

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**LOCAL**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 09-0123 **Date:** January 12, 2009  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Gibbs; Penry **Bill Status:** Senate Local Government & Energy  
Rep. Scanlan; King S. **Fiscal Analyst:** David Porter (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS BY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> August 4, 2009, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2009, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2009-2010:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, recommended by the Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues in the Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas, requires the state forester to establish guidelines for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) by November 15, 2009. CWPPs are plans to identify and mitigate fire hazards that are developed with input from state, local, federal government bodies, and other interested parties. The state forester, collaborating with local governments, fire districts, and law enforcement bodies, must establish guidelines and criteria counties must consider when developing their own CWPPs.

Counties, with the assistance of the state forester, are required to identify fire hazard areas in unincorporated areas by January 1, 2011. Fire hazard areas are defined as areas that face a substantial and recurring risk of exposure to severe fire hazards. Within 180 days of identification, counties must develop a CWPP that considers the guidelines for each fire hazard area.

**State Expenditures**

This bill does not require any state expenditures. The work required of the state forester is largely underway and any changes brought about by the bill would be fairly routine and accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government Impact**

Based on the state forester's work to determine fire hazard areas and to provide guidelines for community wildfire protection plans, counties must perform the following activities:

- determine if fire hazard areas fall within county boundaries;
- ensure that community wildfire protection plans exist for fire hazard areas; and
- create new or update existing wildfire protection plans that are in alignment with the guidelines released by the state forester.

Workload associated with determining if a county contains fire hazard areas is expected to be administrative in nature and not substantial. Costs associated with checking, updating, or creating new community wildfire protection plans will depend on the impacted area and the contents of the new CWPP guidelines. For many counties, existing work on wildland-urban interface protection will simply need to be reviewed or modified slightly. Some counties may need to develop entirely new plans and will incur costs associated with staff preparing the plans and holding public meetings. These costs have not been estimated and the bill does not include an appropriation for such costs.

**Departments Contacted**

Higher Education  
Public Safety

Natural Resources

Local Affairs