



Jefferson County Wildfire Commission

AGENDA

August 4, 2022 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid (Jefferson County Courts & Administration Building and WebEx)

In-Person: Faye Griffin Room, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden

Meeting goals:

- Explore how we best leverage 2022 legislative wins and future statewide wildfire efforts for additional collaboration to continue to reduce fire risk in Jefferson County.
- Begin to examine issues and possible solutions related to air quality and burns.
- Share updates from commission members to increase communication and further collaboration.

- 1:00 pm** **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview** – *Commissioner Dahlkemper, Jeffco*
- 1:05 pm** **Jeffco Wildfire Safe Update & Next Steps** – *Tom Hoby, Abel Montoya, Garrett Stephens, Ben Yellin*
- 1:25 p.m.** **GIS Wildfire Defensible Space Pilot Project** – *Daniel Collins & Colleen Berthaume*
- 1:40 p.m.** **2022 Legislative Session Wins & Jeffco Impact** – *Melissa Lineberger, Chief of Staff, CO Dept. of Fire Prevention and Control*
- 2:10 p.m.** **Jeffco Emergency Management Update** – *Hal Grieb*
- 2:25 p.m.** **Lightning Round Updates from Commission Members** – *All*
- 2:50 p.m.** **Public Comment**
- 3:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**

Handouts for today's meeting:

- State Legislation Related to Wildfire from 2014 to 2022

Join meeting via

<https://jeffco.webex.com/jeffco/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7a4e29eb01a5547800d57b2f7e4c99e8>

To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or call the number below and enter the access code.

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Memorandum

July 18, 2022

TO: Interim Wildfire Matters Review Committee

FROM: Anne Wallace, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4364
Samantha Falco, Research Analyst, 303-866-4794

SUBJECT: State Legislation Related to Wildfire from 2014 to 2022

Summary

This memorandum includes all introduced legislation related to wildfire prevention, response, and recovery in Colorado from 2014 to present.

Wildfire Legislation from 2014 to 2022

Table 1 includes the bill number, short title, summary, and disposition of wildfire bills that were introduced in the Colorado legislature from 2014 to present.

Table 1. Wildfire-Related Legislation from 2014 to 2022

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2014			
House Bill 14-1007*	Prohibit Agricultural Burning Fire Danger & Restrict Fireworks	The bill would have modified the ability of county governments to prohibit or restrict agricultural burning and fireworks use.	Deemed lost
House Bill 14-1008*	Allow CWRPDA Private Entity Forest Health Loans	The bill allowed the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to make loans to private entities for forest health projects.	Enacted into law
House Bill 14-1009*	Change Wildfire Mitigation Tax Deduction To Credit	The bill would have repealed the wildfire mitigation income tax deduction and replaced it with an income tax credit of up to \$2,500 for half the cost of wildfire mitigation measures.	Deemed lost
House Bill 14-1010*	Corrections To Prescribed Burning Program Laws	The bill made technical changes to the state's prescribed burning program.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 14-008*	Create Wildfire Information & Resource Center	The bill required the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create an online wildfire resource center for homeowners, fire professionals, the media, and educators.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 14-046*	Local Firefighter Safety Grant Program	The bill created a fund for making need-based grants to local governing bodies for equipment and training designed to increase firefighter safety and prevent occupation-related diseases and funded it at \$3.25 million per year of federal mineral lease revenue.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 14-047*	Wildland Firefighters Death Benefit Payments	The bill directed the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) in DPS to make a lump-sum payment of \$10,000 to the survivors of a seasonal wildland firefighter employed by the state or a local government who is killed in the line of duty.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 14-097*	Immunity Public Agencies Insurance Wildfire Mitigation	The bill provided that public agencies are not liable for the actions of private insurance companies and their agents, although these companies may engage in activities to protect the property of their policyholders in the event of an emergency.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 14-223	Payment Claims Lower North Fork Wildfire	The bill appropriated about \$7.0 million to settle outstanding claims from the 2012 Lower North Fork Wildfire, which was caused by a prescribed burn on publically-owned land.	Enacted into law
Senate Joint Resolution 14-006*	Honor Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshots	The resolution honored the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot firefighting crew, which lost 19 of its members in an Arizona fire in 2013.	Adopted
Senate Joint Resolution 14-009*	Honor Colorado National Guard	The resolution honored the Colorado Army National Guard and Air National Guard for their wildfire response efforts.	Adopted
2015			
House Bill 15-1008*	Agricultural Land Destroyed By Natural Causes	The bill specified that when the productivity of agricultural land is destroyed by a natural cause, the land retains its agricultural classification for a rehabilitation period.	Enacted into law
House Bill 15-1017*	Volunteer Fire Department Organization	The bill set requirements for creating a volunteer fire department in areas of the state lacking organized fire protection services.	Enacted into law
House Bill 15-1129	CO Disaster Prediction & Decision Support Systems	The bill required the DFPC to contract for the development of the Colorado Wildland Fire Prediction and Decision Support System with a nonprofit Colorado-based research organization and appropriated funds.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 15-009*	Public Building Woody Biomass Energy Grant Program	The bill would have created a grant program to encourage the use of woody biomass as a fuel source in public buildings and appropriated \$1.0 million to the grant program.	Postponed indefinitely
Senate Bill 15-022*	Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program	The bill transferred \$1.0 million from the Severance Tax Operational Fund to the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program.	Enacted into law

Table 1. Wildfire-related Legislation from 2014 to 2022 (Cont.)

