

# COSWAP Workforce Development Grant

# 2024 Request for Applications

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## Program Information

The Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) addresses the urgency of reducing wildfire risk in the state of Colorado through workforce development and landscape-scale fuels reduction projects. Supporting wildfire mitigation workforce development includes engaging conservation corps and Department of Corrections’ (DOC) State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT) on priority wildfire mitigation projects as well as funding wildfire mitigation workforce training.

Mitigation projects must reduce potential wildfire risk to property, infrastructure, water supplies or other high-value assets, and/or limit the probability of wildfires spreading into populated areas.

For more information on COSWAP and to access grant applications, visit the website: <https://dnr.colorado.gov/divisions/forestry/co-strategic-wildfire-action-program>.

## Timeline

| Application Release | September 9, 2024 |
| --- | --- |
| First Round Review of CYCA Accredited Conservation Corps Applications | October 9, 2024 |
| Applications Due | November 1, 2024 |
| Grant Award and Contract Administration | December 31, 2024 |
| Project Completion Deadline | December 31, 2025 |

## 

## Grant Overview

COSWAP is a permanent state program designed to address the urgency and need for wildfire mitigation work on the ground and to provide training opportunities for workforce development. This Workforce Development Grant funding can be used on **all land ownership types** across the state. This grant is designed to increase the number of people supporting Colorado’s wildfire mitigation workforce, primarily by supporting the workforce development partners listed below. Projects and training must be completed by **December 31, 2025**.

The COSWAP workforce development program offers four separate grants:

1. **Wildfire mitigation work completed by a** [**CYCA accredited conservation corps**](https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/)**.** Projects must fall within the Strategic Focus Areas described in the eligibility section. This is a crew time award with an optional cash grant for project expenses.

1. **Wildfire mitigation work completed by an** [**independent conservation corps**](https://corpsnetwork.org/about-us/what-is-a-corps/)**.** [According to The Corps Network](https://corpsnetwork.org/about-us/what-is-a-corps/), (conservation) corps are locally-based organizations that engage young adults (generally ages 16 – 30) and veterans in service projects that address recreation, conservation, disaster response, and community needs. Independent conservation corps must be located in Colorado.Projects must fall within the Strategic Focus Areas described in the eligibility section. This is a cash grant. Please contact COSWAP staff if you have questions about whether an organization you are requesting to work with is a conservation corps.
2. **Wildfire mitigation work completed by** [**DOC SWIFT crew(s)**](https://cci.colorado.gov/swift)**.** Project work is completed by the Department of Corrections State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (DOC SWIFT). DOC SWIFT crews are only available within a three hour drive from the Four Mile Correctional Facility in Cañon City (E US Highway 50 & Evans Rd, Cañon City, CO 81212). The SWIFT crews are fully scheduled June-September 2025; only projects that fall outside of this time window will be eligible for funding in this round. This is a crew time award and an optional cash grant for project expenses.
3. **Wildfire mitigation workforce training.** To better develop Colorado’s current workforce, COSWAP will fund training opportunities for fuels mitigation and prescribed fire. These trainings are available statewide. This is a cash grant.

***Disclaimer:*** *COSWAP cannot guarantee that work completed as a result of either crew time awards or cash awards will prevent future wildfires or minimize the damage from future wildfires. COSWAP will not guarantee the effectiveness or outcomes of any approved project.*

## Eligibility

### 1. Applicants

The following applicants are eligible for all four COSWAP Workforce Development grants.

#### Eligible applicants:

* Federal agencies
* State agencies (Projects on state trust land must be cleared by the State Land Board Conservation Services Manager, [mindy.gottsegen@state.co.us](mailto:mindy.gottsegen@state.co.us), before applying)
* Local governments including counties, municipalities, fire protection districts and other special districts
* Tribes
* Public utilities with infrastructure or land ownership in areas of high wildfire risk
* 501(c)(3) Non-profit organizations that promote fuel reduction projects, are engaged in prescribed fire, or natural resource management including wildfire councils and/or wildfire, watershed, or forest collaboratives

#### Ineligible applicants:

* Individual property owners, homeowners associations, property owners associations, formal neighborhood associations, or road districts are not eligible to apply directly for this funding; they must partner with an eligible entity to apply

