



CAL FIRE

Forestry Assistance Programs

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

The California Forest Improvement Program was created in 1978 and launched in 1980. About one-half of California's 32 million acres of forestlands is privately-owned; one-half of that, or 8 million acres, is in small private ownerships. Aimed at these nonindustrial

private forestlands, CFIP's purpose is to encourage private and public investments in forestlands and resources to ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, improve wildlife and fisheries habitat, improve fire safety, and to generally protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations.



The Forest Stewardship Program

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 authorized the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) to provide technical assistance, through state forestry agency partners, to nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services. Participation in the Forest Stewardship Program is open to any non-industrial private forest landowners who commit to the active management and stewardship of their forested properties for at least 10 years. In addition to funding the development of management plans, the FSP grants have provided for technical assistance and educational outreach to NIPF landowners. The program has provided CAL FIRE the means to cooperate with watershed groups, the University of California Cooperative Extension and Resource Conservation Districts and other groups on a variety of projects such as community fuel breaks, watershed studies and educational venues.



The Forest Legacy Program

The federal Forest Legacy (16 U.S.C. Sec. 2103c) Program was part of the 1990 Federal Farm Bill. It recognized that private forestland owners were facing increased pressure due to greater population densities and user demands. Then in 2000, Governor Gray Davis signed into law SB1832, the California Forest Legacy Act. This law allows CAL FIRE to acquire conservation easements, and permits federal and state agencies, local governments and nonprofit land trust organizations to hold conservation easements acquired pursuant to the California Forest Legacy Program. Money to fund the program comes from a variety of sources: gifts, donations, federal grants and loans, other appropriate funding sources, and from the sale of bonds pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. The objective of the Forest Legacy Program is to identify and protect environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by present or future conversion to non-forest uses by either purchasing the land or purchasing the development rights through deed restrictions such as a conservation easement.

Since the program began in California, CAL FIRE has entered into conservation easements on 3840 acres and purchased another 1097 in fee.