

CFIP

California Forest Improvement Program



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**Proudly Serving Amador, El Dorado, Alpine, Sacramento, Nevada, Yuba,
Placer, Sierra, and Sutter Counties**

The California Forest Improvement Program-CFIP

- 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 long term 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.

The California Forest Improvement Program-CFIP

- Cost share program that will reimburse landowners up to 75% of the cap cost for allowable activities.
- Reimbursement up to 90% on projects where forestland substantially damaged (e.g., wildfire).
- Current CFIP funding/staff levels up considerably over past levels (Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF), Cap & Trade funds).
 - FY 2015-- \$2.95 million for CFIP cost share contracts
 - FY 2016-- \$3.465 million for CFIP cost share contracts
 - FY 2017-- \$3.450 million for CFIP cost share contracts
 - Have \$2.4 million TRFRF and \$1.2 HSRA available

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Allowable activities include:

- Management Plan Development
- RPF Supervision
- Site Preparation
- Reforestation
- Tree Shelters
- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Pruning
- Release
- Follow-up
- Habitat Improvement/Land Conservation/ Wildlife/Fisheries
- “Fuels treatment”- PCT + follow up + pruning

High Speed Rail Authority Reforestation Fund

- CAL FIRE has received \$2.4 million from the High Speed Rail Authority for CFIP projects involving reforestation only.
- These projects authorized only for CFIP projects involving management plan preparation, RPF supervision, site preparation, trees and planting, follow-up slash disposal, and land conservation practices (if related to reforestation).

California Forest Improvement Program

Conversion of Brush Field to Trees



Tuolumne County



Photos: H. Bunt, CAL
FIRE (retired)

Conifer Planting and Seedling Protection



Vexar tubes

Understory Brush Removal for Fuel Reduction





11/29/2007



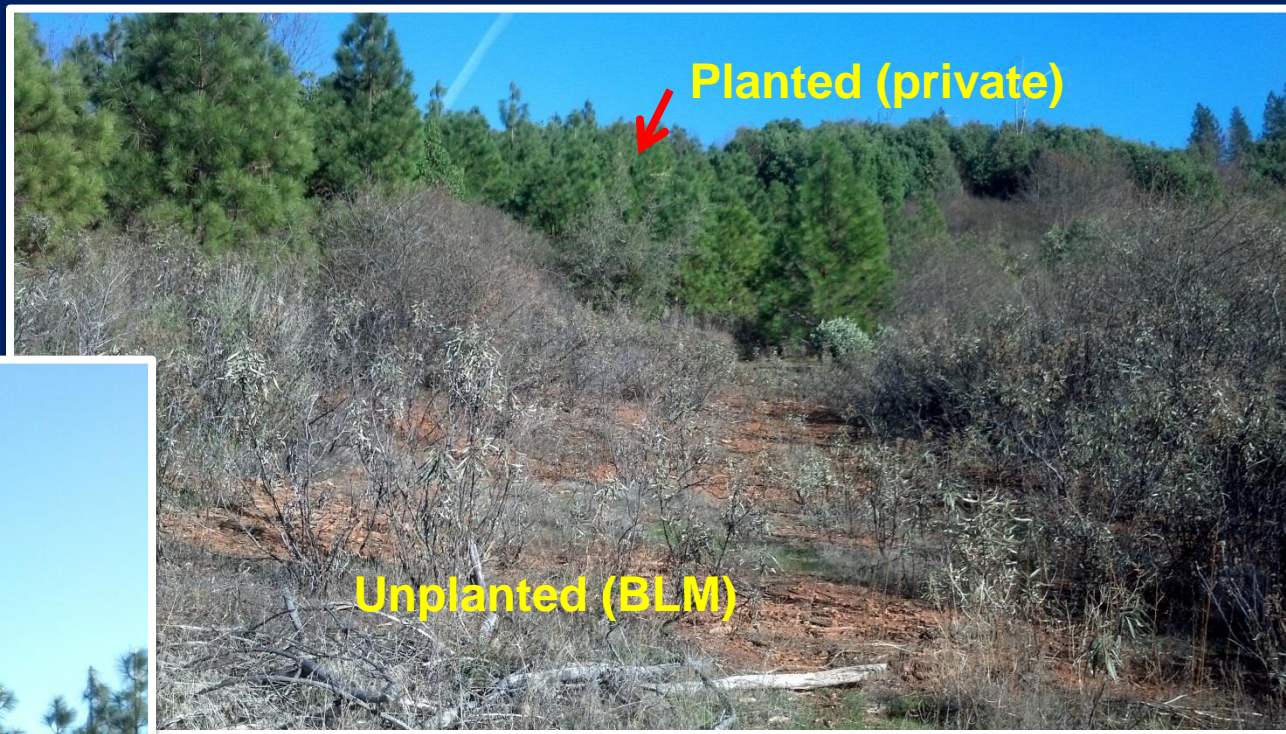
11/29/2007

2014 King Fire—Area Prepared for Planting



Site is cleared of debris, dead standing trees removed, little or no shrub or grass cover

