

1. Arroyo Chico II (ACII) Fuel Break

The Four Mile Fire Protection District requests \$319,500.00 to complete a fuel break on 117 acres (across three individual private properties). ACII encompasses multiple, overlapping goals and objectives ranging from protection of life and property to forest management and ecosystem health.

The following goals and objectives represent the completion of a successful project, with hopes to replicate project success and incorporate insights into future efforts. The project will: reduce overstory density, standing fuel loads, and ladder fuels by fragmenting continuous fuel lines and overstory canopies; reduce extreme fire behavior for safer wildfire suppression while improving ingress/egress for community members and first responders; Promote healthy ponderosa pine regeneration through removal of dwarf mistletoe and Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infested trees; engage multiple property owners in landscape-scale mitigation to decrease fuel loads and lower potential wildfire intensity; encourage property owners to continue mitigation efforts on an individual and community-wide scale to promote ownership in wildfire risk reduction.

Along with the connected fuel breaks, the geographic position of ACII immediately west and upwind of the City of Boulder means that these fuel treatments protect a much larger population center, multiplying the strategic firefighting value of the work well beyond the immediate neighborhood. Once completed, ACII will provide a natural holding feature that could serve as a "catcher's mitt" to attenuate extreme fire behavior moving upslope through the canopy or from westerly wind-driven fire. Within ACII, there are two distinct sub-ridges that would provide multiple suppression opportunities in a major fire.

Partners include: Colorado State Forests Service, Boulder County (foresters), Wildfire Partners

Matching Funds: \$441,000.00

2. Boulder Mountain Forest Fuels Reduction Project

The Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District is requesting \$245,000.00 for the Boulder Mountain Fuels Reduction Project to complete mitigation on 140 acres as shaded fuel break.

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The goals of Boulder Mountain Fire's fuel treatments are to reduce wildfire intensity and improve forest health for the purposes of life safety and property preservation. Additional goals of the proposed projects include the protection of watersheds, waterways, and community drinking reservoirs located within and adjacent to the project areas. Both of these goals align with and have been identified within the BMF CWPP.

The implementation of 140 acres as shaded fuel breaks will follow the specifications outlined in the Colorado State Forest Service's Guidelines for Fuel Breaks in Forested Communities. These specifications include the reduction of tree density to achieve increased crown spacing and the removal of ladder fuels within the project areas. Additional objectives include linking project locations with other fuels treatments for maximum effectiveness during a wildfire event. All treatment areas abut previous projects, are located beyond the Home Ignition Zone, and are designed for neighborhood-wide impact to benefit entire communities on a large landscape scale. Homeowners within or adjacent to project locations have been provided information and separate funding opportunities to treat their defensible space and create linked treatments throughout the area. Fuels treatment locations have also been selected to protect key evacuation routes within BMF's district and contribute to the goal of life safety for residents.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, Fourmile Fire, Sunshine Fire, Boulder Rural Fire, Lefthand Fire, City of Boulder Open Space, Wildfire Partners, and the Boulder Watershed Collective.

Matching Funds: \$595,000.00

3. Crescent Lake Fuels Reduction Project

The Boulder Watershed Collective requests \$235,870.00 to treat 60 acres on the Crescent Lake Fuels Reduction Project. The main goals of the Crescent Lake Fuels Reduction Project are to reduce burn probability/severity in Home Ignition Zones, improve roadside ingress/egress in the event of a wildfire, and increase forest resiliency within the Crescent Lake neighborhood in the Vonnie Claire plan unit in the Coal Creek Canyon CWPP*.

Project objectives include reducing fuel-loading along Crescent Lake Rd, Hummingbird Lane, Highway 72 and structures to improve ingress/egress; increasing tree spacing and eliminating ladder fuels to reduce potential fire behavior; decreasing the presence of mountain pine beetle and dwarf mistletoe by targeting affected trees; and creating and

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maintaining diverse species compositions, age-class diversity and spatial and structural heterogeneity to increase forest resiliency.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, Coal Creek Fire Protection District, United Power, Forests to Faucets, Wildfire Partners

Matching Funds: \$235,870.00

4. Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project

The Sunshine Fire Protection District requests \$188,846.00 to complete forest fuels mitigation on 57 acres. The goals of the Dry Gulch North project are to improve forest health and prevent the spread of catastrophic wildfire into and within Sunshine FPD and into Boulder Mountain FPD. Goals also include protecting the Four Mile Creek and Fourmile Canyon Creek watersheds and protecting homes within the project area.

The project objective is to perform fuels reduction on the 57.4-acre Dry Gulch North project area. The fuels reduction will follow the CSFS guidelines for a shaded fuel break within the entire project area. Ladder fuels will be eliminated; the tree basal density will be decreased to increase canopy spacing. The objective is to prevent wildfires from torching within the project area. The project adjoins a previous 18-acre mitigation project and Dry Gulch South, a 70-acre mitigation project in progress. This creates a landscape scale 145-acre area.

