

Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) Guidelines

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (Ref: Colorado State Statue CRS 23-31-309) was created to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request WERF as the official Requesting Agency. WERF will reimburse, if funds are available, the Requesting Agency the cost of eligible wildland firefighting resources.

ELIGIBLE FOR WERF	
Both an aerial resource and a hand crew on the same incident.	
AERIAL RESOURCES	1 st hour of firefighting helicopter rotor time + pilot time OR 1 st aerial tanker flight + drop + retardant
	AMD-carded & USFS-carded pilots, if federal resources involved
	One hand crew for up to two operational periods, beginning from time of departure to fire
HAND CREW	<i>Type 1, Type 2 Initial Attack, or Type 2 NWCG-qualified crews</i>
	Preference for State inmate crews. When state inmate and other hand crews are both used on an incident only the state inmate crews will be covered.
	Different hand crews may be used, but only one hand crew for the first operational period and another crew for the second operational period.

There are often additional costs associated with the use of aircraft and hand crews.

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WERF	
AERIAL RESOURCES	Fixed wing aircraft reimbursement does not include lead plane or aerial observer aircraft.
	Additional helicopter personnel (helicopter crew)
	Ferry time/flight time to bring aerial resource to Colorado
	Fuel truck
	Chase truck
HAND CREW	Two hand crews for one operational period
	Travel time to bring hand crew from outside Colorado
	Crew logistics of lodging, camping, and per diem

Consult the County Annual Operating Plan for the local, state, and federal dispatch procedures to order WERF resources. The Requesting Agency must notify the local Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) District of each WERF request. The CSFS District will within 72 hours email the CSFS Fire Division at firebill@colostate.edu who requested (sheriff, fire chief, etc.), fire name, resource name, and date of use. Since the CSFS has been tasked by the Colorado State Legislature to administer and manage this fund, it is critical that CSFS receives notification of any and all WERF requests to maintain an accurate balance of the fund.