

# *“Innovative Forest Health Solutions with Federal, County and Private Sector Partnerships”*

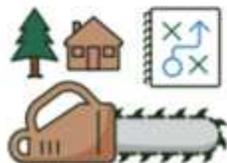
Our objective for the workshop is to

- 1) highlight the work that counties in California are undertaking to promote healthy forests with state, federal and private sector partners, and
- 2) highlight innovative solutions that attendees will be able to take home to their own counties.

As the severity and intensity of the wildfire crisis continues to become more pronounced, intergovernmental and private partnership will be necessary to develop innovative forest health projects which safeguard our communities. In this workshop, attendees will gain key insights into how best to foster effective intergovernmental cooperation and hear examples of innovative forest management projects that can be applied back home.

# CAL FIRE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

## WILDFIRE PREVENTION



### ACTIVITIES

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Wildfire Prevention Education

## FOREST LEGACY



### ACTIVITIES

- Conservation Easements
- Fee Title Purchase

## WILDFIRE RESILIENCE \*BLOCK GRANT\*



### ACTIVITIES

- Forest Improvement
- Reforestation
- Technical Assistance
- Planning

## FOREST HEALTH



### ACTIVITIES

- Forest Fuels Reduction
- Prescribed Fire
- Pest Management
- Reforestation
- Biomass Utilization

## BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



### ACTIVITIES

- Workforce Training
- Research and Development
- Business Development
- Biomass
- Wood Products
- Tree Nurseries

## TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



### ACTIVITIES

- Planning
- Cultural Burns
- Workforce Development

## RURAL FIRE CAPACITY



### ACTIVITIES

- Firefighting Support

## CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM \*COST-SHARE\*



### ACTIVITIES

- Forest Improvement
- Reforestation
- Planning

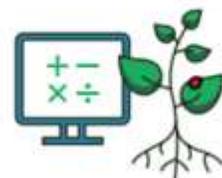
## URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY



### ACTIVITIES

- Urban Tree Planting
- Planning
- Workforce Development
- Education

## FOREST HEALTH RESEARCH



### ACTIVITIES

- Research





# Key Grant Sources (2023)

CAL FIRE

Forest Health/Reforestation

Wildfire Prevention

Wildfire Mitigation Program (w/ Cal OES)

Tribal Wildfire Resilience

Urban & Community Forestry

CFIP

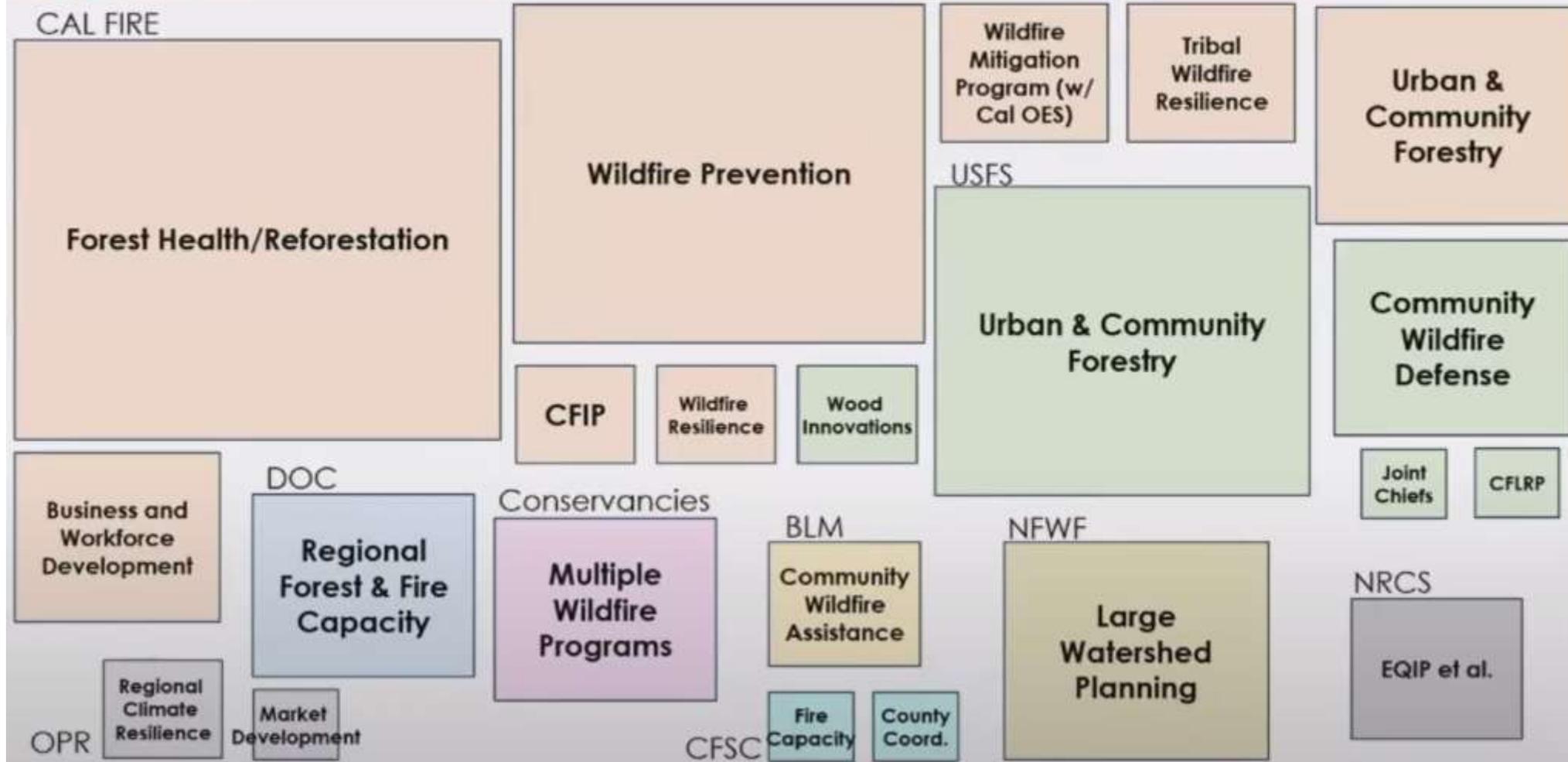
Wildfire Resilience

Business and Workforce Development





# Key Grant Sources (2023)





## Wildfire Prevention

### **APPLICATIONS CLOSED**

Wildfire Prevention grants fund projects in and near fire threatened communities to increase the protection of people, structures, and communities.

# Wildfire Prevention Grants

Funds for projects in and near fire threatened communities to improve public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

*The Wildfire Prevention Grants is CLOSED. Please check back for future opportunities.*

- [CAL FIRE announces the availability of \\$117 Million in Local Wildfire Prevention Grants.](#)
- [FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Workshop Webinar Presentation](#)
- Workshop Webinar - [Click here to watch the recording of the November 8, 2023 workshop.](#)



The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program is funded through California Climate Investments (CCI), which puts cap-and-trade dollars to work.

## Project Types and Activities

**Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

**+**

**Wildfire Prevention Planning**

**+**

**Wildfire Prevention Education**

**+**

**Project Types: Wildfire Prevention Grants Compared to Forest Health**

**+**

# Project Types and Activities

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Vegetation clearance in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread
- Creation or maintenance of fuel breaks in strategic locations, as identified in CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or similar strategic planning document
- Removal of ladder fuels to reduce the risk of crown fires
- Creation of community-level wildfire prevention programs, such as community chipping days, roadside chipping, and green waste bin programs
- Selective tree removal (thinning) to improve forest health to withstand wildfire
- Modification of vegetation adjacent to roads to improve public safety for egress of evacuating residents and ingress of responding emergency personnel
- Reduction of fuel loading around critical infrastructure to maintain continuity of government and other critical services
- Purchase of fuel modification equipment not to exceed a cumulative total of \$750,000. Equipment is an item of \$5,000 or more per unit cost and has a tangible useful life of more than one year
- Supplies include items under \$5,000 per unit cost. Chainsaws are an example of a supply item and are not considered equipment
- Projects to improve compliance with defensible space requirements as required by Public Resources Code Section 4291 (Projects eligible for CCI funds are low-income, disabled, or elderly households per CA requirements)
- Seasonal and temporary prescribed grazing consistent with increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities

## Wildfire Prevention Planning



- Wildfire risk or related mapping
- Creation or update of strategic wildfire planning documents, such as:
  - Evacuation plans
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
  - Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Safety Elements
  - Wildfire Prevention or mitigation plans

## Wildfire Prevention Education



- Development and implementation of public education and outreach programs.
- Workshops, meetings, materials creation, and other educational activities with the purpose of increasing knowledge and awareness of information that could be used to reduce the total number of wildfires, acres burned, and structures lost
- To educate the public on regarding making homes and communities more wildfire resilient, including defensible space training.
- Activities are subject to CAL FIRE approval.

