key points: firefighting, rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance and accountability. NFP uses the authorities of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.

³ CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plans) are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) passed by Congress on Nov. 21, 2003, and signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 3, 2003. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act places renewed emphasis on community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Funding comes through the SFA/NFP. Senate Bill 09-001, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, was initiated on Aug. 4, 2009 and updates the CWPP criteria. The bill states that counties, with the assistance of the state forester, must identify fire hazard areas in unincorporated portion of the county by January 1, 2011.

⁴ VFA (Volunteer Fire Assistance) grants are provided to state forestry organizations to improve rural fire protection; the principal target is local departments that serve communities with populations of 10,000 or less.