

Protecting the Gateway to the Rockies Wildfire Defense Project

An Update on the Round 3
Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Award
9 October 2025



Total Award Amount: \$9,856,000

Period of Performance: 5 years

This project will help protect the "Gateway to the Rockies" through a number of risk reduction and preparedness activities within and around adjacent wildland urban interface (WUI) communities, all taken to support fire adapted communities and resilient landscapes.

The Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will administer the funding and will manage the project in concert with key partner organizations.



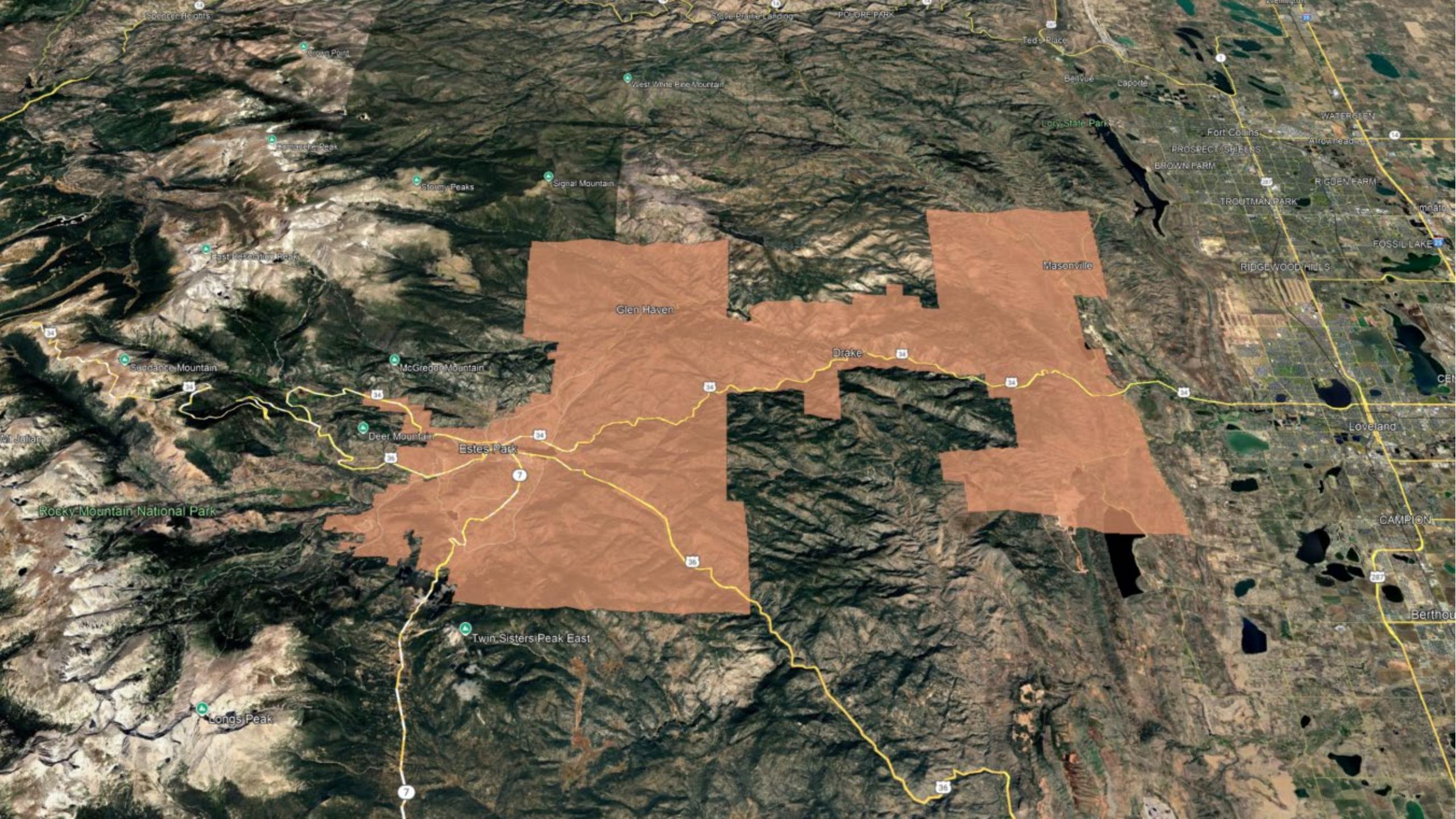
The project area includes Estes Park and the forested landscape corridor along the Big Thompson Canyon.

