

West Region Wildfire Council

2017 Cost-Share Program - Guide



The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) promotes wildfire preparedness, prevention and mitigation education throughout Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. Our mission is to reduce wildfire risk in wildland urban interface communities to help prepare counties, fire protection districts, communities and agencies to plan for and mitigate potential threats from wildfire.

The West Region Wildfire Council's Cost-Share Program offers technical assistance and incentive funding in an effort to implement recommendations outlined in an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2017 or until available funding has been expended.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS & REQUIREMENTS

All projects will be reviewed individually to determine eligibility and cost-share funding amounts. The maximum cost-share award through this program cycle is 75%, whereby the West Region Wildfire Council would reimburse a maximum of 75% of the total cost for contracted mitigation services. In some cases, the funding award may be less than 75% of the total cost. The final award amount is based upon: (a) a comparison of the project cost to reasonably similar costs of recently completed projects in the area; (b) project details in the Scope of Work; and (c) and the chosen contractor's bid. Eligible projects include:

- (1) Defensible Space:** Projects that reduce the risk of home ignition during a wildfire by altering the fuel loading and distribution immediately surrounding a home a driveway.
- (2) Landscape Treatments:** Projects that have the potential to change wildfire behavior, at a larger scale, such that suppression resources can be more effectively utilized during wildfire management activities.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Projects located in an Extreme, Very High or High rated community within a Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray or San Migul County Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be given priority.
- West Region Wildfire Council staff must be present for an initial site visit at the project location.
- Applicants are required to consult with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) or other qualified natural resource professional for project design. All project completion compliance check-offs will be done by a CSFS Forester and/or WRWC Mitigation & Education Coordinator.
- All participants must be willing to post a WRWC mitigation sign after project completion.
- All participants must be willing to maintain their project and agree to participate in a post-project maintenance site visit approximately two years after project completion.






Example of a defensible space project before (left) and after (right) cost-share mitigation work.



NEXT STEPS:

(1) Initial and sign the attached application. You may return via email or USPS:

 <p>Gunnison, Montrose or Hinsdale County PDF/scanned applications, please email Mike Tarantino at:</p> <p>wrwc.mike@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Delta, Ouray or San Miguel County PDF/scanned applications, please email Jamie Gomez at:</p> <p>wrwc.coordinator@gmail.com</p>	 <p>All paper applications: West Region Wildfire Council 535 S. Nevada Ave. Montrose, CO 81401</p>
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- (2) Work with your CSFS Forester or natural resource professional to complete the Project Map, Scope of Work and associated project field work.
- (3) Obtain and review your bids and then select a contractor to complete your project. Contact your selected contractor to let them know that you intend to work with them, pending the signing of an Award Agreement with the West Region Wildfire Council. (Example Award Agreement attached)
- (4) Inform your West Region Wildfire Council project coordinator of which contractor you intend to work with to complete your project.
- (5) After receiving your Award Agreement, carefully read and review its contents. If everything is acceptable, sign and return it to the West Region Wildfire Council.



The West Region Wildfire Council is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization serving the residents of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties since 2011.

Working Together to Reduce Wildfire Risk



535 S. Nevada Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401



www.COwildfire.org



(970) 615-7300

Please keep this page for your reference!

West Region Wildfire Council 2017 Cost-Share Program - Application



Applicant's Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Project Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

What is your community's wildfire hazard rating*? _____

**Hint: If you do not know your community's wildfire hazard rating, you can look it up in your Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). To view your CWPP, please go to www.COwildfire.org and click on the CWPP tab. If you need assistance with finding your community's risk rating, please contact your Mitigation and Education Coordinator at 970-615-7300.*

Have you applied for or received other funding assistance, from the WRWC or any other agency or organization, to carry out wildfire mitigation activities? Check yes or no. If yes, please describe.

____ No / ____ Yes : _____

By initialing the following statements, you are stating that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions of the West Region Wildfire Council's Cost-Share Program.

