

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CAL FIRE

Forest Health Program

Draft Grant Guidelines 2016-17

Funding provided via the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)



December 2016

Presentation Overview

- **Background information about the funding source-California Climate Investments**
- **Draft Grant Guidelines Overview**
- **Timelines**

Overview of AB 32

- **AB 32 – The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**
 - Requires California to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
 - Helps mitigate risks associated with climate change, while improving energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy resources, cleaner transportation, and reducing waste.
 - Regulatory and market-based programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions.
 - California Air Resources Board is the lead agency.
 - For more information-<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

- **The Cap-and-Trade Program began in 2012.**
- **Market based regulation.**
- **Companies must hold enough emission allowances to cover their emissions, and are free to buy and sell allowances on the open market.**
- **Allowances sold at quarterly auctions and reserve sales.**
- **The proceeds of the sales go into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).**
- **The Legislature and Governor appropriate the funds in the GGRF for projects that meet the goals of AB 32.**

Forest Health Program Meets the Goals and AB 32

CAL FIRE will fund and implement landscape scale projects that:

- **Increase carbon sequestration and storage in living trees and forests**
- **Improve forest health while sustaining forest benefits**
- **Protect water quality and water supplies**
- **Create forests more resilient to disturbance (fire, drought, pests and disease, etc.) in light of climate change**
- **Reduce emissions resulting from wildfires**



Grant Guidelines Overview

- **Introduction**
- **Applicant Eligibility Criteria**
- **Application Process**
- **General Project Conditions and Administration**
- **Appendix A-J**



Grant Guidelines Overview

The Governor's 2016-2017 budget: \$40 million GGRF funding to CAL FIRE

- **\$25 million for Forest Health project**
 - **\$3 million to partner with the California Conservation Corps to complete Forest Health projects**
- **\$15 Million to the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program**

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php#

Grant Guidelines Overview

Introduction: Landscape Scale Forest Health Projects Defined

- **Large landscapes:** usually sub-watersheds, fireheds, or larger logical management units covering up to 750 thousand acres. Larger areas if a logical management unit.
- **Cooperative ventures with multiple landowners, jurisdictions and funding sources.**
- **Wide range of different activities:** reforestation, fuel reduction, pest management, conservation easements, and biomass utilization.
- **Areas with elevated levels of tree mortality, wildfire threats, carbon storage potential, and opportunities for biomass use within reasonable proximity.**

Grant Guidelines Overview

Introduction: Landscape Scale Forest Health Projects Defined

- **Leverage multiple funding sources from each of the partners involved and leverage other financial resources to achieve an outcome that is larger than the sum of the individual project.**
- **Existing agreements: Good Neighbor Authority, Prescribed Fire MOU, local agreements.**
- **Each activity must be part of a logical plan to reduce GHG emissions and contribute to the overall forest health of the logical management unit.**

Grant Guidelines Overview

Introduction: Quantification Methods

- ARB, in consultation with CAL FIRE, has developed a landscape level quantification methodology that provides uniform methods to estimate net GHG benefits for projects.
- ARB will post a draft quantification methodology for public comment prior to finalization.
- Both the draft and final quantification methodologies will be available on the ARB website at:
<https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/quantification.htm>



Grant Guidelines Overview

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants: federal land management agencies, state land management agencies, local governments, Native American tribes, private forest landowners, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, land trusts, landowner organizations, conservation groups, and other non-profit organizations.

Projects: Landscape scale Forest Health projects and Conservation Easements

GHG Reductions: Projects must further the goals of AB 32

Priority Areas: Forestlands where projects will have the greatest benefits such as sustainable working forests and rangelands, areas with high wildfire threat to ecosystem health and community safety, areas under threat by forest pests, drought, etc.



Grant Guidelines Overview

Applicant Eligibility Criteria continued....

Completion: complete grant-related work by March 30, 2020.

Permanence: Ensure the project benefits are as permanent as possible.

Forest Legacy Funding: Eligible projects may also involve conservation easements individually or as a component of a larger forest health project.

Capacity: Demonstrate capacity to plan and implement a complex, large landscape level project.

Research: Research is allowable as a component of a larger Forest Health project, but not as a stand alone project.

Grant Selection Criteria

- **Scope of Work** – The project is appropriate for the program with clear, complete articulation of intended work.
- **Budget** - The project budget clearly shows how the grant funds will be spent. Costs are reasonable in proportion to the proposed deliverables.
- **Matching Funds** – Matching funds are not required, though projects that contain matching funds and leverage other financial resources will receive some priority. Matching funds are required for Forest Legacy Applications.
- **Net Greenhouse Gas Benefit** – Greenhouse gas benefits are compelling and clearly demonstrated. The project results in a substantial net GHG benefit. The net GHG benefit clearly justifies how the project will further the objectives of AB 32. The numerical calculations can be reviewed and validated.
- **Co-Benefits** - A description of the co-benefits of the project is included and co-benefits are substantial. Preferred co-benefits include, but are not limited to, socio-economic benefits, public health, air quality, other environmental co-benefits, and jobs.

Grant Selection Criteria continued....

