

Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program

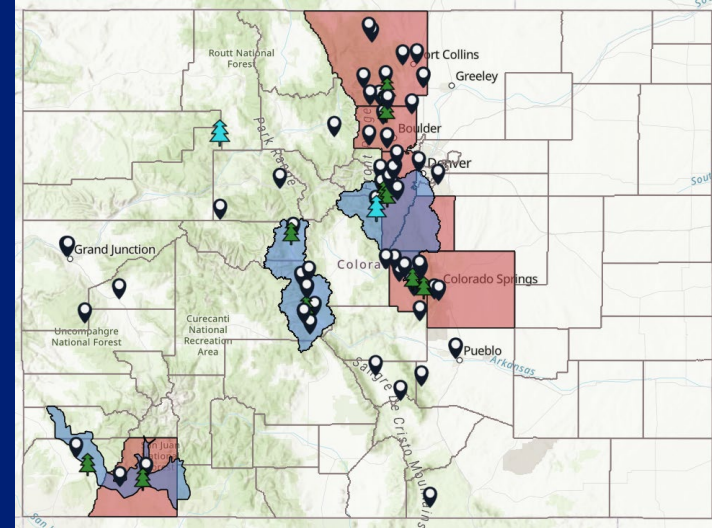
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Executive Director's Office

Colorado Counties Inc.
Wildfire Mitigation - Biomass Removal Webinar
September 19, 2024

Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program

Overview

- SB21-258 created COSWAP- a collaborative effort between DNR, CSFS, and DFPC to address the urgent need to reduce wildfire risk in CO
 - Workforce Development Grant
 - Landscape Resilience Investment
- Strategic Focus Areas
 - Areas with the highest concentration of people living in high wildfire risk
 - Areas with regional capacity to make meaningful strategic investments



Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program

Workforce Development Grant

- Focused on developing the pipeline of individuals entering Colorado's forestry and wildfire mitigation workforce
- Mitigation projects are completed by DOC SWIFT & conservation corps crews
- Trainings
- Since 2021:
 - Funded 73 projects
 - Totaling \$10.3 million
- Currently accepting applications for the third round of funding with \$4 million available through Nov 1



Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program

Landscape Resilience Investment

- Supports cross-boundary wildfire mitigation and forest/watershed health projects
- Projects must include collaborative and strategic planning
- Three year planning and implementation grants ranging from \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- Since 2022:
 - Funded 24 projects
 - Totaling \$20.5 million
- Colorado Forest Restoration Institute monitors the LRI program for effectiveness



Biomass Removal

COSWAP's Impact

Challenges

- Burn windows for piles
- Cost to haul
- Vegetation not suited for utilization

Solutions

- Vary by forest type, region, infrastructure
- Depending on the goals of the project, the biomass removal prescription will be different
- Consult local expertise



Chip & Haul

Grantee: City of Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Award: 21 weeks of crew time + \$102,375 for 21 weeks of chipper rental.

Utilization for post-fire restoration



Air Curtain Burner

Grantee: Larimer County OEM

County: Larimer

Award: \$18,000 for trainings



Cut-to-length (CTL) harvest and removal

Grantee: Colorado State Forest Service

County: Teller

Award: \$1,000,000



Pile Burning

Grantee: Colorado Parks and Wildlife

County: Eagle

Award: 4 weeks of Department of Corrections SWIFT
Crew time



130/190 “Red Card” Trainings

Grantee: Colorado Firecamp

County: Chaffee

Award: \$72,208

28 trainings -130/190

18 trainings -S212



Other Resources

Mulching: A knowledge summary and guidelines for best practices on Colorado's Front Range



COLORADO FOREST
RESTORATION INSTITUTE



FOREST AND RANGELAND
STEWARDSHIP
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



January, 2020
CFRI — 2001



Coarse Woody Debris: Managing Benefits and Fire Hazard in the Recovering Forest

James K. Brown
Elizabeth D. Reinhardt
Kylie A. Kramer



Mastication Operational Guidelines



Mastication of forest biomass for wildfire hazard reduction and forest health improvement has expanded dramatically across the state; the guidelines below focus on mastication techniques.

Consider the following recommendations during any mastication treatment, regardless of the method used.

Resource Protection:

1. Inspect all equipment prior to beginning work to ensure that it is in compliance with local requirements for spark arrestors, fire extinguishers, emissions, oil leaks, etc.
2. Thoroughly wash all equipment to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds.
3. When welding or cutting metal during equipment maintenance, use caution to avoid igniting a wildfire. Include language in contracts that describe the necessary tools, equipment, water and water delivery systems required for wildfire suppression.
4. Collect all liquids, containers and packaging associated with equipment fueling and maintenance, and properly dispose of it off-site.
5. Collect any soil contaminated with spilled liquids or grease and properly dispose of it off-site.
6. Avoid mastication and the deposition of mastication by-products such as chips and chunks in the following areas:
 - a. Perennial streams (i.e. streams that carry water year-around).
 - b. Intermittent streams (i.e. streams that carry water during only part of the year).
 - c. Road surfaces, drainage ditches and culvert basins.
 - d. On roads and trails, periodically remove mastication by-products larger than 1-inch in diameter and/or 1-foot in length as appropriate based on the level of road or trail use.
7. Make sure mastication treatments do not disturb soils or vegetation that protects the bottom surface of valleys from soil erosion and sediment transfer. Ephemeral drainages (i.e. areas that bear water only during and immediately after rain and/or snowmelt)



Utilization



Energy



Sort Yard



Biochar

Contact Information & Website

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Please Visit COSWAP's Website:

<https://dnr.colorado.gov/divisions/forestry/co-strategic-wildfire-action-program>