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2015 (Cont.)			
Senate Bill 15-205	Veterans Fire Corps For Wildland Firefighting	The bill recognized the existence of veterans' fire corps programs and authorized DPS to use Wildfire Preparedness Fund to train, equip, or supervise a veterans' fire corps program hand crew.	Enacted into law
Senate Joint Resolution 15-004*	Request Federal Wildland Fire Suppression Support	The resolution requested action from the federal government concerning wildfire suppression and mitigation.	Adopted
2016			
House Bill 16-1019*	Broadcast Burns Watershed Protection	The bill added broadcast burning to the types of projects and methods for which the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) may award watershed restoration grants.	Enacted into law
House Bill 16-1040*	Auxiliary Emergency Communications	The bill created the Auxiliary Emergency Communications Unit within the Office of Emergency Management at DPS.	Enacted into law
House Bill 16-1052*	Wildfire Mitigation Income Tax Credit	The bill would have repealed the wildfire mitigation income tax deduction and replaced it with an income tax credit of up to \$2,500 for 25 percent of the cost of wildfire mitigation measures.	Postponed indefinitely
House Bill 16-1286	Increase Wildfire Mitigation Income Tax Deduction	The bill increased the percentage of a landowners' costs in performing wildfire mitigation from 50 percent to 100 percent that may be claimed for the wildfire mitigation income tax deduction for 2017 through 2019.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 16-003*	Broadcast Burns Wildfire Risk Reduction Funding	The bill added broadcast burning to the types of projects and methods for which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may award grants from the Wildfire Risk Reduction Fund, and transferred \$1.0 million from the General Fund into the cash fund.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 16-007	Biomass Renewable Energy Wildfire High Risk Areas	The bill would have required that electricity generated from a biomass source using forest materials be counted as complying with the renewable energy standard.	Postponed indefinitely
Senate Joint Memorial 16-002*	Federal Funding For Catastrophic Wildfire Response	The resolution requested that Congress fund the costs for catastrophic wildfire response outside the normal budgets for federal forest management agencies.	Adopted
Senate Joint Resolution 16-002*	Recognizing Firefighters Killed In Line Of Duty	The resolution recognized firefighters killed in the line of duty.	Adopted
2017			
House Bill 17-1026*	Reverse Mortgage Repayment When Home Uninhabitable	The bill would have required the reexamination of reverse mortgage exceptions for borrowers who are temporarily unable to occupy their home due to a natural disaster or an incident beyond the borrower's control that makes the home uninhabitable.	Postponed indefinitely
House Bill 17-1070	Study Drone Use By Public Safety Agencies	The bill required the Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology and Aerial Firefighting in DPS to study and create a pilot program on the use of unmanned aircraft systems, conditional upon receipt of sufficient gifts, grants, and donations.	Enacted into law
House Bill 17-1278	Insurance Premium Tax Deposit To Local Firefighter Fund	The bill would have required the state treasurer to deposit \$1.0 million of proceeds from the tax on insurance premiums to the Local Firefighter Safety Disease Prevention Fund from 2017 through 2020.	Postponed indefinitely
Senate Bill 17-050	Consolidate Forest Risk & Health Grant Programs	The bill consolidated existing forest management state grant programs under the CSFS and authorized CSFS to spend unencumbered balances in certain cash funds.	Enacted into law
Senate Joint Memorial 17-001*	Memorialize Congress To Fund Wildfire Response	The resolution requested that Congress fund the costs for catastrophic wildfire response outside the normal budgets for federal forest management agencies.	Adopted
Senate Joint Resolution 17-002*	Support For Use Of Biochar	The resolution requested state and federal agencies to support the continued use of biochar from Colorado forest biomass products.	Adopted

Table 1. Wildfire-related Legislation from 2014 to 2022 (Cont.)