# Forest Health

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program works with local partners to improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in forests throughout California.

The Forest Health Program addresses the risk to California's forests from extreme disturbance events including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and pest mortality. These events are the result of climate change, forest overcrowding, past land management practices, and an increasing number of people living in the wildland and urban interface.

The objective of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program is to conserve forests and improve forest health by significantly increasing fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas and conservation of threatened forests with landscape-scale projects developed and led by regionally-based efforts.



# Forest Health Grants

Funding active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program funds active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests to ensure future existence of forests in California while also mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, strengthening rural economies and improving California's water & air.

Through grants to regionally-based partners and collaboratives, CAL FIRE seeks to significantly increase fuels management, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas, and conservation of forests.



# CAL FIRE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

## FOREST HEALTH:

- Restoration
- Reforestation
- Ecological Process
- Watershed
- Habitat
- Landscape Scale
- Strategically Placed
- Wildland
- Recreation
- Timber
- Forests
- Natural Resources
- Fireshed

VS.

## WILDFIRE PREVENTION:

- Protection of People, Structures, and Communities
- WUI
- Fuelbreak
- Roadside
- Interface
- Intermix
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Wildfire Prevention Education





# California Climate Investments CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program



The [CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program](#) awards Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds allocated by the legislature for California Climate Investments (CCI) to implement projects that seek to:

- Proactively restore forest health and conserve working forests.
- Promote the long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.
- Implement Natural Climate Solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from large intense wildfires.
- Reintroduce fire into forests and woodlands to achieve wildfire resilience.
- Further the goals of the California Global Warming Solution Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32), while also providing socio-economic, environmental, and public health co-benefits.

Forest Health Grant projects use multiple treatments across large, landscape- scale (often 800 acres or more) forestlands composed of one or more landowners, which may cover multiple jurisdictions. Forest Health grants are required to meet minimum levels of investments in projects that benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, collectively referred to as “priority populations.”



### Forest Health Grant Treatment Objectives:

- Reforestation
- Forest fuels reduction
- Prescribed fire
- Pest management
- Biomass utilization



Eligible applicants include federal land management agencies (excluding conservation easements), state land management agencies, Native American tribes, private forest landowners, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, land trusts, landowner organizations, conservation groups, and non-profit organizations.

[Please sign up to receive email updates.](#)



# California Climate Investments CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program



[CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grant Program](#) provides funding for local projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to forested and forest adjacent communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Projects are reviewed based on the overall benefit to reduce the threat of wildfires to the greatest number of habitable structures, State Responsibility Area, and people. Projects should be designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during project activities and over time through wildfire reduction. Projects that benefit or focus on assisting those with special needs (i.e. low income, disabled, or elderly) will receive additional priority, as will projects that demonstrate a carbon benefit by reducing the carbon emissions during the implementation of the project. Disadvantaged communities and low-income communities as defined by Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez) (Stats. 2016, Ch. 369) will also be given preference.

### Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, the following:

- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Native American Tribes
- Local government within or adjacent to State Responsibility Area (SRA), including:
  - o Incorporated Cities and Counties
  - o Fire Districts
  - o Community Services Districts
  - o Water Districts
  - o Resource Conservation Districts
  - o Special districts
- Fire Safe Councils with a 501(c)(3) designation
- Other non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation such as Certified Local Conservation Corps

### Request Amounts:

- Capital equipment cannot exceed \$250,000
- Indirect Costs may not exceed 12%



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### Before Treatments



### After Treatments



## FOREST HEALTH PROJECT EXAMPLES



### Fuels Reduction

Grantee: **Mariposa County Resource Conservation District**

FY 18/19 Grant Amount: \$2,068,465

Acres of Fuel Reduction: 3,660

Tons of Biomass: 38,448

GHG Benefit (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e): 38,953

Forest resilience treatments helped to save the Mariposa Grove in Yosemite National Park from the Washburn Fire in July of 2022. A partnership that includes the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, the National Park Service and local Tribal Forest crews had completed important fuels reduction work that reduced the fire's severity and helped firefighters protect the invaluable trees [↗](#). Grant activities included removal of roadside hazard and downed trees, fuels reduction, and transportation of the woody debris to local biomass facilities.

## Fuels Reduction Partnerships Pay Off In Controlling The Washburn Fire

Some of the world's most iconic trees in one of the world's most famous forests are safe today thanks in part to resilience treatments funded through CAL FIRE's Forest Health grant program.

A photograph of a red and white helicopter dropping a large amount of water from a bucket onto a forest fire. The background is a hazy, smoke-filled sky, and the foreground shows the silhouettes of tall pine trees. The helicopter is in the upper right quadrant, and a large plume of water is falling from its bucket towards the center of the image.

**“This project has meant the difference for the community and the grove. I suspect that if Wawona Road was in the state that it was prior to the project, it could be a very different outcome for the Mariposa grove and the community.”**

– Garrett Dickman, National Park Service Vegetation Ecologist

Protecting the ancient, majestic giant sequoias in the largest and most popular of Yosemite's sequoias clusters was an immediate concern for land managers when the Washburn Fire broke out near Mariposa Grove. Fortunately, a partnership that includes the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, National Park Service and local private landowners had done the important fuels reduction work that reduced the fire's severity and helped firefighters protect the invaluable trees.



Garrett Dickman, a Vegetation Ecologist at Yosemite National Park was on the fire and observed its behavior. Referring to biomass removal treatments along a key road in the park, he said, "Firefighters [were] able to hold the road with minimal prep," and the fuels reduction was "... proving critical in our ability to protect the community of Wawona." Dickman pointed out that flame heights were a few inches to a just a few feet in treated areas, compared to flames that were tens to hundreds of feet long elsewhere.



PHOTO CREDIT: NEW YORK TIMES

CAL FIRE Forest Health provides funding to local and regional organizations that coordinate multiple treatment objectives, within landscape scale projects. Objectives include fuel reduction, prescribed fire, reforestation, biomass utilization and pest management. Land may be owned by tribes, private individuals, private companies, and local, state, or federal governments. The Washburn Fire is a good example of the critical impact these projects have in slowing the spread of wildfire, promoting forest health and, in this case, protecting some California's most iconic natural treasures.



## **California Forest Improvement Program**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN; ONGOING**

Cost-sharing assistance is available for public and private forest land to maintain high quality timber supplies while building a stable forest resource system for future generations. Funds improve all forest resources, including fish and wildlife habitat, and soil and water quality.

# California Forest Improvement Program

The purpose of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forest lands and resources. This focus is to ensure adequate high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system for the benefit of present and future generations.

The program scope includes the improvement of all forest resources including fish and wildlife habitat, and soil and water quality. Cost-share assistance is provided to private and public ownerships containing 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land. Cost-shared activities include:

- Preparation of a Forest Management Plan by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF)
- RPF Supervision of the following:
  - Reforestation
    - Site Preparation
    - Trees and Planting
    - Tree Shelters
  - Stand Improvement
    - Pre-commercial Thinning or Release
    - Pruning
    - Follow-up (includes mechanical, herbicide and/or slash disposal follow-up)
  - Forestland conservation practices / fish and wildlife habitat improvement



## MORE INFORMATION

- [CFIP User's Guide](#) For live links search for CFIP
- CFIP 5 Year Strategic Plan is available by request. Please email [CFIP@fire.ca.gov](mailto:CFIP@fire.ca.gov)
- [CFIP Cap Rates](#)
- [RM-10 CFIP Ranking Form](#)

## AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

The American Tree Farm System is a program for woodland owners who are committed to sustainably managing their woods for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. Each state program is run by a diverse group of partners, such as state agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers, foresters, and landowners.

Follow the link below to learn more about the California program.

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/california>

Broadcast/controlled/cultural burning is not eligible for CFIP cost share. For a list of other practices not eligible for CFIP cost-share, please review the User's Guide.

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California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is part of [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) forma parte de las [Inversiones del Clima de California](#), un iniciativa estatal que destina miles de millones de dólares de Cap-and-Trade para la reducción de gases de efecto invernadero, fortalecimiento de la economía y mejoramiento de la salud pública y el medio ambiente – especialmente en comunidades en desventaja.

The California Forest Improvement Program receives funding from a variety of other State and Federal sources. The varied funding sources may have different requirements or additional application procedures, so please always be sure to discuss your project with your Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) at the CAL FIRE unit in which your project resides, or the Regional FAS. Please refer to CFIP Contact List, at the bottom of this page in the Contact Us section.

