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FOREST STEWARDSHIP SERIES 23

Technical and Financial Assistance

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE ON FORESTRY QUESTIONS

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

<http://www.ucanr.org>

UCCE staffs 64 county-based offices to bring the University's research-based information to all California residents. More than 400 campus-based specialists and county-based farm, forestry, natural resources, home, and youth advisors work as teams to develop and deliver practical solutions for local problems. Their efforts range from technical forestry and farm assistance and water conservation research to nutrition education for low-income families and advances in veterinary medicine.

UCCE is a partnership of federal, state, county, and private agencies and organizations. UCCE's teaching tools include Web-based publications (like this one), meetings, conferences, workshops, demonstrations, field days, video programs, newsletters, and manuals. Visit the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Web site (above) for contact information, subject matter information, publication lists for all UCCE academics, and links to further information.

Objective

Identify and understand the technical assistance and cost-share programs available to help you in your forest stewardship.

Competencies

- Understand that University of California Cooperative Extension forestry and general natural resource specialists are located in several forested counties. They are available to help with many of your management questions and can help you understand many of the resources presented in this leaflet.
- Become aware that additional resources can be found through the Forest Stewardship Helpline (1-800-738-TREE) and CAL-FIRE's forestry assistance specialists.
- Understand that cost-share programs can offer financial assistance for accomplishing management goals, such as thinning, forest stand improvement, tree planting, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Related Forest Stewardship Series Publications

- Professional Assistance, [ANR Publication 8254](#)
- Stewardship Objectives and Planning, [ANR Publication 8248](#)

The Forest Stewardship Helpline

1-800-738-TREE

<http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward>

The Forest Stewardship Helpline provides a free service for California forest landowners and the public. The helpline is staffed by a registered professional forester (RPF) who can answer questions or provide referrals on any California forestry-related topic.

Forestland Steward Newsletter

<http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward>

This quarterly publication for forest landowners is available by a free subscription through the Forest Stewardship Helpline. Archived newsletters are available at the California Forest Stewardship Program Web site.

Forestry Assistance Specialists—California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/>

For a list of forestry assistance specialists, contact the Forest Stewardship Helpline or visit the CAL FIRE Web site, <http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/PDF/ForestAdvisorList6-5-01.pdf>.

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)

There are currently over 100 RCDs in the state working to create opportunities for private landowners to identify and accomplish stewardship goals on an individual or watershed basis. RCDs are

independent local government organizations that coordinate between local landowners and the federal government, primarily with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to promote voluntary conservation of land, water, forests, wildlife, and other resources. As a local government entity with no regulatory power, RCDs can work with any local, state, or federal agency through simple cooperative agreements. This allows them to receive and spend conservation grant funding. To find the RCD in your area, contact the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at <http://www.carcd.org>.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

A state agency that manages California's wetlands, wildlife habitats, and ecosystems.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

<http://www.fire.ca.gov>

A state agency that provides fire protection and oversees enforcement of California's forest practice regulations that guide timber harvesting on private lands. Additionally, they provide a financial assistance program to small landowners (see the State Forestry Assistance section of this publication) and have a conifer nursery that sells seedlings for your planting projects. Local units can be reached under the "State Government" listings in a telephone directory or at the CAL FIRE Web site given above. Information about the nursery program can be found at http://www.fire.ca.gov/rsrc-mgt_statenurseries.php.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

A federal agency with experts in soil science. NRCS administers federal cost-share programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The NRCS also creates and distributes soil maps; for information from soil surveys, see <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

<http://www.fws.gov>

This federal agency may be helpful when seeking information about wildlife habitats and endangered species environments.

USDA Forest Service (FS)

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

This federal agency manages 18 National Forests in California comprising 20 million acres. Local forest supervisor offices and district offices have information about national forests adjacent to private landowners. The Forest Service often has fire protection responsibilities in forested rural areas. The Forest Service also has a research branch, the Pacific Southwest Research Station, in Albany, California, that conducts forest management, wildlife, fire, soils, and watershed research. For more information, see their Web site, <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/>.

USDI National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

This federal agency is responsible for marine fishes, including those that live part-time in freshwater such as salmon and steelhead.

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many state and the federal forestry assistance programs are available to landowners. Assistance is available in the form of cost-share opportunities; local, state, and federal agency programs; and free or low-cost publications on many subjects, from forest and habitat improvement to fuel reduction projects. Funding for these programs changes annually.

