

Mitigation Pathways for conifer encroachment in California woodlands



Encroachment with merchantable conifers (>12" dbh)

Oak basal area
>35 ft² per acre

Oak basal area
<35 ft² per acre

Special Prescription

- ✓ Removed conifers must be within 300' of living oak
- ✓ No size constraints on removed conifers
- ✓ Requires an RPF to prepare
- ✓ Can amend into NTMP
- ✓ No limit on project size
- ✓ Allowed on steeper ground and where in lieu practices are needed
- ✓ All THP requirements apply (wildlife, botany, archeological, etc.)
- ✓ Requires post-harvest conifer stocking be <50% of total onsite stocking
- ✓ Oak may be included in post-project stocking requirements

Exemption (THP)

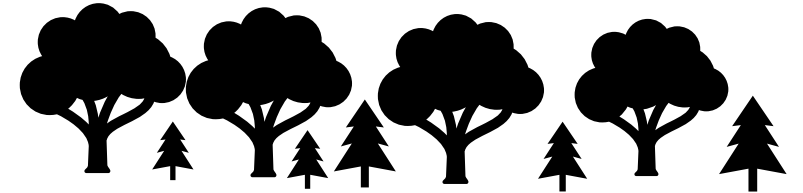
- ✓ Removed conifers must be within 300' of living oak
- ✓ Removed conifers must ≤26" diameter at 8" stump height
- ✓ Requires an RPF to prepare
- ✓ Allowed within existing NTMP
- ✓ Limited to 300 acres/5 years/ planning watershed/ ownership
- ✗ Not allowed in a WLPZ
- ✓ Requires slash treatment
- ✓ Requires confidential archeological letter
- ✓ Requires post-harvest conifer stocking be <25% of total onsite stocking
- ✗ Not allowed in So. Sub-Dist. of the Coast Dist. or the So. Dist.

No Permit

- ✓ Personal use only
- ✓ Landowner responsible for conifer removal
- ✓ Funding assistance available

Forest conversion

- ✓ Re-establish dominant conifer forest
- ✓ Requires an RPF
- ✓ Requires THP or NTMP



Encroachment without merchantable conifers

Government sponsored funding assistance

- ✓ NRCS-EQIP or RCPP
- ✓ CAL FIRE- CFIP
- ✓ USFWS- Partners Program
- ✓ See insert for program details

Prescribed fire

- ✓ Effective at reducing conifer seedling competition
- ✓ CAL FIRE- VMP
- ✓ Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
- ✓ NRCS- EQIP

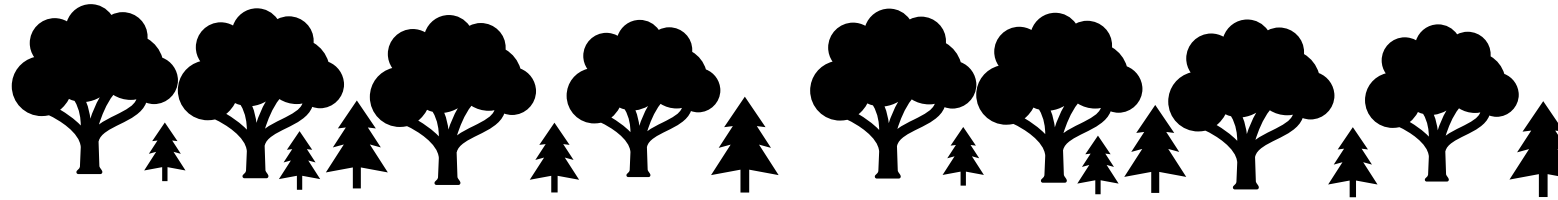
Project maintenance



Acronym key:

CFIP= California Forest Improvement Program
 DBH= diameter at breast height
 EQIP= Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 NRCS= Natural Resources Conservation Service
 NTMP= Non-industrial Timber Management Plan
 RCPP= Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 RPF= Registered Professional Forester
 THP= Timber Harvest Plan
 USFWS= US Fish and Wildlife Service
 VMP= Vegetation Management Program
 WLPZ= Watercourse Lake Protection Zone

Funding Opportunities for conifer encroachment in Oregon white oak and California black oak



Non-commercial conifer encroachment assistance funding sources

Acronym key:

CFIP= California Forest Improvement Program
DBH= diameter at breast height
EQIP= Environmental Quality Incentives Program
NRCS= Natural Resources Conservation Service
NTMP= Non-industrial Timber Management Plan
RCPP= Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RPF= Registered Professional Forester
THP= Timber Harvest Plan
US FWS= US Fish and Wildlife Service
VMP= Vegetation Management Program
WLPZ= Watershed Lake Protection Zone

NRCS- EQIP

- ✓ Livestock and small forestry operators or leasees
- ✓ Funded activities include: management planning, stand and range improvement activities, and slash management
- ✓ Maintenance- landowner required to maintain conditions for 10 years
- ✓ Prescribed fire- funded only with approved burn plan
- ✓ Reimbursements are made after the projects are completed and an NRCS specialist verifies work meets agreed upon standards

NRCS- RCPP

- ✓ Livestock and small forestry operators or leasees
- ✓ Funding specifically intended for oak conservation projects. Priority given to projects in **Mendocino County** (South Fork Eel River, Russian River, Outlet Creek, and Navarro River watersheds); **Humboldt County** (Middle Van Duzen, Mattole River, and Middle Mad River watershed); and **Trinity County** (South Fork Trinity, Upper Mad River, and Upper Van Duzen watersheds)
- ✓ All terms are the same as EQIP

US FWS- Partners Program

- ✓ Landowners, tribes, NGOs for habitat restoration activities
- ✓ Funded activities include: oak restoration, stream restoration, wetland enhancement, off-site watering, and riparian improvement
- ✓ Maintenance- Landowners retain the habitat improvements for 10 years
- ✓ Prescribed fire- Currently developing a prescribed fire policy at the national level
- ✓ Reimbursements are made after the projects are completed and FWS verifies work meets agreed upon standards

CAL FIRE- CFIP

- ✓ Private and public ownerships from 20 to 5,000 acres of forestland
- ✓ Funded activities include: management planning, site preparation, tree planting, timber stand improvement, fish and wildlife habitat improvement
- ✓ Maintenance- landowner required to maintain conditions for 10 years. CFIP will fund continued mechanical treatment of encroachment
- ✓ Prescribed fire- see VMP below
- ✓ Reimbursements are made after the projects are completed and CAL FIRE verifies work meets agreed upon standards

CAL FIRE- VMP

- ✓ Same landowners as above
- ✓ The program supports prescribed burning and pile burning