

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION****NORTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS**

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CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

What is the California Forest Improvement Program? The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a state-funded program aimed at improving the economic value and environmental quality of forest lands. CFIP can help rebuild forest and wildlife resources to meet our future needs for a healthy environment and productive forests. Qualified landowners can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of their expenses for tree planting, thinning, release, erosion control, or fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Ninety percent cost share rates are provided for work on lands damaged by wild fires, insects, disease, wind, floods, landslides or earthquakes during the last ten years.

What kind of projects are funded by CFIP?

- Preparation of a Management Plan
- Site preparation, tree planting, and follow-up work, such as adding browse guards or fertilizer.
- Tree thinning or release.
- Erosion control, including revegetation, road rehabilitation, and installation of structures such as waterbars, rocked crossings, or check dams to reduce soil erosion and stream sedimentation.
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvement, including creation of corridors and openings, planting blue, valley, coast live or Engelmann oaks or riparian species, installing exclusion fencing along watercourses and wetlands, and stream restoration projects.
- Project supervision by a Registered Professional Forester

The minimum project size for tree planting or thin/release work is five acres. Any work required under the Forest Practice Act is not eligible for CFIP funding. Planting or thinning of trees for use as Christmas trees, greenery or fire wood is not eligible.

What are the minimum qualifications? The property must contain 20 to 5,000 acres* having at least ten percent tree cover, and the zoning must allow forest resource management.

*The 20 acre limitation does not apply to erosion control or fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Who is eligible?

- Individuals,
- Groups,
- Associations,
- Corporate landowners, or
- Taxing public entities owning between 20 and 5,000 acres of forestland.

How do I apply for funding?

- 1) Contact your local CDF forester to discuss your questions, obtain application forms and a list of local consulting foresters, and schedule a site inspection.
- 2) Additional paperwork, including a Project Description and Map, Vendor Data Record, Environmental Checklist, and Archeological Review will be prepared by you, your forester, or CDF. Project approval generally takes approximately two months after all contract paperwork has been submitted.
- 3) You will receive an approval letter and signed contract. Work on your project can begin!

How do I apply for reimbursement?

- 1) You must make the initial payment for all labor and materials for your project. Call your CDF forester to schedule a completion inspection when work on the project is finished.
- 2) Submit original receipts, invoices, and cancelled checks with your signed CFIP Invoice form. If you did some of the labor yourself, you must also submit the CFIP Participants' Cost Accounting Worksheet.
- 3) You can expect to receive your payment approximately two months after the CDF forester submits your billing to CDF's Contracts Office.

What else do I need to know?

- CFIP project work must be maintained at least ten years.
- CFIP contracts are good for up to three years.
- Contracts can provide reimbursement of up to \$50,000. However, the maximum amount you can be reimbursed in one year is \$30,000.