The California Forest Improvement Program--CFIP



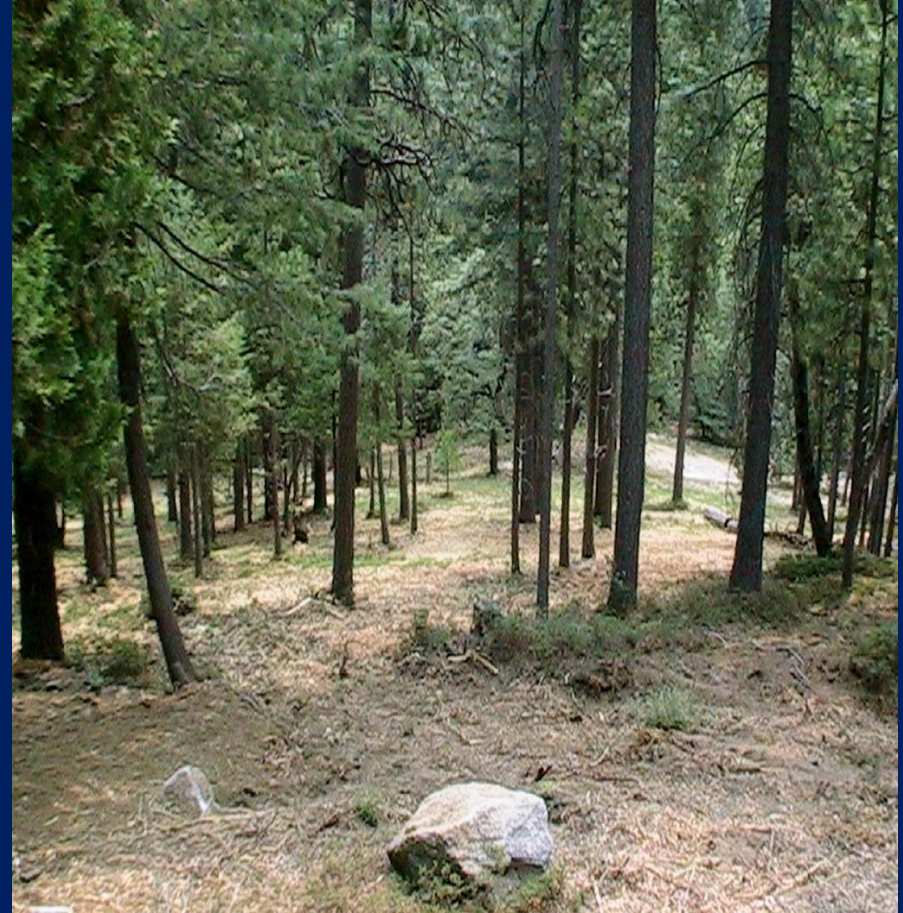
Trees planted in 2000 following the 1999 Pendola fire in Yuba County, photos taken in 2014

Photos: J. Calvert, CAL FIRE

BEFORE



AFTER



**Musick Creek Fuel Treatment Project
(Fresno County near Shaver Lake)
Before and After Photos**

CFIP Eligibility

- 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 non-TPZ land in a compatible use (i.e., no conversion), and in forest management for a minimum of 10 years. Must agree to allowing CAL FIRE FAS to record a Land Use Addendum with County Recorder.

CFIP Eligibility

- Land must be zoned for Timber Production (TPZ) and/or for uses compatible with forest resource management.*
- Land in Agricultural Preserve (Williamson Act) also qualifies.
- Properties with Conservation Easements qualify if no restrictions on forest management practices are placed on it.

* Most qualify unless prevented by homeowner association Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs)

CFIP Eligibility

- Cannot be used to complete requirements of other State programs (i.e., Timber Harvesting Plans, PRC § 4291 defensible space clearances).
- Eligible practices must comply with established rates.
- Requires the RPF and CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) to work with the landowner.

CFIP Eligibility

- **Eligible land owners include**
 - Individual or married landowners
 - Multiple related or unrelated landowners
 - Corporations, LLC, legal partnerships
 - Public entities, agencies, non-profits
 - Trusts

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To get started:

- Contact a Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) in your region to confirm eligibility.
- Upon confirmation of eligibility, contract the services of a Registered Professional Forester to prepare the application, plan treatments, write management plan, project description and supervise work.
- Submit a completed Project Agreement package. Typically the RPF provides this to the FAS.

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To do on-ground work you must:

- Have a completed and CAL FIRE approved Management Plan prepared by an RPF for the entire property.
- RPF completes and submits to FAS the environmental clearance requirements, and the Environmental and RPF Checklists
- Land Use Addendum (notarized) recorded at County by FAS when practices are invoiced (Landowner)

Summary Points

- CFIP is a great tool for qualifying landowners who have the ability to pay up-front for the costs of work.
- CFIP is NOT strictly a dead tree removal tool! In certain, specific situations it **MAY** be used to remove small, beetle-killed trees when replanting and slash disposal are also part of the project. Your CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist must be consulted to determine eligibility in these instances.
- To get started, landowners must contact the Forestry Assistance Specialist for their area to determine eligibility. If eligible, must hire an RPF to proceed.

Summary Points

- CFIP web page -
http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php
- Links to past issues of the Forestland Steward -
<http://calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/newsletter>
- Forestry Assistance Specialists
 - Mary Huggins, North Sierra Region- (916) 718-6258
 - Zsolt Katay, South Sierra Region- (209) 443-4017