

CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - CFIP

KEY CONCEPTS FOR LANDOWNERS



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Tuolumne, Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa Counties

CFIP-Purposes

- ❑ To encourage private and public investments in forestlands
- ❑ To ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies and other economic benefits
- ❑ To protect and maintain forest resources for present and future generations
- ❑ To improve the economic value and environmental quality of non federal lands

The Program

- ❑ It's a Reimbursement program, providing 75-90 % cost-share to non-industrial private forest landowners
- ❑ Program is non-regulatory and participation is voluntary
- ❑ Work can be performed either by contractors or landowners
- ❑ Advance payments can be requested, when work is performed by contractor

CFIP-ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS

- ❑ Minimum 20 acres of forestland, maximum 5000 acres
- ❑ Forestland must be 10% occupied by native trees
- ❑ Structures, landscaping and gardens not excluded from 20 acre minimum

ELIGIBLE LAND

- ❑ Must be zoned for uses compatible with forest management
- ❑ Land not zoned for timber production must be maintained by the owner for 10 years (Land Use Addendum)

ELIGIBLE ACRES

- ❑ CFIP Treatment must cover at least a 5 acre project area
- ❑ No minimum acres for land conservation or habitat improvement
- ❑ CFIP projects must NOT include work mandated by the Forest Practice Act or PRC 4292

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN - FMP

- ❑ CFIP requires a prepared and approved FMP prior the project being started
- ❑ An existing NTMP, CFIP management plan or NRCS management plan may be adequate

Proposition 68 and Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities

- ▶ Proposition 68 (Prop 68), the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 is administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). CAL FIRE expects to award at least \$8.2 million of Prop 68 funding for the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) in fiscal year 2019-2020.
- ▶ The statute requires that at least 15% of the funds available shall be allocated for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities.
- ▶ “Disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average.
- ▶ “Severely disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average.
- ▶ For locating DAC and SDAC areas, please use the following mapping tool: Community FactFinder: <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>

CFIP Application/Contract Process

STEP 1 - CONTACT CAL FIRE - contact local CAL FIRE Forester/FAS

STEP 2 - INITIAL APPLICATION - contract an RPF who prepares package

STEP 3 - FIELD VISIT -CAL FIRE Forester/FAS will schedule a field visit

STEP 4 - APPLICATION FILED - if project eligible for funding

STEP 5 - FINAL AGREEMENT PACKAGE - additional docs may be required

STEP 6 - PROJECT RANKING - CFIP application to be ranked

Note: Work on any practice where reimbursement is expected under CFIP agreement, including a management plan, cannot be started until a fully executed and signed copy of the agreement is received from CAL FIRE

CFIP RANKING FORM

Date Application Received: _____
Date Application Filed: _____

CFIP #: _____
Forester: _____

Maximum Contract Cost: _____

Factor	Priority
1. Site Productivity. ¹	
Site I	10
Site II	8
Site III	6
Site IV	4
Site V	1
2. Proposed project cost as a percentage of maximum prevailing cost of project.	
Less than 50%	5
51%-60%	4
61-70%	3
71-80%	2
81-90%	1
3. Management plan as percentage of total project cost.	
10% or Less	5
11-20%	3
21 or greater	1
4. Zoning of Project Area.	
Timberland Production Zone	5
Open Space General (20 acre minimum)	3
Other	1
5. Project area timberland substantially damaged by fire, insects, disease or other natural causes <u>within 36 months.</u> ²	
Yes	5
No	0
6. Percent of the cost that will be devoted to forest land conservation practices or fish and wildlife habitat improvement practices	
10% or more	5
5-10%	3
1-5%	1
7. The landowner owns less than 500 acres (202.350 ha) of forest land in California.	
Yes	5
No	0
8. The landowner agrees to offer recreational opportunities for the public.	
Yes	1
No	0