- **Disadvantaged Community Benefit** – Project provides a direct, meaningful, and assured benefit to a disadvantaged community and meaningfully addresses an important community need, as described in Volume II of ARB’s Funding Guidelines. CalEPA used CalEnviroScreen 2.0 to identify disadvantaged communities. Maps that show the disadvantaged community census tract boundaries are available at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/GHGInvest>. See Appendix K.
- **Community Benefit** – Project provides direct benefit to a community and meaningfully addresses an important community need.
- **Local Fire Plan or Other Forest Management Plan Compatibility** - Project is included in the State’s fire plan, CAL FIRE Unit fire plans or Community Wildfire Protection Plans or a conservation plan.
- **Collaboration and Community Support** - Project shows broad community support, partnerships or collaborative efforts to achieve the net GHG benefit. Collaboration and support is demonstrated by presence of planning, involvement by partners, and funding from private and public partnerships contributing to the project.

Grant Selection Criteria continued....

- **Project Inclusion of Multiple Forestry Practices** - CAL FIRE will favor those projects that include multiple effective forestry practices and involve multiple activities combined into a landscape level approach to Healthy Forest management.
- **Grantee's Past Forest Management History and References** - The applicant has demonstrated experience with similar landscape level projects and demonstrates a high potential for completing the project.
- **Readiness** - Grantee is ready to implement the project and has capability to begin work on the project within 12 months of the grant award.
- **Fuels Reduction** - For projects with a forest fuels reduction component, project addresses Fire Hazard Severity Zones, infrastructure protection including Tree Mortality Task Force High Hazard Zones, communities at risk and provides vegetation prescriptions.
- **Pest Management** - For projects with a pest management component, project addresses pest mortality risk, stand conditions and vegetation treatment, emergency pest infestation, exotic insects or disease, and/or active infestation thinning.
- **Reforestation** - For projects with a reforestation component, project addresses seed zones, site preparation, planting standards and post-project planting success. Reforestation and other conservation practices are compared to published USDA, NRCS and CFIP cost rates.

Grant Selection Criteria continued....

- **Legal Requirements Satisfied** – Project are ready to implement, because all required documents and legal requirements (e.g., CEQA, NEPA, ancillary contracts, agreements, MOUs, etc.) are in place.
- **Involving Local Expertise** – Project Uses local government, local fire districts, UC extension, (or appropriate non-governmental organizations) for coordination and oversight.
- **RPF Involvement** - A registered professional forester must design vegetation treatments, oversee vegetation removal, and may calculate the net GHG benefit.
- **Forest Health Benefit** - The project is a good fit for the Department's Forest Health Program.
- **Conservation Easements** – Projects are ranked on four criteria: (1) IMPORTANCE, (2) THREAT, (3) STRATEGIC VALUE, AND (4) READINESS. Because funds are limited, this information will help establish the preliminary ranking with the other projects including a conservation easement submitted for consideration. See appendix F, Forest Legacy.

Grant Guidelines Overview

Application Process - Projects will be selected through a competitive process.

The application process will consist of two phases:

- **Concept Proposal**: First phase, a brief description of the project evaluated against applicant eligibility criteria to determine if project qualifies for the Forest Health program. If the project meets all of the requirements and CAL FIRE determines it fits with the overall program goals and vision, then the applicant is invited to submit a.....
- **Project Application**: Second phase, applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed Project Application. The project applications will be evaluated using the Grant Selection Criteria (see Appendix D).

Grant Guidelines Overview

General Project Conditions and Administration

Progress Reports: Applicants must provide a method, schedule and reporting mechanism for pre- and post-project monitoring of site conditions and project results.

Monitoring: Eligible projects will be monitored according to ARB standards and require a 10-year monitoring provision for forestry projects.

- In forested ecosystems, there will always be an inherent risk of carbon loss through any agent of natural disturbance. Grant recipients will be encouraged to implement creative methods for maintaining treatment efficiency over time.

General Administration: Project Amendments and Termination, Changes to Approved Project, Accounting Requirements, Loss of Funding, Eligible Costs, Ineligible Costs

Grant Guidelines Overview

APPENDIX A – Explanation of Terms

APPENDIX B – CEQA Compliance

APPENDIX C – Other Funding Sources and Forest Legacy Program Information

APPENDIX D – Project Eligibility and Grant Selection Criteria

APPENDIX E – Concept Proposal, Attachment A - Grant Application and Instructions

APPENDIX F – Forest Legacy Program Application and Instructions

APPENDIX G – Sample Budget, Attachment C

APPENDIX H – Sample Resolution

APPENDIX I – Standard Forms

APPENDIX J – Invoice Guidelines

Timelines

Public Workshops on Draft Guidelines, comments due December 19, 2016

Finalize Guidelines and complete Application Workshops January/February 2017

Concept Proposal due February 17, 2017

GGRF Forest Health Project Selection April 15, 2017

Grant Agreement and Completion Deadlines

- **CAL FIRE will execute all grant agreements by June 30, 2018**
- **All funded projects must have grant-related work completed by March 30, 2020**

Timelines

Draft Forest Health Guidelines Public Workshops

- December 5-Sacramento
- December 8-Redding
- December 15-Fresno

Public Comments can be emailed to calfire.grants@fire.ca.gov through December 19, 2016.

Hard copies should be sent to:

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Thank you

Questions?

