

California Association of Resource Conservation District's 2019

»» Get After It!

A Guide to Local, State and
Federal Project Opportunities
for Forest, Fire, and Fuels



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Resource Conservation Districts

Building a Robust Forest Health Program

Funding options for Forest Health programs include grants, contracts with agencies, fee for service programs, and cooperative agreements with partner agencies like NRCS.

While grants operate on fixed cycles, contracts and agreements occur sporadically.



Partnering with neighboring RCDs can help build experience and make grant applications more competitive. As the call for increased pace and scale continues, regional projects become increasingly sought after.

It is a busy time in California for forest management, and RCDs have a big role to play in meeting critical community and ecosystem health and safety goals. There are many facets to building a robust forest health program, and each RCD has something different to bring to the table. Components of a forest health program include:

- Education, both formal and informal, about forest health and fire hazard reduction
- Outreach to private landowners about local programs and best management practices (BMPs)
- Technical assistance to private landowners
- Project management services to local governments and state and federal agencies
- NEPA/CEQA services
- Community financial assistance programs to address forest management needs
- Regional partnership to build trust, increase the scale of work, and work across jurisdictions
- Provide equipment, expertise, or labor to partner organizations and agencies

Any grant, agreement, or contract can be an opportunity to build a forest health program. Each funding stream has unique opportunities for leverage towards ongoing staff or contracts. Bringing on a project coordinator to run a grant is a demonstration of capacity to the local National Forest, and could lead to a future contract. Running a successful project for CAL FIRE builds esteem and experience for future grant cycles. Equipment purchased through a grant can be repurposed to develop a fee for service program. You just have to get after it!



Resource Conservation Districts

Building a Robust Forest Health Program

A robust forest health program meets the needs of the community and the forest ecosystems while building the RCDs capacity to implement projects and plan strategically.

Using a grant to hire program staff can be further supported by developing fee-for-service offerings and direct contracting with local, state, and federal agencies.



A holistic forestry program needs strong partnerships to be resilient. Identifying local partners, reaching out to local agency offices, and bolstering the visibility of your RCD can help sustain robust programs.

Building a holistic and sustainable forest health program takes time, commitment, and the willingness to chase diverse funding opportunities. Identifying where your RCD is thriving and which areas of a holistic forest health program need to be nurtured, can help prioritize future funding and motivate new partnerships.

Trusted and Reliable Point of Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point person for community members • Direct folks to appropriate programs, in-house or with partners • Well connected with other local organizations and agency staff
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with local organizations providing education to communities to deliver one message • Implement education programs with schools, community groups, public workshops • Develop localized educational messages and resources
Community Assistance Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defensible space education and cost-assistance programs • Community firewood, chipping, and post disaster recovery programs and trainings • Working with local partners to build program longevity
Technical Assistance for Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledgeable and accessible resource for those managing forestlands • Registered Professional Foresters on staff or contract to provide expert assistance • Partnerships with NRCS and CAL FIRE
Local Project Development and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative approach to project scoping and development • Engagement with local resource concerns and community barriers and opportunities

Each RCD will structure their forestry programs differently based on the local resource concerns, community and landowner needs, and RCD capacity. Identifying where your RCD can grow can drive new opportunities and bring more resources into your community.



Planning and Community Engagement



Firewise Communities

* Firewise USA is a program of the National Fire Protection Association aimed at supporting residents in reducing their fire risk.

* If California, Firewise communities may be eligible for reduced rates for fire insurance.

Firewise plans are community specific and designed to meet the needs of residents and the recommendations of the fire risk assessment.

Additional Information

How to become a Firewise USA site [guide](#)

Firewise USA [Template](#)

Firewise USA free online [workshop series](#)

State Firewise Liason

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Deputy Chief CAL FIRE
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Pete.Munoa@fire.ca.gov

There are many ways to engage local communities in forest health and fire preparedness activities. The Firewise Communities program is one way to bring neighbors together to address the threat of fire and meet the responsibility of living on forested or fire-prone land. The program has a step-by-step process for community organizing, risk assessment, and making an action plan.



The Firewise program is well suited to neighborhoods or WUI areas with easily defined boundaries. Firewise communities can have as few as 8 individual dwelling units and up to as many as 2,500. In coordination with local agencies and organizations, residents will form a board and go through the Firewise assessment and planning process. This program is participatory, and residents are required to volunteer time or put forth resources to complete the work - both administrative and land management.

RCDs can do outreach to communities, help form boards, provide forestry technical assistance and recommendations, and where available, provide fee-for-service activities like chipping.