#### Applicants must:

* Show the proposed project reduces wildfire risk to communities and reduces hazardous fuel loads
* Have legal authority to administer and/or implement treatments on proposed project area(s), including all necessary permits or access permissions/rights for the proposed project area
* Agree to reporting, insurance, and liability requirements
* Comply with all applicable federal and state laws
* Demonstrate capacity to host a conservation corps, DOC SWIFT crew or training
* If applicable, speak with DOC’s SWIFT Program Manager or representative from their local CYCA-accredited conservation corps before submitting an application

### 2. Land Ownership Types

The COSWAP Workforce Development Grant funding can be used on **all land ownership types** throughout Colorado.

### 3. Strategic Focus Areas and Project Locations

#### Department of Corrections (DOC) SWIFT

The COSWAP Workforce Development Grant is available for DOC SWIFT crews within a 3 hour drive of the Four Mile Correctional Facility in Cañon City (E US Highway 50 & Evans Rd, Cañon City, CO 81212). Please use Google Maps or similar platforms to determine if your project location is eligible.

#### Conservation Corps

The COSWAP Workforce Development Grant is available for the utilization of conservation corps (CYCA accredited or independent conservation corps) in the following **Strategic Focus Areas**\*.

1. Boulder CountyCOSWAP Strategic Focus Areas include Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer and Teller Counties, and the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative Focal Areas, including Southwest Colorado (Parts of Dolores, Montezuma, and La Plata Counties), Upper Arkansas (Chaffee and Lake Counties), and Upper South Platte (Parts of Arapaho, Clear Creek, Douglas, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties).
   
2. Douglas County
3. El Paso County
4. Jefferson County
5. La Plata County
6. Larimer County
7. Teller County
8. [Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative](https://restoringtherockies.org/#maps) Focal Areas (in blue)
   1. Southwest Colorado (Parts of Dolores, Montezuma, and La Plata Counties)
   2. Upper Arkansas (Chaffee and Lake Counties)
   3. Upper South Platte (Parts of Arapaho, Clear Creek, Douglas, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties)

\*Understanding that strategic wildfire mitigation may need to cross county boundaries, up to 50% of a project may be outside a Strategic Focus Area if the work is contiguous with the proposed treatment or an area already mitigated.

#### Trainings

Awards made for wildfire mitigation workforce training are available **statewide**.

### 4. Projects and Trainings

Applicants are able to apply for a project continuation from a previous COSWAP grant. However, applications will not be accepted that have the exact same map and scope of work as the previous application. Please include a map of what was previously completed with COSWAP funds and describe how the scope of work has evolved.

#### Strategic project requirement:

Proposed projects must be strategic to maximize the effectiveness of this program. Applicants will be required to describe the strategic nature of the project in the Application Narrative. Examples of strategic elements include:

* Projects that reduce hazardous fuels directly adjacent to communities and provide safe access routes to communities (fuelbreaks, ingress/egress\*, maintenance treatments).
  + \*Roadside mitigation will be awarded on a case by case basis. Projects must follow the [Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) standard](https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/fuelbreak_guidellines.pdf) of at least a 150 ft wide treatment.
* Projects adjacent to or within close proximity to lands that have been recently treated or are planned for treatment.
* Projects that are part of a larger landscape-scale treatment effort.
* Projects that protect critical infrastructure including evacuation routes, critical watersheds, healthcare facilities and emergency services.

#### Eligible project activities include, but are not limited to:

* The creation or maintenance of fuel breaks, based on the current [CSFS guidelines](https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/fuelbreak_guidellines.pdf).
* Fuels reduction designed to protect communities, infrastructure, water supplies, and/or reduce potential fire intensity.
* Chipping, as appropriate for hand crews, based on the current [guidelines](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_wolk_b001.pdf), speak to the conservation corps partner about chipper availability.
* Pile and broadcast burning, based on the [Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) guidelines](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12f8PZ8OG4aQkdGpju8x6LVms_GiuXgyk/view?usp=sharing). Speak to the conservation corps about pile burning assistance. Crews performing broadcast or pile burns must have completed wildland firefighter training under [NWCG regulations](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-130). Pile and broadcast burn projects need to comply with local and state permitting requirements.