The Cost Share and Assistance Programs for Individual California Landowners and Indian Tribes contains information on numerous cost-share programs. The complete booklet can be found online at <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/pdf/costshare00.pdf>; or contact the California Forest Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE. This guide was last updated in 2003 and some of the information is out of date, but it does provide a good summary of how to determine your eligibility to various cost share programs.

Contact local offices and staff of the CAL FIRE, RCD, and NRCS for more cost-share information.

STATE FORESTRY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

www.fire.ca.gov/php/rsrc-mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php

CFIP is administered by CAL FIRE and is designed for private nonindustrial landowners to improve their forest productivity, including timber, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil resources. Activities covered under this program include management planning, reforestation, site preparation, thinning, land conservation (erosion control, forest road rehabilitation, revegetation) and fish and wildlife habitat improvement. Landowners who own between 20 to 5,000 acres of forestland with at least 10 percent forest cover are eligible. Tribal trust lands are not eligible. The cost-share rate is generally 75 percent, with a higher rate of 90 percent going to those properties affected by a natural disaster such as a fire, flood, disease, or insect outbreak. The maximum allowable contract is \$50,000.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

www.fire.ca.gov/php/rsrc-mgt_forestryassistance_legacy.php

The goal of the FLP is to identify and protect environmentally important forestlands threatened by present or future conversion to nonforest uses. Through the program, conservation easements are accepted from willing private landowners to control conversion to nonforest uses. Forest management activities, including timber harvesting, and recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking may be permitted as long as they are consistent with the program's purposes.

CAL FIRE, the USDA Forest Service and the California Forest Stewardship Coordinating Council administer the program. The FLP cost-share may not exceed 75 percent of any costs associated with the donation. There are no parcel size limitations. Contact the Forest Legacy Coordinator at 916-653-8286 or visit their Web site for more information.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

www.fire.ca.gov/php/rsrc-mgt_vegetationmanagement.php

The Vegetation Management Program, administered by CAL FIRE, provides incentives for using fire as a tool to control unwanted brush and other vegetation that create wildfire hazards. Through VMP, the planning, implementation, and liability for projects

using prescribed fire are covered. As a part of the project, participants develop a management plan for the property with consideration of follow-up treatments to enhance and maintain the effects of the burn.

Depending on land management objectives, the landowner will pay at least 10 percent of the estimated costs. Costs depend on the size and complexity of the area and time of year. A burn with greater public benefits will improve the cost share ratio. For further information, contact the VMP program manager at 916-653-2380 or visit their Web site.

Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management Program (PLM)

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

The PLM seeks to enhance and safeguard habitat for California's wildlife and, at the same time, improve profits for ranchers and farmers, forestland owners, and managers. To be eligible, private landowners must complete a habitat assessment, prepare a statement of objectives, maintain records of progress in improving wildlife habitat, develop and receive approval for a management plan, pay the license fee, and make a 3-year commitment to the program. The DFG sponsors this program. Contact the Deer Program coordinator at 916-653-4673 for more information.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

<http://www.calwater.ca.gov>

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta program is to restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, including flood control, irrigation, and domestic water for the southern Central Valley and southern California, as well as protection of Delta endangered species and anadromous fish runs. The Bay-Delta system is the intricate web of waterways at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the watershed that feeds them. Focused grants are available for ecosystem restoration in areas that have been identified as priorities by stakeholders. Grants will be awarded for many areas of interest to forestland owners, including watershed planning, education, fish screens, flood plain acquisition, habitat restoration, and research and monitoring projects. Any landowner in the Bay-Delta and tributary watersheds is eligible. For more information, contact the CALFED program coordinator at (916) 654-1334 or visit their Web site.

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

This program is designed to improve or restore salmon and steelhead populations in coastal California through watershed planning, watershed restoration, fish habitat improvement projects, cooperative fish-rearing programs, watershed organization support, private-sector technical training, and public education. Public agencies, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, and private entities are eligible. Cost share is recommended. For more information contact DFG at (916)-327-8842 or visit the DFG Web site.

FEDERAL FORESTRY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

EQIP, a Farm Bill program, provides a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers, ranchers, and nonindustrial forest landowners to address significant natural resource needs and objectives. The program provides technical, financial, and educa-

tional assistance. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for EQIP, working with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). A variety of conservation programs are supported by EQIP and are eligible for a maximum of 75 percent cost share. For further information on the program, contact your local NRCS office.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

WHIP, a Farm Bill program, provides a voluntary program for private landowners in partnership with neighbors or agencies who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat, by offering technical assistance and cost-share to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The NRCS has leadership for the program, which can support a maximum of 75 percent cost share. Landowners must agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. For further information, contact your local NRCS office or their Web site.

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