

## Summaries of Boulder County SFMG projects approved for Fall 2024 Cycle

### 1. Cal-Wood Forest Fuels Reduction Project

Cal-Wood Education Center (CW) is seeking **\$132,251.00** to assist with wildfire mitigation on 60 acres (2 project sites) along property boundaries. These areas have not been addressed due to limited accessibility, steeper terrain, and a dense north/west facing forest structure. Consequently, the cost per acre has increased.

The objectives of the project are to implement fuels reduction measures beyond defensible space to better protect CW's infrastructure and surrounding communities during a wildfire. Saleable wood materials will be removed from the site for our community firewood sales program, and slash will be managed through either mastication or slash pile burning.

- Promote Forest Health: Reduce fuel loads and competition among trees, restore ecosystem function, structure, and species composition, and preserve older and larger trees, while managing dwarf mistletoe.
- St. Vrain Watershed Health and Protection: Enhance and protect the health of the St. Vrain Watershed.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, lefthand Fire Protection District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Boulder Valley Longmont Conservation District, Wildfire Partners

Matching funds: CSFS FRWRM, NRCS EQIP, Cal-Wood Board of Directors **Total Match (\$132,251.00).**

### 2. Conifer Hill Forest Management Project I

The Watershed Center is requesting **\$610,000.00** for the Conifer Hill Forest Management Project I, a community-wide forest management project which spans 388 acres and 8 private properties, with 160 operable acres. The project area is within and adjacent to multiple priority areas for forest management, including a Boulder County Fireshed Focus Area that ties together a critical POD boundary (Hwy 7) and nearby treatments that seek to decrease risk to Ralph Price Reservoir (provides drinking water for 110,000 people). This project will directly reduce risk to the Conifer Hill community, which has one steep and narrow egress route, and indirectly reduce risk to the neighboring communities of Raymond and Riverside. The acres to be treated sit on a steep slope above Middle and South St. Vrain Creeks, which are key tributaries in the St. Vrain Watershed.

Primary project goals are to reduce risk to communities, improve egress routes and firefighter safety, increase forest resilience, and to decrease post-fire sediment deposition into critical water supplies. To achieve these goals, The Watershed Center will hire a contracted crew to treat 160 acres with mechanical and hand thinning according to the Forest Management Plan already developed by TWC and the Colorado State Forest Service.

Partners include: Colorado Sate Forest Service, Wildfire Partners, Sr.Vrain Forest Health Partnership (Science and Operations Team)

Matching Funds: CSFS FRWRM, landowners **(\$613,575.00)**

### 3. Eagles Drive Phase II

The Four Mile Fire Protection District requests **\$9,779.00** for the Eagles Drive Phase II project. The Eagles Drive/Canyonside Fuel Break (Phase I) was a collaborative fuels reduction effort between Four Mile and Boulder Rural Fire Protection Districts, and City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks that created a strategic fuel break connecting Sunshine and Boulder Canyons. **Eagles Drive Phase II** requests funding to support pile burning and to finish complete removal of fuels from the Four Mile FPD portion of the project. Four Mile previously burned approximately 100 piles from the first 8 acres completed in 2023. Additional funding would support Four Mile's capacity to burn the remaining 130 piles during Winter 2024-25.

Partners include: Boulder Rural Fire, City of Boulder OSMP, Boulder Sheriff's Office, Sunshine, Sugarloaf, and Gold Hill FPDs.

Matching Funds: CSFS FRWRM, landowner (**\$9,779.00**)

### 4. Kenosha Farm HOA Mowing Project

The Kenosha Farm HOA represents the interests of 252 homes in eastern Boulder County. They are requesting **\$17,500.00** to complete mowing on 39 acres two times per year. The first mowing would be in 2025, followed by twice a year mowing through 2029 (five-year total). The neighborhood is surrounded by other developments and agricultural lands. Kenosha Estates (a separate HOA) lies immediately to the north, Erie Village to the east, and Wild Rose to the southeast. There are two gas well structures within the grasslands. The proposed mowing will reduce fire risk to all three communities.

Partners include: Town of Erie Parks and Open Space, Wildfire Partners

Matching Funds: Kenosha Farm HOA (**\$17,500.00**)

### 5. Meadow Mountain Forest Management Project

The Watershed Center is requesting **\$312,000.00** for the Meadow Mountain Forest Management Project, a community-wide fire mitigation and forest management project which spans 104 acres, 80 of which are operable, across 18 private properties. The primary goals of this project are to reduce risk to communities through defensible space creation, improve egress routes and firefighter safety, increase the resilience of the forest to wildfire and other disturbances, and to decrease the likelihood of post-fire excessive sediment deposition into critical headwater supplies.

