



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Revised Fiscal Note

(replaces fiscal note dated January 18, 2024)

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0423	Date:	April 17, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Velasco; Snyder Sen. Cutter; Will	Bill Status:	House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: ASSIST RURAL COMMUNITY WILDFIRE-RELATED GRANT APP

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Colorado State Forest Service to create a grant program for non-governmental organizations that assist rural communities in applying for wildfire-related grants. It increases state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$200,000 to the governing board of Colorado State University for use by the Colorado State Forest Service.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Committee.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1006**

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Centrally Appropriated	\$6,300	\$4,725
	Total Expenditures	\$206,300	\$204,725
	Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.3 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$30,000	\$30,000

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) at the Colorado State University to establish a rural grant navigator program for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that provide outreach and technical assistance to rural communities applying for wildfire mitigation and preparedness grants. The CSFS must post criteria and guidelines for grant awards by February 28, 2025, and NGOs may apply for grants from the program beginning March 1, 2025. To the best of its ability, the CSFS is required to consult with the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety, the Governor’s Office, and rural counties to evaluate the effective use of grant funding and successful outcomes. By March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the CSFS must report program activity to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CSFS by \$200,000 in FY 2024-25 and ongoing years, paid from the General Fund. Costs are shown in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 24-1006

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Colorado State Forest Service		
Personal Services	\$31,655	\$23,741
Operating Expenses	\$512	\$384
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	-
Rural Grant Navigator Grants	\$161,163	\$175,875
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$6,300	\$4,725
Total Cost	\$206,300	\$204,725
Total FTE	0.4 FTE	0.3 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Colorado State Forest Service. The bill increases expenditures in the CSFS will establish, fund, and manage the grant program, and report on program outcomes.

- **Staff.** The CSFS requires 0.5 FTE in FY 2024-25 for a forestry program specialist to develop the grant program and collaborate with NGOs, and 0.3 FTE in ongoing years to perform grant program administration. Standard operating and capital costs are included, and personal services are prorated in FY 2024-25 for a presumed September 2024 start date.

- **Evacuation modeling grants.** After administrative costs, \$161,163 is available in FY 2024-25 to award as grants to qualifying NGOs, while \$175,875 is available for grants in FY 2025-26.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Local Government

The bill may increase local government revenue and workload, as local governments may apply for more grants and secure more grant funding than they would without the assistance of the CSFS.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 to the governing board of Colorado State University for use by the Colorado State Forest Service, and 0.4 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Natural Resources

Higher Education
Office of Economic Development

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.