

HIGH PARK FIRE



Photo courtesy of the USFS

The High Park Fire that occurred on June 9, 2012, destroyed more than 87,000 acres, of which 39,570 (45.2%) of those acres occurred on private lands. This fire was one of the largest and most destructive fires in the history of Larimer County, destroying 259 homes and disrupting the lives of hundreds of residents.

NRCS is offering financial assistance to private landowners interested in reducing erosion, sedimentation, and the effects of debris flows that compliment wildlife habitat. Landowners willing to install erosion control practices to protect riparian and lowland areas from sedimentation are encouraged to sign up for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Resource Concerns Addressed

Reducing Erosion, Sedimentation, Debris Flows, and Flooding to enhance riparian area function

Eligibility

Land eligible for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) includes:

- Private agricultural land including cropland, grassland, rangeland, pasture, and other land determined by NRCS to be suitable for fish and wildlife habitat development.
- Nonindustrial private forest land including rural land that has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees.

Person eligibility:

Person must have control of land for the contract period, “control” means possession of the land by ownership, written lease or other legal agreement. Increased payments are available for eligible socially disadvantaged landowners in addition to beginning and limited resource farmers or ranchers and Indian tribes.

Applications will be prioritized and ranked based on criteria such as: identified resource concerns that will be addressed in the contract, percent of the operation to be enrolled, and location of the operation in relation to values at risk within the High Park Fire.

Practices Available

The following practices are available under this special initiative. Applicants should work with their local NRCS staff to select and design appropriate practices that will reduce erosion, sedimentation, and debris flows into riparian areas and improve riparian function for wildlife. Participants are expected to maintain cost-shared conservation practices for the expected lifespan of the conservation practice.

Critical Area Planting (native grass seeding to reduce erosion) ♦ Dike

Filter Strip (to reduce sedimentation in riparian areas) ♦ Grade Stabilization Structure

Herbaceous Weed Control (mechanical or chemical control of noxious weeds) ♦ Mulching (certified weed-free straw or chipping of burned dead trees on site) ♦ Clearing and Snagging

Riparian Forest Buffer ♦ Stream Habitat Improvement & Management ♦ Sediment Control Basin

Underground Outlet ♦ Terrace (log erosion barriers, straw wattles)

For More Information

If you are affected by the High Park Fire and are a private landowner interested in receiving assistance through WHIP, please contact Todd Boldt, District Conservationist, NRCS Fort Collins Field Office, at 970-215-9897, email him at todd.boldt@co.usda.gov, or stop by the field office (2150 Centre Ave, Bldg A, Fort Collins).