



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet California 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$1,276,784
Forest Legacy	\$7,200,000
Forest Stewardship	\$260,160
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$4,145,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$1,434,300
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$1,273,730
Total	\$15,589,974

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of California, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of California's forest lands, rural economies, and urban forests. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, fuels management, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, conservation practices, and the multiple benefits of urban forests. These programs emphasize an overarching goal of integrated landscape scale management.

Program Goals

- Improve forest resiliency to drought, natural disasters, and to climate change impacts (incl. wildfire, pest outbreaks, and other disturbances).
- Maintain and improve the health of California's urban and rural forests and related economies.
- Additional goals include: maintaining environmental services from forests (i.e. water supply, water quality, clean air, carbon sequestration, ...), reducing wildfire risk to communities in Wildland Urban Interface, promoting renewable energy (i.e. forest biomass) and forest products.

Key Issues

- Wildland/Urban Interface fire hazard and fuel reduction issues; increasingly severe wildfires - impacts to communities and ecological impacts.
- Forest health and public safety concerns related to increased tree mortality.
- The effects of climate change on forests, and the role that reforestation will play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Wildfire behavior – size and burn severity are ongoing issues.
- Rapid urbanization and development in wildland areas.
- Water quality and riparian habitat rehabilitation.
- Organizational staffing capacity and operational challenges associated with increased demand.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	37,253,956	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	7,067
Acres of Forest Land	31,941,479	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	8,675
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,101,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,105
Number of NIPF Landowners	202,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	615
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,415,464	State Fire Communities Assisted	9
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	21,576,307	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	750	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	597
Cities and Towns	480	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	729
Forest Based Employment	101,351	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	33,416,462
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	185,500
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	770,581,815		

Program Highlights

Conservation Education

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award winning environmental education Program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) that is designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 saw the movement of the national program from American Forests Foundation (AFF) to the SFI. The transition did not affect PLT activities. Likewise, due to retirements of key personnel within the University of California Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCCE ANR), PLT realigned to 4-H Youth Development and CalNat programs within UCCE ANR. The program realignment has increased the number and type of environmental educators reached. California PLT received \$136,859 to increase the environmental and science literacy of K-12 students. This was accomplished by conducting 16 facilitator workshops, training 361 individuals; 9 pre-service teacher courses, training 444 pre-service teachers; and four Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) training 160 teachers. Throughout the year, seven educational conferences and 11 meetings were attended. The Statewide Coordinator attended 11 meetings dealing with environmental education.

Additionally CAL FIRE staff participate in several other environmental education initiatives, including the Forestry Challenge - a forestry competition for high school aged students that teaches them about forestry methods and practices and elicits their interest in entering the field of forestry. Other programs include Invest from the Ground Up, an urban forestry educational effort focused on homeowners and small businesses, and The California Arbor Day Poster and Video contests, where 4th-6th grade students submit posters or videos to California ReLeaf and CAL FIRE for judging and awards presented to the best submissions. They are included in arbor day festivities at the capitol and in media offerings by CAL FIRE and California ReLeaf.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The State Fire Assistance funding has assisted in training approximately 1,200 firefighters, funding fire prevention/education/detection programs and both communications and safety equipment upgrades. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program serves approximately 138 rural departments and helps to purchase much-needed equipment and supplies. Funding is getting harder for small fire departments to come by and this program assists those rural departments in keeping pace with safety, training and equipment updates.

Forest Health Protection

Exotic pests remain the most significant threat to California's forests. Sudden oak death (SOD) is found

in 15 counties infecting over 100 species. SOD incidents increased in 2018 due to high previous rainfall. Gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) continued to spread in southern California with an ever-expanding zone of infestation. Invasive shot hole borers (ISHB) are found in 8 southern California counties attacking over 300 species and reproducing in over 60 woody hosts. Native pests remain a concern with aerial surveys mapping bark beetle mortality throughout the Sierra Nevada and other areas even with the end of the major drought induced epidemic. CAL FIRE staff assist in early detection/rapid response for exotic bark beetles, emerald ash borer, SOD, GSOB and ISHB and assist the public on native and exotic forest pests. Staff serves on the CA Forest Pest Council and its task forces, the CA Invasive Species Advisory Committee, the national Forest Health Monitoring Mgmt Team and the Forest Management Task Force. Staff reviews timber harvest plans and grant proposals and respond to requests from the public. Staff holds training events on forest pests for various public and private entities. Surveys include 17,500 ac for Douglas fir tussock moth, 1,500,000 ac for SOD (aerial and stream), 800,000 ac GSOB, 2000 ac ISHB and 5000 ac general pest evaluations. FHP funds are also used by the CA Dept. of Food and Ag to manage invasive plants throughout the state.

