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# California Forest Improvement Program

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Funded By  
Proposition 40



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



## How do I apply for funding?

Contact your local Cal Fire CFIP forester to discuss your situation, eligibility, obtain application forms, a list of consulting foresters and to schedule a site inspection. You and a consulting forester will then work with the Cal Fire Forester to prepare additional paperwork. Placer County Resource Conservation District on behalf of the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council(Council) is handling funding for Proposition 40 CFIP projects. Your application will be submitted to the Council for encumbrance. If all paperwork is in order, funding generally takes less than a month. Once you receive a signed contract and an approval letter from your local Cal Fire forester, work on your project can begin!

## How do I apply for reimbursement?

CFIP is a reimbursable program, meaning land-owners are eligible to receive CFIP payments only after they have incurred an obligation to pay their contractor and successfully completed all or a portion of their project.

Call your Cal Fire FAS to schedule periodic completion inspections when work on a significant portion of the project is finished.

Submit documentation such as 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. You can expect to receive your payment approximately 1-2 months after the Cal Fire forester submits your billing for payment.

## What else do I need to know?

- CFIP contracts have a term of between 21 and 33 months depending on when during the state fiscal year of July 1 through June 30 the contract is approved.

- The maximum reimbursement must be less than \$50,000
- CFIP project work must be maintained for at least ten years.

CFIP project applications are accepted at any time. Detailed information about CFIP and the general application for CFIP projects are contained as part of the CFIP User's Guide available on the Cal Fire web site at

[www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/CFIP](http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/CFIP)

### Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor

State of California

### Michael Chrisman

Secretary For Resources

The Resources Agency

### Rubin Grijalva

Director

California Department of Forestry  
& Fire Protection



Cal Fire



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Sierra Coordinated Resource  
Management Council

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Keep California Green & Golden

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, (Cal Fire) has begun implementation of a new fuels reduction effort funded by Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. The goal of the Cal Fire's Proposition 40 Fuels Reduction effort is to reduce wildland fuel loadings such as flammable shrubs and dense thickets of trees that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality. Cal Fire is implementing the Fuels Reduction effort by coordinating the creation of continuous shaded fuel breaks in strategic locations. Cal Fire strongly encourages small forest landowners to treat fuels on their property by utilizing funding available under the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP).



*Left: A highly flammable manzanita brush field.*



*Right: Less flammable trees are free to grow after manzanita brush field mastication treatment.*

These pictures are only representative of this job. Your property may look different.

### What is the California Forest Improvement Program?

CFIP is a cost-share program aimed at improving the economic value and environmental quality of forestlands. CFIP can help rebuild forest, wildlife and watershed resources to meet our future needs for a healthy environment and productive forests. Eligible forest landowners can be reimbursed from 75 to 90 percent of their expenses for forest improvement and fuels reduction projects.

**Proposition 40 CFIP** is a state-funded program aimed at creating shaded fuel breaks by converting highly flammable vegetation types such as brush and dense thickets of trees to less flammable vegetation types such as stands of larger well-spaced trees. One example is thinning dense stands of young trees and pruning large trees. In addition to protecting watersheds from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires, CFIP has the added benefit of encouraging private landowners to rebuild forest and wildlife resources to meet our future needs for a healthy environment and productive forests. Qualified landowners can be reimbursed from 75 to 90 percent for the expenses of mastication treatment of brush fields, site preparation, slash disposal, tree planting, thinning, pruning and release treatments.

### Who is eligible?

Individuals, groups, associations, corporate landowners or taxing public entities.

### What kind of projects are funded by CFIP?

- Preparation of a Management Plan
- Mastication of brush fields, site preparation, and slash disposal
- Tree planting, thinning, and pruning
- Follow-up work, such as adding browse guards, fertilizer and release treatments
- Project supervision by a Registered Professional Forester

Any work already required under the Forest Practice Act or other laws is not eligible for CFIP funding. Planting or thinning of trees for use as Christmas trees, greenery or fire wood is not eligible.



*Left Photo: A dense stand of timber in need of thinning.*



*Right Photo: A treated fire resistant stand of timber*

### What are the minimum qualifications?

To be eligible for CFIP, landowners must own between 20 and 5,000 acres of "forestland" in California. Landowners that own less than 20 acres may qualify if they submit a joint application with neighboring landowners and the combined acreage is a minimum of 20 contiguous acres of forestland. There is no minimum acreage limit for land conservation or habitat improvement projects, however timber-related practices must cover five acres or more.