CFIP will be releasing up to \$2 million per solicitation period. The highest ranked CFIP application packages will be selected for funding in each application period. Once the funds have been encumbered for the designated period all qualifying unfunded CFIP application packages shall be moved to the next solicitation period to compete with CFIP application packages that are submitted during that solicitation period. Application packages that have failed to score high enough to be awarded a grant after one year will be sent back to the project proponent with an explanation for why the project has not been funded.

Before you fill out an application, contact your local FAS to determine the status of funding, current application process, and whether your property and project are eligible for funding. (Please refer to contact list in the Contact Us section at the bottom of this page). Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the CFIP User's Guide and familiarize themselves with CFIP before applying. The User's Guide includes more detailed instructions on how to apply and which forms to submit to your local FAS. (Please refer to CFIP User's Guide under more information on the right of this page).

## Forms

THE NEWEST EDITION OF CFIP FORMS MUST BE USED. Projects submitted on old forms will be rejected upon submittal.

- [RM-6 CFIP Application](#)
- [RM-7A CFIP Agreement](#)
- [RM-7B CFIP Agreement - Continuation Sheet](#)
- [RM-8 CFIP Project Budget](#)
- [RM-11 CFIP Amendment](#)
- [RM-12 CFIP RPF Checklist](#)
- [RM-13 CFIP PEIR Environmental Checklist](#)
- [RM-16 CFIP Invoice Cover Page](#)
- [RM-30 Pest Control Recommendation](#)

County	Forestry Assistance Specialist Name	Forestry Assistance Specialist Preferred Contact Method(s)	Forestry Assistance Specialist Mailing Address
Alameda	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Alpine	Justin "Chuck" Lewis	(530) 557-5514, Justin.Lewis@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
Amador	Justin "Chuck" Lewis	(530) 557-5514, Justin.Lewis@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
Butte	Andrew Hubbs	Andrew.Hubbs@fire.ca.gov	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Calaveras	David Ahmadi	David.Ahmadi@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
Colusa	Andrew Hubbs	Andrew.Hubbs@fire.ca.gov	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Contra Costa	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Del Norte	James Robbins	James.Robbins@fire.ca.gov	118 N. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540
El Dorado	Justin "Chuck" Lewis	(530) 557-5514, Justin.Lewis@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
Fresno	Mayra Negrete	Mayra.Negrete@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Glenn	Andrew Hubbs	Andrew.Hubbs@fire.ca.gov	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Humboldt	James Robbins	James.Robbins@fire.ca.gov	118 N. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540
Imperial	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Inyo	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
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Kings	Mayra Negrete	Mayra.Negrete@fire.ca.gov	1236 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
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Merced	Mayra Negrete	Mayra.Negrete@fire.ca.gov	1237 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
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Placer	David Ahmadi	David.Ahmadi@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
Plumas	Alex Stone	Alex.Stone@fire.ca.gov	e-mail only
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San Joaquin	Mayra Negrete	Mayra.Negrete@fire.ca.gov	1239 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
San Luis Obispo	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
San Mateo	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Santa Barbara	Peter Leuzinger	(530) 723-3651, Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710

# California Forest Improvement Program

## Cap Rates for Practices

### Overview of Cap Rates

The maximum reimbursement for each practice is "capped" at a rate set by the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP, Program). These cap rates are established for Program consistency as well as to encourage landowners to develop cost-effective projects.

Cap rates for grant agreements approved after January 1, 2024, are listed on the following pages. For additional instructions please read the CFIP User's Guide published on the CFIP webpage at:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/california-forest-improvement>

Several practices have multiple allowable cap rates (light, moderate, heavy) depending on site conditions. Participants are encouraged to select the single most appropriate cap rate for each practice and not mix cap rates within a given practice. Rates requested must be justified in the project description portion of the application package and approved by the CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS). For guidance in determining the appropriate cap rate for your site, please refer to the CFIP User's Guide description of that practice.

CFIP allows participants to choose between hiring a contractor or doing the work themselves. Self-labor and contractor labor may both be used on the same project, but not on the same practice. If both are used, the RM-8 CFIP Project Budget and the project description will specify either the contractor or self-labor cap rate for each proposed practice. Changing the labor type for a practice must be discussed with the CAL FIRE FAS before it occurs and may require amendment of the grant agreement.

If the actual cost of a project practice exceeds the listed maximum cap rate, the landowner must pay the difference, regardless of the cap rate chosen. If the actual cost of a project practice comes in under the cap rate, the actual cost and not the cap rate will be used as the eligible cost when calculating the total reimbursement payable by the State. I.e., the total eligible cost is either the cap rate or the actual cost, whichever is lower.

### Contractor Labor Cap Rates

- Full California Cooperative Forest Management Plan:
  - \$6,445 plus \$5 per acre, not to exceed \$12,000.
  - RPFs developing a Full Management Plan on their own property will typically only be paid at the Mini Plan rate. At FAS discretion, RPFs may negotiate above the Mini Plan rate if negotiations are supported by cost estimates for paying employees who are working on plan development. CFIP Invoices for reimbursement must be supported by proof of payments to employees.
- Mini-Management Plan: \$2,500 plus \$1.40 per acre
- Archaeology Addendum: \$2,150 plus \$3/ per acre, not to exceed \$5,000
- Other Plan Addendum: \$2,150 plus \$3/ per acre, not to exceed \$5,000
- Emergency Forest Management Plan Tier 1: \$1,020
- Emergency Forest Management Plan Tier 2: \$2,040
- RPF Supervision: \$270 per acre for the first 20 acres, and \$90 per acre for each additional acre.
- Planting:
  - Site Preparation Herbicide – Light: \$405
  - Site Preparation Herbicide – Moderate: \$620
  - Site Preparation Herbicide – Heavy: \$835
  - Site Preparation Mechanical – Light: \$645
  - Site Preparation Mechanical – Moderate: \$970
  - Site Preparation Mechanical – Heavy: \$1,290
  - Substantially Damaged Site Preparation: Negotiated rate between FAS and Project Proponent
  - Trees & Planting – Light: \$325
  - Trees & Planting – Moderate: \$485
  - Trees & Planting – Heavy: \$645

- Tree Shelters: \$400
- Pre-commercial Thinning:
  - Light: \$645
  - Moderate: \$970
  - Heavy: \$1,290
- Release:
  - Mechanical – Light: \$645
  - Mechanical – Moderate: \$970
  - Mechanical – Heavy: \$1,290
  - Herbicide or Other – Light: \$405
  - Herbicide or Other – Moderate: \$620
  - Herbicide or Other – Heavy: \$835
- Pruning:
  - Light: \$270
  - Moderate: \$405
  - Heavy: \$540
- Follow-up:
  - Follow-Up Herbicide – Light: \$405
  - Follow-Up Herbicide – Moderate: \$620
  - Follow-Up Herbicide – Heavy: \$835
  - Follow-Up Mechanical or Handwork – Light: \$645
  - Follow-Up Mechanical or Handwork – Moderate: \$970
  - Follow-Up Mechanical or Handwork – Heavy: \$1,290
- Land Conservation/Habitat Improvement: Cap rates in this practice are variable and will be negotiated with the FAS based on site condition, acreage, the type

of project and rates used for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

\* Properties must be in compliance with the Forest Practice Act at the time of application. Properties with unpermitted conversions, are not eligible for funding. The area listed within Public Resources Code 4291 (defensible space) is not eligible for reimbursement. Disposal of slash, stumps, or other materials generated by commercial timber operations are not eligible for reimbursement. Materials/slash generated by CFIP practices must meet a 30" maximum height from the ground, utilizing lop and scatter, for the entirety of the associated practice area, at the completion of the associated practice. Lop and scatter is not eligible as a follow-up practice, and is compensated within the rate of the generating practice.

**Self-Labor Cap Rates**

The self-labor rate for each practice is capped at **75%** of the equivalent contractor labor cap rate, from the above pages.

Self-labor may be performed by the landowner, their family members, and/or direct employees, and must be explained and justified in the project description. Self-labor is at the discretion of both the FAS and Stewardship Forester.

When a landowner elects to perform the work themselves, they must track and record their hourly rates for their work. These records must be maintained by the landowner and available by request to the FAS.

The following rates are based on Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) rates for California, federal fiscal year 2023, and may be used to estimate self-labor costs. These rates may not be exceeded for landowner owned equipment and include fuel and maintenance but not labor. Labor for an employee, contractor, or day laborer shall be the actual wage paid and shall be verified by a signed invoice or duplicate check. The equipment and labor rates do not apply to contractors or rented equipment where actual receipts are required. Additional equipment or supplies shall be approved through the local FAS.

