

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER

**Topic: Request for Grant Approval and Supplemental Budget –
Congressionally Directed Spending – Open Space**

**Presented by: Julie Liggett, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator,
Open Space**

Date: 10/15/2024

For Information

For Discussion/Board Direction

Consent to
Place on Business/
Hearing Agenda

Issue:

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) staff requests Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approval to accept an \$80,000 USDA Forest Service grant for Forest Health Youth Corps funding and a \$20,000 budget supplement to accommodate the grant.

Background:

In February 2023, County departments were notified of the opportunity to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds. JCOS applied for \$80,000 through Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet, and Representative Petterson to support a Forest Health Youth Corps project. Due to tight deadlines, the application was not presented to the BCC at that time. On September 27, 2024, JCOS received a Federal Financial Assistance Award letter for \$80,000 for the project.

Discussion:

This project provides youth summer employment opportunities that contribute to responsible forest management and mentor's future stewards of our natural environment. Youth Corp crews will perform wildfire mitigation and forest pest mitigation in Jefferson County open spaces that are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire. Work includes reducing ladder fuels and opening tree canopies to slow the spread of fire.

Fiscal Impact: **yes** **no**

There is no match required, but JCOS has committed up to \$20,000 in Open Space Funds to complete the project.

- Year of impact: 2025-2026
- TABOR impact: None
- Existing grant or project: None
- New grant or project: Congressionally Directed Spending

- Requested in adopted budget: No
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: None
- Staffing impact: N/A
- ARPA impact: No
- Match requirements: 25% of project cost was stated in the application but is not required
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: Federal Financial Assistance agreement between USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region Safety, Fire, and Aviation Management and JCOS

Revenue Limits Impact: yes no

SPA Review: Support, no concerns

County Attorney Review: Anthony Chambers, October 2, 2024

Facilities Review: No fiscal impact

BIT Review: No fiscal impact

Fleet Review: No fiscal impact

Human Resources Review (new FTE only): N/A

Recommendations:

That the BCC support a budget supplemental if the grant application for Forest Health Youth Corps funding for a Congressionally Directed Spending grant from the USDA Forest Service in the amount of approximately \$80,000 is awarded and that the BCC authorize the Chair to execute the grant contract and related documents at a future hearing.

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