This award will help to implement priorities found in the CWPPs adopted by these project communities:

Estes Valley Fire Protection District CWPP (2022)

Glen Haven Retreat CWPP (2020)

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority CWPP (2023)



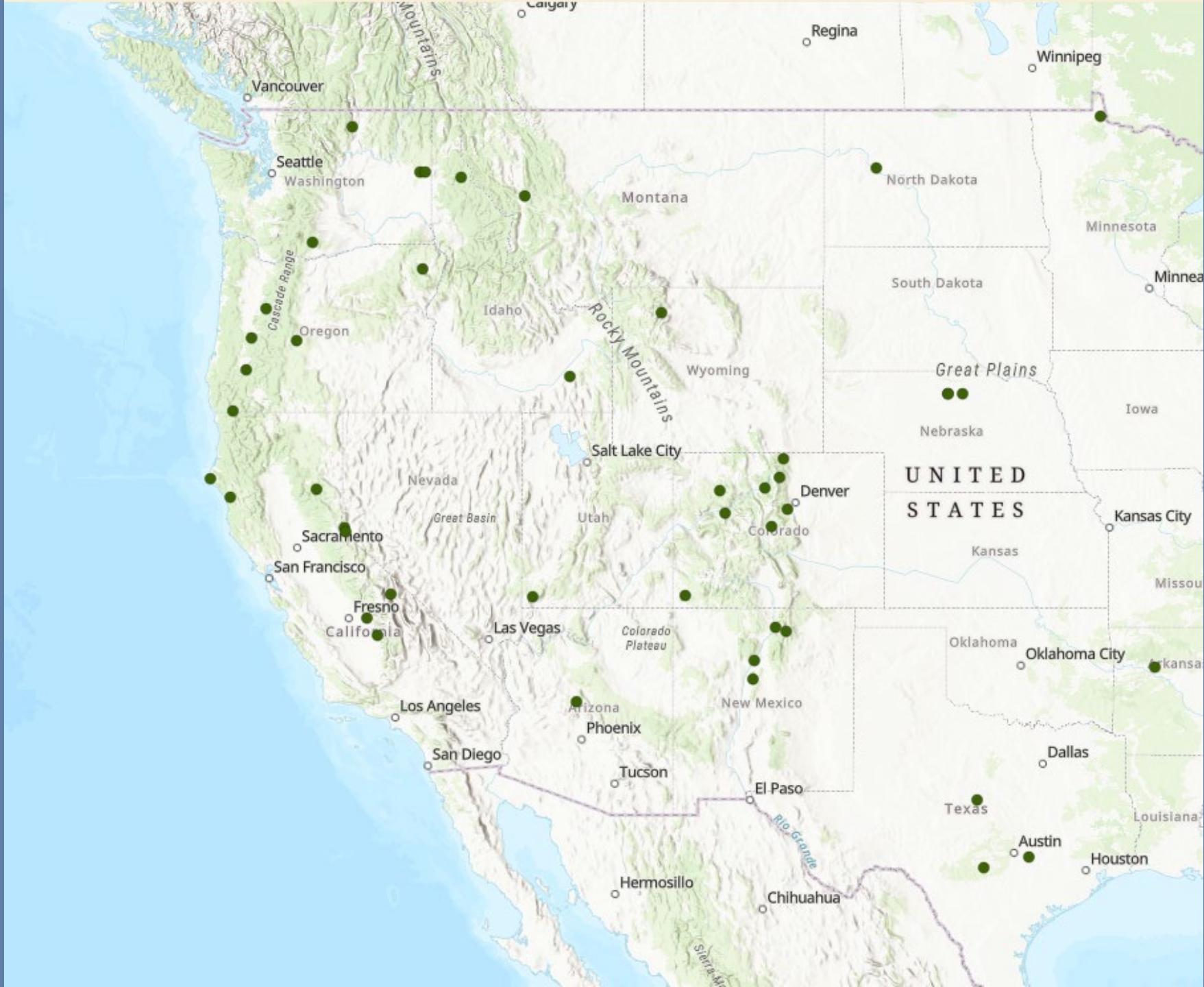
CWDG Round 3

In total...
USFS received 573
applications requesting
~\$1.6B.

\$208M million awarded to
58 projects (*10% of apps*)

In Colorado...

8 proposals awarded;
totaling ~\$26 million.



Activity Categories

- Mitigation treatments to establish and improve defensible space, and education on wildfire preparedness and HIZ practices.
- Landscape-scale wildfire mitigation treatments on open spaces and larger properties.
- Strategic fuels treatments along key roadways.
- Enhancement of community capacity to manage the abundance of post-treatment woody biomass.
- Improvements of evacuation plans and procedures.
- Effective grant administration and project management.

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Amount	Activity Category
\$4,130,000	D-space and education: \$3,600,000: up to 900 property assessments and subsequent defensible space treatments \$500,000: robust educational and preparedness programming \$30,000: supplies and materials for educational and preparedness events
\$2,000,000	Landscape-scale treatments: \$2,000,000: up to 500 acres of landscape-scale wildfire mitigation treatment
\$1,000,000	Roadway treatments: \$1,000,000: up to 7 miles of high priority roadway treatments
\$1,000,000	Biomass management: \$1,000,000: up to 30 community woody biomass management events
\$330,000	Evacuation planning: \$300,000: annual evacuation exercises \$30,000: up to 300 non-flammable signage placements
\$1,396,000	Management and Admin: Effective administration of the grant project.

Key Info & Important Take-Aways