1. A small business will carry out the project. ³	
Yes	1
No	0
2. The project involves follow-up work that is necessary to protect investments of a previous project.	
Yes	1
No	0
3. The project is located in a county of high unemployment. ⁴	
Yes	3
No	0
4. The project offers relatively more employment opportunities. ⁵	
Yes	1
No	0
5. The project will be carried out by persons living in the county or in a county adjacent to the county where the project will take place.	
Yes	1
No	0
6. The project is adjacent to or within an existing/planned community wildfire protection plan or project or within a CAL FIRE Unit forest management project and clearly demonstrates that it would provide co-benefits to the larger community or watershed beyond the project footprint. ⁶	
Yes	5
No	0
7. The project is located in a severely disadvantaged community. ⁷	
Yes	10
No	0
8. The project is located in a county that has had historically lower CFIP project participation in the past calendar year. ⁸	
Project county has 0-1 existing contracts	8
Project county has 2-5 existing contracts	4
Project county has over 6 existing contracts	0
Ranking Comments:	
Project Ranking Score ⁹	

Forestry Assistant Specialist:

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ RPF #: _____

Notes: _____

BEGINNING THE CFIP PROJECT

STEP 1 - Hire a Registered Professional Forester (RPF)

STEP 2 - Complete and submit a Forest Management Plan, unless one is in place

STEP 3 - CEQA review-RPF complete and submit required documents

Note: Any on-ground practices shall not begin until you have been notified by your CAL FIRE Forester (Project Manager) that all conditions in 2 and 3 have been satisfied

STEP 4 - Begin project

STEP 5 - Field inspection by a CAL FIRE Forester

STEP 6 - Invoicing

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CONTENT

- ❑ Confidential Archeological Addendum for the property (CAA)
- ❑ A copy of the Management Plan for the property
- ❑ A CFIP Project Review Environmental Checklist
- ❑ Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Checklist
- ❑ Land use addendum (*if not zoned TPZ*)
- ❑ A licensed Pest Control Advisors Recommendation for proposed herbicide treatment
- ❑ Natural Diversity Database Findings

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CONTENT

- ❑ Usually takes 30 days from the date sent to local agencies and tribes:
 - ❑ CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 - ❑ Water Quality
 - ❑ County Clerk
 - ❑ Local Tribes
 - ❑ US Forest Service (*if adjacent*)
 - ❑ Caltrans

CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing

- ❑ Forest Management Plan / Mini Management Plan
- ❑ RPF Supervision
- ❑ Site preparation
- ❑ Trees and planting
- ❑ Tree shelters
- ❑ Pre-commercial thinning
- ❑ Pruning
- ❑ Follow up Herbicide or Slash disposal
- ❑ Release
- ❑ Forest land conservation measures-includes erosion control and road rehabilitation
- ❑ Wildlife and Fisheries habitat improvement projects

EXAMPLES OF LAND CONSERVATION and WILDLIFE/FISHERIES PROJECTS

- ❑ Improvement of drainage facilities to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams
- ❑ Forest road repair and upgrading*
- ❑ Planting native oaks
- ❑ Planting streamside vegetation**
- ❑ Planting or reshaping eroding stream banks or gullies
- ❑ Remedial work for stabilizing landslides (requires analysis and design by a Certified Engineering Geologist or Geotechnical Engineer) **
- ❑ and others!

** Funding of forest road repair and upgrading is only allowed if it protects, maintains, or enhances fish and wildlife habitat.*

*** Projects involving work on stream channels or banks may require permits from the California Department of Fish and Game or other agencies.*