#### Ineligible projects:

* Defensible space projects.
* Projects in close proximity to powerlines and structures.
* Projects that span multiple private landowners will be considered on a case by case basis.

#### Additional consideration will be given to projects that contain elements listed below:

* Projects identified in a local or county Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan, or identified through a collaborative group or process. Approved CWPPs can be found on the [CSFS website](https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/community-wildfire-protection-plans/).
* Projects that result in the protection of water supplies.
* Projects that benefit communities of high social vulnerability.
* Collaborative planning efforts.
* Projects that leverage interagency resources or equipment.

#### Eligible wildfire mitigation workforce trainings include, but are not limited to:

* S-130/S-190/L-180 Basic Firefighting and Wildland Fire Behavior
* S-212 Powersaws
* Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)
* Fire Department Training Exchange (FDX)
* NFPA Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
* Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices (USFS and Coalitions & Collaboratives)
* Building Your FAC Neighborhood Ambassador Approach (FACO and Wildfire Adapted Partnership)
* DFPC's Colorado Certified Burner/ Burn Boss
* Field training for prescription development and treatment implementation
* Advanced tree felling

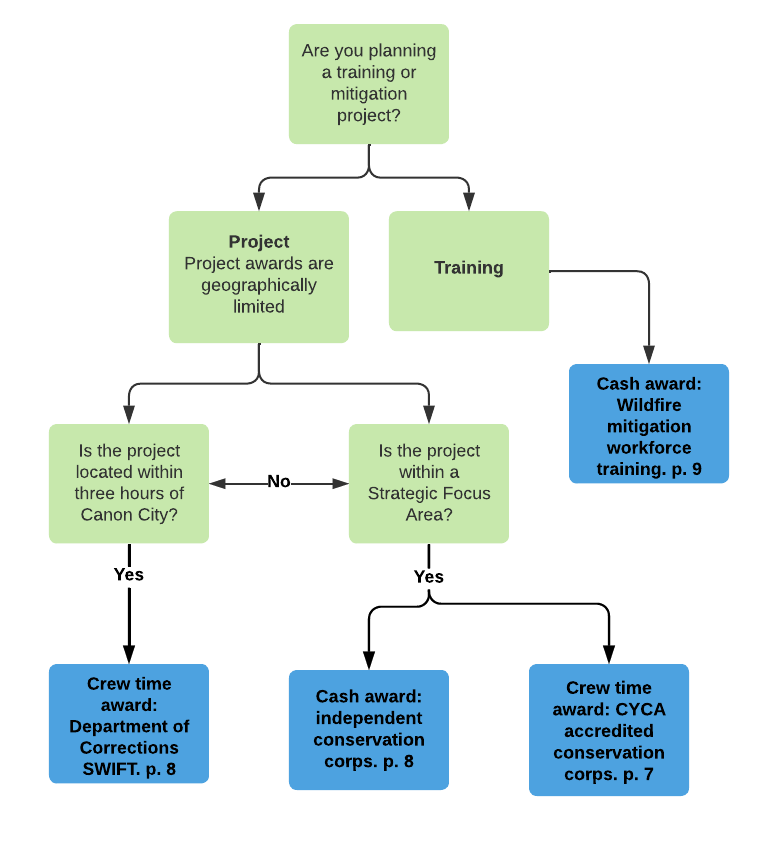
If you have other mitigation training ideas please contact COSWAP.

### 5. Expenses

Reference ‘Appendix A: Eligible & Ineligible Expenses’ for a table that shows eligible and ineligible expenses for both crew time and cash awards.

## COSWAP Workforce Development Grants Navigation Chart

Use the chart below to help determine which grant you will apply for. Other eligibility requirements are listed on pages 3-5.

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## COSWAP Workforce Development Program Grants

Below are the four grants that COSWAP offers.

*COSWAP reserves the right to grant an award type other than the one requested if appropriate.*

### 1. Wildfire mitigation work completed by a [CYCA accredited conservation corps](https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/)

All applicants are required to reach out to their local corps before submitting their proposal. You can find a map showing where each corps is located, and the project development contact for that corps, on CYCA’s website:<https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/>.