The project area is within and adjacent to multiple priority areas for forest management, including a Boulder County Fireshed Focus Area, which bolsters a critical POD boundary (Peak to Peak Highway), focuses management in an area with high potential for ignitions (dense national forest with dispersed camping and OHV use), and emphasizes watershed protection around critical headwaters (Rock Creek). This project will also reduce the wildfire risk to the Allenspark community (population: 622) by creating defensible space (100 to 300 feet) and implementing broader forest management practices that promote low-severity fires within and around the built environment.

To achieve these goals, The Watershed Center (TWC) will hire a contracted crew to treat 80 acres according to the Forest Management Plans and Prescriptions that are in progress by The Watershed Center, consisting primarily of mechanical and hand thinning.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership (Science and Operations Team)

Matching Funds: CSFS FRWRM, landowners **(\$325,500.00)**

## 6. Meeker Park II Forest Management Project

The Watershed Center is requesting **\$390,000** for the Meeker Park II Forest Management Project, a multi-property fire mitigation and forest management project which spans 264 acres, 100 of which are operable, across three private properties. The primary goals of this project are to reduce risk to communities through defensible space creation, improve egress routes and firefighter safety, increase the resilience of the forest to wildfire and other disturbances, and to decrease the likelihood of post-fire excessive sediment deposition into critical headwater supplies.

The project area is within and adjacent to multiple priority areas for forest management, including a critical POD boundary (Peak to Peak Highway). It reduces risk to densely forested community areas (Meeker Park, Allenspark, Tahosa Valley), and emphasizes watershed protection around critical headwaters (Cabin and Tahosa Creeks). Through fuels reduction, this project will directly decrease risk to the Meeker Park community through creation of defensible space (100ft-300ft) and broader forest management that will foster low severity fire within and around the built environment. To achieve these goals, The Watershed Center (TWC) will hire a contracted crew to treat 100 acres consisting primarily of mechanical and hand thinning.

Partners include: CSFS

Matching Funds: CSFS FRWRM **(\$390,000)**

## 7. Porter Ranch

The Boulder Watershed Collective is requesting **\$513,000** for the Porter Ranch Project. The goals for the project are to facilitate egress/ingress into the community during a wildfire, reduce total canopy coverage by creating gaps and reducing bulk fuel load, reduce ladder fuels to promote ground fire and reduce torching and crowning, and reduce risk of pest and disease.

This project includes private lands adjacent to previous large scale USFS treatment areas. Work completed will enhance hundreds of acres of lodgepole and mixed conifer treatments on public lands. The project area is a priority in the Nederland CWPP and flanks Magnolia Road, a critical egress and POD boundary.

The treatment will enhance defensible space completed by the 16 landowners within Porter ranch, as well as the egress treatment finished earlier this year along Porter Ranch Road. Treatment will expand upon natural meadow systems throughout upper Magnolia. Nearby critical infrastructure includes a TFPD fire station less than one mile west of the project area and the city of Boulder drinking water pipeline immediately adjacent to the project along the northern ridgeline.

Partners include: CSFS, University of Colorado (student intern), Timberland FPD, Wildfire Partners

Matching Funds: USFS CAFA grant, CSFS FRWRM, Boulder County Parks and Open Space **(\$513,000)**

## 8. Town of Superior Cool Weather Grazing

The Town of Superior is requesting **\$142,954.00** to support goat grazing. The Town of Superior Cool Weather Grazing Program strives to manage the Town's open space through a sustainable model of

rotational goat grazing that mitigates wildfire risk. Following the 2021 Marshall Fire and considering the potential for future wildfires, mitigating wildfire fuels in Superior’s open spaces is a critical resilience priority. The program's goals include reducing wildfire fuel loads on targeted open space parcels as well as improving soil conditions, controlling weeds, and promoting native grassland species. Goat grazing enhances soil aeration and percolation through hoof action, fertilizes the land with manure, and facilitates the re-seeding of diverse native plants. The goat grazing program also serves as a very successful tool to bring public awareness to wildfire risks and how communities can better manage this risk.

This project will mitigate fuel loads on approximately 60 acres of open space per year for three years. Project areas are primarily shortgrass prairie vegetation with some trees and shrubs and with invasive species such as cheatgrass. The project scope will also include spreading native seed mixes to maximize the benefits of goat grazing and encourage “Fire Wise” growth.

**Partners include:** The Urban Prairie Project, Wildfire Partners, neighborhood representatives, Mountain View Fire & Medical, and Town of Superior Communications Department

**Matching funds:** Town of Superior (**\$142,954.00**)