



Grants for Wildfire & Forest Resilience

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CAL FIRE Grant Programs



<https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants>

Natural Resource Management

- Forest Health
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience
- Business & Workforce Development
- Forest Health Research
- California Forest Improvement Program
- Forest Legacy
- *Regional Landscape Grants*
- Urban & Community Forestry

Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

- Wildfire Prevention Grants

Cooperative Fire

- Volunteer Fire Capacity

FOREST HEALTH:

- Restoration
- Reforestation
- Ecological Process
- Watershed
- Habitat
- Landscape Scale
- Wildland
- Recreation
- Timber
- Forests
- Natural Resources
- Fireshed

- Multi-benefit, cross-boundary
- HQ-led review, informed by Units, Region, partners
- Aligned with Task Force Action Plan

WILDFIRE PREVENTION:

- Protection of People, Structures, and Communities
- WUI
- Fuelbreak
- Roadside
- Interface
- Intermix
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Wildfire Prevention Education

- Fire and community focus
- Unit-engaged review, then Region, HQ review
- Aligned with Unit Fire Plans & Task Force Action Plan



State Grant Programs



<https://www.grants.ca.gov/>



\$10 Billion "Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024"

<https://resources.ca.gov/Bonds-Oversight/Proposition-4-Climate-Bond>



California Climate Investments
(Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund)
Supported via the State Greenhouse Gas
Cap and Trade Program

<https://www.cacclimateinvestments.ca.gov/>

California Climate Investments Programs



- \$200M annual appropriation to CAL FIRE from CCI
- Ends in FY28/29. Cap & Trade/Invest ends in 2030.
- Funds:
 - ~\$70M to Forest Health grants (Business & Workforce Development, Tribal Wildfire Resilience)
 - ~\$70M to Wildfire Prevention Grants
 - \$5M to California Conservation Corps
 - ~\$30M to CAL FIRE Fuels Reduction Crews
 - ~\$5M to Forest Health Research Grants
 - \$5M to California Forest Improvement Program
 - Remainder to CAL FIRE for staff & operating



Climate Bond @ CAL FIRE



- \$170M to Regional Projects (proposed \$127M to CAL FIRE)
- \$175M to Forest Health, including Tribal Wildfire Resilience
- \$185M for Wildfire Prevention Grants, and Workforce Development
- \$25M for a fire training center (\$10M to Karuk Tribe)
- \$50M for grants for “fuel reduction, structure hardening, create defensible space, reforestation, or targeted acquisitions to improve forest health and fire resilience”—proposed CAL FIRE
- \$25M for fire detection technology
- \$50M for Urban and Community Forestry

Most grants in the first 2-3 years

Future Bond Programs: Regional Grants



(b) One hundred seventy million dollars (\$170,000,000) shall be available to implement regional projects, including, but not limited to, landscape-scale projects developed by forest collaboratives as defined in Section 4810, projects developed by regional entities as defined in Section 4208, and projects that implement strategies developed by state conservancies through block grants and direct appropriations by the Legislature.

Section 4810 definition of forest collaborative:

(b) “Forest collaborative” means a functioning collaborative group that includes multiple persons or entities representing diverse interests, that is **transparent and inclusive, and that has sufficient expertise, capacity, and scientific support to effectively plan, implement, and monitor** landscape-level, ecological-based forest restoration activities.

Section 4208 definition of regional entity:

(d) “Regional entity” means a state conservancy, local government, tribal government, resource conservation district, joint powers authority, or nongovernmental organization with a **history of implementing related projects, demonstrated capacity to work across regional partners, and ability to serve as fiscal administrators for the program.**

Grant Programs: Current Status



Natural Resource Management

- **Forest Health:** Announced \$70M in awards in June. ~\$330M in applications
- **Tribal Wildfire Resilience:** Awards likely in August. \$52M in applications, \$5M available
- **Business & Workforce Development:** Awards likely in August. \$87M in applications, \$5M available
- **Urban & Community Forestry**—Solicitation for Aliso Canyon Green Schoolyards opens Aug 1
- **California Forest Improvement Program**—Ongoing
- **Forest Health Research:** Announced awards earlier this summer. Concepts due November.
- **Forest Legacy:** Closed. Federal impacts.
- ***Regional Landscape Grants***--TBD

Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

- **Wildfire Prevention Grants:** Open now. Closes August 6.

Cooperative Fire

- **Volunteer Fire Capacity:** Solicitation closed in May.

