

Forest Health Grant Program

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Presented by Chris Poli
at Private Forest Landowner Workshop, 10/28/2022



Forest Health Program Summary



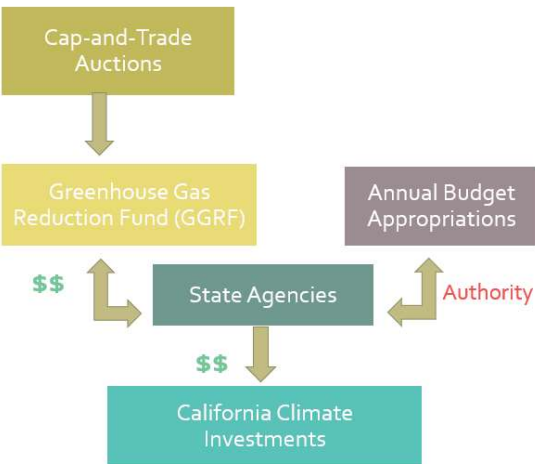
Goals

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.
- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally large high severity wildfires.
- Further the goals of the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan

Where does the funding come from?

• The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

- Proceeds from the Cap-and-Trade Program's quarterly auctions and reserve sales go into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
- Legislature & Governor appropriate GGRF funds for projects that meet the goal of AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006)



Forest Health vs. Wildfire Prevention



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



Forest Health Grant Eligibility



- Landscape Scale
 - Multiple activities across partner ownerships
 - > 800 acres
 - Does not have to be contiguous
- Funding Limits
 - \$750,000 to \$7 million
- Readiness
 - Applicant agrees to meet environmental compliance within first year and **complete project by March 31, 2029** for FY 22-23 awards

Eligible Activities



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



- Research and Conservation Easements NOT eligible



What can grant funds be used for?



- Eligible Costs

- Salaries/Wages/Benefits
- Contractual Services
- Supplies/Equipment
- Travel
- "Other" and indirect costs

- Ineligible Costs

- Preparing Application or Grant Proposal
- Overtime
- Activities not considered BMPs
- Activities leading project to no GHG reduction
- Late fees, penalties, etc.

Who can apply?

What land can we
treat?



- Eligible Applicants include:
 - Local, state, and federal agencies including federal land management agencies
 - Universities
 - Special districts
 - Native American tribes
 - Private forest landowners
 - Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations (e.g. fire safe councils, land trusts)
- Treatable land types:
 - Local, state, and federally owned FOREST LAND (timber, oak, aspen...)
 - Both SRA and FRA are eligible

What makes a competitive application?

How are applications scored?

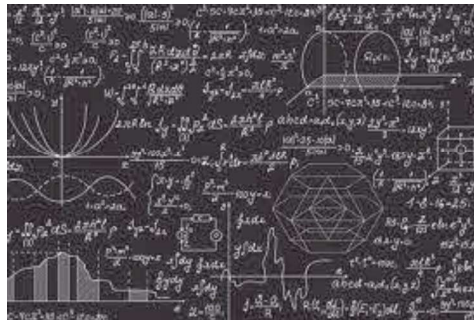


- Projects must be LARGE! Multiple land treatment activities over multiple landownership types. Not a requirement to have collaboration, but high recommended.
- All application are scored out of 100 points:
 - Scope of Work = 15 points
 - Project Work Plan = 5 points
 - Budget = 10 points
 - Long Term Forest Management Goals = 5 points
 - Net Greenhouse Gas Benefit = 10 points
 - Priority Landscapes = 5 points
 - Co-Benefits = 5 points
 - Jobs = 5 points
 - Disadvantaged and/or Low-Income Community Benefit = 10 points
 - Local Fire Plan & Other State Plan Compatibility = 5 points
 - Collaboration, Community Benefit, and Local Support = 10 points
 - Grantee's Administrative Capacity and Past Forest Management History = 10 points
 - Readiness and Legal Requirements = 5 points

What about the GHG Calculations?



- Grantees are no longer required to complete Greenhouse Gas Calculations!
- Application GHG Emissions workbook provide data needed for CAL FIRE to complete the GHG calculations.
- Carbon/climate benefits include:
 - Increase sequestration: Pull CO₂ out of the air and into wood (especially reforestation projects)
 - Protect carbon stored in forests from loss due to wildfire
 - Increase long-term forest carbon in healthy, resilient forests



What's new?



- New Tribal Wildfire Resilience Implementation and Planning
 - Minimum \$250,000 – Maximum \$5 million
 - Up to \$15 million available for Implementation and \$4 million for Planning
- Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grants
 - Minimum \$750,000 – Maximum \$7 million
 - Up to \$50 million available
- New & Updated:
 - Progress Report Workbook
 - Online application – eCivis Grants Network
 - Shapefile formatting

FY 2022-2023
Forest Health Grant
Solicitation



- Solicitation opens December 2022, Closes February 2023
- New Grant Guidelines will be posted in early November
- Up to \$120 million
- Funding expiration date is March 31, 2029
CEQA completed within the 1st year

Tips for Success



- Start early – don't wait
- Submit each project to the right grant
- Don't create a budget trap
- Do you have match funding?
- The more quality partnerships, the better
- Clear, measurable goals
- Read the Grant Guidelines
- Review Eligibility Requirements
- Read through scoring criteria
- For Forest Health Grants: Contact the Area Forester for a 30-minute consultation

Okay, I'm ready to take next steps...



I've got a project and I want to apply, what's next?

Step 1 – Create an eCivis Grants Portal Account

Step 2 – Click apply

Step 3 – Complete and submit the Profile, Application form, and Budget

<https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login>

I need more information!



- Go to our website
 - <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/forest-health-grants/>
- Talk to your Forest Health Area Forester



Forest Health Foresters

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THANKYOU!



- Thank you for your time
- Look forward to seeing all of you applying
- Please help spread the word to other potential applicants
- Questions?

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