

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

135 Ridgway Ave.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95401



The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

❖ What is CFIP?

- CFIP is a reimbursement cost share program formed under legislation passed in 1978 and which is administered by CAL FIRE. The purpose of the program is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forest lands and resources.
- The 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.

❖ What types of forest improvement work qualify under CFIP?

- Preparation of a Forest Management Plan by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF)
- RPF Supervision of the following:
 - Reforestation
 - Site Preparation
 - Trees and Planting
 - Tree Shelters
 - Stand Improvement
 - Pre-commercial Thinning or Release
 - Pruning
 - Follow-up (includes mechanical, herbicide and/or slash disposal follow-up)
 - Forestland conservation practices / fish and wildlife habitat improvement

❖ What are the eligibility requirements?

- Landowners must have ≥ 20 acres but $\leq 5,000$ acres of forestland in California.
- Land must be nonindustrial private forestland that can support at least 10% native tree canopy.
- Land must be zoned for Timber Production (TPZ) or other zoning which allows uses compatible with forest resource management. Check what your zoning allows.
- Landowner must agree, through a deed restriction, to keep land in a compatible use (i.e. no conversion), and in forest management for a minimum of 10 years.
- Properties with conservation easements may qualify on a case by case basis.
- Landowner must be able to show proof of payment to contractors prior to requesting reimbursement from the state (i.e. landowners must be able to pay contractors up-front).
- Eligible practices must comply with established cap rates.
- Eligible landowners include: individual, married, multiple related or unrelated, corporations, LLCs, legal partnerships, public entities, agencies, non-profits, and trusts ownerships.

❖ What are the restrictions under CFIP?

- You must hire a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). This RPF will prepare your CFIP application, supervise your project work, and prepare documentation to satisfy requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), if required. Landowners may not submit an application without a RPF.
- Prior to beginning work on the ground, you must have a completed, and CAL FIRE approved, Forest Management Plan for the entire property. If you don't already have one your first CFIP contract will be for preparation of a management plan; this management plan may take a year or more to complete.
- CFIP cannot be used to complete requirements of other State programs (i.e., Timber Harvesting Plans, Public Resources Code § 4291 fire clearances).
- Woody material generated from CFIP cannot be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded as per Public Resources Code 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 75% of the cap cost for allowable forest improvement activities. Landowners with less than 500 acres of forestland in California, or whose property has been substantially damaged (defined in Public Resources Code §895.1), may be reimbursed at 90% of the cap cost on projects. Your true out of pocket costs may exceed the cap costs.
- Current cost share rates and funding availability are posted on the CFIP web page listed below.

❖ How do I get started?

- Visit the CFIP web page to learn more about funding availability, current cost share rates and cap costs, and the application process, and to find the contact information for you local CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist:

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forest-improvement-program/>