2018-2019 CFIP COST-SHARE CAP RATES-CONTRACTOR LABOR

2018-19 CFIP COST-SHARE CAP RATES CONTRACTOR LABOR			
PRACTICE	CFIP CAP RATE	90% COST-SHARE ¹	75% COST SHARE
Full Management Plan	\$5000 + \$3.00/acre 1st 160 acres \$2.50/acre each additional acre to 1000	\$4500 + \$2.70/acre 1st 160 acres \$2.25/acre each additional acre to 1000	\$3750+ \$2.25/acre 1st 160 acres \$1.88/acre each additional acre to 1000
<i>Rates for plans larger than 1000 acres are negotiated w/ CAL FIRE forester</i>			
Mini Management Plan, Existing Plan Revision, or additional Plan Addendum	\$1750 + \$1.40/acre	\$1575 + \$1.26/acre	\$1313 + \$1.05/acre
RPF Supervision	\$150/acre 1st 20 acres \$75/acre each additional acre	\$135/acre 1st 20 acres \$67.50/acre each additional acre	\$112.50/acre 1st 20 acres \$56.25/acre each additional acre
The following practice rates apply to work completed by a hired contractor and is on a <u>per acre basis</u> .			
Site Preparation			
Light	\$350.00	\$315.00	\$262.50
Moderate	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$375.00
Heavy	\$800.00	\$720.00	\$600.00
Trees & Planting			
Light	\$225.00	\$202.50	\$168.75
Moderate	\$350.00	\$315.00	\$262.50
Heavy	\$550.00	\$495.00	\$412.50
Tree Shelters	\$350.00	\$315.00	\$262.50
Pre-commercial Thinning and Mechanical Release²			
Light	\$350.00	\$315.00	\$262.50
Moderate	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$375.00
Heavy	\$800.00	\$720.00	\$600.00
Pruning²	\$200 for 50 trees/acre \$350 for 100 trees/acre \$450 for 150 trees/acre	\$180 for 50 trees/acre \$315 for 100 trees/acre \$405 for 150 trees/acre	\$150 for 50 trees/acre \$262.50 for 100 trees/acre \$337.50 for 150 trees/acre
Release-Other			
Light	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$187.50
Moderate	\$400.00	\$360.00	\$300.00
Heavy	\$700.00	\$630.00	\$525.00
Follow-up/Slash Disposal			
Light	\$400.00	\$360.00	\$300.00
Moderate	\$700.00	\$630.00	\$525.00
Heavy	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	\$750.00
Land Conservation/Wildlife/Fisheries Projects³	Cost based on problem. Use EQIP rates as a guide		

2018-2019 CFIP COST-SHARE CAP RATES SELF-LABOR

2018-19 CFIP COST-SHARE CAP RATES for SELF LABOR LABOR			
PRACTICE	CFIP CAP RATE	90% COST-SHARE ¹	75% COST SHARE
Full Management Plan	\$5000 + \$3.00/acre 1st 160 acres \$2.50/acre each additional acre to 1000	\$4500 + \$2.70/acre 1st 160 acres \$2.25/acre each additional acre to 1000	\$3750+ \$2.25/acre 1st 160 acres \$1.88/acre each additional acre to 1000
<i>Rates for plans larger than 1000 acres are negotiated w/ CAL FIRE forester</i>			
Mini Management Plan, Existing Plan Revision, or additional Plan Addendum	\$1750 + \$1.40/acre	\$1575 + \$1.26/acre	\$1313 + \$1.05/acre
RPF Supervision	\$150/acre 1st 20 acres \$75/acre each additional acre	\$135/acre 1st 20 acres \$67.50/acre each additional acre	\$112.50/acre 1st 20 acres \$56.25/acre each additional acre
The following practice rates apply to work completed by the landowner and is on a <u>per acre basis</u> .			
Site Preparation			
Light	\$298.00	\$268.20	\$223.50
Moderate	\$425.00	\$382.50	\$318.75
Heavy	\$680.00	\$612.00	\$510.00
Trees & Planting			
Light	\$191.00	\$171.90	\$143.25
Moderate	\$298.00	\$268.20	\$223.50
Heavy	\$468.00	\$421.20	\$351.00
Tree Shelters	\$298.00	\$268.20	\$223.50
Pre-commercial Thinning and Mechanical Release²			
Light	\$298.00	\$268.20	\$223.50
Moderate	\$425.00	\$382.50	\$318.75
Heavy	\$680.00	\$612.00	\$510.00
Pruning²	\$170 for 50 trees/acre \$298 for 100 trees/acre \$383 for 150 trees/acre	\$153.00 for 50 trees/acre \$268.20 for 100 trees/acre \$344.70 for 150 trees/acre	\$127.50 for 50 trees/acre \$223.50 for 100 trees/acre \$287.25 for 150 trees/acre
Release-Other²			
Light	\$213.00	\$191.70	\$159.75
Moderate	\$340.00	\$306.00	\$255.00
Heavy	\$595.00	\$535.50	\$446.25
Follow-up/Slash Disposal			
Light	\$340.00	\$306.00	\$255.00
Moderate	\$595.00	\$535.50	\$446.25
Heavy	\$850.00	\$765.00	\$637.50
Land Conservation/Wildlife/Fisheries Projects³	Cost based on problem. Use EQIP rates as a guide		