Planning and Community Engagement

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- * CWPPs are a useful tool for growing a forestry program and developing a 'pipeline' of projects over the span of several years.
- * A CWPP generally covers a large geographic area, such as a whole county or watershed, with sub-sections dedicated to specific communities or jurisdictions.

CWPPs list priorities and projects for the community. These priorities can include supporting the creation of Firewise communities in vulnerable WUI areas.

Additional Information

[Handbook](#) for preparing a CWPP

The CWPP planning process

[Quick Guide](#)

[BMPs for creating a CWPP](#)

Example CWPP led by an RCD: [Tehama East Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Risk Assessment](#)

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies risks, prioritizes high need areas, outlines projects, and recommends treatments for Federal, State, and private lands. The process of developing a CWPP is participatory and includes stakeholders from state and federal agencies, local community groups, scientists, and resource managers.



Participating in the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a great way to build relationships between your RCD and local organizations and agency representatives. The RCD, Fire Safe Councils, CAL FIRE unit staff, USFS representatives, tribal governments, local fire departments, land trusts, and community groups are commonly represented in the CWPP development and decision making process.

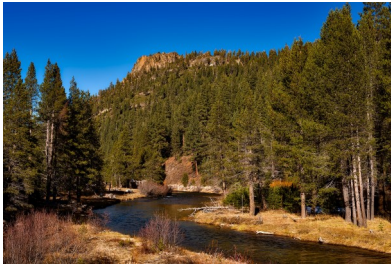
The plan itself is a useful tool in developing future grants, working towards a catalogue of shovel ready projects, securing contracts with state and federal partners, and working with community members to identify and address their needs.



Resource Conservation Districts



Grants



Grants, contracts, agreements, and MOUs can be used in tandem to create a robust and holistic suite of forest health services to the community. Utilizing a diversity of income sources and activities makes consistent staffing a more achievable goal.

Each approach has its benefits and drawbacks, as well as gaps in what funding can cover.

Recent Forest and Fire Grants: Attributes and Allowable Activities

	Forest Health Watershed Coordinator	CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants	CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants	SNC WIP Category 1 Grants	SNC WIP Category 2 Grants	SNC Resilient Communities Grant	RCCP/NRCS Cooperative Agreements	Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grants
Community Education	X		X			X		X
Landowner Outreach								X
Landowner Technical Assistance							X	
Planning	X		X			X		X
Project Development/ Permitting	X		X		X	X		X
Stakeholder Engagement	X							X
Regional Collaboration	X					X		X
Project Implementation		X	X	X		X		X
Pursue Additional Funding	X					X		





USDA Forest Service



Good Neighbor Authority

Good Neighbor Master Agreements are good for 10 years

Projects are administered through supplemental agreements between individual national forests and California state agencies

RCDs can contract with state agencies to perform some or all of the responsibilities in a supplemental agreement—state agencies include CAL FIRE and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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- * GNA Is not a Forest Service budget line or a granting fund
 - * GNAs do not require match
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Additional Information

USFS [“Good Neighbor Agreement Questions And Comments”](#)

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Report [“Understanding Good Neighbor Authority: Case Studies from Across the West “](#)

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment [“Stewardship Authority and Good Neighbor Authority”](#)

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is one tool that the US Forest Service uses to get work done on the ground. The program gives the Forest Service the authority to contract with state entities to perform restoration activities on National Forest Service land. Through the agreement, state agencies can administer timber sales on Federal lands and the Forest Service can use revenue from timber sales to purchase services, including planning , from state entities.



Good Neighbor Authority projects, through timber sales revenue can be self perpetuating. Receipts retained through GNA projects go to funding future stewardship work on federal lands. If a GNA is working in tandem with a Wyden Authority, retained receipts can be used for stewardship on adjacent non-federal lands.

Good Neighbor Authority projects are a good way to build relationships with federal forests and state agencies operating in your district and develop a new funding stream for ongoing restoration projects.



USDA Forest Service



Stewardship Agreements

Master Stewardship Agreements (MSAs) are a type of stewardship agreement that tends to cover a large area, often written for a region or entire forest

Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) are written for specific projects conducted under an MSA.

