

Colorado State Forest Service

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants



Summary of Projects

November 2, 2009

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) received a \$6.25 million grant to create or retain jobs that help implement high-priority forest restoration and fuels mitigation projects. A portion of the funds also will create and retain jobs in Colorado's wood products industries. The CSFS also received a second grant for \$4.465 million to help fund jobs affiliated with developing and implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Interested organizations competed for the grants by writing project proposals, per guidelines and requirements set forth in Requests for Proposals. Interdisciplinary review panels evaluated the project proposals and selected the following to receive Recovery Act funding.

High-Priority Forest Restoration and Fuels Mitigation Grant

Rocky Mountain Timber Products, Inc.

Contact: Cassandra Doyon, Co-owner, 719.657.2846

Award amount: \$500,000

County affected: Rio Grande

Rocky Mountain Timber Products plans to create 14 new jobs for 22 months. The funding will allow them to restart their business and retain customers that have already made commitments to purchase their product. They also will be in a better position to capitalize on opportunities that will increase their business capacity and allow them to serve markets well beyond the grant period.

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Award amount: \$393,045

Contact: Trevor Balzer, District Wildlife Manager, 970.375.6756

County affected: La Plata

The Colorado Division of Wildlife will create eight jobs for the duration of the grant period and will reduce fuels on 1,339 acres in the Perin's Peak State Wildlife Area located in Durango's wildland-urban interface. In addition, they will plant 30,000 ponderosa pine seedlings to jump-start the reforestation of 10 acres damaged by wildfire. The work in the wildlife area will complement projects being implemented on federal lands.

Colorado Youth Corps Association

Contact: Jennifer Freeman, Executive Director, 303.863.0602

Award amount: \$647,400

Counties affected: El Paso, Gilpin, Jefferson, Park, Jackson, Routt, Eagle and Dolores

The Corps will create 12 16-week jobs for young adults and retain six 2-year jobs. The 271-acre project involves landscape-level forest restoration, and beetle-kill and fire mitigation work on forestlands. These lands include nine state parks, state wildlife areas, State Land Board property, and private and municipal properties. Treatments will help protect 31 mountain or wildland-urban interface communities.

Denver Mountain Parks

Contact: Jerry Tripp-Addison, Mountain Parks Superintendent, 303.697.4545

Award amount: \$275,000

Counties affected: Denver and Clear Creek

The project will create one new job for 18 months and six jobs for 14 months. The project involves treatment of hazardous fuels, and wildlife habitat and forest health improvement on 200 acres. As a result of the treatments, Denver Mountain Park lands will be more resilient to fire and insect outbreaks. Combined with work planned on federal, state and private lands, the projects will help protect the communities of Evergreen, Lookout Mountain and Genesee from wildfires.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Contact: Kathy Russell, Emergency Preparedness Planner, 719.575.8418

Award amount: \$428,950

County affected: El Paso

The El Paso County Office of Emergency Management will retain four full-time and one half-time positions for two or more years. In partnership with the Southwestern Highway 115 Fire Protection District, the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management will reduce fuel loads on approximately 145 acres that create bottlenecks or block emergency evacuation routes. Project funds will help jump-start neighborhood-based mitigation efforts and provide the momentum to continue the work after the project ends.

Focused on the Forest, LLC

Contact: Jenifer Morrissey, Co-owner, 970-723-4316

Award amount: \$250,000

County affected: Jackson

Focused on the Forest, LLC will use project funds to create three new jobs, which they hope to retain after the grant ends. They also will use grant funds as a catalyst to expand the company's ability to utilize forest products. Expanding the business will strengthen the demand for wood in the area, which will make treatment on forest acres more economical.