Applicants are also encouraged to connect with RMRI partners if the proposed project will take place within one of the RMRI focal areas.

#### Crew time award:

Applicants can apply for crew time for wildfire mitigation project work performed by a CYCA accredited conservation corps. Projects must fall within COSWAP’s Strategic Focus Areas. Crew time awards can range from 6-25 weeks of crew work and must be completed by December 31, 2025. A crew time award with a CYCA accredited conservation corps is contracted by weeks of service. A crew typically (but not always) is made up of 8-10 members and completes 320 hours of work a week.

Applicants requesting CYCA accredited conservation corps must provide project management and oversight. Applicants must make a staff member or site supervisor available to meet with crews, identify the project boundaries, review the treatment prescription, supervise work onsite as needed to ensure corps work is satisfactory before moving forward, and to collect pre- and post-treatment information for reporting. Applicants will be required to report project management time at the completion of their project. Project management time includes staff time, travel, leveraged equipment and resources. A template will be provided for reporting project management time if requested.

Please reference ‘Appendix B: Working with CYCA Accredited Conservation Corps and DOC SWIFT crews’, for more information on crew schedules and expectations for project managers.

#### Cash award:

In addition to crew time awards, applications for CYCA accredited conservation corps can also request a cash grant for project expenses. Cash grants can include project management/personnel expenses, chipping and biomass removal, herbicides, porta-potties, and camping. Funding for camping will only be provided once all free options are exhausted. Cash grant applications are required to provide at least 25% cash or in-kind match, except for Tribal entities who are exempt from the match requirement. Applicants can request an indirect fee up to 10% of the cash grant to cover administrative costs with no reporting requirements. Applicants must complete the budget provided in the application.

#### What makes a good CYCA project?

Successful projects with CYCA accredited conservation corps have a clear and achievable scope of work. Crew members value on-the-ground training and continued check-ins throughout the duration of the project. Although crews contain at least one member that can fell larger trees, projects with smaller trees and less complex treatments tend to be the most successful. Crews can be an excellent complement to a contractor or agency crew who is completing the more complex aspects of a project. A COSWAP award with CYCA has a dual focus of workforce development and wildfire mitigation, as CYCA embodies core values of providing education and career training opportunities.

***Disclaimer:*** *Projects are awarded on a per week basis and cannot guarantee project completion. Projects are deemed complete when the weeks awarded are fulfilled.*

### 2. Wildfire mitigation work completed by an [independent conservation corps](https://corpsnetwork.org/about-us/what-is-a-corps/)

Applicants are encouraged to connect with RMRI partners if the proposed project will take place within one of the RMRI focal areas.

#### Cash award:

Applicants can apply for wildfire mitigation work completed by an independent conservation corps. Projects must fall within COSWAP’s Strategic Focus Areas and be completed by December 31, 2025. Cash grants are primarily for hiring the conservation crew, but funding for project management/personnel expenses, chipping and biomass removal, herbicides, porta-potties and camping is also available. Funding for camping will only be provided once all free options are exhausted. Applicants can request an indirect fee up to 10% of the cash grant to cover administrative costs with no reporting requirements. The maximum grant award is $200,000. Cash grant applications are required to provide at least 25% cash or in-kind match, except for Tribal entities who are exempt from the match requirement. Applicants must complete the budget provided in the application.

Applicants requesting independent conservation corps must provide project management and oversight. Applicants must make a staff member or site supervisor available to meet with crews, identify the project boundaries, review the treatment prescription, supervise work onsite as needed to ensure corps work is satisfactory before moving forward, and to collect pre- and post-treatment information for reporting. Applicants will be required to report project management time at the completion of their project. Project management time includes staff time, travel, leveraged equipment and resources. A template will be provided for reporting project management time if requested.

### 3. Wildfire mitigation work completed by [DOC SWIFT crew(s)](https://cci.colorado.gov/swift)

All applicants are required to reach out to the Department of Corrections SWIFT Supervisor about the project and if it is appropriate for DOC SWIFT crews. Questions can be directed to Greg Hawkins at gregory.hawkins@state.co.us, or by phone at 719-338-8052 (cell).

Applicants are also encouraged to connect with RMRI partners if the proposed project will take place within one of the RMRI focal areas.