Homes will be protected by enhancing and extending the defensible space around the home. As part of the project work, SFPD will provide help and guidance to the homeowners for their Zone 1 mitigation and home hardening. Hazard fuels in Zone 2 will be removed, and Zone 3 will be extended to the project boundary.

Partners include: Boulder West Wildfire Authority (includes Sunshine, Four Mile, Sugar Loaf and Gold Hill FPD) and Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District

Matching Funds: \$188,846.00

5. East and West Rattlesnake Gulch Project

The City of Longmont requests \$110,300.00 to treat 44 acres on the East and West Rattlesnake Gulch Project. The Rattlesnake Gulch Mitigation Project is located within City of Longmont's Button Rock Preserve, north of Ralph Price Reservoir, which is the primary drinking water source for 1/3 of Boulder County. Like much of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed, the project site is at elevated risk of "high intensity" wildfire according to the CSFS. The project offers valuable opportunity to connect past fuels treatments, protect a critical source of drinking water, and improve forest health.

The project will reduce hazardous fuel loads, restore ecosystem resilience, and protect critical water infrastructure and natural resources through selective stand-thinning. The project incorporates long-term monitoring to measure effectiveness and adapt practices over time. Once treated, we anticipate this area will act as an effective fuel break on the northern boundary of The Preserve, adjacent to untreated private, BC Parks & Open Space, and USFS property.

The project aligns with objectives of the BC CWPP and BC Hazard Mitigation Plan as it aims to enhance safety from wildfires by protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructure. The project is near a POD boundary, as identified in wildfire risk planning frameworks, and occupies a Boulder County Fireshed Focus Area (FID-5), aligning our work with the county. Project scope overlaps with St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership landscape, enabling cross-boundary collaboration with land management agencies, local stakeholders, and nonprofit partners.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership

Matching Funds: \$118,132.00

6. Pinecliffe Forest Resilience Project

The Boulder Watershed Collective (BWC) requests \$343,000.00 to complete 113 acres of mitigation for the Pinecliffe Forest Resilience Project. The primary goal of this project is to reduce wildfire burn probability and severity in a highly strategic location within the Coal Creek WUI.

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Secondary goals include improving overall forest resilience to environmental stressors (dwarf mistletoe, Mountain Pine Beetle {MPB}, drought, wildfire) by decreasing competition and enhancing resource availability for retained trees. Specific project objectives are to: reduce canopy bulk density and canopy continuity through mechanical thinning and selective tree removal to lower active crown fire potential; remove ladder fuels and reduce understory tree densities to reduce surface-to-crown fire transition risk; prioritize the removal of trees infected with MPB, mistletoe, and other pathogens to decrease disease prevalence and improve stand health; maintain and enhance species and age class diversity within and between treatment units to support ecological resilience; and apply heavier thinning treatments adjacent to community boundaries to create defensible space and strategic fuel breaks in accordance with CWPP priorities.

This project will also connect two previously completed forest treatments, creating a contiguous fuels reduction zone. To the south, it will link with a 40-acre egress and HIZ mitigation project implemented in early 2025 by BWC and Timberline Fire Protection District within the Pinecliffe community. To the east, it adjoins a USFS treatment area completed in 2023, expanding the landscape-scale effectiveness of previous mitigation efforts.

Partners include: Colorado State Forest Service, Timberline Fire Protection District, The Pinecliffe Association, United Power

Matching Funds: \$349,000.00

7. Wonderland Lake Cross-boundary Risk Reduction (Grassland/Urban Project)

The City of Boulder, Open Space and Mountain Parks requests \$201,619.00 to treat 120 acres in the Wonderland Lake community. The project combines landscape fuels reduction with parcel-level fuels management and home hardening to achieve comprehensive, cross-boundary wildfire risk reduction in a 350-acre project area (120 operable). The project spans public and private lands and directly protects over 500 homes in Boulder.

The primary objective is to prevent home damage or loss and minimize the chance of wildfire spread into the built environment, causing mass loss of life or property. To accomplish this, the project will: reduce potential wildfire intensity in grasslands through

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strategic cattle grazing; complement landscape-scale treatment with targeted mowing adjacent to homes; manage junipers and coniferous vegetation in Home Ignition Zones (HIZs) on public and private lands; manage vegetation along trails to create fuel breaks and enhance suppression opportunities; remove dead standing trees and downed woody debris in riparian areas to reduce fuel loads; and implement fuels reduction and home hardening at the parcel and community scales to address overlapping HIZs, mitigate shared hazards, and reduce evacuation risk.

Partners include: City of Boulder, Parks and Recreation Department and Boulder Fire-Rescue Department's Community Risk Reduction team

Matching Funds: \$220,692.00