- Labor: \$33
- Wheel mounted backhoe excavator with horsepower range of 60 to 90: \$55
- Track mounted dozer with horsepower range of 60 to 90. (e.g., D3, D4): \$77
- Track mounted dozer with horsepower range of 125 to 160. (e.g., D5, D6): \$105
- Track mounted dozer with horsepower range of 160 to 250. (e.g., D7, D8): \$193
- Track mounted hydraulic excavator with bucket capacity range of 0.3 to 0.8 cubic yards: \$93
- Track mounted hydraulic excavator with bucket capacity range of 0.8 to 1.5 cubic yards: \$130
- Track mounted hydraulic excavator with bucket capacity range of 1.5 to 2.5 cubic yards. \$139
- Skid steer loader with horsepower range of 60 to 90: \$60
- Chainsaw or gasoline powered pole chainsaw: \$7
- Forestry mulcher, flail shredder, hydro axe, brush cutter, etc.: \$107

- Agricultural tractor with horsepower range of less than 50: \$9
- Agricultural tractor with horsepower range of 50 to 90: \$28
- Agricultural tractor with horsepower range of 90 to 140: \$66
- Agricultural tractor with horsepower range of 140 to 190: \$80
- Dump truck for moving bulk material. Typical capacity is 12 ton or 8 cubic yards: \$56
- Dump truck for moving bulk material. Typical capacity is 16 ton or 12 cubic yards: \$110
- Dump truck for moving bulk material. Typical capacity is 25 ton or 18 cubic yards: \$110
- Chipper, 6-inch capacity, typically 35 horsepower (includes chipper & power unit): \$34
- Chipper, 12-inch capacity, typically 130 horsepower (includes chipper & power unit): \$55
- Chipper, 15-inch capacity, typically 165 horsepower (includes chipper & power unit): \$77
- Wheeled front end loader with horsepower range of 80 to 110: \$64
- Wheeled front end loader with horsepower range of 110 to 140: \$70
- Track loader, 95 horsepower: \$99
- Log skidder: \$111
- Feller buncher: \$114

# California Forest Improvement Program

## Mini Management Plan

**CFIP Grant Number:**

**CFIP Project Number:**

**Landowner Name:**

Plan Template Edition Date: December 2023

**This plan meets the minimum requirements of PRC 4799:**

*The plan shall cover all forest lands within the same ownership which include or are contiguous to the parcel to which a proposed forest resource improvement project applies. The plan shall set forth an analysis of forest land conditions and capabilities, including its original forest type if determinable. The plan shall describe the landowner's management objectives and shall provide for the eventual harvest of sawtimber within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the preparer of the plan. The plan shall also describe the forest resource improvement work and other measures necessary to do all of the following:*

- (1) Protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource system.*
- (2) Prevent or mitigate erosion, deterioration of soil resources, and pollution by natural and manmade causes.*
- (3) Optimize the timber growth potential of the land consistent with maintaining the productivity of related forest resources now and in the future.*

**This plan meets the requirements of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 51113 of the California Government Code.**

*(2) A plan for forest management shall be prepared or approved as to content, for the property by a registered professional forester. The plan shall provide for the eventual harvest of timber within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the preparer of the plan.*

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## Landowner Management Objectives

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>
Choose an item.	Timber Production	Manage forestland for sustainable periodic income
Choose an item.	Recreation	Maintain or enhance current infrastructure and forestland for recreation
Choose an item.	Aesthetics	Manage forestland with aesthetic enjoyment as a priority
Choose an item.	Wildlife Habitat	Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat
Choose an item.	Watershed and Ecological Processes	Restore and maintain a healthy, self-sustaining road network and forest ecosystem.
Choose an item.	Forest Health and Resiliency	Prioritize forest improvement projects to improve forest health and resiliency
Choose an item.	Carbon Storage	Maximize long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soil
Choose an item.	Insects and Disease	Manage forestland to improve resilience to insects and diseases
Choose an item.	Other Agricultural Production	Maintain or enhance other agricultural production
Choose an item.	Minor Forest Products	Manage for other minor products such as firewood, Christmas trees, gravel, or other products.
Choose an item.	Family Legacy	Prepare the property for beneficiaries with long-term planning documents such as an NTMP, conservation easement, family trust, or other legal documents
Choose an item.	Add other or delete row	

## **Forestland Conditions**

Summarize the forestland conditions and capabilities of the property:

Describe the potential for commercial harvest on the property, where applicable, and approximate years until commercial harvest. What types of harvest documents would the landowner use to meet their management objectives? If the property is not suitable for growing commercial timber products, put NA.

## **Summary – Management Recommendations**

Provide a summary, where applicable, of forest improvement practices needed to meet the landowner's management objectives and achieve the following:

- Protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource system.
- Prevent or mitigate erosion, deterioration of soil resources, and pollution by natural and manmade causes.
- Optimize the timber growth potential of the land consistent with maintaining the productivity of related forest resources now and in the future.

Provide a summary for each category below where applicable. The plan shall also outline in detail at least one high priority project in the [Project Description Section](#) of the management plan.

*FOR THE FOLLOWING, ONLY KEEP THOSE TOPICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE PLAN AND DELETE THE OTHER SUBJECTS*

### **Stand Improvement**

Describe precommercial thinning, release, and pruning practices to promote health and vigor of remaining leave trees. Prescribe the desired species composition and spacing to meet the landowner's management objectives:

### **Reforestation**

Reforestation includes seed collection, site preparation, and planting. Site preparation may include chemical or mechanical preparation of the soil and/ or vegetation prior to planting. Describe reforestation practices necessary to meet the landowner's management objectives:

### **Soil Resources**

These are conservation practices necessary to prevent or mitigate erosion, deterioration of soil resources, and pollution by natural and manmade causes. Describe conservation practices necessary to meet the landowner's management objectives:

### **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement**

Describe practices to improve fish and wildlife habitat to meet the landowner's management objectives:

### **Follow-up Work**

Follow-up includes any practice needed to maintain or enhance a previous practice such as reforestation follow up, project maintenance, and slash disposal. Describe practices needed to meet the landowner's management objectives:

# California Forest Improvement Program Emergency Forest Management Plan (EFMP)

## Purpose of the EFMP

The enabling legislation for the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) requires that a Forest Management Plan be prepared and approved prior to a CFIP project commencing operations. CFIP has developed the Emergency Forest Management Plan (EFMP) to have a management plan option that meets this requirement, is approved immediately upon contract approval, and allows immediate reforestation efforts to commence on substantially damaged properties.

The EFMP will allow landowners to start the rehabilitation process in an expedited manner, while protecting public trust resources, continuing to have Registered Professional Forester (RPF) involvement in the process, and meeting the State's goals for forest health and carbon sequestration through rapid reforestation. This EFMP has a two-tiered system to follow all applicable laws concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Public Resource Code (PRC) and California Code of Regulations (CCRs) for CFIP, while providing opportunities for landowners who have suffered catastrophic loss of their forestlands.

CFIP EFMPs are for those properties that have been substantially damaged by the qualifying conditions of 14 CCR §1052.1(a)(1-3) in the California Forest Practice Rules, meet the definition of Substantially Damaged as per 14 CCR §1526.1 and are in immediate need of reforestation and have had an Emergency Notice, as per 14 CCR §1052 submitted and successfully operated on. A substantially damaged Timber Harvest Plan (THP) or Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) may also qualify.

After expiration of the CFIP contract, the EFMP cannot be used again in the future.



## Forest Legacy

**APPLICATIONS OPEN** - Applications will be accepted March 18, 2024, through June 7th, 11:59 pm PST.

Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee title of productive forest lands to encourage their long-term conservation. The program seeks to protect environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.

### CALIFORNIA STATE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

**Status: Open**

California Forest Legacy Program 2024

Up to \$10 million in funding for Forest Legacy Grants to conserve and protect environmentally important privately-owned forestland is available.

### FEDERAL FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

**Status: Open**

CAL FIRE is accepting applications to the Federal Forest Legacy Program for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant solicitation.

The [Federal Forest Legacy Program](#)  External Link is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with state agencies (16 U.S.C. Sec. 2103c). This competitive, merit-based federal program allows for conservation easements and/or fee title acquisitions with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund/Inflation Reduction Act. Prospective applicants apply through CAL FIRE. Interested potential applicants should contact program manager's Peter Leuzinger or Kevin Kinierv (contact information listed below) to find out more about the program and program requirements.

### COMMUNITY FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

**Status: Closed**

The CAL FIRE Forest Legacy Program facilitates applications to the United States Forest Service (USFS) for The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program) on an annual basis.

The Community of the Forest Service offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.

Program Basics:

- Full fee title acquisition is required. Conservation easements are not eligible.
- Community Forests can be owned by local governments, tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities.
- The program pays up to 50% of the project costs and requires a 50% non-federal match.
- Public access is required for Community Forest Program projects.
- Lands acquired through the program are actively managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits.