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- * RCDs can be the lead on SAs and MSAs
 - * Stewardship Agreements require a 20% match
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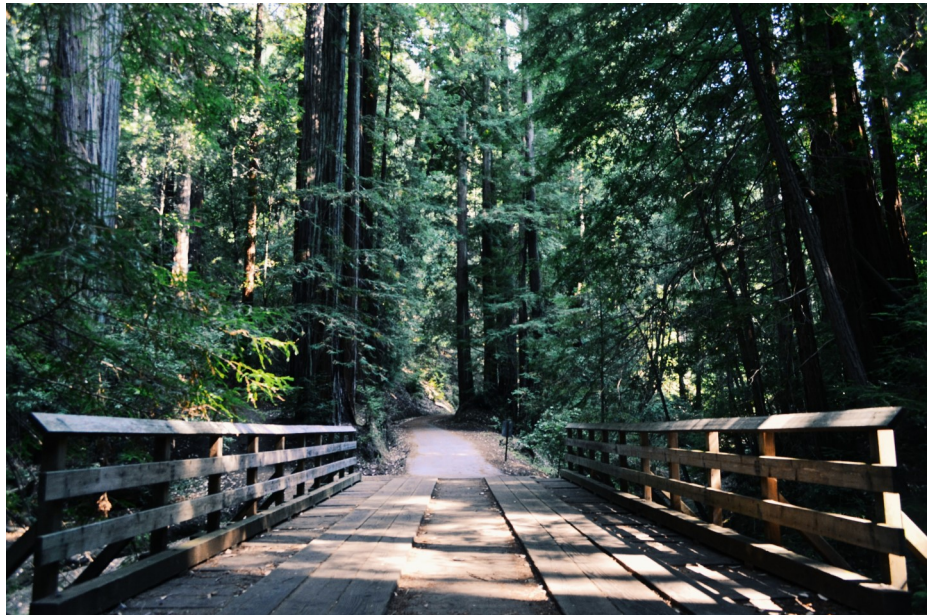
Additional Information

National Forest Foundation
[“Stewardship and the US Forest Service”](#)

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
[“Stewardship Authority and Good Neighbor Authority”](#)

Master Stewardship Agreement Example
[“Trinity RCD and Shasta – Trinity National Forest”](#)

Stewardship Agreements are founded in the mutual interest and benefit of the US Forest Service and a partner. Lead partners on stewardship agreements can include state agencies, non-profits, and Resource Conservation Districts. All stewardship agreements include forest product removal and service work activities. Work is contracted on a “best value” basis, and unlike timber sales, the excess value is kept on the forest via retained receipts.



Contract offers are evaluated based on “best value” which incorporates both price and non-price criteria. Passed performance, experience, and local community benefit are also typically taken into consideration.

Stewardship agreements, like GNAs, are a way to leverage timber value towards future restoration activities. RCDs can also contract for Supplemental Project Agreements under another entity’s Master Stewardship Agreement.



CAL FIRE



Direct Contracts

Currently CAL FIRE will enter into contracts without going through a bidding process.

Some RCDs have been approached by their local CAL FIRE unit to implement specific fuels projects.

If you have interest in contracting with CAL FIRE, contact your local Unit Chief

- * Contracting Directly with CAL FIRE is not a CCI Grant and does not require match.
 - * Administrative costs can be negotiated during the contracting process.
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Additional Information

CAL FIRE [45 Day Report](#) and [35 Priority Projects Map and Descriptions](#)

Executive Roster [Unit Chief and Regional Leadership Contact Information](#)

To increase the pace and scale of forest and fuels management projects, CAL FIRE works with local organizations to implement some or all aspects of individual projects. RCDs have been successful partners with CAL FIRE in the past on vegetation management and fuels reduction projects, roadside clearings, and landscape scale restoration.



CAL FIRE is tasked with increasing the pace and scale of forest treatments around the state from 250,000 acres to 500,000 acres annually. To meet this new goal, contracting with local boots on the ground organizations for project implementation will be essential. CAL FIRE is also expanding their efforts to connect with and support private landowners in forested areas, through the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and the Wildfire Resilience Program.

Building a relationship with your local CAL FIRE unit leadership is an important component of any successful forestry program. Providing project support as they scale up their forest treatments and outreach efforts builds both trust in the capabilities of your RCD and increases the likelihood of additional contracts in the future.



USDA Forest Service



Contact Information

Contacting your local Forest Supervisor is a good place to start when considering a contract or MOU with the Forest Service

Some programs have state or federal coordinators who are the best points of contact in their program area



- * Know your capacity
- * Know your value
- * Know your ask
- * Get after it!