- **Grant award formalities are not finalized.** This could take up to a year or so. There is also a period of planning and preparing for project activity. We want to get this right.
- **Born from partnership, implemented through partnership.** Our overall project strategy is designed to incorporate the project CWPP communities into the project processes. We intend to implement this award the same way we crafted the proposal – together.

Key Info & Important Take-Aways

➤ Focus on the “C’s”!

- ✓ **Compliance** – *within law, rule, reg and grant*
- ✓ **Clarity** – *common understanding of activities/limits, transparency*
- ✓ **CWPPs** – *everything must tie back to CWPPs*
- ✓ **Collaboration** – *work together, partnership & fairness across*
- ✓ **Community** – *provide agency to those on the ground*
- ✓ **Connection** – *connect to the bigger picture, improve resilience*

Special Thanks!

A big “thanks” to the partners who helped to formulate the proposal, including:
Upstate Colorado Economic Development, Peaks to People Water Fund, Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, Estes Valley Fire Protection District, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, Larimer County Sheriff’s Office, Pinewood Road Association and the Pinewood Lake Wildfire Action Group, Storm Mountain Wildfire Action Group, Glen Haven Association, Glen Haven Area Volunteer Fire Department, Larimer County Conservation Corps, The Ember Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Northern Water, Estes Valley Land Trust and more!

Next Steps

- Be patient on the grant award formalities to be finalized.
- Review your CWPPs
- Peaks to People will build a main landing webpage and email distribution list sign-up for interested parties.
- Call with questions!

- **BOCC Meeting next Tues:** Agenda item has been pulled
- **Next meeting? Early Dec or after New Year?**

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