# Forest Legacy Grants

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The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Protection of California's forests through this program ensures they continue to provide such benefits as sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, watershed protection and open space. Intact forests also contribute significantly to the storage and sequestration of carbon.

Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee title of productive forest lands to encourage their long-term conservation. The primary tool CAL FIRE uses to conserve forest lands in perpetuity is permanent Working Forest Conservation Easements (WFCEs). WFCEs do more than just restrict development and conversion on a property, WFCEs protect forest values by concentrating on sustainable forest practices that provide economic value from the land and encourage long-term land stewardship.



## **Business and Workforce Development**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN; ONGOING**

Strengthen the forest-sector workforce and businesses of California while promoting healthy, resilient forests. Business development projects, workforce development projects, and research and development projects are considered.

## **California Climate Investments**



The Wood Products and Bioenergy Team, including some of the Business and Workforce Development Grants, are funded through California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov) .

# Wood Products and Bioenergy

Maintaining and enhancing the wood products infrastructure of California to support healthy resilient forests along with the people and ecosystems that depend on them.

- CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy team seeks to maintain and enhance the forest-sector workforce and businesses of California to promote healthy resilient forests throughout the state by supporting a diverse set of business development and workforce development projects.
- Eligible business development projects include facilities, operations, and professional services that support the restoration of healthy, resilient forests by offering improvements to the wood products industry.
- Eligible workforce development projects include universities, colleges, government and community organizations, and businesses that aim to increase workforce capacity in the fields of logging, fuels treatment, transportation, manufacturing, or other support services that bolster the development of a resilient forest sector workforce.
- Research and development projects related to both business and workforce development will also be considered.

The Wood Products Team intends to maintain a continuously open solicitation for Business and Workforce Development Grants as funding availability allows.

Detailed information regarding the solicitation, application process, eligible activities and projects can be found under Grantee Resources below and in the in the Grant Guidelines.



## Our Mission

The Wood Products and Bioenergy Program seeks to maintain and enhance the wood products infrastructure of California to support healthy resilient forests along with the people and ecosystems that depend on them.



## Our Interests

Existing and emerging technologies related to:

- Solid wood and chip product processing and manufacturing
- Bioenergy, including power generation and fuel production
- Forest-related workforce development



## Our Vision

Support the creation of a robust and diversified wood products industry to facilitate the economic and sustainable management of California's forests.

# Urban and Community Forestry

Working to expand and improve the management of trees and related vegetation in communities throughout California.

The mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program is to lead the effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests in California.

Trees provide energy conservation, reduction of storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, improve public health, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values. In short, they improve the quality of life in our urban environments which, increasingly, are where Californians live, work, and play. The program also administers State and Federal grants throughout California communities to advance urban forestry efforts.



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## URBAN FORESTRY



Under the authority of the Urban Forestry Act (PRC 4799.06 - 4799.12) the Urban & Community Forestry Program works to expand and improve the management of trees and related vegetation in communities throughout California.

The mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program is to lead the effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests in California. Trees provide energy conservation, reduction of storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values. In short, they improve the quality of life in our urban environments which, increasingly, are where Californians live, work, and play.

Seven Urban Forestry Field Specialists provide expert urban forestry support to communities, non-profit groups and other municipal governments to create and maintain sustainable urban forests. These specialists also administer and provide technical support for grants that are offered for activities such as tree planting, municipal tree inventories and management plans, urban forest educational efforts, and innovative urban forestry projects. These grants utilized to assist communities throughout California advance their urban forestry efforts.

The program's mission is accomplished in cooperation with many groups including: California ReLeaf, a non-profit organization that coordinates grants to local groups, USFS Center for Urban Forest Research, urban forest researchers located in Davis Urban Forestry Ecosystem Institute, at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, urban forestry education and applied research. California Urban Forest Council, a statewide non-profit comprised of diverse membership that advocates for the best possible urban forests in California. CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), which provides a variety of products including a detailed report on California's forests and rangelands. FRAP provides extensive technical and public information for statewide fire threat, fire hazard, watersheds, socio-economic conditions, environmental indicators, and forest-related climate change.

Other partners include, other state agencies, non-profit organizations, private urban forestry and arboricultural companies, power and utility companies, cities, counties, special districts, and professional organizations.

These varied partners are brought together via the Director's advisory committee for urban and community forestry, the California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (CUFAC). Together they discuss trends, address concerns, develop suggestions for consideration by CAL FIRE management, and provide support and information to their local communities on urban forestry issues.



## **We Administer Grants**

UCF staff administer and provide technical support for grant-related activities such as tree planting, municipal tree inventories, management plans, urban forest educational efforts, and innovative urban forestry projects. As of January 2022, the UCF Program is administering or preparing to award approximately 117 grants funded by State sources (California Climate Investments (CCI), bonds, and General Fund) and 12 sub-grants using Federal sources (US Forest Service).



## **Urban Community Forestry Grants**

The purpose of CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program is to help create a sustainable urban forest and increase the long-term benefits trees provide, improve the public's understanding and appreciation of urban trees, and advance urban forest management and tree care. Special consideration is given to projects serving disadvantaged and/or low-income communities.



## **Provide Technical Assistance**

UCF staff serve as technical experts in urban forestry. The statewide team supports organizations that focus on improving urban forests and stakeholders such as municipalities, counties, schools and special districts, non-profit organizations, advisory or advocacy groups, other state agencies, research institutions, and individuals/volunteers. CAL FIRE also works closely with partner organizations who provide technical assistance to individuals.



## **California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee**

The California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (CUFAC) has been established to advise the Director of CAL FIRE on the state's Urban and Community Forestry Program. CUFAC reviews and recommends UCF Program outreach, partnership, and other activities including the program's contributions to Climate Action strategies.



## **Develop and Support Equity and Outreach Programs**

Project Learning Tree, Tree City USA, Arbor Day events, the California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) and associated water conservation outreach, Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, workforce development, tree care industry standards updates, and encouraging urban dwellers to develop a stewardship ethic for natural resources.



## **Resources and Partnerships**

The UCF Program's mission is accomplished in cooperation with many groups across the state and beyond. The development of sustainable urban and community forests in California calls for a combined effort using a variety of tools and involving partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels.



## Wildfire Resilience

**APPLICATIONS OPEN** - Applications will be accepted between January 29, 2024, to February 26, 2024, 5:00 p.m. PST.

The Wildfire Resilience Program includes several state forestry assistance programs within CAL FIRE that share the goal of improving the health and productivity of private forest lands and reducing the threat posed from wildland fires.

## WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



The Wildfire Resilience Program assists nonindustrial timberland owners with wildfire resilience efforts by providing technical and financial assistance for their forest management needs. The Wildfire Resilience Program includes several state forestry assistance programs within CAL FIRE that share the goal of improving the health and productivity of private forest lands and reducing the threat posed from wildland fires. Individual subprograms under the Wildfire Resilience are:

### **Forestry Assistance Program**

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

The Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Stewardship Program

### **Reforestation Services Program**

Nursery

Seed Bank

**California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)** - The purpose of CFIP is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forest lands and resources. This focus is to ensure adequate high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Forest Legacy Program** – The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Protection of California’s forests through this program ensures they continue to provide such benefits as sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, watershed protection and open space. Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee title of productive forest lands to encourage their long-term conservation. The primary tool CAL FIRE uses to conserve forest lands in perpetuity is permanent Working Forest Conservation Easements.

### **Reforestation Services Program**

**Nursery** - Established in 1921, the Reforestation Center has been growing tree seedlings since its inception. The Reforestation Center has produced millions of tree seedlings for the state’s reforestation efforts. The Reforestation Center provides a reliable source of quality tree seedlings to private landowners and public forests in California.

**Seed Bank** - The state seed bank is a long-term seed repository stored in sub-zero freezer banks. Containing over 40,000 pounds of seed, the Seed Bank provides a wide variety of native tree species from a range of areas and elevations throughout the state. This helps restore native lands exposed to shifting climates, and rising uncertainties in the forest ecosystem

# Wildfire Resilience

Improving the health and productivity of private forest lands and reducing the threat posed from wildland fires.

Established based on 2018 Senate Bill 901, the Wildfire Resilience Program is tasked with assisting nonindustrial timberland owners with wildfire resilience efforts by providing technical and financial assistance for their forest management needs. The Wildfire Resilience Program includes several state forestry assistance programs within CAL FIRE that share the goal of improving the health and productivity of private forest lands and reducing the threat posed from wildland fires.

## WILDFIRE RESILIENCE SUB-PROGRAMS

# California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

Encouraging private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forest lands and resources. Cost-share assistance is provided to private and public ownerships containing 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land.



