



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: March 1, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item 19. March 13-14, 2024 Board Meeting
Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program
Update

Introduction

This informational agenda item provides an update on the status of the 2023 Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP). The CWRP grant program is set up to fund Wildfire Ready Action Plans (WRAP) and projects designed to mitigate post wildfire impacts.

Discussion

House Bill 22-1379 was signed into law in May 2022. Utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), it established an appropriation of \$10,000,000 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, including expenditures for the design and implementation of projects intended to mitigate increased flows, sediment, and debris, with federal and local matching requirements.” Funds appropriated in HB 22-1379 must be contracted by December 30, 2024 and spent before December 30, 2026.

Staff will update the Board on awarded grants, applications under review, and pending applications. There are currently fourteen grants awarded and five under review. The total amount awarded and pending review is \$3,337,445.

