



Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant Program Forest Fuels Mitigation Eligibility Criteria

Background

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

The SFMG program is managed by Boulder County's Department of Community Planning and Permitting (CP&P) Wildfire Partners team. The mission of CP&P is to provide equitable and accessible programs, projects and services that support safe and resilient communities.

How much money is available?

There is a \$2 million budget for forest, grasslands, and planning projects, distributed over two grant cycles (Spring and Fall). Due to increasing demands for funding, beginning in the Spring 2026 cycle, we will limit the request amount per application, per cycle to \$600,000. Requests of more than \$600K may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should be prepared to potentially scale their projects when feasible.

Who can apply for funding?

1. The following organizations can apply:

- Local government entities in Boulder County
- State agencies that own or manage land in Boulder County
- Non-profit groups
- Private utilities, ditch companies, and water providers
- Homeowners Associations

2. 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.

3. Project must be:

- Large, landscape-scale or community-wide
- Strategic and identified within or near areas such as the Boulder County Fireshed Focus Area map, local partnership priority area, or Potential Operational Delineations (POD)



boundaries.

- Targeting communities and infrastructure at high risk of wildfire.
- Identified in a county or local CWPP, local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), forest management plan, or watershed plan.
- Compliant with all applicable federal and state environmental laws.

What can the funding be used for? (Examples of qualifying projects)

1. Fuels Mitigation Projects

- Forest Fuels Mitigation Projects
 - Creation or maintenance of fuel breaks
 - Fuels reduction by various appropriate methods, including mechanical thinning, prescribed fire, and other methods designed to protect water supplies and/or reduce potential fire intensity
 - The removal/disposal of slash and non-merchantable materials using methods such as chipping, mulching, grinding, pile burning, broadcast burning or mechanical removal
 - Removal of saleable woody materials with specific utilization plans
 - Cross-boundary projects that may include private, local government, and federal lands
- Grassland Fuels Mitigation Projects **(See Grasslands Eligibility Criteria)**

2. Planning Projects:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
 - Updates to existing plan
 - Development of new plan

