CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE ANNOUNCES \$20 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR FOREST CONSERVATION

Up to \$20 million is available to protect working forest landscapes for a variety of important forest benefits.

Sacramento - The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced today the availability of nearly \$20 million in funding for grants to conserve and protect environmentally important privately-owned forestland.

Administered by CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy program, this critical funding works to ensure that forests are safeguarded for future generations while also aiding the state in meeting critical climate and carbon goals. Protection of California's forests through these grants ensures they continue to provide such benefits as wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, watershed protection and open space, and supporting sustainable wood product economies.

Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee titles of productive forest lands from willing sellers, to encourage long-term conservation throughout the state.

The solicitation for these grants will launch in two parts, including a pre-application, which will be ranked and scored, with successful pre-applicants invited to complete a full application. The pre-application period is open from June 29, 2023 to July 16, 2023. Invitations to complete a full application will be made by July 28, 2023, with the full application period open until August 31, 2023. A field visit by CAL FIRE staff to the potential project properties is required. Applicants will be notified of their full application status by September 15, 2023.

A workshop to present the eCivis online application program will be provided prior to opening the full application process. Please visit the <u>Forest Legacy webpage</u> for more information about the program and to access grant guidelines for responding to the solicitation.