

New directions for Maxwell Ranch property

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cannon Power Group Decides Not to Pursue Maxwell Ranch Project

December 14, 2010

The University will take a step back and review its options now that Cannon Power Group has decided not to pursue a plan to develop, design, and construct a wind farm on the Maxwell Ranch property.

Cannon Power Group ends lease

After careful consideration, Cannon Power Group has determined that building a wind project at Colorado State University's Maxwell Ranch property is not commercially attractive for the company and has decided to end its lease agreement with the University.

CSURF clearinghouse for project

In June, the [Colorado State University Research Foundation](#), or CSURF, announced it had signed a lease with Cannon to develop, design and construct a wind farm on 8,000 acres of the 11,000-acre Maxwell Ranch property.

CSURF is a private, non-profit advocacy organization that manages the university's real estate holdings, intellectual property and technology transfer activities.



Cannon Power open, diligent in considering project

After further investigating the project, Cannon officials decided not to participate in the development, said [Bill Farland](#), Colorado State vice president for Research. The company's first lease payment would have been due at the end of the year.

"We appreciate the fact that Cannon was open throughout this process and we think they did a good job in terms of their due diligence. We understand this is a business decision," Farland said. "While we're disappointed this didn't work out, we will step back at this point and take some time to review our options with regard to the site and potentially other renewable energy activities that could involve research and students."

Energy projects benefit campus, surrounding communities

Farland stressed that the University would continue to pursue other clean and renewable energy projects that benefit the campus and surrounding community. The University has spent decades on water conservation and recycling efforts in addition to building projects on campus that cut energy consumption. On the University's Foothills Campus, a [biomass boiler](#) helps reduce energy usage and one of the largest solar plants at a U.S. university is finishing construction.

"We're going to continue to pursue clean energy opportunities that make economic sense for our campus while at the same time providing research and educational opportunities for our students," Farland said.

- [Overview of sustainable energy projects at CSU](#)

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Inside This Edition

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Colorado State Forest Service

Emergency Supplemental

2010 Grant Application

DISTRICT'S: Please Complete

District Submitting Project:	
Forester Submitting Project:	
District Priority Number:	
Date Submitted:	
FOR REVIEWER'S USE ONLY:	
Rating:	

Applicant Information	
Applicant:	Colorado State University Research Foundation
Contact Person:	Joel Vaad
Address:	P.O. Box 483
City/Zip Code:	Fort Collins, CO 80522
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Email:	Joel.Vaad@ColoState.edu
Fax:	970.484.0354

Community At Risk Information			
Name of Project:	Maxwell Ranch Fuels Reduction		
Community Name(s):	Red Mountain		
County:	Larimer	Congressional District:	4th
Latitude (decimal degrees):	40.94 deg	Longitude (decimal degrees):	105.24 deg
Threat Description (check all that apply)			
Homes:	☒	Number of:	30
Infrastructure:	☐	Estimated value of:	
Businesses:	☒	Number of:	1
Economic Viability:	☐	Estimated value of:	
Watersheds:	☐	Number of:	
Historic Structures:	☐	Number of:	
Other (Describe):			

Requested Grant Amount / Project Description	
All information for the project must fit into the space provided below. The review committee will not consider attachments.	
Dollar Amount Requested May Not Exceed \$470 x Number of Acres Proposed For Treatment	
Dollar Amount Requested	\$5,000
Will this Project be conducted as a Pass-Through Grant? ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Provide a brief overview of the project and the project area. (If applying for a fuels reduction project, identify vegetation types)	
The Maxwell Ranch is a working cattle ranch owned by Colorado State University Research Foundation. The Ranch has a Forest Management Plan prepared by Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS, 2009) which outlines the highest priorities for management. Fuels reduction due to mountain pine beetle mortality along the WUI boundary of the Ranch is one of the primary goals of the plan. This project, if funded, would be a significant initial entry into previously untreated areas. There are a number of managed Forest Agriculture properties in the area and it is in close proximity to the Red Mountain Open Space managed by Larimer County. The northern 1/3 of the Ranch is lower montane ponderosa pine forest and borders numerous private parcels. Most of the slopes range from 0 to 35%. Mountain Pine Beetle populations made a large advance in the Red Mountain area in 2008 and 2009.	

