

CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - CFIP
KEY CONCEPTS FOR LANDOWNERS
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I. Program
Overview

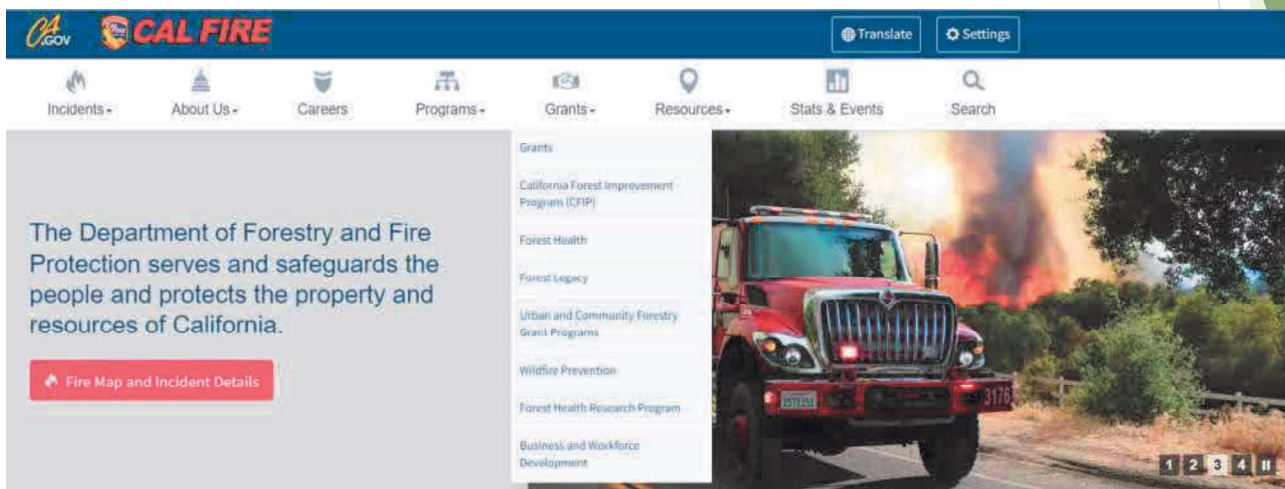
II. Eligibility
Requirements

III. How to
Get Started



CAL FIRE Website- Grants

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/>



California Forest Improvement Program User's Guide



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Authority

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Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of Resources, California Natural Resources Agency

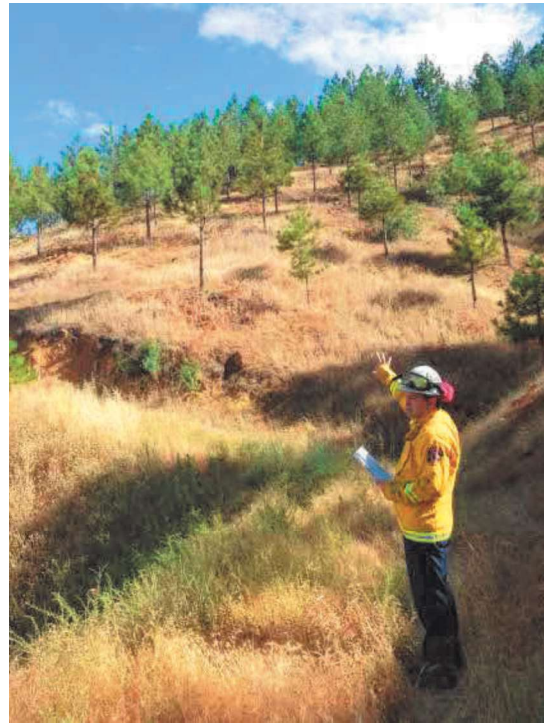
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Forestry and Fire Protection

CFIP PURPOSE

The purpose of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is to :

- encourage private and public investments in forestlands and resources within the state
- ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and
- protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations.



CFIP Funding

- ▶ \$11 million 2022-23
- ▶ \$13 million 2023-2024



WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES ?



- ▶ CFIP is a reimbursement cost-share program, not a grant program
- ▶ CFIP typically provides reimbursement 75% to 90% of the state cap cost of a project
- ▶ CAL FIRE has developed an advance program for up to 25% of agreement cost
- ▶ Maximum of 120 days to get reimbursed

ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS

- ▶ Landowners must own at least 20 to 5,000 acres of forestland
- ▶ Forestland means land at least 10 percent occupied by trees of any size that are native to California



ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS - continued

- ▶ Eligible landowners include:
 - ▶ Private persons
 - ▶ Government agencies
 - ▶ LLCs, Trusts, Corporations
 - ▶ Non-federally owned Native American lands
- ▶ CFIP contracts with the deeded landowner.
- ▶ Lease holders are not eligible.



Requirement for a Forest Management Plan

- ▶ The enabling legislation for the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) requires that a Forest Management Plan be prepared and approved prior to a forest resource improvement project being started.
- ▶ An existing non-industrial timber management plan (NTMP), CFIP management plan, or NRCS management plan may be adequate.
- ▶ If a new or revised management plan is required, then the program can provide cost share funding for its completion by a private RPF.

