

# California Forest Improvement Program



# California Forest Improvement Program

- The California Forest Improvement Act of 1978 (Section 4790 of the Public Resources Code) authorizes the Director of Forestry to undertake a program of public and private investment in forest resource management.
- The Act prohibits General Fund financing of any part of the program except for existing technical assistance services, program planning, and obtaining funds.
- Program previously funded by Forest Resources Improvement Fund (FRIF) but a law suit in 2000 by Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest brought state timber harvesting to a halt and limited CFIP funding.

# Website Resources

- Go to [fire.ca.gov](http://fire.ca.gov)
- Click on Programs and then Resource Management
- Click on CFIP
- The latest forms and documents are here

# CFIP Program Budget Outlook

- Currently \$1.2 million remaining FY 16/17 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF)
- \$3.465 million proposed for FY 17/18 (TRFRF)
- \$4.826 million proposed for FY 17/18 (TRFRF) to reopen Louis A. Moran Reforestation Center in a phased approach to grow speculation seedlings.
- \$2.4 million for reforestation (High Speed Rail)

# Program Basics

- \*\*\* Page 2 CFIP User's Guide
- Minimum 20 acres forestland
- Maximum 5,000 acres forestland
- "Forestland" can support 10% or more tree cover with trees native to California, including native oaks.
- Zoned to allow forest resource management practices
- Must have a forest management plan (CFIP, NRCS, NTMP, ATFS?)
- Landowner exclusions based on zoning, conservation easements, etc.

# Program Basics

- \*\*\*Page 2 CFIP User's Guide
- 75% cost-share reimbursement program
- 90% cost-share for:
  - Management plans
  - Ten percent or more of the total cost of the project will be devoted to forest land conservation measures and/or fish and wildlife habitat improvement practices.
  - Substantially damaged" within last 10 years
    - Means areas of forest land of 3 contiguous acres (1.214 contiguous ha) or more whereon wildfire, insects, disease, wind, flood or other substantial damage caused by an act of God reduces stocking below the requirements of PRC 4561 and applicable administrative regulations. (Reference: Title 14, California Administrative Code Section 895.1.)

# Eligible Practices

- See pages 8-13 CFIP User's Guide

# How to Apply

Pros & Cons of the following:

- Apply through a consulting RPF
- Apply through a Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS)
  - Lessen costs for landowner
  - Typically small projects or management plans



# Application

- See Handout Helpful Hints for CFIP Documents and page 16-31 of CFIP User's Guide
- 1 copy application signed by landowner
- 1 copy project description
- 1 location map
- 1 project map
- 4 copies of agreement signed by "grantee(s)" (after CAL FIRE review) Page 25 CFIP User's Guide
- 1 copy payee date record (after CAL FIRE review)
- \*\*\* Use forms on CAL FIRE internet

# Project Description

- See Page 19-21 of the CFIP User's Guide
- Ask CAL FIRE for generic examples
  - Management plan
  - Culvert Replacement
  - Precommercial thinning and follow up
- **EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY RATES**
  - Site conditions, contractor estimates, equipment needed, quality desired, etc.

# RPF Supervision

- RPF supervision is on a per acre basis  
\$150/acre for first 20 acres and \$75/acre for each additional acre
- Example, 30 acre project = \$3750
- Typical RPF rate of \$100/hr. = 37.5 hours

# RPF Supervision

- RPF supervision is calculated per practice
- If two or more practices are proposed on the same acreage, the rate may be counted twice if explained and justified
- Practices must occur at separate time periods
- Example, site preparation followed by planting
- Example, 30 acres of two practices above
- $60 \text{ acres} = \$150 \times 20 + \$75 \times 40 = \$6,000$

# RPF Supervision

What work can be billed?

- Any work needed to complete the project after approval of the agreement
- RPF Checklist
- Env. Checklist
- Archaeology surveys
- Field work
- Contactor bids and selection
- Contractor supervision

# Management Plans

- Types of management plans
  - NRCS/CAL FIRE FMP
  - NTMP
  - Mini Management Plan (page 45 User's Guide)
  - American Tree Farm System
  - Other?
- Age and adequacy is reviewed case by case
- Revisions to management plans may be funded
- Contents, See Template Addendum B and example
- Every plan is landowner specific

# Management Plan

- Common Deficiencies
  - Project Descriptions and Schedule
  - Road Assessment
  - Archaeology Scoping

# Environmental Review of Projects

- CFIP has a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) from 1979 and an amendment in 1990
- The CFIP PEIR evaluated the potential impacts of forest improvement practices and developed standard mitigations
- An important part of CEQA compliance is scoping for potential impacts and completing the Environmental Checklist
- In addition, regulatory agencies and Native American Contacts are notified of the project



# Environmental Review of Projects

- Agency notification is different from the Forest Practice Rules
- There is no public notification
- Turn to Page 33 of the User's Guide
- Follow the instructions for filling out the Environmental Checklist
- Standard PEIR mitigations are incorporated into the checklist

# CFIP COST-SHARE CAP RATES

## Contractor vs. Self-Labor

- CFIP Self-labor rates are used when a landowner completes a practice with their own labor and/or equipment (page 13 User's Guide)
- The landowner must track their time by practice (recommend CFIP cost accounting worksheet)
- Landowner bills their time and equipment using the "CFIP Participant Self-Owned Labor and Equipment Rates"
- Landowner must complete each agreed to practice by the acre (no mixing of acres) as approved in the CFIP agreement

# Land Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices

These practices may include:

- Erosion control projects
- Forest road repair and upgrading
- Planting native oaks
- Building nest boxes or platforms
- Fencing to protect sensitive wildlife habitat
- Planting streamside vegetation
- Planting or reshaping eroding stream banks or gullies
- ❖ Road work must protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- ❖ Projects that include 10% or more conservation or wildlife habitat projects are eligible for 90% cost-share.

# Land Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices

The following are not eligible practices:

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

# NRCS Rates

- NRCS Rates are published in October each year
- Published NRCS rates are “Regular Rate” and “HU Rate” (historically underserved) and are not the 100% rate. The cost-share varies by practice
- For example, Practice Code 578 Stream Crossing 3-6 ft. diameter is \$320.89/ft. regular rate or \$444.31/ft. HU Rate. The 100% rate is \$493.68. Therefore, regular rate is 65% and HU rate is 90%.
- Important to get the 100% rates from your Forestry Assistance Specialist or NRCS directly

# Example- Plugged Class II Culvert



# Example- Plugged Class II Culvert

- RPF calculated a 42" x 60 foot culvert
- Use NRCS Practice Code 578 Stream Crossing  
3-6 ft. diameter
- Cost-share calculation  $\$493.68 \times 60 \text{ ft.} =$   
 $\$29620.80 @ 90\% = \$26658.72$

# Example- Plugged Class II Culvert





# Example- Plugged Class II Culvert



# Fuel Reduction Projects

- There is no single fuel reduction practice
- Fuel reduction is accomplished by combining practices
  - Thinning
  - Release
  - Pruning, minimum 10 feet
  - Follow-up slash disposal
- Minimum slash treatment is lop and scatter (<30”) and is included in thinning or release cost

# Fuel Reduction



Thinning and pruning with lop and scatter as minimum slash treatment.

# Fuel Reduction



Mastication at high follow up rate.

# Fuel Reduction



Masticated fuel bed at high rate after completion.

# Invoicing

- See page 47 CFIP User's Guide for instructions
- Must include invoices that show zero balance or paid in full
- For self-labor rates, landowner must show log of hours for equipment and labor and actual receipts for materials