¹ The CFIP rate will cover all costs as a percentage of the total cost of the project. The CFIP rate will cover all costs as a percentage of the total cost of the project.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS - CFIP ADVANCEMENT AGREEMENT

- ❑ Notwithstanding any of the provisions stated within this Agreement, the STATE may at its discretion make advance payment from the State's share of the cost-sharing agreement awarded to the Participants. Advance payment made by the STATE shall be subject to the following provisions
- ❑ Participants shall submit a written Advance Payment Request included with a project description identifying how funds will be used over a six-month period. The written Advance Payment Request must be accompanied by an invoice that contains the same level of detail as a regular invoice.
- ❑ Multiple advance payments may be made to participants over the life of a project.
- ❑ Forestry Assistance Specialist must confirm CEQA documentation is complete and contractor selection made prior to approving advance requests where ground disturbing activities are planned.
- ❑ No single advance payment shall exceed 25% of the total grant amount and must be spent on eligible costs within six months of advance payment receipt. PARTICIPANTS may request additional time to spend advance funds but must be approved in writing by the STATE. The balance of unspent advance payment funds not liquidated within the six-month spending period may be billed for the return of advanced funds to the STATE.
- ❑ All work under a previous advance payment must be fully liquidated via an invoice (including supporting documentation) which fully documents expenses and landowner cost share amount, completed to the STATE's satisfaction before further invoices can be paid or another advance payment requested.
- ❑ Invoice documentation shall include proof of payment of all costs including state and landowner cost share through submittal of cancelled checks, contractor invoices reflecting "\$0" balance, or other proof of payment. A contractor invoice alone is not sufficient proof of payment.
- ❑ Any advance payment received by a participant and not used for project eligible costs shall be returned to CAL FIRE within 30 days. Those funds will be returned to the cost-share balance. Participants may request additional time through submittal of Advance Payment Request modification. Approval of the Advance Payment Request modification is subject to STATE approval.
- ❑ Advance payments must be deposited into an interest-bearing account. Any interest earned on advance payment funds must be accounted for and used toward offsetting the project cost or returned to the STATE. STATE may request documentation of interest earned.
- ❑ Advance payments shall be at least \$10,000.
- ❑ Failure to repay advances (or submit liquidation receipts) by landowner will result in immediate cancellation of CFIP contract, and appropriate legal action to collect advanced funds including claim and lien upon the subject property owned by the participant.
- ❑ Advance payments will not be made for self-labor practices.

Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing

Forest Management Plan

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-Follow Up Slash disposal



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

RPF Supervision



Follow Up Slash disposal - Pile Burning



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Trees and planting



Tree shelters



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Pruning



Release Mechanical



Examples of CFIP practices eligible for cost-sharing - cont

Pre-commercial thinning



Herbicide release



Examples of NON ELIGIBLE practices

- ❑ Work required for compliance with the Forest Practice Act and Rules.
- ❑ Construction of new roads or bridges.
- ❑ Fencing to protect stands from livestock.
- ❑ Planting of Christmas trees and greenery.
- ❑ Costs of land, water, irrigation, or purchase of tools or equipment.
- ❑ Projects designed solely for the production of fuelwood, etc.

Brief Recapitulation of CFIP Application process:

- ❑ Retain the services of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF)
- ❑ Have the funds available to pay for your project until reimbursement arrives
- ❑ Advance payments agreement -if applicable
- ❑ Submit the Application, Agreement, and other required elements to your local Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS)
- ❑ Office review and site inspection
- ❑ Review and approval by Sacramento
- ❑ Submit Forest Management Plan if needed
- ❑ CEQA - Multi-agency Environmental Review
- ❑ Project Implementation
- ❑ Invoicing
- ❑ Reimbursement

KEEP IN MIND:

- ❑ CFIP cannot be used in conjunction with other cost-share programs (*e.g.*, EQIP)
- ❑ A Priority Ranking for the project is implemented
- ❑ You will receive a 1099R form for the tax year(s) in which you receive a CFIP reimbursement payment. Consult your tax advisor/CPA before applying.

For more CFIP details you can access the CFIP User's Guide located at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/8600/cfip-user-s-guide.pdf>

**California Department of Forestry
And Fire Protection**

**California Forest Improvement Program
(CFIP)**

**USER'S GUIDE
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QUESTIONS?

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