#### Crew time award:

Applicants can apply for wildfire mitigation projects completed by the DOC SWIFT crew. The DOC SWIFT crews are based out of the Four Mile Correctional Facility, near Cañon City, Colorado. Projects must be within a 3 hour drive from the Facility. Please use Google Maps or similar platforms to determine if your project location is eligible. DOC SWIFT crew members are trained and supply their own basic equipment including chainsaws and a chipper.

Projects requesting DOC SWIFT will work with DOC to develop a complete project bid. Summer availability will be limited, so applicants are encouraged to apply for projects that can be executed in the fall, winter, or spring (October - May). If requesting a project that spans multiple private landowners, COSWAP staff will follow up with the applicant before ranking the application. Participating private landowners need to understand the expectations when working with DOC SWIFT since project completion is not guaranteed. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Applicants requesting DOC SWIFT crews must provide project management and oversight. Applicants must make a staff member or site supervisor available to meet with crews, identify the project boundaries, review the treatment prescription, supervise work onsite as needed to ensure corps work is satisfactory before moving forward, and to collect pre- and post-treatment information for reporting. Applicants will be required to report project management time at the completion of their project. Project management time includes staff time, travel, leveraged equipment and resources. A template will be provided for reporting project management time if requested.

Please reference ‘Appendix B: Working with CYCA Accredited Conservation Corps and DOC SWIFT crews’, for more information on crew schedules and expectations for project managers.

#### Cash award:

In addition to crew time awards, applications for DOC SWIFT crews can also request a cash grant for project expenses. Cash grants can include project management/personnel expenses, chipping and biomass removal, herbicides, porta-potties, and camping. Funding for camping will only be provided once all free options are exhausted. Cash grant applications are required to provide at least 25% cash or in-kind match, except for Tribal entities who are exempt from the match requirement. Applicants can request an indirect fee up to 10% of the cash grant to cover administrative costs with no reporting requirements. Applicants must complete the budget provided in the application.

#### What makes a good DOC SWIFT project?

Projects utilizing DOC SWIFT are most successful when the project is located on larger tracts of land with an easy to follow scope of work. Projects on multiple private landowners containing homes are not typically the most successful. Project managers must be flexible as DOC SWIFT schedules can change at a moment's notice. Camping locations for DOC SWIFT need to be isolated away from the public.

***Disclaimer:*** *Projects are awarded on a per week basis and cannot guarantee project completion. Projects are deemed complete when the weeks awarded are fulfilled or the scope of work is completed, whichever occurs first.*

### 4. Wildfire mitigation workforce training

Training is important to the development of Colorado’s wildfire mitigation workforce. COSWAP cash grants are available for mitigation and prescribed fire training and certifications located anywhere in Colorado. COSWAP will cover the cost of the training, travel, and [GSA approved](https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates) per diem rates for trainings that are new to your workforce and add tangible value. Please reference the list of eligible trainings on page 5 and contact COSWAP staff if you have questions about whether the training you are requesting is eligible. All trainings must be completed by December 31, 2025.

All applicants are required to communicate with the potential trainees or organizations listed on the grant application before submitting their proposal.

Applications requesting cash for wildfire mitigation workforce training may not exceed $100,000. Applicants with cash awards are required to provide a 25% cash or in-kind match, except for Tribal entities who are exempt from the match requirement. Applicants can request an indirect fee up to 10% of the cash grant to cover administrative costs with no reporting requirements. Applicants must complete the budget provided in the application. In the budget narrative, please explain if there will be other funding sources contributing to the cost of the training so it is clear that there is no duplication of payments.

## Process

### Application

The COSWAP Workforce Development Applications are available on the COSWAP website: <https://dnr.colorado.gov/divisions/forestry/co-strategic-wildfire-action-program>. Applicants are required to submit a complete application and map depicting the geographic location of the project. Applicants should submit a single pdf file to coswap@state.co.us with “COSWAP-Application-*Your Project Name*” in the subject line. You should receive an email confirmation of your submission within 1 week. If you do not hear back about your application within 1 week, please call or email Roberta Anderson (303-358-1344, [roberta.anderson@state.co.us](mailto:roberta.anderson@state.co.us)).