## Forest Legacy Program

*The Forest Legacy Program* protects environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses by providing funding for purchase of working forest conservation easements or fee title to willing sellers of forested lands.



## Forest Stewardship

*The Forest Stewardship Program* offers technical and financial assistance opportunities to assist individual landowners with land management planning, conservation practices to enhance wildlife habitat, and practices to enhance the productivity of their forested land.



## Reforestation Services Program

*The L.A. Moran Reforestation Center* specializes in cone processing and seed storage as well as nursery grown, native tree seedlings which combine to provide private landowners with the seeds and seedlings needed to restore forests lost to pest, disease or wildfires.

# Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants

Tribal Wildfire Resilience grants is part of CAL FIRE's [Climate and Energy Program](#) and supports California Native American tribes in managing ancestral lands, implementing and promoting Traditional Environmental Knowledges in wildfire resilience, and establishing wildfire safety for tribal communities.

Tribal Wildfire Resilience grants fund planning and implementation projects that serve California Native American Tribes and advance wildfire resilience, forest health, and cultural use of fire. These projects address critical needs in tribal communities, and may include:

- Cultural and prescribed burns
- Creation and maintenance of shaded fuel breaks
- Forest and wildfire resilience projects such as dead and dying tree removal, understory thinning and/or removal, tree or other native and/or traditional vegetation plantings
- Forest health projects that provide benefits such as increasing biodiversity and improving access to and use of traditional foods and culturally significant species
- Workforce Development and training programs in fire, forestry, and related Traditional Ecological Knowledges
- Mapping projects
- Development of restoration plans, fire or forest management plans
- Biological and cultural surveys
- Environmental compliance and permitting



**The 2023 Spring Solicitation has closed.**

- [Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant Awards from 2023 Spring Solicitation](#) [↗](#)
- [Press Release Announcing 2023 Spring Solicitation Grant Awards](#) [↗](#)
- Currently Funded Projects: [2023 Spring Solicitation](#)

Contact:

[TribalWildfireResilienceGrants@fire.ca.gov](mailto:TribalWildfireResilienceGrants@fire.ca.gov)



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# TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

2023

# GRANTEES

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED  
**\$19 MILLION**

## GRANT INFORMATION

Tribal Wildfire Resilience grant proposals must be between \$250,000 and \$5,000,000. Proposals can include planning, implementation, and workforce development/training.

### General Requirements



1. Projects must serve California Native American tribes and their communities located within the State of California.
2. Projects must establish and/or improve wildfire resilience and/or forest health on tribal ancestral lands or prepare tribes to develop and/or increase wildfire resilience and/or forest health through planning activities.

### Eligible Applicants



1. Federally recognized Native American tribes
2. Non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Contact List maintained by the [Native American Heritage Commission](#) as described in Section 65352.4 of the Government Code.



# Cooperative Efforts

Bringing all California resources together under a unified command

With its vast size and population, California requires a coordinated effort from multiple agencies to effectively respond to emergencies such as wildland and structure fires, floods, earthquakes, hazardous material spills, and medical aids. That is why the CAL FIRE Cooperative Fire Protection Program plays a crucial role in bringing state, federal, and local agencies together through contracts and agreements.

These agreements allow CAL FIRE to be the lead agency in providing fire, rescue, dispatch, and paramedic services to cities and towns in California that are not designated as state responsibility. This unified command relationship ensures that all resources are utilized to the fullest potential during emergencies, leading to greater success in response efforts. The CAL FIRE Cooperative Fire Protection Program staff are dedicated to coordinating these agreements and contracts, ensuring that emergency response in California is carried out smoothly and effectively.



## VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY (VFC) GRANT

The Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program is a federally funded grant program that allows California to provide local and rural fire departments with minor firefighting, training, communications and safety equipment for their volunteer firefighters. The VFC Program is not intended for major equipment (fire engines, vehicles, etc.) or Capital repairs. The VFC Program has a 50/50 match requirement which means that the applying department must be able to meet the intended grant award, dollar for dollar. Awards for departments are set at a minimum of \$500 with a maximum of \$20,000. Amounts may be adjusted based on the grant funding available. For additional information please contact Megan Esfandiary at [Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov) or Bryan Giambrone at [Bryan.Giambrone@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Bryan.Giambrone@fire.ca.gov).

## State Government

Under what is known as the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, CAL FIRE assists other fire departments within the State when local resources are depleted and Department resources are available, regardless of the type of disaster. In turn, CAL FIRE can access the local government fire departments through the same agreement for assistance in wildland fire suppression.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) can also request CAL FIRE assistance with non-fire emergencies when the Governor has declared a State of Emergency. Such was the case during the Northridge earthquake of 1993, Napa earthquake of 2014, floods of 1997 and the Oroville Dam incident in 2017 when CAL FIRE provided flood-fighting crews and incident management and logistical support services.

When California is under siege with wildland fires across the state and resources are stretched thin, agreements with our local government cooperators through the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and the California Military Department provide for California National Guard resources. The local government agencies provide personnel and equipment throughout the state and the National Guard provide Fire Crews, C-130 aircraft known as Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS), water dropping and medical rescue helicopters, support personnel, communications equipment, and other specialized resources.

## Local Government

Since the 1940s, local government entities such as cities, counties and districts have contracted with CAL FIRE to provide many forms of emergency services for their communities. CAL FIRE provides full-service fire protection to many of the citizens of California through the administration of 118 cooperative fire protection agreements in 31 of the State's 58 counties, 39 cities, 25 fire districts and 42 other special districts and service areas. As a full-service fire department CAL FIRE responds to wildland fires, structure fires, floods, hazardous material spills, swift water rescues, civil disturbances, earthquakes, and medical emergencies of all kinds. Local governments are able to utilize this diversity and experience through their contracts and agreements with the Department.

### Counties

Alameda	Fresno	Merced	San Diego	Siskiyou
Alpine	Humboldt	Monterey	San Mateo	Sonoma
Amador	Lassen	Napa	Santa Clara	Tehama
Butte	Madera	Nevada	Santa Cruz	Trinity
Calaveras	Mariposa	Placer	San Luis Obispo	Tuolumne
El Dorado	Mendocino	Riverside	Shasta	Yuba

## Federal Government

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The largest of CAL FIRE's cooperative programs involves an agreement for the exchange of fire protection services with the five federal wildland fire agencies, which includes the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Parks Service (NPS) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The purpose of the CFMA is to improve efficiency by having access to federal personnel, equipment, supplies, services, information throughout the United States to help in times of disaster, when Department resources are depleted. In turn, CAL FIRE provides assistance, through interstate compact agreements to the federal and other state wildfire agencies throughout the nation. This agreements focus is on wildland fires, but if an all-hazard emergency or disaster is Presidentially-Declared the CFMA is an avenue to utilize our federal cooperators. Additionally, having the closest agency respond to a wildfire, regardless of jurisdiction better service the citizens of California and the CAL FIRE mission.

## Contract Counties

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for fire protection within State Responsibility Areas (SRA). SRA is found in 56 of California's 58 counties and totals more than 31 million acres.

In most cases SRA is protected directly by CAL FIRE, however, in Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, SRA fire protection is provided by the counties under contract with CAL FIRE. Known as "Contract Counties", they protect 3.4 million acres of SRA.

Under this agreement, Contract Counties are responsible for providing initial attack response to fires on SRA within their counties. CAL FIRE provides funding to the six counties for prevention and suppression of wildland fire on the SRA. This funding provides fire protection services including salary and wages of suppression crews, maintenance of firefighting facilities, pre-fire management positions, special repairs, and administrative services. Currently, the state funds 84 fire engines, 12 bulldozers, 12 hand crews, 32 fire prevention officers, and 42 positions within the 6 emergency command centers of the six counties.

CAL FIRE continues to provide other services to Contract Counties including urban forestry grants, resource management assistance, fire investigation support, and training.



## **Demonstration State Forests**

Our Department manages fourteen Demonstration State Forests which serve as a living laboratory to for how to care for California's timberlands for multiple benefits—wood products and timber production, recreation, watershed protection and habitat restoration.

# Forest Health Research Program

The Forest Health Research Program offers grants to eligible applicants primarily through an annual competitive proposal and selection process, as well as through discretionary awards and contracts for specific topics of interest to the Department. To date, the Research Program has funded over \$38.6 million in research grants.

The Forest Health Research Program is funded through the California Climate Investments program (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) and managed by the Fire and Resource Assessment Program at CAL FIRE. Additional opportunities for research funding are available through other CAL FIRE programs.



## Project Types

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The Research Program budget allocates grant funding to four different project types:

- Projects on CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests.
- Projects on other forestland in California.
- Graduate student research.
- Scientific synthesis and tool development.
- Projects that focus on expanding ecological monitoring of vegetation treatments.

