

Grand County Wildfire Council
Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program
Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is the GCWC Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program?

A: The GCWC Cost-Share Program is intended to provide financial support, as well as technical assistance, to aid individuals and communities with mitigating wildfire risk. Funding and/or technical assistance is available to assist with completing **defensible space** and/or **landscape-scale fuels reduction** projects. The program provides funding, on a reimbursement basis, to help offset the costs of hiring a contractor to reduce hazardous fuels.

Q: Who is an eligible applicant?

A: Eligible applicants must be a home or property owner/renter within Grand County. Applicants who live in an 'Extreme', 'Very High' or 'High' hazard-rated community identified in their respective Fire District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will be given priority. Landscape-scale fuels reduction projects should be identified in an approved CWPP, or be recognized by the local Fire District as a priority project for wildfire hazard mitigation.

Q: I want to participate, how do I get started?

A: First, download all documents in the Cost-Share Program Packet located at www.bewildfireready.org. Next, fill out and submit the form to the GCWC. A GCWC representative will contact you to talk about your project.

Q: What is the deadline to submit my application?

A: Applications will be accepted throughout the year on a first come/ first serve basis and will be accepted until funding is exhausted. Applications are being accepted for **NEW** projects only. You may not be reimbursed for work that is already completed.

Q: How much can I get reimbursed?

A: Reimbursement will be negotiated at time of application approval. Generally, the GCWC can reimburse 50%, up to \$525 per acre treated, but no more than your actual costs. In-kind time can be used toward the project total. In certain situations, we may be able to coordinate your project with others in the area to minimize your final share of the costs. Please consult with the GCWC if you have special circumstances.

Q: Can I apply for cost-share funding and do the work myself?

A: This program requires that you hire a contractor to complete the work as outlined in the project Scope of Work. With that said, any work that you do to aid the completion of your mitigation project should be documented using an in-kind tracking sheet. Any hours that you contribute to the completion of your project can be used as documentation of "soft matching funds". The in-kind contribution is also utilized by the GCWC when applying for county, state and federal grants.

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Q: What do I need to complete the application?

A:

- Signed copy of the application
- Project Scope of Work (GCWC can help)
- Project Map or sketch detailing treatment area and total acres to be treated.
- Contractor bids. You are required to submit at least one (1) contractor bid, however we recommend more than one contractor bid, if possible.
- Three (3) pre-treatment project photos (digital files, such as .jpeg, are preferred).

You may send all of these materials via USPS mail or scan and send via email.

Q. Do you have a list of contractors providing fuels mitigation services?

A: Yes, we have a list of contractors on our website. The GCWC does not endorse any contractor. Home and property owners are advised to compare services, prices and reliability to find a contractor best suited for their particular needs.

Q: What is a Scope of Work?

A: The project Scope of Work (SOW) is a required element for your application to be complete. The SOW explains exactly how, and to what standard, the project needs to be completed in order for the project to be reimbursed.

Q: When should I contact my selected contractor? Many contractors have full schedules, and you should be in contact with them early on. If your project is dependent on GCWC Cost-Share Funding, we encourage you to wait until your project has been approved before signing a contractor.

Q: How do I find my community's hazard rating?

A: Visit <https://bewildfireready.org/cwpps/>. Click on the appropriate Community Wildfire Protection Plan under the CWPP tab.

Q: When the project is complete, who pays the contractor?

A: This is a reimbursement program and therefore you are responsible for paying the contractor in full. **STOP!! DO NOT** pay your contractor until a GCWC representative has performed a final compliance inspection and has approved the work. We recommend, but do not require, that you have a written agreement with the contractor.

Q: How long do I have to complete my project?

A: All funded projects must be completed by the end of 2021, but ideally within 90 days of approval.

Q: How quickly will I receive my reimbursement?

A: Reimbursement packages will be processed on regular quarterly intervals. Payment can be expected 30-60 days after the deadlines, provided a GCWC mitigation specialist has completed a final project compliance inspection of the project and you have submitted a Reimbursement Request Form to GCWC. We will send a check to your mailing address via the USPS.