Grant Programs: Plans



- Near-term (2-3 years) surge in funding for bond-supported programs:
 - Forest Health
 - Wildfire Prevention Grants
 - Tribal Wildfire Resilience
 - Business & Workforce Development
 - Regional Landscape Grants
 - Urban & Community Forestry
- May fund some applications from recent oversubscribed solicitations:
 - Forest Health, Tribal Wildfire Resilience, Business & Workforce Development
- Future shift to two-step application process for most bond-funded programs
- Uncertainty beyond FY28/29



Questions?

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Forest Health

What does it fund?

Grants for landscape-scale fuels reduction, reforestation, pest management, prescribed fire, and forest biomass utilization.

Awards: Up to \$7M per award. \$70M-\$135M awarded per solicitation.

Who is eligible for funds?

Local, state, and federal agencies, universities, special districts, Native American tribes, private forest landowners, and non-profit organizations.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: Late fall/winter 2025/26

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/forest-health>

Coming Soon: Regional block grants via Proposition 4



Wildfire Prevention

What does it fund?

Hazardous fuels removal, wildfire prevention planning, wildfire prevention education, and wildfire prevention research with an emphasis on improving public health and safety.

Awards: Up to \$950K per award. \$50M-\$135M awarded per solicitation.

Who is eligible for funds?

Tribal governments, fire safe councils with a 501(c)(3) designation, nonprofits, and local public agencies including cities, counties, fire protection districts, community service districts, water districts, resource conservation districts, and special districts, as well as federal agencies, state agencies, and certified local conservation corps.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process. Contact local CAL FIRE Unit.

Next solicitation: Open now. Closes August 6.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants>



Tribal Wildfire Resilience

What does it fund?

Grants for planning and implementation projects that serve California Native American tribes and promote community and landscape wildfire resilience, forest health, and cultural use of fire. Including workforce development and training programs, mapping, biological/cultural surveys, environmental compliance/permitting.

Awards: \$250K - \$3M per award. Last solicitation: \$5M total

Who is eligible for funds?

- Federally recognized Native American tribes
- Non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Contact List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission.
- Tribal-serving non-profits with documentation.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: TBD. Likely winter/spring 2026.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/tribal-wildfire-resilience>



Business & Workforce Development

What does it fund?

Grants to promote healthy, resilient forests throughout the state through supporting wood products and bioenergy projects and operators, and workforce development projects within the forestry and wildfire sector.

Who is eligible for funds?

Local, state, and federal agencies, universities, special districts, Native American tribes, non-profit organizations, and private entities including businesses and foundations.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: TBD. Likely winter/spring 2026.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/climate-and-energy-program/wood-products-and-bioenergy>



California Forest Improvement Program

What does it fund?

Cost-share (reimbursement) assistance for improved management of California's private, nonindustrial forest lands, including creation of a forest management plan, reforestation, stand improvement (thinning, pruning, etc.), and land conservation/habitat improvement.

Who is eligible for funds?

Ownerships containing 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land. Eligible landowners include private owners, government agencies, businesses, corporations, and non-federally owned Native American lands.

How do I access funds?

Contact your local CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist to determine funding availability and eligibility

Next solicitation: Rolling applications, reviewed quarterly.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/california-forest-improvement>



Forest Legacy

What does it fund?

Protection of environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses, through CAL FIRE's purchasing of conservation easements or fee title of productive forest lands from willing sellers.

Who is eligible for funds?

Eligible properties include those with working forest and rangelands, where the property is managed for the production of forest products and traditional forest uses are maintained.