## Research Topics



The following topics have been identified as priorities for study for the Research Program for FY 2022-23. Topics are numbered for reference, but not ranked in terms of priority. Research proposed under this solicitation must address one or more of these priority topics. Research projects should be focused on and relevant to California ecosystems and their management.

- Disturbance, recovery, and strategies for various types of landowners to increase forest resilience in an altered future climate.
- Implementation, effectiveness, impacts, and tradeoffs of current and alternative management strategies to reduce unwanted wildfire impacts, increase carbon storage, sustain and promote biodiversity, improve water and air quality, and provide regional economic benefits.
- Contemporary range of variation and trends in fire regimes, forest conditions and distributions in California ecosystems (particularly those less well studied) in relation to historical or pre-European settlement conditions or processes.
- Forest products and utilization of forest residues related to fuel reduction and forest health treatments.

- Human dimensions, socio-economic considerations, and environmental justice issues related to forest health and wildfire management.
- Improved prediction of wildland fire spread, behavior, severity, patch size, and potential impacts, particularly under extreme weather conditions and/or within the wildland-urban interface.
- Special Topics may be identified as additional priorities for the Research Program in each solicitation. Please see the current grant guidelines for any Special Topics.
- Full descriptions with examples of relevant proposal topics are available in the current grant guidelines.

## State Forest Overview

- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) operates 14 Demonstration State Forests totaling approximately 85,000 acres. The forests represent the most common forest types in the state. The forests provide research and demonstration opportunities for natural resource management, while providing public recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. Common activities on State Forests include: experimental timber harvesting techniques, watershed restoration, mushroom collecting, hunting, firewood gathering, cone collecting for seed, a variety of university research projects, horseback riding, camping, mountain biking, and hiking.



# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Demonstration State Forests

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) operates 14 Demonstration State Forests totaling 85,135 acres. These forests represent the most common forest types in California and serve as a living laboratory for how to care for California's timberlands for multiple benefits—recreation, watershed protection, wood products and sustainable timber production, and habitat restoration—given a changing climate and increasingly severe and intense wildfire seasons. The forests provide unique research and demonstration opportunities where environmental scientists, foresters, and other researchers can study the effects of various forest management and restoration techniques to help inform management practices for government, nonprofit and private forestland owners.

STATE FOREST	COUNTY	ACRES
Jackson	Mendocino	48,652
LaTour	Shasta	9,033
Big Bend	Shasta	6,982
Mountain Home	Tulare	5,069
Boggs Mountain	Lake	3,493
Soquel	Santa Cruz	2,700
Emigrant Gap	Nevada/Placer	2,618
Miller	Shasta	2,246
Noble	Shasta	2,050
North Fork Mokelumne	Amador	1,052
Las Posadas	Napa	796
Mount Zion	Amador	164
Ellen Pickett	Trinity	160
Sawmill	San Bernardino	120

Common activities on state forest lands include evaluating sustainable timber harvesting techniques that test current Forest Practice Rules, watershed restoration, a variety of university research projects to help answer pressing forest management questions, and other activities such as cone collecting for seed, and recreation such as mushroom collecting, hunting, firewood gathering, horseback riding, camping, mountain biking, and hiking.



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December 2023

## Mandated Activities & Statuses

- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) policy provides that the State Forests shall be used for experimentation to determine the economic feasibility of artificial reforestation, and to demonstrate the productive and economic possibilities of good forest practices toward maintaining forest crop land in a productive condition. The management objectives and plans developed for each State Forest are subject to periodic review and approval by the Board.
- Statutory: Section 4631 of the Public Resources Code states that it is in the interest of the welfare of the people of this state and their industries and other activities involving the use of wood and other forest products that desirable cutover forest lands be made fully productive and that the holding and reforestation of such lands is a necessary measure. Section 4631.5 provides that the state shall retain the existing land base of state forests in timber production for research and demonstration purposes.
- The department, in accordance with plans approved by the board, may engage in the management, protection, and reforestation of state forests (PRC 4645) where "management: means the handling of forest crop and forest soil so as to achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality forest products while giving consideration to values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, and aesthetic enjoyment (4639).

## Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

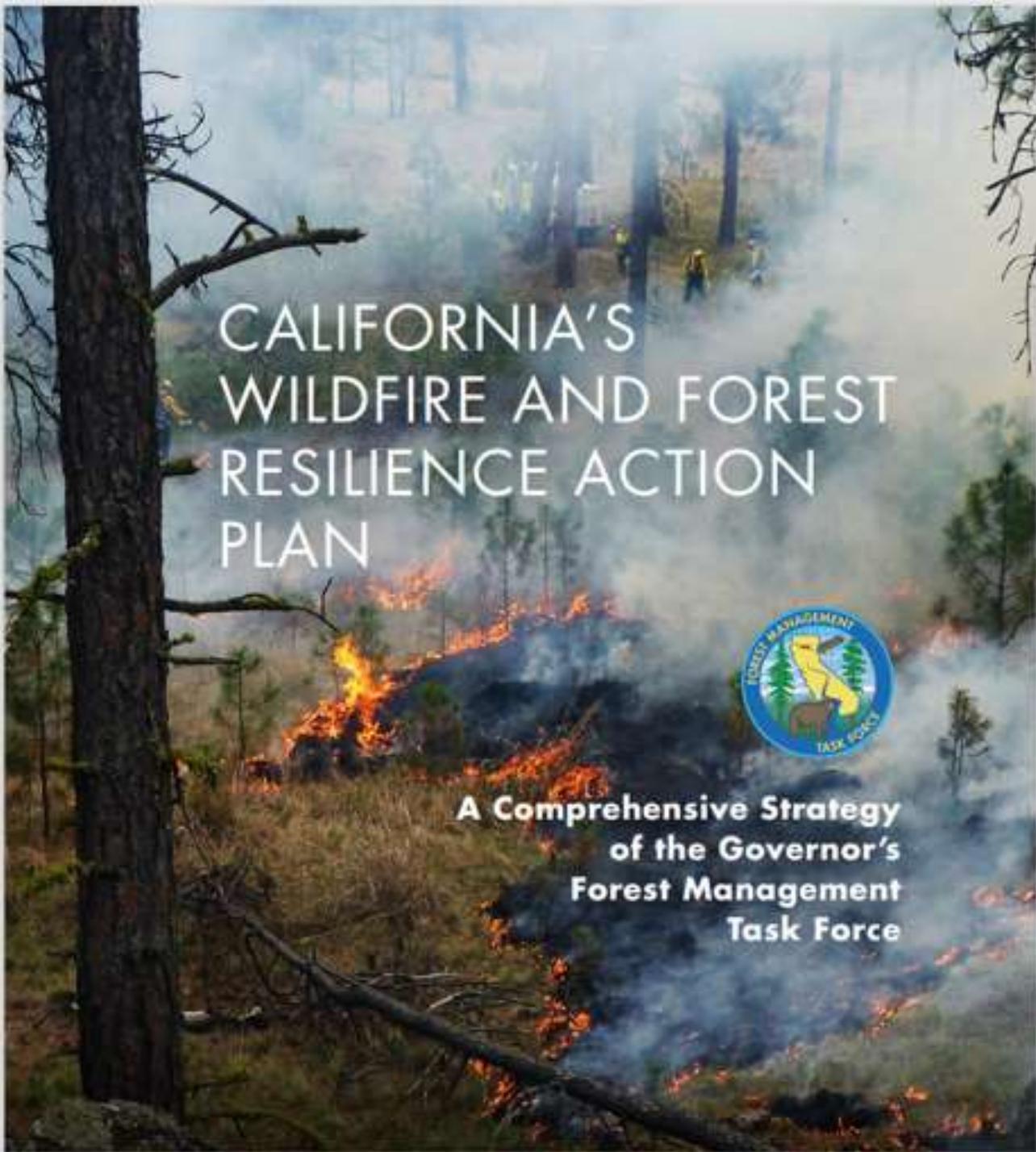
- The Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan highlights managed, working forests and timber harvest as an essential tool to restore the wildfire resiliency and carbon sequestration potential of California forests. California's Demonstration State Forests, including Jackson, are working forests that provide research and demonstration opportunities to answer some of the most difficult questions about managing forests in the face of climate change, while at the same time providing public recreation opportunities, preserving fish and wildlife habitat, and protecting key watersheds. Maintaining Jackson as a living laboratory to research and demonstrate the wildfire resilience and safe carbon storage of managed, working forests is integral to learning how to restore California forests.
- [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#)



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# CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN



**A Comprehensive Strategy  
of the Governor's  
Forest Management  
Task Force**

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program - California

EQIP



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The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.



