
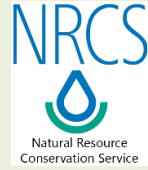


Cost-share Incentive Programs for Forest Management



	 California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)	 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant land managers own between 20 and 5000 acres of non-industrial private forest lands in California zoned as compatible with forest management. • Land manager must agree to a deed restriction to keep land in compatible use for at least 10 years • Licensed cannabis growers may apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant land managers must have an annual income less than \$900,000 AGI. • No acreage limitations apply. • Land managers must agree to keep land in compatible use up to 10 years, but no deed restriction is required. • Lessees who prove land control may also apply. • Cannabis growers are not eligible to apply.
Cost-share Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80-90% cost-share for treatment activity costs that have been predetermined at a capped rate. The actual cost of implementing activities may exceed these capped rates. • Land managers must pay contractors up-front and show proof of payment; reimbursement expected up to 120 days following project completion. • Voluntary cost-share program that does not cover the entire cost; it is meant to encourage private and public investment in forestlands and resources. • Advance payment options may be available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat rate per acre incentive payments determined by treatment activity regardless of actual project cost. • Total cumulative incentives provided are limited to \$450,000 per Farm Bill. • Land managers must pay contractors up-front and show proof of payment; reimbursement expected within two weeks of project completion. • Voluntary cost-share program that does not cover the entire cost; it is meant to encourage private investment in conservation practices. • Advance payments options may be available.
Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIP applications and environmental evaluation must be completed by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) contracted by the land manager. Land managers may not apply without an RPF. • An approved forest management plan (FMP) or non-industrial timber management plan (NTMP) is required to apply for implementation work. However, CFIP can simply be used to write an FMP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQIP applications are prepared with land managers for free by NRCS staff. No outside contracted RPF is needed. • An environmental evaluation will be prepared by a NRCS natural resource professional. • Forest management plans may be required on larger acreages. Based on staffing NRCS may be able to prepare a brief FMP for smaller projects or ownerships.
Program Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating land managers are responsible for hiring a RPF, obtaining proper permitting, and contracting out for project implementation. • Land managers may complete their own work, but program cost-share rates will be lower. • Spotted owl activity centers within one mile of project area prompts operating restrictions. • Archaeology records search and survey are required at land manager's expense. • The project must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The RPF completes CFIP environmental compliance. • CEQA exemptions can be applied to forest lands burned over by fire. Implemented projects must be greater than 5 acres. • Solicitation periods close quarterly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land manager must establish a Farm Record with the Farm Service Agency. • NRCS provides free technical assistance by natural resource professionals. • The land manager is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and contracting out for project implementation. • Land manager may complete their own work at same cost-share rate as if contracting out work. • Mandatory operating restrictions from Feb 1st – July 31st for spotted owl and migratory bird protection unless surveys exist or are completed. Archaeology records search and survey completed by NRCS staff. • Applications are accepted year-round and evaluated one to four times per year in batching periods.

Contract Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically, one-year window for project implementation once contract is approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically, three-year window for project implementation once contract is approved.
Notable Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free technical assistance may be available. • CFIP provides greater cost-share funding for the development of forest management plans. • Land manager and RPF have greater control over timeline for environmental review. • Participating land managers may choose to hire a contractor, do the work themselves, or a combination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free technical assistance may be available. • EQIP provides a greater range of management activities for habitat enhancement and resource concerns. • EQIP provides free technical assistance by an engineer for roadwork. • Participating land managers may choose to hire a contractor, do the work themselves, or a combination.

For More Information:

The following resources provide further information on these cost-share incentives program opportunities.

Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD)

Consult the FRRCD Landowner Assistance Program page for further information on cost-share incentive programs, informational flyers on application steps and processes, and more forestry resources.

<https://frrcd.org/landowner-assistance-program/>

CAL FIRE

Visit CAL FIRE's CFIP website for more information on the application process and eligibility.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/california-forest-improvement>

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Visit the NRCS EQIP website for more information on this program or contact the NRCS Local Partnership Office in Quincy.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives/california/environmental-quality>