Forest Legacy

In Fiscal year 17/18 the Federal Legacy Program (FLP) completed and closed one project in California, Rainbow Ridge. This project cost was \$470,000 and located in Northern California. California also received funding for two other projects, Mailliard and Grizzly Creek, funded at \$3.9 million and \$995,000 respectively. Work is underway to close both of those projects now. For 2020, California forwarded 3 projects for National funding consideration for \$8.8 million. Existing Legacy administration funds were extended in order to be ready to support closure of the 2 newly funded projects. Currently CA has conserved over 111,000 acres through the FLP. In 2019 we plan to close at least 4 of our open projects, and have 9 additional working forest conservation easement projects using state funds underway, that will put us well over the 120,000 acre mark. California will continue to solicit, rank and forward projects to the Federal Forest Legacy program for consideration at the National level.

Forest Stewardship

CAL FIRE is utilizing the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan template which will satisfy multiple program requirements and allow a landowner(s) to produce one plan that qualifies for a variety of State and Federal cost-share funding. The federal Forest Stewardship Program and Forest Health Management Program in combination with California's Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) provided valuable technical assistance and funds for Stewardship Planning, timber stand improvement, forest rehabilitation, reforestation and fuels reduction. The funding allows many landowners to work with California Registered Professional Foresters to develop Stewardship plans to help them achieve their management goals. These plans will also assist landowners to participate in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to address climate change. The GGRF provides significant funding for incentives to reforest and or reduce fuels on forest lands. In addition, the USDA-CAL FIRE programs have provided abroad scope of educational forums including the Forest Landowner Stewardship Curriculum, the quarterly Forestland Steward Newsletter that reaches over 7000 readers via hard and electronic copies, and the toll-free HELPLINE. The HELPLINE provides valuable assistance over the phone to anyone who calls. There is always a Registered Professional Forester to answer questions regarding forest health, harvesting, insects and diseases, fire, reforestation., etc. as well as information on where the caller can receive more information on State Forest Practice Regulation or Federal Policy. Additionally, the service mails out brochures and pamphlets as available.

Landowner Assistance

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is the State's primary landowner assistance program providing eligible landowners with technical and financial assistance for planning, reforestation and resource management investments that improve the quality and value of forestland. In 2017 the program provided substantial sub grants to landowners for management plans, fuel hazard reduction projects, and forest thinning projects. CFIP is a forestry cost-share program that provides funds to non-industrial private forest landowners with ownerships of less than 5000 acres of timberland for a variety of practices including: management plans, supervision, site preparation, planting, thinning, pruning, release, land conservation, and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and fuels reduction. CFIP's purpose is to encourage private and public investments in forest lands and resources within the state to ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and to protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations. Since its establishment CFIP has helped landowners with forest improvement activities on over 1,000,000

acres. This program did not utilize Federal funds in FY 2017, however this is only due to significant increases in State contributions to this program which allowed the Federal Stewardship funds to be used elsewhere, thus, increasing the reach of the Federal assistance.

Landscape Scale Restoration

CAL FIRE is working to protect and manage California forests so they can continue to provide benefits and so that we can reduce impacts of climate change on forests. The Forest Health Program funds CAL FIRE and partners to complete landscape scale management activities that achieve the goals of the Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands goals, and California's climate goals as defined by the Global Warming Solutions Act. A summary of these goals is to conserve forests and restore forest health by significantly increasing fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas and conservation of threatened forests with landscape-scale projects developed and led by regionally-based efforts. These projects must have calculated climate benefits that account for reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from 1) treatment activities, 2) avoided future wildfire and fossil fuel use, and/or 3) sequestering carbon through reforestation or increased growth and yield of remaining vegetation. This program shares a funding source with the Fire Prevention Grant Program, which funds smaller projects to protect structures. Together, the two programs will spend \$155 million this fiscal year.

Urban and Community Forestry

The CAL FIRE U&CF Program has forged strong partnerships with local governments and non-profits to advance its objectives. At 95% of the population considered urban, and with some of the largest population centers in the U.S., CA has a great need for urban forestry. California continues to invest in urban and community forestry at a high rate. \$20 million in state funding is available to the program from a combination of Climate Investment funds and Proposition 68 bond funds. There is a continued emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities with state funds. State funded grants are used for tree planting and care, urban forest management plans, inventories, ordinances, canopy analysis, educational projects, and urban wood utilization. Staff continues to spend a lot of time administering grants and working with grantees. They also participate in public events, including arbor day events. They provide a great deal of technical and policy assistance as well. Federal grant funds are utilized to support partnerships and for priority projects - primarily for educational projects and projects that build overall capacity in California, like technological tools and best management practices and guidelines. The program's enabling legislation was updated this past year to provide stronger emphasis on climate adaptation and mitigation, and also to strengthen the program from a program that CAL FIRE "may" have, to one that it "shall" have. The program's advisory committee is in the process of updating the program strategic plan.

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