



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

SB22-007

SHORT TITLE: Increase Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outreach Efforts

LONG TITLE: Concerning outreach to the public relating to wildfire risk mitigation practices

SPONSORS: Senators Lee and Story/Representatives Cutter and Snyder

COMMITTEES: Senate Local Government Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To raise and enhance public awareness of wildfire and the need for mitigation

PROPOSERS OF THE BILL: Wildfire Matters interim committee

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Dept. of Public Safety, local dept. of public safety, insurance companies, homeowners' associations, water providers; land developers, affordable housing advocates

BACKGROUND: The bill results from discussion in the interim Wildfire Matters committee. The bill directs the CSFS to convene a working group to develop and implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024, in partnership with the DFPC and the U.S. Forest Service. The State Forester is required to report to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee during the 2023 and 2024 legislative interims on money expended and efforts to increase outreach and awareness of wildfire risk mitigation

Is this bill necessary this year? There are no deadlines; it could be argued that the public is now extremely aware of wildfire and the need to mitigate but methods to accomplish this may be lacking

How does the bill change current law? It does not change law, it simply convenes yet another working group

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The bill directs the CSFS to convene a working group to develop and implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024, in partnership with the DFPC and the U.S. Forest Service. The State Forester is required to report to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee during the 2023 and 2024 legislative interims on money expended and efforts to increase outreach and awareness of wildfire risk mitigation

Practical considerations: The bill focuses on a wildfire awareness month, but this may need to be a year-round effort. Recent fires highlight the importance of land use planning in urban/suburban areas as well in wildland urban interface. Development interests and local fire agencies must be involved.

Fiscal Impact: None identified by the state.