

# Cost-share Incentive Programs for Forest Management



	 <b>California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)</b>	 <b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant land managers<sup>1</sup> own between <b>20 and 5000 acres</b> of non-industrial private forest lands in California zoned as compatible with forest management.</li> <li>Land manager must agree to a <b>deed restriction</b> to keep land in compatible use for at least 10 years</li> <li>Licensed cannabis growers may apply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant land managers must have an annual <b>income less than \$900,000</b> AGI.</li> <li><b>No acreage limitations</b> apply</li> <li>Land managers must agree to keep land in compatible use up to 10 years, but <b>no</b> deed restriction is required.</li> <li>Lessees who prove land control may also apply.</li> <li>Cannabis growers are <b>not eligible</b> to apply.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost-share Provided</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>75% cost-share</b> for treatment activity costs that have been <b>predetermined at a capped rate</b>. The actual cost of implementing activities may exceed these capped rates.</li> <li>Land managers within designated disadvantaged communities, land managers with &lt;500 acres, or those whose forest lands have been impacted by fire, may receive advance payments <b>and 90% cost-share rate</b>.</li> <li><b>Land managers must pay contractors up-front</b> and show proof of payment; reimbursement expected <b>up to 120 days</b> following project completion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flat rate per acre</b> incentive payments determined by treatment activity regardless of actual project cost.</li> <li>Total cumulative incentives provided are limited to \$450,000 per Farm Bill.</li> <li>Reimbursement expected <b>within two week</b> of project completion.</li> </ul>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFIP applications and environmental evaluation must be completed by a <b>RPF<sup>2</sup> contracted by the land manager</b>. Land managers may not submit an application without a RPF.</li> <li>An approved forest management plan (FMP) or non-industrial timber management plan (NTMP) is <b>required</b> to apply for implementation work. However, CFIP can simply be used to write a FMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EQIP applications are prepared with land managers for free by NRCS staff. <b>No outside contracted RPF is needed</b>.</li> <li>An environmental evaluation will be prepared by a NRCS natural resource professional.</li> <li>Forest management plans may be required on larger acreages. Based on staffing NRCS may be able to prepare a brief FMP for smaller projects/ownerships.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating land managers are responsible for <b>hiring a RPE</b>, obtaining proper permitting, and contracting out for project implementation.</li> <li>Land managers may complete their own work, but program cost-share rates will be lower.</li> <li>Spotted owl activity centers within one mile of project area trigger operating restrictions.</li> <li>Archaeology records search and survey are required at <b>land manager's expense</b>.</li> <li>CEQA exemptions can be applied to forest lands burned over by fire. Implemented projects must be <b>≥ 5 acres</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRCS provides <b>free technical assistance</b> by natural resource professionals.</li> <li>The land manager is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and contracting out for project implementation.</li> <li>Land manager may complete their own work at same cost-share rate as if contracting out work.</li> <li><b>Mandatory operating restrictions</b> from Feb 1st - July 31st for spotted owl and migratory bird protection unless surveys exist or are completed. Archaeology records search and survey <b>completed by NRCS staff</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Contract Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically <b>One-year window</b> for project implementation once contract is approved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically <b>Three-year window</b> for project implementation once contract is approved.</li> </ul>
<b>Notable Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFIP provides greater cost-share funding for the development of <b>forest management plans</b>.</li> <li>Land manager/RPF have <b>greater control over timeline</b> for environmental review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EQIP provides a <b>greater range of management activities</b> for habitat enhancement.</li> <li>EQIP provides free technical assistance by an engineer for <b>roadwork</b>.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Land manager = Landowner/Leaser      <sup>2</sup>RPF = Registered Professional Forester