

Red Feather Lakes Area Wildfire Defense Project

Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)



June 2024 Update

Excitement and patience. We are very fortunate to receive this grant award, and we look forward to implementing our proposal through a range of wildfire risk reduction and preparedness activities. However, while the news of our award is exciting, it will take a while to work through the award formalities and initial project administration components. Additionally, we want to set up a solid management structure to ensure all grant requirements are known and followed, and we want to make efforts to ensure good inclusion of community representation into this structure - this all will take some time as we want to get it right.

Grant amount and outcomes. The total amount of the grant award is \$9,696,438 and this amount is applied over a 5 year period of performance. This award amount is broken down into 5 general outcome categories related to:

- Wildfire mitigation treatments in open space, along roadways and on private properties. ~\$4.6mil.
- Education on home ignition zone concepts, mitigation work to establish or improve defensible space, enhancement of community social capital and wildfire resilience. ~\$1.6mil.
- Improvements to community wildfire evacuation routes, plans and procedures. ~\$240k.
- Enhancement of community capacity to deal with post-treatment woody biomass. ~\$1mil.
- Effective administration of grant and project. ~\$2.2mil

While there are some specific deliverables to implement within each of these outcomes, there is also some room for us to work together in determining how we'd achieve these outcomes.

Implementation of CWPPs. This award, and the CWDG grant program in general, will help to fund priorities outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) written and adopted by these project communities: Cherokee Meadows, Crystal Lakes, Glacier View and Poudre Canyon. CWPPs are authorized and defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), and they represent one of the best opportunities we have to address the challenges of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in a way that brings about locally-centered and -supported solutions in a comprehensive manner through shared stewardship and collaboration.

Partnering with our communities. Our overall project strategy is designed to incorporate the project communities into the decision-making process as to what, where, when and how specific activity will occur. We intend to implement this award the same way we crafted the proposal – together.

Connection across the landscape. This award funds one part of a larger comprehensive strategy. The proposal was actually one of multiple submitted, all of which are connected to a bigger picture. This proposal was the implementation arm of a larger RFL Area Phase 1 strategy, where we collaborated with our partners at [The Ember Alliance \(TEA\)](#) on Phase 1 planning proposals for purposes of updating the Red Feather Lakes Fire Protection District CWPP as well as the Upper Cherokee CWPP. Congrats to TEA and the [Red Feather Lakes Fire Protection District](#) as they received an award as well!

- It cannot be understated the importance of how this project is connected to the bigger picture. This award allows for unprecedented synergy with efforts and initiatives across the larger landscape and across all landownership types. It's adjacent and in proximity to the USDA Forest Service lands and the [Black Diamond Landscape Resiliency and Risk Reduction Project](#), State of Colorado funded projects, and locally funded community-scale initiatives. It's also deeply connected to the partnership present in the [Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative](#) and across many area initiatives in Larimer County and beyond. This truly represents an all-hands, all-lands approach.
- Our partners at the Estes Valley Fire Protection District received an award also! As explained above, these efforts are all connected, and the partnerships are as strong as ever!

Giving flowers. We thank the USFS for their trust in us with this award and we look forward to the work! These CWDG awards allow us to make progress toward the key areas found in the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#): (1) Resilient Landscapes, (2) Fire Adapted Communities, and (3) Safe, Effective, Risk-based Wildfire Response.

- A tremendous "thanks" and "kudos" goes out to the partners who helped to formulate the proposal! These core partners included Daniel Bowker with CPRW and Alison Pegg with Upstate Colorado, as well as community and organizational representatives on the Grant Committee: Cherokee Meadows Road Association, Crystal Lakes Greenbelt Management Committee, Glacier View Fire Protection District, Larimer County Conservation Corps, Larimer County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services, Livermore Fire Protection District, Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District, and more!

Resources

[USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant \(CWDG\) webpage](#)
[CWDG Funded Proposals](#)
[CWDG Dashboard](#)
[CWDG Press Kit](#)

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

[Crystal Lakes CWPP, 2022](#)
[Glacier View Fire Protection District CWPP, 2022](#)
[Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District CWPP, 2023](#)
[Cherokee Meadows Road Association CWPP, 2022](#)