### Evaluation and Ranking

COSWAP will accept applications until November 1, 2024. Applications for CYCA accredited conservation corps will be reviewed in two phases: the first round will begin on October 9, 2024 and the remaining CYCA applications will be reviewed upon the application deadline of November 1, 2024.

Applications are reviewed by subject matter experts and DNR staff based on alignment with the program criteria. Review ‘Appendix C: COSWAP Ranking and Scoring Sheet’ for details.

### Award Process

COSWAP staff will notify applicants of conditional award decisions via email within 45 days of submission. Staff may contact applicants prior to 45 days with clarifying questions regarding the application. Following a conditional grant award, the applicant will need to set up a site visit within three weeks if requesting to work with a DOC SWIFT crew or CYCA accredited conservation corps. Applicants are required to report back to DNR on any findings or changes to the original scope of work. In the two weeks following the site visit, the awarded applicant will receive an email from DNR with an acceptance letter and reporting requirements, and DNR will initiate the grant agreement process. **No work can begin, or expenses incurred, until the grant agreement is signed and initiated.**

### Reimbursement Process

The Workforce Development cash grants are reimbursement grants and awardees must submit invoices to DNR quarterly or as deliverables are accomplished. COSWAP will only reimburse actual, incurred, expenses; calculated or estimated expenses will not be accepted for reimbursement. Awardees must invoice DNR for all work completed within a state fiscal year by June 30th. An invoice template and instructions will be provided upon award. DNR will pay CYCA accredited conservation corps and DOC SWIFT crews directly, therefore crew time awards do not have a reimbursement process.

### Reporting Requirements

Awardees are required to submit quarterly progress reports to DNR and have 30 days after project completion to submit the final project report. Forms will be provided with the grant acceptance letter. If awarded CYCA accredited conservation corps crew time, applicants must additionally respond to a CYCA-generated project evaluation upon completion of the project.

## Grant Agreement, Liability, Insurance, and Indemnification

All successful applicants will be required to enter a Grant Agreement with the State of Colorado as a condition of receiving the grant award. The Grant Agreement template is linked on [COSWAP’s website](https://dnr.colorado.gov/divisions/forestry/co-strategic-wildfire-action-program) for reference. All successful applicants must agree to assume all liability related to the approved project and to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Colorado, CYCA, DOC SWIFT, and any CYCA-accredited conservation corps for any and all claims arising out of the approved project. The State, CYCA, DOC SWIFT, and any CYCA-accredited conservation corps will not be liable for any act or omission of any party as a part of an approved grant program that causes any harm or that fails to prevent or mitigate wildfire damage at any time in the future. All successful applicants will be required to maintain and provide proof of adequate insurance coverage as detailed in the Grant Agreement.

## Supplemental Information

Information about Colorado’s wildfire risk to life, property, and infrastructure, via the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA) is found on the Colorado State Forest Service Forest Atlas:

<https://coloradoforestatlas.org/>

Colorado State Forest Service guidelines for fuelbreaks:

<http://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/fuelbreak_guidellines.pdf>

Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado:

<http://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>

Mulching: A knowledge summary and guidelines for best practices on Colorado’s Front Range:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_wolk_b001.pdf>

Colorado Pile Construction Guide:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aG_3NNK1Fp8kYJFW8CtWBGGkG1zDmN_g/view>

Division of Fire Prevention and Control Prescribed Fire Management Resources: <https://dfpc.colorado.gov/prescribed-fire-management>

## Appendix A: Eligible & Ineligible Expenses

| **Crew Time Award Eligible Expenses** | **Crew Time Awards Ineligible Expenses** | **Cash Award**  **Eligible Expenses** | **Cash Award Ineligible Expenses (does not apply to indirect)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DOC SWIFT or CYCA crew time for mitigation work | DOC SWIFT or CYCA crew time for defensible space or structure retro-fitting | Mitigation work completed by an independent conservation corps | Purchasing equipment and supplies (equipment rental is eligible) |
|  |  | Training for mitigation crews or volunteers | Hiring a full-time Wildfire Mitigation Specialist or mitigation crew |
|  |  | Travel and GSA approved per diem associated with training grants | Hardware, software, technology, office supplies, printing, uniforms, etc. |
|  |  | Project management expenses including personnel time, biomass expenses including chipper rental, porta-potties, and camping | Programing and/or outreach |
|  |  |  | Food and beverage |
|  |  |  | Travel and per diem associated with mitigation grants |

