

CAL FIRE offers grants to help reduce fire threat and improve forest health

Applications are being sought for projects that will help prevent wildfires and restore forest health.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced in October the availability of up to \$155 million in project grants to improve forest conditions, and also sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grants Program will provide funding for local projects that address wildfire risk and reduce wildfire potential to communities in, and adjacent to, forested areas.

Qualified activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire planning, and fire prevention education, with an emphasis on improving public health and safety.

Collaborative projects that include a mix of treatment activities at the landscape scale will also be eligible for grants.

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grants Program will provide funding for Conservation easements and land acquisitions under the Forest Legacy Program.

In addition to the \$155 million, another \$3 million will be made available specifically for applied research studies that examine forest management and health to support private forestland owners, resource agencies and fire management organizations in California.

Official Call for Applications

Forest Health Program: The call for applications opened October 1 and applications are due by 3 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2019. Public workshops are being held throughout California.

Fire Prevention Program: The call for applications opened Oct. 17, 2018, with a 3 p.m. deadline on Dec. 19 to be eligible for program funding.

These grant programs are part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities.

These programs also are part of a broader effort outlined in the forest management executive order issued by Gov. Brown earlier this year and they support the State Forest Carbon Plan, which seeks to increase the ability of

California forests to capture carbon and improve forest management, including reducing dangerous tree mortality and the impacts of wildfires.

Details about the grant applications and administration process are available online for each program.

Obtain grant guidelines, program details and sign up for announcements at the CAL FIRE Grants page, online at <https://bit.ly/2bfSSiV>.

CAL FIRE offers a number of grant programs, each with its own scope and funding priorities. See details online.

Managing forests for the future

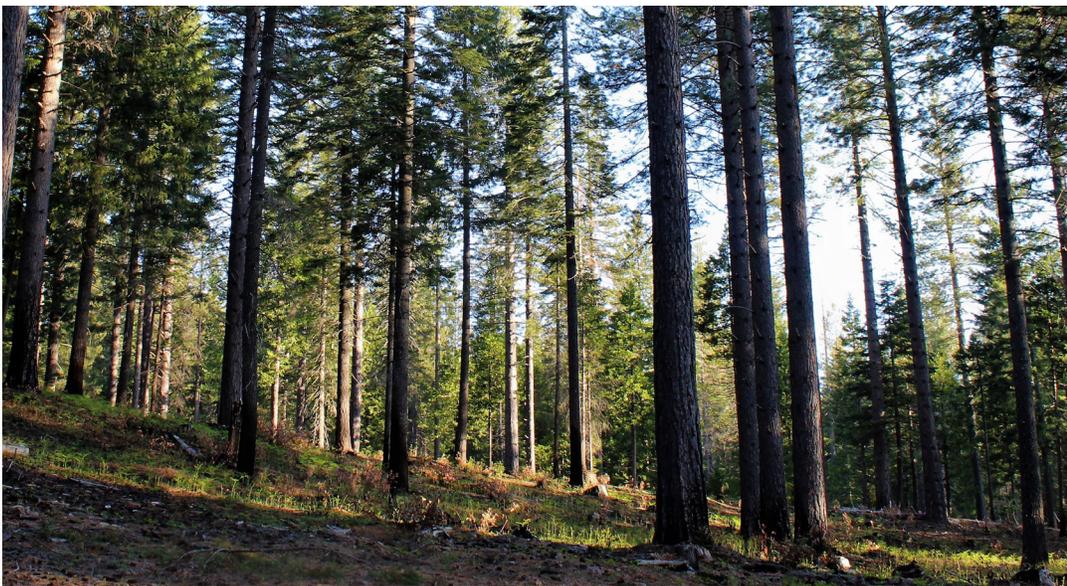
Improving forest health in California is a top priority with new initiatives and funding plans.

Forestry experts say reducing tree density and maintaining species diversity will play a big role in improving future forest conditions.

Areas for improving forest health include:

- Gaining a better understanding about how to approach reforestation and vegetation management in California's high tree-mortality areas.
- Revising the state's seed zone map to factor in potential future climate conditions.
- Understanding the role of genetics and seed stock sources will play in reforestation efforts.
- Forest landowners and managers will need to consider which species and genotypes to plant in which locations in the face of changing climatic conditions.

Source: USDA-FS Science and Management Symposium, 2017, online at: <https://bit.ly/2Mxr2vY>



Fuel reduction treatments open forests to better health and resiliency.