



Restoring Colorado's Forests Fund 2025 Application

BACKGROUND: The Restoring Colorado's Forests Fund (RCFF) is a donor-supported program established in 2003 to provide no-cost tree seedlings to landowners whose forested properties have been impacted by large-scale disturbances, such as fires and floods. Priority RCFF seedlings are meant to be planted on lands most severely impacted by wildfires and other disturbances. [Donations](#) to the fund are used to pay for seedlings that will be given to qualified applicants free of charge for reforesting state and private lands within Colorado. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) administers RCFF and will award applicants through a competitive ranking process. The availability of seedlings is based on CSFS Nursery's capacity to produce seedlings and the extent of donations annually. For more information please email CSFS_RCFF@colostate.edu

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants may be individual landowners, homeowner associations, groups of landowners, state land management agencies and local government entities. Planting projects must be (1) on private, state or county land within Colorado; (2) currently, partially or previously forested and impacted by a disturbance; (3) on a property to which the applicant has the legal authority to implement the planting project; (4) based on a CSFS forester site evaluation and recommendations; (5) and for at least the minimum request of 120 seedlings.

RANKING: Priority ranking will be given to applications that best convey the need for seedlings dependent on soil, water quality and wildlife habitat improvements and that provide the greatest public benefit. Ranking will be based on both a forester's evaluation and the content of the application. CSFS field offices will rank local applications and then send the ranked applications to the CSFS Nursery Program Manager for review and final determination. Seedling allocations will be decided by January 2026, with seedling distribution occurring April-May 2026. The Colorado State Forest Service reserves the right to reject any applications they deem do not meet the intent of the RCFF program.

DEADLINES: Application period is June 1st-September 30th. Submit your completed application by mail, email or in person to your local [CSFS field office](#) no later than September 30 to be considered. Applications must be legible and include all requested information. Approved applicants should expect to receive notice of awarded seedlings in Jan 2026, and plan to receive their seedlings April-May 2026.

INSTRUCTIONS: Applicants must complete all boxes for consideration. The application can be filled in digitally using a PDF editing tool such as Adobe Acrobat.

Box 1 – Applicant information.

Box 2 – Address and/or GPS coordinates (Not UTM Coordinates) of where the planting site is located along with other pertinent planting site information.

Box 3 – Incident that affected the applicant's forested property and the year it occurred. Example: High Park Fire, 2012. Include burn severity for the planting site if applicable. Contact your local [CSFS field office](#) for a site evaluation in advance of submitting your application. Field staff can best provide recommendations of species and site selection.

Box 4 – Indicate if there is a Forest Stewardship Plan, management plan or other site-specific plan for the property. Specify any funding assistance programs that have been used to reforest. Example: RCFF, 2014.

Box 5 – Briefly describe the planting site and how the planting will enhance water quality, prevent soil loss, benefit wildlife and positively affect the landscape. Why should this area be reforested?

Box 6 – The CSFS Nursery will grow requested species and quantities based on priority ranking. Consult your CSFS forester for assistance in choosing which species are best suited to the planting site – **120 Seedling Minimum – 2000 Seedling Maximum.**

Box 7 – Choose a delivery method (Pickup at CSFS Nursery in Fort Collins or delivery to a residential address) for Restoring Colorado’s Forests Fund Application 1 awarded seedlings. Consult your CSFS forester for timing recommendations.

Box 8 – This certifies that a CSFS forester evaluated the property and provided sound, scientifically based recommendations for the planting project and that the applicant agrees to plant according to those. **Any application without signature will not be considered. Submit completed applications to CSFS_RCFF@colostate.edu**

MONITORING AND REPORTING: To enhance the success of our reforestation projects, we kindly request your permission for the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to conduct monitoring of planting areas to assess tree growth, provide expert guidance and collect valuable data. Your collaboration will ensure better outcomes and transparency for our shared goal of restoring Colorado's forests. This may include photos, mapping planting areas, testimonials, etc. The RCFF program supports internship positions for CSU Students and this is a valuable opportunity for them to gain hands on experience through fieldwork and outreach.

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1. Applicant Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

2. Planting Site Property Information

Address or GPS Coordinates (No UTM) _____

Is the property part of a subdivision? ☐ Yes ☐ No

 If yes, name of subdivision/lot _____

County _____

Total Forested Acres Burned _____

Intended Planting Acres 2026 (120 - 180 seedlings/acre recommended) _____

3. Fire/Natural Disturbance Information

Incident Name and Year _____

Burn Severity (if applicable) ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ N/A

Presence of Natural Seedling Regeneration ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ N/A

Species Present _____

4. Landowner Assistance History

Does the property have a current Forest Stewardship Plan, management plan or practice plan?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the property owner received previous forestry funding assistance (i.e. RCFF, EQIP, WHIP, EFRP, EWP)?

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, Program and Year: _____

5. Project Description

6. Seedling Request – Minimum 120–Maximum 2000

Species	Quantity (Multiples of 60, 120 Minimum)
Colorado blue spruce, <i>Picea pungens</i>	
Engelmann spruce, <i>Picea engelmannii</i>	
Limber pine, <i>Pinus flexilis</i>	
Pinyon pine, <i>Pinus edulis</i>	
Ponderosa pine, <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	
Douglas fir, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	
TOTAL:	

7. Seedling Distribution (Pick-Up/Shipment) Specify One

☐ Pick-Up ☐ Ship to Residential Address

8. Certification

I hereby agree to plant seedlings according to the recommendations of the CSFS Forester.

Landowner Signature _____ Date _____

For Official Use Only - REQUIRED

Field Office _____

County _____

Date _____

Field Office Rank _____

I hereby certify that I have evaluated the property, recommended the appropriate seedling species and quantity requested and verified appropriate planting sites.

CSFS Forester Signature _____