Intermountain Resources, LLC

Contact: Nancy Fishing, Director of Communications and Policy Analyst, 970.249.1767

Award amount: \$500,000

County affected: Montrose

Intermountain Resources, LLC, will create 11 new jobs and rehire six long-term employees. As the last large sawmill in Colorado, Intermountain Resources is vital to large forest management projects in a multi-state area that must be completed in a short timeframe. The vast majority of dead trees removed from the Hayman Fire were transported to Intermountain Resources to be made into wood products. As a result, the wood was salvaged and utilized, and the amount of blowdown and concentration of fuels was significantly reduced.

M S Forest, LLC

Contact: Kassie Carley, Marketing and Public Relations, 719.941.4378

Award amount: \$1,000,000

County affected: Las Animas

This project will allow M S Forest, LLC, to hire four new employees for the duration of the grant period and retain nine other jobs. The goal of the project is to treat 750 acres to help protect the North Lake Watershed, Trinidad's primary source of drinking water. The watershed also provides water for the communities of Stonewall, Weston, Valdez, Segundo and Cokedale. Project benefits include fuels reduction on private and state land, including campgrounds, ranches and residences.

Delta Timber Company

Contact: Eric Sorenson, President/CEO, 970.874.0849

Award amount: \$500,000

County affected: Delta

The receipt of ARRA grant money will allow Delta Timber Company to diversify their lumber product line, increase overall production, increase their overall sawmill and planing production, and acquire timber contracts for adequate volumes and quality of spruce or lodgepole timber. They expect to use the grant money to pay as many as 20 positions for 2 ½ months and then retain those positions beyond the grant period. Some of these employees are being rehired after being previously laid off.

City of Steamboat Springs

Contact: Ron Lindroth, Fire Chief, 970.879.3717

Award amount: \$1,000,000

County affected: Routt

The Steamboat Springs project will implement a variety of forest fuels mitigation treatments in order to substantially reduce hazardous forest fuels in high risk (red zone) wildland-urban interface areas on private and municipally owned lands in the Steamboat Springs area. They expect to create or retain multiple positions over the course of the grant period that will result in 17 full-time equivalent positions.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development and Implementation Grant**Anchor Point Group, LLC**

Contact: Chris White, Principal, 303.665.3473

Award amount: \$1,745,583

Counties affected: Boulder, Gilpin, Grand and Larimer

The Anchor Point Group, LLC, project will facilitate the implementation of high-priority fuels reduction projects in Gilpin, Boulder, Larimer and Grand counties, as detailed in their respective Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Anchor Point Group anticipates the creation of five jobs internally for 22 months. In addition, as many as 46 jobs will be created and retained to perform project work for a shorter time during the grant period. Anchor Point Group expects to sustain these and other internal positions beyond the grant period.

Boulder County

Contact: Barb Halpin, Public Information Officer, 303.441.1622

Award amount: \$102,700

County affected: Boulder

Boulder County will create a ¾-time position for 18 months and a seasonal or temporary position to assist with data collection for the development of a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan will identify fire hazards and risk to help protect communities within Boulder County.

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Contact: Carol Ekarius, Executive Director, 719.748.0033

Award amount: \$1,183,711

Counties affected: Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park and Teller

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) expects to create or retain at least 15 jobs that will be hired by CUSP or local cooperators and businesses over the next two years. The new positions will focus on creating or updating at least 12 Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and implementing at least 600 acres of CWPP treatments across a five-county area that includes Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park and Teller counties.

Perry Park Metropolitan District

Contact: Keith Worley, Project Forester and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, 303.681.2492

Award amount: \$700,000

County affected: Douglas

The Perry Park Metropolitan District expects to create or retain 18 jobs for 2 years to perform hazardous fuels mitigation on at least 346 acres within the district's defined wildland-urban interface through implementation of the Perry Park Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Town of Winter Park

Contact: Drew Nelson, Town Manager, 970.726.8081

Award amount: \$159,172

County affected: Grand

The Winter Park Railroad Easement Thinning Project will focus on thinning fuels along the railroad easement where it runs through the Town of Winter Park. The Town of Winter Park anticipates the creation or retention of eight jobs for a period of 6 months to complete this project.