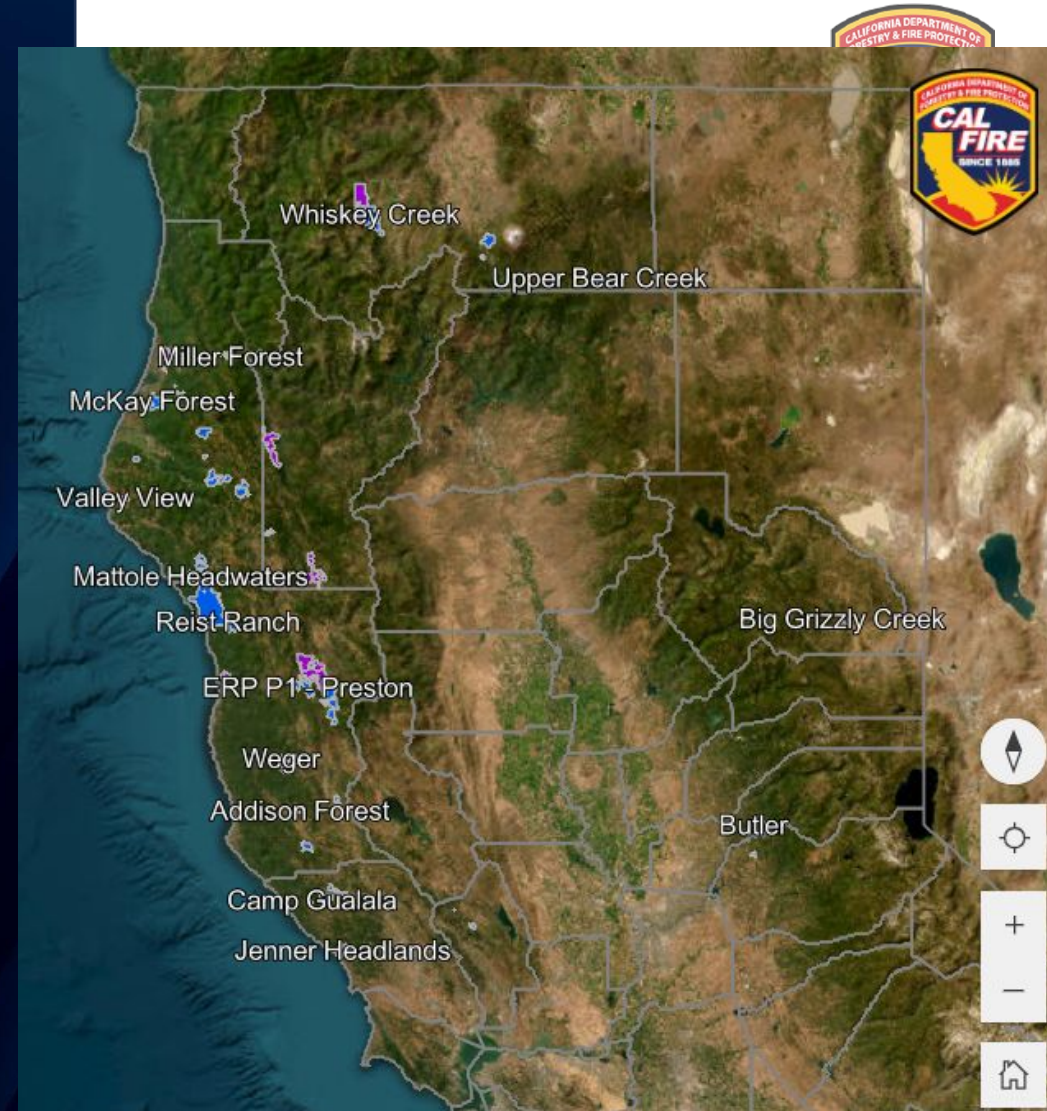
How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: TBD

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/forest-legacy>



Forest Health Research

What does it fund?

Grants for research on forest and wildfire ecology and management in California. Topics vary by solicitation.

Awards: Up to \$750K per award. \$4M-\$5M awarded per solicitation.

Who is eligible for funds?

Local, state, and federal agencies, universities and academic institutions, tribal governments, private forest landowners, and nonprofits including fire safe councils and land trusts.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: Winter 2025/2026

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/forest-health-research-program>



Urban & Community Forestry

What does it fund?

Urban forest expansion (tree planting), management, and improvement, and utilization of urban tree waste for wood products and bioenergy. Some solicitations limited to schools and childcare facilities.

Who is eligible for funds?

Varies. Typically cities, counties, qualifying districts including but not limited to school, park, recreation, water, and local taxing districts, federally recognized tribal nations, tribal-affiliated nonprofit organizations, non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding, and/or nonprofit organizations.

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: Aliso Canyon (Los Angeles) Green Schoolyards solicitation opens August 1. Otherwise, TBD, possibly winter 2025/2026.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/urban-and-community-forestry-grants>



Volunteer Fire Capacity

What does it fund?

Provides local and rural fire departments with minor firefighting, training, communications, and safety equipment for their volunteer firefighters.

Awards: \$500 to \$20K. Requires 50/50 match.

Who is eligible for funds?

Communities with a population under 10,000

How do I access funds?

Apply through a statewide competitive process.

Next solicitation: TBD, possibly Spring 2026. Contingent on federal funds.

Website:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-protection/cooperative-efforts>