## Appendix B: Working with CYCA Accredited Conservation Corps and DOC SWIFT crews

Hosting CYCA accredited conservation corps and DOC SWIFT crews requires cooperation, communication, and shared responsibility. The chart below details how crews generally share responsibility. A project may require a different breakdown of responsibilities which can be determined as you plan the project.

| **Project Manager Responsibilities** | **CYCA Accredited Conservation Corps and DOC SWIFT Crew Responsibilities** | **DNR, COSWAP Responsibilities** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project planning, and flagging project boundaries (if necessary) | Pre-project walk-through with Project Manager | Review applications, select projects, and execute contracts |
| Pre-project site visit with crew staff | Crew supervision | Pay CYCA accredited conservation corps or DOC SWIFT crews for their work |
| Specialty tools (if necessary) | Crew members | Process reimbursement requests for cash grants |
| Project manager must be available for oversight and direction throughout the duration of the project. It is especially important to conduct regular check ins to ensure corps work is satisfactory before moving forward. | Basic tools including chainsaws. (DOC SWIFT crews and some CYCA accredited conservation corps have chippers available) | Collect and review end of project evaluations |
| Quarterly project reports | Transportation |  |
| Certify that the project is complete, submit an end-of-project evaluation (CYCA only), and report project metrics to DNR | Food and camping gear |  |
| Camping and porta-pottie logistics. Camping should be within 30 minutes of the project area. |  |  |

### Working with the CYCA accredited conservation corps

All applicants are required to reach out to their local corps before submitting their proposal. You can find a map showing where each corps is located, and the project development contact for that corps, on CYCA’s website:<https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/>.

A CYCA accredited conservation corps crew week typically consists of:

* 8-10 people including two adult supervisors
* Food, equipment, camping gear
* Transportation
* 320 hours per week (this is the baseline but may be different)

CYCA accredited conservation corps are service-based organizations that perform work on a service hour basis. A project is considered complete when the crew completes the service hours assigned for the project. Project completion according to the scope of work is not guaranteed; it is dependent on the availability of crews which is subject to change. DNR staff will work with CYCA, project managers and corps managers to minimize incomplete projects.

### Working with the DOC SWIFT crews

Colorado Correctional Industries (a division of the Colorado Department of Corrections) began the State Wildland Inmate Fire Team (SWIFT) program in 2001. SWIFT crews are made up of incarcerated men with nonviolent sentences. The crews are based out of facilities in Canon City and can camp at the project site or return to their facility depending on project distance.

All applicants are required to reach out to the Department of Corrections SWIFT Supervisor about the project and to determine if it is appropriate for DOC SWIFT crews. Questions can be directed to Greg Hawkins at gregory.hawkins@state.co.us, or 719-338-8052.

A DOC SWIFT crews consists of:

* Up to 20 crewmen and two staff (full crew) or 30 crewmen and three or four staff (crew and a half); crew sizes will vary depending on current staffing and can vary week by week
* Food, equipment, camping gear
* Transportation
* Work Monday to Thursday or Tuesday to Friday
  + Extended weeks are available on a case-by-case basis with DOC SWIFT Supervisor approval

DOC SWIFT crews perform work on a per week basis. A project is complete when the DOC SWIFT crew completes the number of weeks contracted for the project or the scope of work is completed, whichever occurs first. Project completion according to the scope of work is not guaranteed, and is dependent on the availability of DOC SWIFT crews, wildfire activity, illness and potential program changes. DNR staff will work with project managers and the DOC to minimize incomplete projects.

Project managers working with DOC SWIFT need to be flexible with scheduling, crew size, and other project expectations. DOC SWIFT is likely to adjust work schedules throughout the year due to deployment to wildfires, personnel changes, and unforeseen circumstances. Awarded weeks are estimated for a single DOC crew. It is possible that a half crew, one and a half crew, or double crew works on a project for part or the entirety of the project. In this case, the number of calendar weeks spent on site may differ from the awarded weeks because the weeks are scaled up or down according to crew size. Projects may be completed in fewer weeks than contracted if the scope of work has been fulfilled.