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2018			
House Bill 18-1051*	Statutory Provisions Extinguish Unattended Fires	The bill increased the penalty for leaving a campfire unattended or failing to extinguish a campfire to a class 3 misdemeanor and removed county unattended fire signage requirements.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 18-039*	Continue The Wildfire Matters Review Committee	The bill extended the repeal date of the Wildfire Matters Review Committee until September 1, 2025, and specified that the committee may recommend no more than five bills each interim.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 18-202	Colorado Firefighting Air Corps Fund Reserve Exemption	The bill exempted the Colorado Firefighting Air Corps Cash Fund from the statutory limit on uncommitted reserves.	Enacted into law
Senate Joint Memorial 18-001*	Memorialize Congress To Fund Wildfire Response	The resolution requested that Congress fund the costs for catastrophic wildfire response outside the normal budgets for federal forest management agencies.	Adopted
2019			
House Bill 19-1006*	Wildfire Mitigation Wildland-urban Interface Areas	The bill appropriated \$1.0 million to the Department of Higher Education for allocation to CSFS for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 19-019*	County Fireworks Restrictions July 4th	The bill allowed a county to adopt a resolution to prohibit the sale and use of fireworks between May 31 and July 5.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 19-020*	Wildland Fire Airspace Patrol System	The bill required the Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting in DPS to study and, if feasible, implement a system to patrol the airspace above a wildland fire.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 19-037	Wildfire Mitigation	The bill would have granted additional powers to boards of county commissioners with respect to mitigating wildfire danger on state or federal land within or close to their territorial boundaries and appropriated \$10.0 million to CSFS for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant program.	Postponed indefinitely
Senate Bill 19-040	Establish Colorado Fire Commission	The bill created the Colorado Fire Commission in DPS to focus on capacity to conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and response activities, and to increase the resiliency of local communities.	Enacted into law
2020			
House Bill 20-1004*	Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation	The bill would have created the wildfire mitigation resources and best practices grant program and appropriated \$300,000 to CSFS, and would have replaced an income tax deduction with a tax credit for wildfire mitigation work.	Deemed lost
House Bill 20-1057*	Modify Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program	The bill modified the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program by allowing more grant funding to projects located in areas with fewer economic resources; expanding the list of eligible recipients; and extending the repeal date to September 1, 2029.	Enacted into law
House Bill 20-1142	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	The bill would have created a hazard mitigation enterprise and charged fees on insurance premiums to create revenue for a grant program and technical assistance to local governments.	Postponed indefinitely
House Bill 20-1171	Remote Camera Wildfire Alert Pilot Program	The bill would have directed DPS to conduct a pilot program using remote cameras to detect wildfires in the wildland-urban interface and appropriated \$2.0 million to DPS.	Deemed lost
Senate Bill 20-018*	Homeless Outreach Programs To Reduce Wildfire Risk	The bill would have created a grant program and working group in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) concerning homeless populations and wildfire risk reduction and appropriated \$100,000 to DOLA.	Postponed indefinitely

Table 1. Wildfire-related Legislation from 2014 to 2022 (Cont.)

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2020 (Cont.)			
Senate Bill 20-056*	Surplus Military Vehicles Highway Use If Firefighting	The bill exempted surplus military vehicles used by local governments and fire protection districts for fire protection purposes from the definition of an off-highway vehicle.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 20-057*	Fire Prevention & Control Employee Benefits	The bill required DFPC to provide additional employee benefits to its firefighters and support staff, including insurance for certain heart conditions and cancers, as well as an increased pension benefit, from the Wildfire Preparedness Fund.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 20-098	Disaster Response First Informer Broadcaster	The bill would have allowed credentialed individuals to gain access to otherwise closed areas during emergencies or natural disasters in order to maintain broadcasting equipment necessary to communicate with first responders and the public.	Postponed indefinitely
2021¹			
House Bill 21-1008	Forest Health Project Financing	The bill established a new form of intergovernmental agreement to finance forest health projects and extends the authorization for the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to finance such projects.	Enacted into law
House Bill 21-1042	Water Storage Tanks Grant Program	The bill would have established the water storage tank wildfire mitigation grant program within CSFS and transferred \$5.0 million from the General Fund.	Postponed indefinitely
House Bill 21-1180	Measures To Increase Biomass Utilization	The bill created the biomass utilization grant program in CSFS, and appropriated up to \$2.5 million for the grant.	Enacted into law
House Bill 21-1208	Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise	The bill created a hazard mitigation enterprise and charged fees on insurance policies to create revenue for a grant program and technical assistance to local governments.	Enacted into law
House Bill 21-1242	Create Agricultural Drought And Climate Resilience Office	The bill created the Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office in the Department of Agriculture.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-012	Former Inmates With Fire Service Experience	The bill required DPS to develop information materials for individuals who have experience in wildland fire management through the Inmate Disaster Relief Program in the Department of Corrections, and to create a peer mentor program for individuals hired from that program.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-054	Transfers For Wildfire Mitigation And Response	The bill transferred \$13.0 million from the General Fund to three cash funds for use in wildfire prevention and recovery.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-113	Firefighting Aircraft Wildfire Management And Response	The bill transferred \$30.8 million from the General Fund for the purchase and lease of wildfire mitigation aircraft.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-166	Colorado Fire Commission Recommendations	The bill created the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System to provide regional and statewide coordinated response for emergency incidents.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-170	Wildland Fire Mitigation Cooperative Electric Association	The bill would have required that cooperative electric associations adopt wildfire mitigation plans and established rules for mediating vegetation in an association easement.	Postponed indefinitely
Senate Bill 21-221	Projects Under Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program	The bill removed the \$1.0 million limit for the grant share of individual projects under the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program in CSFS.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-237	Create Forest Health Council In Department Of Natural Resources	The bill repealed the Forest Health Advisory Council within CSFS and created the Forest Health Council within DNR.	Enacted into law

