



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

Grant Guidelines and Application

Special Release Summer 2021

Grant Guidelines

Introduction

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has approved a special release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. The CWCB is now accepting applications from areas affected by wildfires in 2020. These fires include, but are not limited to, the East Troublesome, Cameron Peak, Grizzly Creek, Pine Gulch, Calwood, Mullen (in Colorado), and Williams Fork Fires.

Senate Bill 21-240, passed by the 2021 Colorado General Assembly, established an appropriation of \$30,000,000 for the CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. The bill states that the funds shall be used “for WATERSHED RESTORATION AND FLOOD MITIGATION GRANTS TO RESTORE, MITIGATE, AND PROTECT STREAM CHANNELS AND RIPARIAN AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOOD HAZARDS AND SEDIMENT EROSION AND DEPOSITION AFTER WILDFIRE.” The CWCB will accept applications on a rolling basis starting July 1, 2021 until the available funds are depleted.

Contact

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact the CWCB to discuss potential applications. For more information, please email Chris Sturm (chris.sturm@state.co.us).

Background

CWCB staff, consultants, and local fire recovery stakeholders have developed models for some fires that will facilitate the prioritization of projects. Additional technical assistance is still available, and more information can be found in the Disaster Recovery Resources section of the [CWCB's Watershed Health webpage](#).

Applications will be accepted for fire recovery planning, engineering, and implementation associated with the 2020 wildfires. Examples include:

- Capacity Building to establish a stakeholder group represented by all interested parties in fire affected areas. Funds can be used by stakeholder groups to support outreach, organization, communication, and management of recovery efforts, including stakeholder coordination for recovery planning associated with the wildfire.

- Engineering projects such as hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, fluvial hazard zone mapping, sediment yield and transport evaluations, risk assessment, project identification and prioritization, project design, permitting, and construction oversight.
- Implementation projects such as distribution of mulch to mitigate upland erosion, gully stabilization, sediment catchment, sediment and debris removal, streambank stabilization, revegetation, floodplain connectivity enhancement, low water road crossings, culvert replacement, culvert protection and debris catchments, diversion protection and/or reconstruction, and associated project monitoring.

Eligible Entities

Eligible parties include established non-profit organizations, watershed coalitions, local governments, conservation and water conservancy districts, and Colorado's tribal governments. Federal agencies and private landowners are not eligible to receive grant funds; however, projects may be conducted on private, state, or federal lands with appropriate permissions and under the sponsorship of an eligible entity. Local governments that do not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program will not be eligible for funding.

Applicants are strongly advised to consult with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) regarding the use of Colorado-specific forest products for project implementation. CSFS will provide a list of Colorado-specific forest product companies. In many instances, contact with forest product supply companies in Colorado will be essential to develop accurate budget estimates.

All successful applicants for project implementation will pursue the use of Colorado-specific forest products and materials, when applicable. Parties wishing to import forest products from other states will be required to submit a justification for review and approval.

CSFS contact information:

Tim Reader

Program Specialist
 Wood Products Utilization & Marketing
 Colorado State Forest Service
 Durango, Colorado
tim.reader@colostate.edu
 (970)759.2443 cell
 (970)247.5250 Office Ext. #6

Match Funding Requirements

CWCB funds from the 2021 Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of fire recovery efforts in a specific fire footprint. Project costs may consist of a combination of in-kind and cash match, but no more than half of the match may be in the form of in-kind services.

- **Cash Match**
Actual expenditures paid directly with cash funds from the grantee to a vendor. Examples are supplies, services, and necessary equipment purchase or rental.
- **In-Kind Match**
Materials, services, and labor provided by grantee to perform all or part of the approved project scope of work, including necessary project administration. This can include standard direct and indirect personnel fringe benefits. Volunteer services provided at no cost to the applicant by firms or individuals consistent with the approved scope of work will be valued for in-kind match at local prevailing wage rates. Project-specific land acquisition or access agreement costs may also be claimed as in-kind contributions and credited against the minimum requirement. Costs that CANNOT be considered include: general organization operating costs such as utilities, operating supplies and services, amortized costs or rental costs for buildings and equipment used for the general operation of the organization, and general property and liability insurance costs; nor will overhead percent charges to cover such items be allowed. These business expenses are NOT reimbursable costs and may not be claimed as matching contributions.

Evaluation Criteria

CWCB staff will select the projects to fund from applications that best meet the basic applicant qualifications and evaluation criteria below. CWCB staff reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants to modify the scope and/or budget of their projects to better meet CWCB objectives and fund availability. An evaluation team will review the applications and recommend projects to senior CWCB staff. The evaluation team will consist of at least three members. The CWCB Director will have approval authority for funding recommendations. Applications that ultimately cannot meet basic qualifications and evaluation criteria below may not be selected for funding.

Basic Qualifications

Grant applicants must demonstrate:

- Commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question, with participation open to all interested persons in the watershed.
- Commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards.
- Goals to (1) restore and/or protect the water, lands and other natural resources within the watershed; (2) mitigate flood hazards; and/or (3) integrate a multi-objective approach.
- Broad involvement in and/or support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities.
- Ability to provide appropriate in-kind or cash match for the activities proposed.
- Connection to direct impacts from wildfires that occurred in 2020 that can be mitigated through this program.

Grant applications that do not demonstrate the above criteria will be disqualified from the application review process.

The information below is a summary of what must be included in an application for funding from the 2021 Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Proposals shall address all sections (A-E) listed below.

All applications should be submitted electronically via email to chris.sturm@state.co.us.

Logistical questions about submitting applications should be directed to Chris Sturm (chris.sturm@state.co.us).

Please address all of the criteria below.

Application

A. Project Proposal Summary Sheet

Please list the following on the summary sheet:

- Project Title
- Project Location (include map and/or latitude/longitude, if applicable)
- Grant Request Amount
- Cash Match Funding Secured
- Cash Match Funding Pending
- In-kind Match Funding
- Project Sponsor(s) (identify the fiscal agent if different from the project sponsor)
- Contact person name, email address, and phone number
- Brief description of the project

All of the above information should fit on one page. Please use size 11 point font.

B. Applicant Qualifications (30 points)

- **B1:** Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement.
- **B2:** What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing fire recovery plans and models.
- **B3:** Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for proposed activities in the fire affected area. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending.

C. Organizational Capability (30 points)

- **C1:** What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects.
- **C2:** What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how?

D. Proposal Effectiveness (40 points)

- **D1:** Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet.
- **D2:** Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Provide a description of the project, its purpose, and a summary of goals and objectives, specifically note whether the project is intended to (1) restore and/or protect the water, lands and other natural resources within the watershed, (2) mitigate flood hazards, and/or (3) integrate a multi-objective approach that also addresses (1) or (2).
- **D3:** Describe other fire recovery activities in the fire affected area and how this application complements those activities.

E. Attachments

Please complete the enclosed scope of work and budget template. Other documents may be attached to the application in order to support the request for funding. These may include:

- Letters of support from other entities and letters of financial commitment.
- Pertinent still photos.
- Maps and reports from other similar or related projects.

END OF APPLICATION

Deadlines

The CWCB will accept applications on a rolling basis starting July 1, 2021 until the available funds are depleted.