## 

## Appendix C: COSWAP Ranking and Scoring Sheets

| **Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) Workforce Development Ranking Criteria** | | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ranking Guidance: When supporting or funding fuel reduction and wildfire mitigation projects, the DNR shall prioritize those projects with the greatest potential to protect life, property, and infrastructure. | | |
| Project Name: | |  |
| Ranking Member Name: | |  |
|  | **Max Points** | **Project Score** |
| **Program Criteria and Eligibility** |  | YES/NO |
| Is this an eligible applicant/project manager? (Y or N) |  |  |
| Is the project located in the Strategic Focus Areas or within 3 hours of the DOC SWIFT facility? (Y or N) (if applicable) |  |  |
| Does the project reduce wildfire risk adjacent to communities and critical infrastructure? (Y or N) |  |  |
| Is this prescription or treatment appropriate for the fuel type and location? (Y or N) |  |  |
| **Wildfire Risk Information** |  |  |
| **Is the project in a high risk area identified in CO-WRA or a local risk assessment? (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| Project is within ½ mile or less from an area at high-risk (5) |  |  |
| Project is 1/2-2 miles from an area at high-risk (3-4) |  |  |
| Project is 2-5 miles from an area at high-risk (1-2) |  |  |
| **Project identified in a local or county CWPP or FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan? (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| This project is specifically identified in a plan (5) |  |  |
| This project is generally specified in a plan (2) |  |  |
| **Project Connectivity** |  |  |
| **Does the project connect to planned or executed fuels reduction efforts? (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Project Impact/Strategic Value** |  |  |
| **Community Protection (Exact Score)** | 15 |  |
| Directly protects high density neighborhoods (15) |  |  |
| Directly protects medium density neighborhoods (10) |  |  |
| Directly protects low density neighborhoods (5) |  |  |
| **Critical Infrastructure (not water): Higher scores are given to more critical infrastructure and applications that more clearly describe the infrastructure and protection (Scale)** | 10 |  |
| Protects multiple pieces of critical infrastructure: evacuation routes, communication towers etc.(10) |  |  |
| Protects some critical infrastructure (5) |  |  |
| Protects other infrastructure of value (evacuation centers, parks) (<5) |  |  |
| **Is the project located in a high priority subwatershed? (Exact Score)** | 5 |  |
| High priority subwatershed (5) |  |  |
| Low priority subwatershed (1) |  |  |
| **Applicant has clearly described how the project directly protects critical water infrastructure (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Biomass Utilization and Maintenance Plan** |  |  |
| **Applicant provided a clear plan and deadline for removing any woody material/slash generated (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Project maintenance is funded and planned (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Leverage and Collaboration** |  |  |
| **Does this project leverage outside funding or resources? (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Is there a collaborative nature to this project? (Scale)** | 5 |  |
| **Social Vulnerability** |  |  |
| **Is the project within two miles of a socially vulnerable area? (Exact Score)** | 5 |  |
| Project is within two miles of a socially vulnerable area (5) |  |  |
| Project is greater than two miles of a socially vulnerable area (0) |  |  |
| **TOTAL (Maximum 75 Points)** | 75 |  |

This ranking sheet will be used for wildfire mitigation workforce training applications.

| **Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) Workforce Development Ranking Criteria- Training** | | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ranking Guidance: When supporting or funding fuel reduction and wildfire mitigation projects, the DNR shall prioritize those projects with the greatest potential to protect life, property, and infrastructure. | | |
| Project Name: | |  |
| Ranking Member Name: | |  |
|  | **Max Points** | **Project Score** |
| **Program Criteria and Eligibility** |  | YES/NO |
| Is this an eligible applicant? |  |  |
| Is the training appropriate and credible? |  |  |
| **Workforce Development** |  |  |
| **Is there a demonstrated need for this training?** | 10 |  |
| **Does this applicant explain how the training will be utilized in the short term?** | 10 |  |
| **Is there a long term vision for utilizing the training and those trained?** | 10 |  |
| **Does the training increase the mitigation workforce?** | 10 |  |
| **TOTAL (Maximum 40 Points)** | 40 |  |