Table 1. Wildfire-related Legislation from 2014 to 2022 (Cont.)

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2021 (Cont.)			
Senate Bill 21-240	Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus	The bill transferred \$30.0 million from the General Fund to the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund for watershed restoration grants and to conduct a watershed analysis.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 21-258	Wildfire Risk Mitigation	The bill expanded the uses of wildfire mitigation funding, and allows for additional staffing to support wildfire mitigation efforts and transfers \$29.8 million from the General Fund to CSFS, DNR, and DPS.	Enacted into law
2022			
House Bill 22-1007*	Assistance Landowner Wildfire Mitigation	The bill created a grant program for local wildfire mitigation and amends tax code benefits to landowners conducting wildfire mitigation, and appropriates \$300,000 for the grant.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1011*	Wildfire Mitigation Incentives For Local Governments	The bill created the Wildfire Mitigation Incentives Local Government Grant Program in the CSFS to provide matching funds to local governments that raise dedicated revenue for forest management or wildfire mitigation efforts, and transfers \$10.0 million to CSFS and DNR.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1012*	Wildfire Mitigation And Recovery	The bill requires CSFS to develop a publicly accessible statewide carbon accounting framework and a forest carbon co-benefit framework for project level forest management.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1111	Insurance Coverage For Loss Declared Fire Disaster	The bill changed the requirements for homeowner's insurance coverage and claims handling when the damages are a result of a declared wildfire disaster.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1132	Regulation And Services For Wildfire Mitigation	The bill required people to notify their fire department before conducting a controlled burn.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1148	Wildfire Camera Pilot Program	The bill would have required that DNR create one or more remote camera technology pilot programs to detect wildfires in wildland-urban areas and appropriated \$2.0 million to DNR.	Deemed lost
House Bill 22-1166	Incentives Promote Colorado Timber Industry	The bill would have created the Timber, Forest Health, and Wildfire Mitigation Industries Workforce Development Program and an income tax credit for equipment used in the timber, wood product manufacturing, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries.	Deemed lost
House Bill 22-1323	Updates To State Forest Service Tree Nursery	The bill required upgrades and improvements to the CSFS tree nursery in Fort Collins and appropriated \$5.0 million to CSFS.	Enacted into law
House Bill 22-1379	Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration Funding	The bill transferred \$20.0 million from the Economic Relief and Recovery Cash Fund to cash funds for the CSFS and DNR for the management of certain natural resources.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 22-002*	Resources For Volunteer Firefighters	The bill modified the allowable uses of grant funding in DPS related to firefighter health and safety, created a multiple employer behavioral and mental health benefit trust, and appropriated \$5.0 million to DPS.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 22-007*	Increase Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outreach Efforts	The bill directed the CSFS to convene a working group and implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024 and appropriated about \$600,000 to CSFS.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 22-080	Wildland Fire Investigations	The bill would have required that the DFPC investigate the causes of wildland fires and transferred \$3.0 million from the General Fund to DFPC.	Deemed lost

Table 1. Wildfire-related Legislation from 2014 to 2022 (Cont.)

Bill Number	Short Title	Summary	Disposition
2022 (Cont.)			
Senate Bill 22-114	Fire Suppression Ponds Water Rights	The bill allowed a board of county commissioners to apply to the State Engineer to have certain ponds designated as fire suppression ponds.	Enacted into law
Senate Bill 22-206	Disaster Preparedness And Recovery Resources	The bill established the Disaster Resilience Rebuilding Program, Sustainable Rebuilding Program, and the Office of Climate Preparedness and required DFPC to establish a fire dispatch center and develop a Colorado team awareness kit system. The bill transferred \$15.5 million from the Disaster Emergency Fund to DFPC.	Enacted into law

Source: Legislative Council Staff.

*Bill was recommended by the Wildfire Matters Review Committee.

¹The Wildfire Matters Review Committee did not meet during the 2020 interim, therefore no bills were recommended by the committee in 2021.