National Forest Supervisors

Angeles National Forest	626-574-5216
Cleveland National Forest	530-621-5205
El Dorado National Forest	530-621-5205
Inyo National Forest	760-873-2550
Klamath National Forest	530-841-4502
Lassen National Forest	530-252-6600
Los Padres National Forest	805-961-5733
Mendocino National Forest	530-934-1100
Modoc National Forest	530-233-8700
Plumas National Forest	530-283-7810
San Bernardino National Forest	909-382-2710
Sequoia National Forest	559-784-1500
Shasta-Trinity National Forest	530-226-2529
Sierra National Forest	559-297-0706 x4801
Six Rivers National Forest	707-441-3534
Stanislaus National Forest	209-288-6265
Tahoe National Forest	530-478-6200
Lake Tahoe Basin MU	530-543-2640

Program Coordinators and Primary Contacts

State and Private Forestry, Biomass Coordinator	Larry Swan	707-562-8917
State and Private Forestry, Forest Legacy/Stewardship Program Manager	Laura Moser	707-562-9122
Partnership Coordinator	Amanda Cundiff	707-562-9007



CAL FIRE

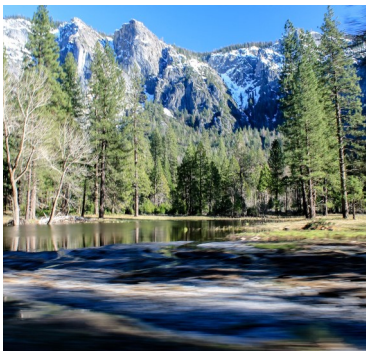


Contact Information

Unit Chiefs & Forestry Assistance Specialists (FAS)

Some RCDs have been approached by their local CAL FIRE unit to implement specific fuels projects.

If you have interest in contracting with CAL FIRE, contact your local Unit Chief



Additional Information

[CAL FIRE 45 Day Report and 35 Priority Projects Map and Descriptions](#)

[Executive Roster Unit Chief and Regional Leadership Contact Information](#)

CAL FIRE UNIT	FAS Contact	Counties Served
Amador-El Dorado AEU Unit Chief Scott Lindgren 530-644-2345	Mary Huggins (916) 718-6258	Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento
Butte BTU Unit Chief David Hawks 530-538-7111	Dave Derby (530) 872-6334	Butte
Fresno-Kings FSU Unit Chief Mark Johnson 559-485-7500	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Fresno, Kings
Humboldt-Del Norte HUU Unit Chief Kurt McCray 707-725-4413	James Robbins (916) 224-8761	Humboldt, Del Norte
Lassen-Modoc LMU Unit Chief Scott Packwood 530-257-4171	Ivan Houser (530) 257-8503	Lassen
	Don Schroeder (530) 294-5110	Modoc
	Al Klem (530) 283-1792	Plumas
Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Chief Mike Van Loben Sels 209-966-3622	Zsolt Katay (209) 754-2707	Madera, Mariposa
	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Merced
Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez 707-459-7414	James Robbins (916) 224-8761	Mendocino
Nevada-Yuba-Placer NEU Unit Chief Brian Estes 530-823-4904	Mary Huggins (916) 718-6258	Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, Yuba
Riverside RRU Unit Chief Shawn Newman 951-940-6900	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Riverside
San Benito-Monterey Unit Chief Dave Fulcher 831-678-0609	Topher Henderson (559) 977-3560	Monterey, San Benito
San Bernardino BDU Unit Chief Glenn Barley 909-881-6900	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Inyo, Mono, San Bernardino
San Diego MVU Unit Chief Tony Mecham 619-590-3100	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Imperial, San Diego
San Luis Obispo SLU Unit Chief Scotty Jalbert 805-543-4244	Topher Henderson (559) 977-3560	San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo SLU Unit Chief Scotty Jalbert 805-543-4244	Topher Henderson (559) 977-3560	San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz
Santa Clara SCU Unit Chief Jake Hess 408-779-2121	Topher Henderson (559) 977-3560	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Santa Clara
Shasta-Trinity SHU Unit Chief Bret Gouvea 530-225-2401	Brook Darley (530) 224-2438	Shasta, Trinity
Siskiyou Unit Chief Phillip Anzo 530-842-3516	Dale Meese (530) 224-2480	Siskiyou
Sonoma-Lake-Napa LNU Unit Chief Shana Jones 707-967-1400	Dawn Pederson (530) 528-5199	Colusa
	Meghan Reeves (707) 888-7331	Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Solano, Yolo
Tehama-Glenn TGU Unit Chief Christine Thompson 530-528-5199	Brook Darley (530) 224-2438	Tehama, Glenn
Tulare Unit Chief Stan Machado (Acting) 559-732-5954	Guy Anderson (559) 243-4109	Tulare
Tuolumne-Calaveras TCU Unit Chief Josh White 209-754-3831	Zsolt Katay (209) 754-2707	Tuolumne, Calaveras