

THE CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CFIP)

WHAT IS CFIP?

- CFIP is a cost share program formed under legislation passed in 1978 and which is administered by CAL FIRE. The purpose of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) program 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 CFIP can provide eligible landowners with technical and financial assistance for planning, reforestation and resource management investments that improve the quality and value of forestland. Under current State law, CFIP can help with rebuilding forest, soil, water, fish and wildlife resources to meet our future needs for a healthy environment and productive forest and woodlands.
- CFIP funding levels up considerably (TRFRF, Cap & Trade funds).
FY 2015-- \$2,950,000 for CFIP cost share grants
FY 2016-- \$3,465,000 for CFIP cost share grants

WHAT TYPES OF FOREST IMPROVEMENT WORK QUALIFY UNDER CFIP?

- Management Plan Development
- RPF Supervision
- Site Preparation
- Reforestation
- Tree Shelters
- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Pruning
- Release (mechanical, herbicide)
- Follow-up (includes mechanical, herbicide and/or slash disposal follow-up)
- Habitat Improvement/Land Conservation/ Wildlife/Fisheries
- "Fuels treatment" =PCT + follow up + pruning

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ?

- Landowners must have 20 acres minimum, 5,000 acres maximum of forestland in CA.
- Must be nonindustrial private forestland that can support at least 10% native tree canopy.
- Landowner must agree to keep land in a compatible use (i.e., no conversion), and in forest management for a minimum of 10 years. Must submit a NOTARIZED Land Use Addendum for non-TPZ lands to the CAL FIRE Forester who will record at the county when first invoice for on-ground work has been received
- \$100,000 maximum project cost.
- Landowner must be able to show proof of payment to contractors before can be reimbursed by the state (landowners must be able to pay contractors up-front)
- Land must be zoned for Timber Production (TPZ) or other zoning which allows uses compatible with forest resource management.
- Properties with Conservation Easements qualify if no restrictions on forest management practices are placed on it.
- Eligible practices must comply with established cap rates.
- Eligible land owners include

Individual or married landowners
Multiple related or unrelated landowners
Corporations, LLC, legal partnerships
Public entities, agencies, non-profits
Trusts

Multiple (maximum of 3) contiguous small landowners applying together to form a >20 acre project.

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER CFIP ?

- ***Cannot be used to complete requirements of other State programs (i.e., Timber Harvesting Plans, PRC § 4291 fire clearances).***
- ***CFIP is not subject to the California Forest Practices Act as a whole, but instead is subject to a Programmatic EIR. Therefore, material generated from CFIP cannot be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded as per PRC 4297.***
- ***CFIP is NOT a dead tree removal program for merchantable size trees***

WHAT ARE THE COST SHARE RATES FOR CFIP?

- Qualifying landowners are reimbursed for forest improvement work of **75%** of the cap cost for allowable forest improvement activities *except*:
- Where forestland has been damaged by a catastrophic event (e.g.wildfire, flood, wind, insects, etc.) qualifying landowners will be reimbursed at **90%** of the cap rate cost on projects. Must meet definition of Substantially Damaged under PRC §895.1

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Contact a Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) in your region to confirm eligibility.
- Contract the services of a consulting Registered Professional Forester to write the elements of the application including the Project Description, maps, and Project Summary portions of the application, as well as plan treatments, write management plan, and supervise work.
- Submit a completed application to the program, including contractual agreement, Land Use Addendum, Payee Data Record, and other documents as required

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BEGIN WORK ON THE GROUND?

- Have a completed and CAL FIRE approved Management Plan for the entire property
- Complete and submit to CAL FIRE the Environmental Checklist along with all requirements such as:
 - ✓ Archaeological review and report/consultation
 - ✓ Biological assessment using Natural Diversity Database
 - ✓ Regional Water Quality Control Board notification
 - ✓ A Licensed Pest Control Advisors recommendation for herbicide(s) that are planned to be used for the project.
 - ✓ Completed RPF check list (Related to RPF supervision work)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CFIP web page http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php

For Amador, El Dorado, Calaveras, Alpine, Nevada, Yuba, Placer, and Sierra Counties:

Mary Huggins, RPF #2507

CAL FIRE Forester II Forestry Assistance Specialist

mary.huggins@fire.ca.gov (916) 718-6258