Scope of Work / Project Timeline

All information for the project must fit into the space provided below. Attachments will not be considered by the review committee.

Provide a brief scope of work that clearly describes how grant funds will be spent. (This should be more specific than the project description)

4 The project area includes 21 acres along the County Road 37 corridor and adjacent to neighboring properties. The treatment area is mostly open ponderosa pine with dense pockets (portions of Scheduling Area A and B on the attached map). Numerous pockets of mountain pine beetle occur in the project area. Treatments recommended in the Forest Management Plan include thinning to remove mountain pine beetle infested trees as well as removal of dwarf mistletoe trees. Trees that are a hazard to the Ranch roads or to CR 37 will be removed also. Any resulting slash will be piled for burning.

This fuels reduction grant will be used to thin via mastication in areas along the WUI boundary that are impacted by mountain pine beetle. The match will be Maxwell Ranch staff time and CSFS assistance in planning and implementation.

This project will reduce the hazardous fuel loading and the hazard trees in the CR 37 corridor, serve as a demonstration for landowners in the Red Mountain area, and help protect surrounding private properties along the WUI boundary.

Describe all planned long-term maintenance (grant funded or other).

This forest type is on the eastern margin of ponderosa pine and is slow growing and on marginally productive sites. By thinning higher basal areas to lower basal areas, the fuel loading is greatly reduced for several decades. Initial entries into treatment areas are favored over second and third entries. Initial entries provide a larger net reduction in fuels. The Forest Management Plan was completed in 2009 and the Ranch has begun implementation. Mountain pine beetle has motivated landowners to be active managers and to make investments in their forest condition. Financial assistance opportunities help landowners and communities stay engaged in implementing their plans.

What is the duration of this project? (check one) X ☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years ☐ 4 Years

Is this a continuing project from previous year/s? (check one) ☐ Yes X ☐ No

Provide a timeline for the project

Thinning activity will occur in the spring and early summer months following grant award. Pile burning will be performed (as needed), as weather conditions allow, and is anticipated in the following late winter or spring - possibly into the following winter. Masticated areas will be monitored for fuel loading and future MPB occurrence.

Interagency Collaboration

Specify the private, local, tribal, county, state, federal and/or non-governmental (501c3) organizations that will contribute to or participate in the completion of this project. Describe briefly the contributions each partner will make (i.e. – donating time/equipment, funding, etc.).

5 Maxwell Ranch (time/equipment); Colorado State University Research Foundation (time/support/administration); Colorado State Forest Service (time and technical assistance); Livermore Fire Protection District and Larimer County Emergency Services (burn permitting as needed).

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

	Does this community have a wildfire protection plan that follows the Healthy Forest Restoration Act CWPP guidelines? (check one) ☐ yes X ☒ no		
	Is this project part of the plan? (check one) ☐ yes X ☒ no		

6	Project Category (check all that apply and answer related questions)			
	Hazard Fuels Reduction X ☒ Other Forest Management Treatment ☐			
	Number of acres to be treated:	21	Estimated cost per acre:	\$470
	Project Type (check all that apply)			
	Defensible Space	☐	Thinning w/o Product	☐
	Fuelbreak	☐	Mastication	X ☒
	Thinning w/ Product	☐	Other	☐

7	Total Project Expense (Pass Through)		
	<i>Please fill all fields</i>	Grant Share (\$ Amount Requested)	TOTAL
	Contractual Services:	\$5,000	\$ 10,000
	TOTAL:	\$5,000	\$ 10,000

Grant funding may only be used for Contractual Service.

8	Total Project Expense (Non-Pass Through)		
	<i>Please fill all fields</i>	Grant Share (\$ Amount Requested)	TOTAL
	Contractual Services:		\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:		\$ 0
	TOTAL:	\$0	\$ 0

Grant funding may only be used for Contractual Service and Indirect.

Attach Project Map Showing Specific Treatment Areas

Map 7. Management Scheduling

