



## Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (SFMG)

### Grasslands Fuels Mitigation Eligibility Criteria

#### Background

Boulder County established the Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (SFMG) program in 2023, after voters approved the county's new wildfire mitigation sales and use tax in November 2022. The purpose of these funds is to support large, landscape-scale grassland management projects to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and water supplies; reduce catastrophic wildfire behavior; and promote resilient ecosystems.

Grassland fuels mitigation is the practice of reducing the amount of flammable material adjacent to urban communities and critical infrastructure to help reduce the risk of wildfires.

#### Who manages the program?

The program is managed by members of Boulder County's Community Planning and Permitting (CP&P) Department's Wildfire Partners team. The mission of CP&P is to provide equitable and accessible programs, projects and services that support safe and resilient communities. Wildfire Partner's Forest and Grasslands Project Coordinator and Grant Administrator will manage the application process, selection process, tracking, and all updates to the grant program.

#### How much money is available?

There is a \$2 million-dollar total annual budget, for both forest and grassland projects, distributed over two grant cycles (Spring and Fall).

#### Who can apply for this funding?

- Local government entities in Boulder County
- Private utilities, ditch companies, and water providers
- State agencies that own or manage land in Boulder County
- Homeowners Associations managing larger open space areas or buffers outside of their community boundary
- Non-profit groups

#### Applicant must:

- Be able to function as the fiscal agent and have legal authority to administer and/or implement treatments in the proposed project area(s).
- Confirm that participating landowner(s) agree to the project's scope of work and grant's reporting and monitoring requirements.



### Projects must be:

- Large, landscape-scale or cross-boundary projects that effectively act as buffer zones to slow down the spread of wildfire towards urban areas.
- Strategic in protection of urban communities and critical infrastructure from the risk of wildfire.
- Identified in a county or local CWPP, local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), local resource plan or watershed plan.
- Compliant with all applicable federal and state environmental laws.

### Grassland fuels mitigation can be done in a variety of ways, including:

- **Grazing:** Using domestic animals like cows and goats to reduce grasses and shrubs.
- **Mowing:** Reducing fuels by mowing to create buffers that can be maintained long-term.
- **Chipping:** Removing brush, limbs, or small branches to reduce fuels, then processing the woody material with a chipper to be hauled away.
- **Thinning:** Using chainsaws to remove understory ladder fuels and/or prune trees.
- **Mechanical removal:** Removing brush and small trees by hand or mechanically.
- **Prescribed fire:** Starting a fire under favorable conditions to remove excess vegetation and other fuels.

### Grassland Fuels Mitigation Grant examples:

- Fuels reduction by various appropriate methods including mowing, grazing, shrub/tree removal, chipping, or prescribed fire.
- Prescribed burning projects with the objectives of reducing wildfire risk.
- Local government open space management projects with the objectives of reducing wildfire risk.
- Ditch fuels reduction projects.
- Cross-boundary projects that may include private, local government, and federal lands.