Available practices and practice standards vary by [state](#). Contact your local NRCS office to get started.

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as:

- Improved water and air quality;
- Conserved ground and surface water;
- Increased soil health ;
- Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation;
- Improved or created wildlife habitat; and
- Mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## Conservation Incentive Contracts



### Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that offers farmers, ranchers, and nonindustrial private forest landowners financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices and activities on working agricultural and forestry landscapes.

### What Are EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts?

Incentive contracts are an option available through EQIP that offers producers financial assistance to adopt conservation management practices on working landscapes. Producers may use incentive contracts as a "steppingstone" from correcting resource issues on specific land units through EQIP to achieving sustainable stewardship on their entire operation.

Conservation Incentive Contracts are available nationwide and help producers address priority resource concerns, like sequestering carbon and improving water quality in high-priority areas.

Incentive contracts now offers new conservation evaluation and monitoring activities (CEMA) to help report outcomes of practices.

### Key Incentive Contract Features

Incentive contracts:

- Require producers to address at least one priority resource concern during the contract period.
- Have an initial length of five years.
- Have a payment limitation of \$200,000 for the life of the 2018 Farm Bill which expires in 2023.

Other details include:

- Offers two types of payments:
  - Implementation payments, which are paid after certification of practice.
  - Annual payments, which include management practices that will serve as annual payments and are paid as soon as practicable, after October 1 of each fiscal year.
- NRCS offers higher payment rates and advance payments to historically underserved (HU) producers who implement conservation practices in an EQIP Conservation Incentive Contract. HU producers include Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, and Veterans.

### Who Is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or lease agricultural land may be eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on many types of operations, including, but not limited to:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Livestock operations



### Get Started with USDA

USDA provides technical assistance at no cost to agricultural and forestry producers from more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers across the nation. Our Service Centers are currently open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. Visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator) to find the contact information for your local FSA or NRCS office. [Check the status of your local USDA Service Center](#), then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

Visit NRCS [programs web page](#) to learn more about USDA's financial and technical conservation assistance.

### How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round, however producers and landowners should apply by [state-specific, signup dates](#) to be considered for each year's funding. To apply, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

## FY2022 EQIP-CIC Eligible Practices

CODE	ASSET	UNITS	LIFESPAN
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Ac	1
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Ac	1
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	Ac	1
338	Prescribed Burning	Ac	1
340	Cover Crop	Ac	1
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	Ac	1
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management	No	1
373	Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces	SqFt	1
375	Dust Management for Pen Surfaces	Ac	1
376	Field Operations Emissions Reduction	Ac	1
399	Fishpond Management	Ac	1
400	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control	Ac	1
449	Irrigation Water Management	Ac	1
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application	Ac	1
484	Mulching	Ac	1
511	Forage Harvest Management	Ac	1
528	Prescribed Grazing	Ac	1
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	Ac	1
554	Drainage Water Management	Ac	1
590	Nutrient Management	Ac	1
591	Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	AU	1
592	Feed Management	AU	1
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Ac	1
609	Surface Roughening	Ac	1
610	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management	Ac	1
633	Waste Recycling	No	1
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Ac	1
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Ac	1
647	Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt	Ac	1
808	Soil Carbon Amendment	Ac	1
810	Annual Forages for Grazing Systems	Ac	1
817	On-Farm Recharge	Ac	1
207	Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Containments Activity	No	1
216	Soil Health Testing	No	1
217	Soil and Source Testing For Nutrient Management	No	1
218	Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment	No	1



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

## Is EQIP Right for Me?



### Can You Answer 'Yes' to the Following?

Then EQIP may be a good fit for your operation

- ✓ I own or rent, and manage land for agricultural or forest production, such as cropland, rangeland, grassland or forestland.
- ✓ I have control of the land such as through ownership or a lease.
- ✓ I can prove irrigation history if my conservation work involves water conservation with irrigation system improvements.
- ✓ My land complies with highly erodible land and wetland conservation determination provisions (if unsure, ask your local USDA Service Center).
- ✓ I established or updated farm records with the Farm Service Agency for me and my operation.
- ✓ I have a social security number or employer identification number issued by the IRS.
- ✓ My average gross income is less than \$900,000 (does not apply to Indian Tribes).
- ✓ If I am a member of an entity or joint operation, I have authority to make management decisions for the business.

### What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land.

Rather than take land out of production, EQIP helps farmers maintain or improve production while conserving natural resources on working landscapes.

### What Are the Benefits?

EQIP may provide many benefits, including improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather extremes.

For example, EQIP can help you:

- Reduce contamination from agricultural sources, such as animal feeding operations.
- Efficiently utilize nutrients, reduce input costs and reduce non-point source pollution.
- Increase soil health to help mitigate against increasing weather volatility and improved drought resiliency.

### How Does EQIP Work?

EQIP supports producers who improve and sustain natural resources on their operation by implementing structural, vegetative, and management practices.

For example, if you want to use EQIP conservation practices to improve irrigation efficiency, renovate pastureland or nutrient and pest management on your eligible land,



NRCS offers technical assistance, and EQIP offers financial assistance through a contractual agreement.

If you decide to work with NRCS, you will receive a one-on-one consultation from a local NRCS conservation planner to evaluate your current management system and conduct an assessment of natural resources on your land. You will then work with the NRCS conservation planner to develop a free conservation plan that addresses the identified resource concerns.

Once you choose the conservation practices or activities that best fit your needs, and if your application is selected for funding, EQIP offers payments for implementing these practices on your land with the expectation that you will operate while maintaining the practices for the expected lifespan.

### How Long is a EQIP Contract?

The length of an EQIP contract can vary depending on your goals and timeline, but cannot exceed 10 years.

### EQIP Eligibility

#### Land Eligibility

#### Q. What lands are eligible for EQIP?

A. For eligibility purposes in Farm Bill programs, NRCS considers any land on which agricultural commodities, livestock or forest-related products are produced as eligible land.

That land can include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

EQIP has no minimum acreage requirement; however, EQIP is a competitive program that awards points based on resource concerns to be addressed and other factors.

#### Producer Eligibility

#### Q. Who is eligible to apply for EQIP?

A. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes that have control of the land and currently manage it for agricultural, forest and livestock production.

### Special EQIP Initiatives

EQIP has a broad delivery system to put targeted conservation on the ground at the local level, across the entire country.



EQIP targets conservation through the following initiatives to address priority natural resource concerns on the most vulnerable lands and high priority watersheds:

- High Tunnel Initiative
- Organic Initiative
- Air Quality Initiative
- On Farm Energy Initiative

### EQIP Payments

#### Q. What types of payments are offered through EQIP?

A. EQIP offers payments for practices and activities which may be categorized as vegetative, structural, and management practices.

Producers may also apply for Conservation Activity Plans through a Technical Service Provider.

Historically Underserved (HU) Participants:

Historically underserved participants are eligible for increased payment rates and advanced payments to help offset the costs of purchasing goods or services. HU participants include socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

- **Dedicated funds** – at least 10 percent of EQIP funds are dedicated to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- **Higher payment rates** – up to 25 percent higher than the standard practice payment rates.
- **Veteran Preference** – eligible veterans who compete in the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers funding pools, receive preference points.

**Q. When are payments made?**

- A. Under the general EQIP payment process, a producer is reimbursed after a conservation practice is certified as meeting NRCS standards and specifications. This process often means that producers must pay up front costs with their own funds, unless the participant opts for the advance payment option.

**Q. Do I have to pay income taxes on my payments?**

- A. Yes. All payments made to you by NRCS are reported to the Internal Revenue Service and should be reported as income on your tax return for the applicable tax year. You will receive a Form 1099 to report EQIP payments on your tax return.

**EQIP Application and Evaluation****Q. How do I apply for EQIP?**

- A. Contact your local USDA Service Center and let them know you are interested in EQIP. A conservation planner will work with you to determine your eligibility.

NRCS accepts EQIP applications year-round and funding is provided through a competitive process.

State-specific application cutoff dates are set to evaluate applications for funding. Cutoff dates can be found at [nrcs.usda.gov/statecutoffdates](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/statecutoffdates). If you apply after the application cut-off date, your application will automatically be deferred to the next funding cycle.

If you are new to working with USDA, you will need to establish your Farm Record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Establishing a Farm Record requires several forms and documents, so make an appointment with your FSA office as soon as possible.

**Q. How are EQIP applications evaluated?**

- A. Once NRCS completes an assessment of your operation and you choose the conservation practices or activities that you want to implement, NRCS will rank your application to determine how well your current and future management system will address national, state, and local natural resource priorities.

NRCS will rank your application against other similar eligible applications in the same ranking pool, with the highest scoring applications receiving contract offers first.