CFIP Emergency Forest Management Plan (EFMP)

- For properties that have been substantially damaged by natural causes and are in immediate need of reforestation
- Emergency notice submitted and completed
- The Department has developed the Emergency Forest Management Plan (**EFMP**) to meet the intent of a management plan that will be automatically approved upon contract approval.





Minimum Acreage of Eligible Projects

- ▶ Forest improvement practices must cover at least a contiguous **5-acre project area**.
- ▶ There is no minimum acreage limit for land conservation or habitat improvement projects.

NO Commercial Timber Operations



Commercial timber operations require the approval of a timber harvest plan, non-industrial timber management plan, emergency notice or exemption by CAL FIRE under the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 (Forest Practice Act).



A CFIP application for only a Forest Management Plan may overlap commercial operations.



A proposed CFIP project with ground practices overlapping commercial operations shall not be approved until after either:

A final completion and stocking report has been approved
An exemption or emergency has expired and been inspected by the FAS to verify that operations are completed.



Proposed CFIP projects adjacent to approved commercial harvesting operations shall include close coordination with the local Forest Practice Inspector and may be approved.

III. How to Get Started

- ▶ Step 1: Contact a FAS
- ▶ Step 2: RPF submits application
- ▶ Step 3: Field inspection
- ▶ Step 4: Final application filed and ranked
- ▶ Step 5: Application approved or denied funding

Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing

Forest Management Plan
\$6000 + \$/ac

**California Cooperative
Forest Management Plan**
(Version 05-14-2019)

Property Name:

Property Location Address:

Owner Name (s):

Plan Author:

Signature:

Phone: RPF#:

This management plan outlines the conditions and capability of property resources, documents the landowner's objectives and decisions and identifies potential resource improvement projects. It is meant to be a flexible and educational document that considers a planning horizon of at least 5 years but may include objectives that require a much longer time period.

This management plan template meets management plan requirements for grant agreements and other provisions available through CAL FIRE, NRCS, USFS, and the American Tree Farm Association. Signature Pages are provided to document acceptance of this management plan in meeting those requirements.

This management plan is a tool for and belongs to the landowner. Signatures are only required for that entity providing funding as requested by the landowner.

Site Preparation, \$600 - \$1200/ac



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

RPF Supervision

Example \$5000 for 20 acres



Follow Up Slash disposal

\$600 - \$1200/ac



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Trees and planting

\$300 - \$600/ac



Tree shelters

\$400/ac



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Pruning

\$250 - \$500/ac



Release Mechanical

\$600 - \$1200/ac



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Pre-commercial thinning
\$600-\$1200/ac



Herbicide release
\$375-\$775/ac



CFIP Cost Example

- ▶ 20-acre management plan = \$6060
- ▶ Archaeology Report = \$2028
- ▶ 5-acre thinning = max \$6000
- ▶ 5-acre slash treatment = max \$6000
- ▶ RPF supervision = \$1250
- ▶ \$21338 total
- ▶ Landowner cost = \$2133.80
- ▶ Unknown additional costs, RPF prepare application = \$700-\$2500, contractor over budget.

Practice Rates

- ▶ Rates for each practice are published
- ▶ Rates are dependent on site conditions
- ▶ Rates can't be exceeded
- ▶ Rates are continually reviewed and updated

Wildfire Resiliency Block Grants

- ▶ Due to inadequate CAL FIRE staffing and significant funding, CAL FIRE provided block grants in 2020 and 2022
- ▶ Grant to counties, resource conservation districts, special districts, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that have the capacity to deliver a forestry based technical and financial assistance program to non-industrial forest landowners
- ▶ Grants up to \$4 million
- ▶ Grantee provides in-house technical assistance for individual landownerships between 3 and 5000 acres.
- ▶ Undetermined whether there will be an application period in 2023

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant Guidelines



CAL FIRE will offer workshops on the entire grant application and administration process for all respective applicants. Please visit the link below for dates, times, and locations of these workshops or contact your Regional Forestry Assistance Specialist (Appendix G) for details.

CAL FIRE has recently created a list-serve portal for interested members of the public to receive grant program updates. Use the link provided below and look for the following "green" logo box to subscribe.



**Grant programs authorized by Public Resource Code § 4799.05 and funded via
Senate Bill-170 Budget Act of 2021**

**Project application period is now open between
February 14, 2022 and April 1, 2022**

Block Grants

Current Grantees:

- ▶ California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)
- ▶ My Sierra Woods, American Forest Foundation
- ▶ Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- ▶ Rebuilding NorthBay Foundation
- ▶ Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Block Grants

Current Grantees:

- ▶ El Dorado County RCD- Caldor Fire
- ▶ Placer County RCD-Community fuel break
- ▶ Feather River RCD- Dixie Fire
- ▶ AFF-Reforestation Pipeline Partnership
- ▶ Shasta Valley RCD-West Mt. Shasta Forest Resilience