



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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 07-0313  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Gibbs  
 Sen. Fitz-Gerald

**Date:** January 22, 2007  
**Bill Status:** House Agriculture  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Goosmann (303-866-3561)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM TO DEMONSTRATE COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO FOREST RESTORATION.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2007-2008</b>	<b>FY 2008-2009</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> Additional wildfire-related resources will become available to those communities located in or near designated community wildfire protection areas.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill directs the Colorado State Forest Service (Department of Natural Resources; DNR) to solicit proposals for experimental forest restoration projects. Proposals should be collaborative, community-based, and include cost-share elements. Projects may be located on public or private land, but they must be located in an area with an approved "community wildfire protection plan." The state forest service is assisted in the proposal selection process by a technical advisory committee of 7-11 members appointed by the DNR executive director. Membership must include one representative of a federal land management agency, two members of the scientific community, and representatives of the conservation community, local governments, and commodity interests.

The bill authorizes up to \$1 million per year for five years to fund approved proposals. Moneys are derived from Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund. The state's share on any given project may not exceed 60 percent nor may it exceed \$1 million. A report on the program must be submitted to the Governor by July 1, 2011, and the program is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2012.

## **Background**

Community wildfire protection plans are part of a process established under the federal "Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003" (P.L. 108-148). The plans identify communities that are at risk of damage from wild fires because of the overgrown condition of adjacent forests, whether on public or private land.

## **State Expenditures**

For each year between FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12, the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$1 million on approved grant proposals. The Colorado Forest Service is authorized to use up to 3 percent of appropriated funds annually to administer the grant program.

## **Local Government Impact**

Additional wildfire-related resources will become available to those communities located in or near designated community wildfire protection areas.

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2007-08, the Department of Natural Resources will require an appropriation of \$1.0 million from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund. No additional FTE are indicated.

## **Departments Contacted**

Natural Resources