Carefully read and initial the following:

_____ **FAQ's:** I have read and understand the "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)".

_____ **Reimbursement:** I understand that this is a reimbursement program and that I will be responsible for full initial payment to the selected contractor and any hired consultants such as a CSFS Forester or other natural resource professional if applicable.

_____ **Cost-Share:** I understand that that the **maximum** cost-share award that is possible through this program is 75%, whereby I would be responsible for at least 25% of the total contracted costs for mitigation services **AND** I may be responsible for more than 25% of the total cost.

_____ **Award Agreement:** I understand that if my application is approved I will receive an Award Agreement that will identify the exact cost-share percentage for my project as well as other details and expectations. I understand that I will not be eligible for any cost-share reimbursement payments for any incurred costs for work done *prior to OR without* signing an Award Agreement that has been issued to me. (An example Award Agreement has been provided for you at the back of this application.)

_____ **Site Visit:** I understand that in order to be eligible for cost-share funding, a WRWC Mitigation & Education Coordinator must complete a site visit at the project site prior to initiating any work.

_____ **Map, Scope & Project Marking:** I understand that in order to be eligible for cost-share funding through this program, I need to consult with a CSFS Forester, WRWC Mitigation & Education Coordinator or natural resource professional to complete the following:

- **Project Map:** a detailed map of the project and treatment areas.
- **Scope of Work (SOW):** a detailed description of the project, including specifications and performance standards.



- **Project Marking:** to ensure common understanding of project requirements, most projects will need to be marked using forestry paint and flagging.

_____ **Bids:** I understand that I need to acquire project bids from contractors. WRWC Strongly recommends obtaining at least three bids. I understand that staff from WRWC, CSFS and other natural resource professionals may be available to assist me in this through coordinating and hosting a contractor showcase visit and that CSFS district offices maintain courtesy lists of contractors.

_____ **Consulting Service Fees:** I understand that consultation with a CSFS forester or other natural resource professional to develop a Project Map, Scope of Work, complete field work, solicit and acquire bids, administer the project, and oversee contractor performance may be subject to additional service fees. I understand that these service fees are not eligible for cost-share reimbursement. (Please ask your consulting forester/natural resource professional about these service fees.)

_____ **Pre-Project Photos:** I understand that I need to ensure my WRWC project coordinator has at least three (3) pre-project photographs. Please send photos in an electronic format (jpeg files preferred).

_____ **Home Ignition Zone Activities:** I understand that I will be required to perform the following tasks (if applicable) to reduce the likelihood of home ignition during a wildfire:

- Relocating my firewood pile(s) at least 30 feet away from my home.
- Mowing or weed-whacking grass to a height of six inches or less for at least the first 15 feet surrounding my home.
- Removing pine needles and other flammable debris from around my home, roof or gutters.
- Removing flammable material from underneath any elevated decking.

_____ **In-Kind Tracking:** I understand that I will be required to document time that I spend doing the above listed activities, or any other activities related to the completion of my project. I will utilize the “In-Kind Tracking Form” provided by the WRWC in the Award Agreement.

_____ **Project Maintenance:** I understand that the WRWC is expecting me to make a ‘good faith’ effort to maintain my project through cutting vegetation as it regrows, as well as any other activities that serve to reduce wildfire risk that have been required or recommended as a part of this project. I understand that two (2) years after the completion of my project, the West Region Wildfire Council will be contacting me to schedule a follow-up project maintenance site visit, and I agree to willingly participate in that site visit. I understand that if I no longer own this property, there is no obligation on the part of the new owner(s). I further understand that the WRWC will not require any reimbursement payments to be returned to the WRWC for reasons related to project maintenance or the lack thereof.

I, _____ understand and agree to all of the WRWC Cost- (Print Name Here) Share Program Requirements and certify that this application is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate. Applicant Signature: _____ Date _____
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Date Recvd & Initial:
