

California Cooperative Forest Management Plan

Plan Template Edition Date: December 21, 2020

Property Name:

Property Location Address:

Landowner(s) Name (print or type):

Purpose of this Plan

This Multi-Agency Cooperative Forest Management Plan was developed for use in California by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) using information from a national joint Forest Stewardship, American Tree Farm System (ATFS), NRCS Planning Process and the California Forest Improvement Act.

This management plan template meets management plan requirements for grant agreements and other provisions available through CAL FIRE, USFS, NRCS, and the ATFS. Signature Pages are provided to document acceptance of this management plan in meeting those requirements. Signatures are only required for that entity providing funding as requested by the landowner.

This management plan is a tool for and belongs to the landowner. This forest management plan outlines the conditions and capability of property resources, documents the landowner's objectives and decisions and identifies potential resource improvement projects. It is meant to be a flexible and educational document that considers a planning horizon of at least five years but may include objectives that require a much longer time frame.

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Certifications

Note to the landowner: This Forest Management Plan is provided as a guide to help you accomplish the objectives that you have for your forest. This Forest Management Plan will guide you in achieving the benefits of managing your forest and forest related resources. With this Forest Management Plan, you are eligible to participate in the CAL FIRE's California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), US Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. This plan will need to be reviewed and approved by representatives for each of the programs that are providing funding.

Landowner Certification

"I have reviewed this plan and approve its content."

Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Mailing Address:

Phone number:

E-mail:

USFS Forest Stewardship Program Certification

Plan Preparer

“I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the federal Forest Stewardship Program.”

Plan Preparer Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Stewardship Forester

“I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the federal Forest Stewardship Program.”

Stewardship Forester Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Forest Stewardship Tracking Number:

NRCS Cost Share Program Certification

Technical Service Provider

“I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the USDA-NRCS Programs and/or the Quality Criteria for forest activity plans in Section III of the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.”

Technical Service Provider Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Registered Professional Forester #:

District Conservationist

“I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the USDA-NRCS Programs and/or the Quality Criteria for forest activity plans in Section III of the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.”

District Conservationist Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

ATFS Program Certification

"I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System."

ATFS Inspecting Forester (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Inspector Number:

Certified Tree Farm Number (e.g. CA 1234):

Date of ATFS Certification:

CFIP Certification

Plan Preparing Registered Professional Forester

“I certify that I, or my supervised designee, personally inspected this California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) plan area, and that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards. I further certify that this plan is based upon the best available site and landowner information, and if followed, will not be detrimental to the productivity of the natural resources associated with this property.”

Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Registered Professional Forester #:

Organization or Company:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

CAL FIRE Unit

“I certify that I, or my supervised designee, personally inspected this California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) plan area, and that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards.”

Forestry Assistance Specialist Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Unit & Mailing Address:

CAL FIRE State or Region CFIP Coordinator

“I certify that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards.”

CFIP Coordinator Name (print or type):

Signature:

Date:

Registered Professional Forester #:

Instructions for the Plan Preparer

Throughout this document instructions for the plan preparer will appear in italics and be labeled as “Instructions for the Plan Preparer”. These instructions are to be used by the plan preparer then deleted; the instructions labeled in this way should not remain in the final submitted plan.

Delete this page.

Be sure to update the Table of Contents, reviewing page numbers for accuracy prior to submitting your final plan.

Landowner Information

Landowner(s) Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Landowner's Representative (if applicable)

Landowner's Representative Name (if applicable):

Representative's Registered Professional Forester # (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Management Plan History

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *If there is not a previously prepared management plan for this property, state "There is no previous management plan for this property."*
- *If there is a previously prepared management plan for this property, state:*
 - *The type of plan (e.g. CFIP, EQIP, NTMP, FSP, Other) and its project state/federal identifying number*
 - *The date of the original plan's completion*
 - *Any revision dates, prior to this current management plan*
 - *Provide a copy of the past plan and updates in Appendix 3.*

Property Facts

Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Description:

Nearest City or Town:

County:

Assessor's Parcel Number(s):

GPS Coordinates:

Tract and Farm Number (if applicable):

Total Ownership Acreage:

Total Forested Acreage:

Does the Landowner reside on the property? Yes or No:

Describe the overall character of the topography including aspect and elevation range:

Describe the overall slope of the property by percent of land in each of the following categories:

- Flat (grade less than 5%):
- Gentle (grade 6% to 35%):
- Steep (grade greater than 35%):

Road System

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: describe the on-property road system by addressing all the following at a minimum.

- *What percentage of the property is accessible by road?*
- *What is the total length of improved road (i.e. rocked or paved road)?*
- *What is the total length of unimproved road?*

Watershed Information

What is the CALWATER 2.2 planning watershed number and name?

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: If the property is in more than one CALWATER 2.2 planning watershed, list all applicable watersheds and the number of acres of the property that fall within each watershed.

Is there a 303d listing on the watershed?

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: if there is a 303d listing, briefly describe the factors. If the property is in more than one watershed, address the 303d listing status of each watershed separately.

Property History

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *This section is based on personal knowledge from landowner, neighbors and others, property records, and local information sources as well as evidence seen on the ground (e.g. stumps, skid trails, etc.).*
- *Discuss*
 - *Past management history including past timber harvests. If harvesting occurred after the 1970s, include Timber Harvest Plan (THP) numbers.*
 - *Conservation practices, and conservation easements if applicable*
 - *Projects completed under public incentive or cost-share programs*
 - *Catastrophic events*
 - *Local fire history*

Current Property Conditions

Property Infrastructure

Structures

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss existing improvements including dwellings and outbuildings.

Roads

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss existing road system including stream crossings and drainage improvements. Are culverts and other crossings adequately sized for 100-year storm events?*
- *Describe current road maintenance for erosion reduction, road surface condition, weed control, and time-of-year (seasonal) use.*

Electrical Improvements

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss existing property wide electrical system including powerlines (above and underground) and any alternative energy sources (e.g. solar panels).

Water Improvements

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss existing water system including domestic water sources, holding tanks, stock ponds, wells, etc.

Forest Resource

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: briefly discuss the overall forest structure of the entire property including percent of productive forest soils, regeneration levels and current silvicultural practices.

For a detailed discussion of individual forest stands please see the Vegetation Unit Descriptions section of this plan.

Access and Security

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss the property boundaries. Are the property boundaries surveyed? Are the property boundaries identified (including fences, gates and boundary or corner markers)?*

- *Discuss interaction with neighboring properties or the public. E.g. is there a shared access hiking trail network? Are there any issues with trespass?*

Recreation & Aesthetics

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: describe current recreational opportunities including supporting resources. Discuss aesthetic qualities of property.

Soils

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Describe and map (in map section) soil types*
- *Describe and map (in map section) site class, and estimated growth per acre per year*
- *Describe erosion hazard ratings, equipment limitations, known geologic hazards and landslides*
- *Place supporting soil data and any other available ecological site descriptions (ESDs) in Appendix 4.*

Streams, Wetlands and Ponds

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Describe water resources present including streams, wetlands and ponds.*
- *Show state/federal classifications (in map section)*

Wildlife

Fish and Aquatic Species

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Identify fish streams and note streams with anadromous fish or listed fish species as well as other significant aquatic species using the water resources and riparian area(s).*
- *Describe general condition of the fish habitat including large wood, pools, riparian cover, migration barriers and current or desired buffer widths.*

Upland Wildlife

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Identify bird and animal species observed or known to be present.*
- *Describe general condition of habitat and the habitat elements such as den sites, snag retention, down wood, migration corridors and water sources.*

Threatened or Endangered Species

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss listed species observed or known to be present on the property*
- *Provide the results of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) and Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) information sites for the area within three miles of the property.*

Invasive Species and Pests

- *Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: describe invasive species found and current eradication measures.*

Air Resources

- *Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: describe how unwanted vegetation is currently treated or removed from the property. Has pile burning or prescribed burning been used in the past?*

Landowner Management Objectives

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: Discuss the landowner's prioritized objectives for this property. This discussion should be thoughtful and specific; acknowledge which objectives may be in opposition to each other and require tradeoffs. Address all the following categories, and any additional objectives of the landowner:

- *Forest objectives*
 - *Fire protection*
 - *Forest health*
 - *Insects and disease concerns*
 - *Invasive plant and animal concerns*
- *Trespass concerns*
- *Wildlife*
 - *Desired species habitat improvement*
 - *Rare and endangered species habitat concerns*
- *Recreation and aesthetics*
- *Income*
- *Family legacy*
- *Livestock*

Constraints and Proposed Alternatives

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *List land use alternatives to current use and landowner objectives.*
- *Discuss the desired alternative including a cost/benefit analysis of property improvement investments.*
- *Discuss the "no action" alternative.*
- *If forest simulation or modeling is executed, the generated results should be placed in Appendix 4 to help document the alternative decision.*

Economic Sustainability

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss the value of a business plan and potential resource development*
- *Discuss tax liability and tax saving opportunities (see Appendix 2).*

Future Property Conditions

Roads

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Point out possible access and road location improvements including stream, wetland and pond issues. Map improvement areas including water crossings and other needed drainage improvements.*
- *Describe conservation practices for general maintenance, erosion reduction, road surface condition, drainage-dips, culverts, stream crossings, weed control, and time-or-year use.*
- *Size replacement culverts for 100-year storm events.*

Fire Protection

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss fire protection practices and specifications for mechanical, hand work, herbicide application and/or broadcast burning for stand/habitat improvement, fuel reduction and fire-wise safety.*
- *Describe potential sources of fire ignition, fuel hazards, and infrastructure for protection including access and evacuation routes.*
- *Discuss the values of shaded fuel breaks, fuel breaks in strategic locations, and potential to connect with neighbors or a community effort.*

Forest Resource

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss areas desired for regeneration practices with specifications for natural seedling recruitment, site preparation, planting and/or follow-up.*
- *Discuss forest stand improvement. Describe the area to be improved including practice specifications for fire protection, thinning, pruning and regeneration.*

Access and Security

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss fencing, gating, signing and other forms of trespass control.*
- *List local protection agencies for landowner contact.*

Recreation & Aesthetics

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss potential recreational or aesthetic improvements.

Soils

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss conservation practices for steep slopes, woody debris retention, nutrient cyclin, vehicle travel, soil compaction, flood runoff, and livestock issues. Map the location of known geological sites.

Streams, Wetlands and Ponds

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss conservation practices for riparian habitat, wetlands, road crossings, and water protection zones.

Wildlife

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss potential fish and aquatic habitat improvement including water quality and quantity as well as riparian habitat.*
- *Discuss potential habitat improvement for other wildlife such as access, nest boxes, hunting potential, water development and domestic animal control.*
- *Discuss other threatened and endangered species concerns and habitat improvements.*
- *Discuss how proposed management practices might impact threatened or endangered species. Provide possible mitigation practices to protect those species.*
- *Map the location of any known threatened or endangered species sites within the property.*

Invasive Species and Pests

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss prevention guidelines for known/potential invasive species and pests on property.*
- *Describe how to inventory, control, and monitor infestations.*
- *Describe the range of integrated pest management tools, including mechanical, physical, biological, cultural or chemical management.*

Air Resources

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Discuss smoke management issues with prescribed fire or pile burning and unwanted biomass removal alternatives.*
- *List air quality entities and permit requirements.*

Climate Considerations and Carbon Sequestration

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss practices for the possibility of implementing carbon sequestration and climate amelioration activities.

Family Legacy

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss opportunities for family legacy including conservation easements and other ways to keep property safe from development.

Livestock

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: discuss potential livestock plan(s) and issues.

Vegetation Unit Descriptions

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *For each vegetation unit on the property write a description that at a minimum addresses the following:*
 - *Name (or number) of the unit*
 - *Acres in the unit*
 - *Description of unit location. (Note that you will also provide a Vegetation Unit map in the map section.)*
 - *A brief description of the condition of the unit*
 - *General management or use objectives for the unit*
 - *Erosion concerns*
 - *Other conservation issues*
- *Additionally, if the vegetation type is forestland, address the following:*
 - *Stand history and age*
 - *Tree species present, forest type and/or ecological site description*
 - *Site index*
 - *Soil type*
 - *Elevation*
 - *Slope*
 - *DBH/size class distribution*
 - *Basal area*
 - *Trees per acre*
 - *Stocking, growth/yield potential*
 - *Regeneration and stand improvement needs*
 - *Other habitat elements including understory vegetation, downed woody debris, snags, riparian corridors, meadows, etc.*
 - *If pertinent, describe desired rotation cycle, type of silvicultural treatment (including pre/post-harvest activities) and slash management. Forest modeling outputs may be included with each unit description if available.*
 - *If pertinent, detailed inventory/plot data should be included in Appendix 4.*

Planned Management Activities/Projects

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Schedule proposed activities/projects covering at least five years.*
- *Include discussion of project specifications, priorities, feasibility and alternatives.*
- *For each scheduled activity/project, address the following:*
 - *Acres (or feet if linear feature)*
 - *NRCS practice code (optional)*
 - *Short description of treatment activity*
 - *Date to be initiated*
 - *Date to be completed*
 - *Will a cost share be used? If yes, specify the cost share agency and program*
 - *Project cost*
 - *Project income*

Required Permits and Monitoring

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *Commercial harvesting activities usually need a CAL FIRE permit or other entity permit. Identify needed or current CAL FIRE THP, NTMP, and/or Categorical Exclusions for all proposed activities/projects.*
- *Other agency permits may be necessary for proposed management activities related to other types of conservation projects such as but not limited to water drafting, ponds, road maintenance, crossing replacements and dust control. Identify current or needed permits for all proposed activities/projects.*
- *Discuss both proactive and required monitoring for regulatory compliance.*

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

Forest management activities including conservation practices may impact special environmental and/or cultural values such as threatened or endangered species and archaeological sites. Landowners need to know their locations and what they can do to protect them. Environmental and cultural reviews by regulatory agencies are required when a ground practice is proposed, and a permit and/or government assistance becomes part of the project.

There are no CEQA/NEPA requirements for this Management Plan.

Additional CEQA/NEPA Notification for Ground Practices

Any future ground practice to implement this plan using public entity reimbursement funds requires a signed CAL FIRE CFIP Environmental Checklist, to comply with CEQA, or an NRCS CPA-52 Checklist, to comply with NEPA. The checklist must be filled out by an RPF or Certified Planner.

Along with this checklist a process of “discovery” or survey for unknown values along with a discussion of possible mitigations is required. The site specific environmental/cultural documentation will need to be completed with the schedule of activities, project map and project specifications.

As part of the above process, project notification must be provided to the following Agencies:

- County Planner
- CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- If the project adjoins public land (for example, the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, National, State, or local parks, etc.) notify that agency
- If the project adjoins a State Highway, notify CALTRANS
- If the project is in the Coastal Zone, notify the Coastal Commission

If the project will cause ground-disturbance, notification must also be provided to:

- Native American Heritage Commission
- Tribal contacts
- Local Historical Society

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: If there are CEQA or NEPA documents available from past practices, they should be included in the appropriate appendix.

Additional Professional Assistance

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: List agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals that the landowner may consult for guidance and help implementing this plan. Include current contact names, websites, e-mails, and phone numbers. At a minimum include:

- *The local office of CAL FIRE*
- *The local office of NRCS*
- *The local Resource Conservation District (RCD)*
- *The local Fire-safe Council*
- *Specialists qualified to assist with special sites, threatened and endangered species, Native American cultural values, etc.*
- *Livestock specialists (if applicable to property)*

Maps

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *All management plan map(s) shall be on a base layer of a recent United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographical or GIS map and contain the following elements as a minimum:*
 - *Map title*
 - *North arrow*
 - *Scale. Use a minimum scale of 4 inches = 1 mile (1 inch = 1320 feet).*
 - *Property and/or management unit boundaries*
 - *Legend(s) including:*
 - *PLSS location*
 - *Meaning of all symbols used on the map*
 - *Date of map production*
- *At a minimum, the following maps are required:*
 - *Property Location Map. Delineating property boundaries and access roads from the nearest town or well-known land mark.*
 - *Parcel Map. Including property boundaries, road layout, water resources, infrastructure identification.*
 - *Soil Types Map. Showing name and location of soil types present. Soil maps are available from NRCS Web Soil Survey at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> , or from your local NRCS office.*
 - *Include site class on this map or as a standalone map.*
 - *Include any known geologic features (e.g. unstable areas) on this map or as a standalone map.*
 - *Water Resources Map. Showing name, location and state/federal classification of streams and other water resources.*
 - *Road Assessment Map. Showing locations of roads and major skid trails. Indicate map points where projects such as road rehabilitation and culvert replacement are proposed*
 - *Vegetation Unit Map. Showing name and location of vegetation unit boundaries.*
 - *Project Map. Showing location of proposed management activities covering at least five years. If each project corresponds to an entire vegetation unit, the Vegetation Unit Map may be sufficient to double as the Project Map. If, however a subset of a vegetation unit is being treated by a given activity, the treatment area must be mapped on a separate Project Map.*
- *As needed, other areas, including threatened and endangered species or archeological sites may be noted. Archeological maps will be placed in Appendix 5.*
- *Aerial Photos are encouraged and may be used in addition to the above maps.*

Appendix 1 – Standards and Specifications

NRCS Standards are in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) at:
<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>

CFIP Standards are in the CFIP User's Guide, posted on the right-hand side of the CAL FIRE CFIP webpage at: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forest-improvement-program-cfip/>

Appendix 2 – Taxes and Land Use

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: This section includes a series of statements related to tax and business management that should be included in plans.

Property Tax

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: this management plan should document the current tax status of the property. Also, list any known state specific property tax programs that may be relevant to the management of this property and briefly address their rules and regulations.

Income Tax

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: include the following statement “Timber harvest and other revenue generating activities generally produce a federal and state income tax liability. Tax credits may be available for some management activities.”

Estate Tax

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: include the following statement, “Good estate planning can help to lessen tax liability when passing land to heirs. Landowners should seek good planning and tax advice.”

Record Keeping

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: include the following statements, “Good record keeping can help landowners manage their assets; increase their revenues; and minimize their tax liability.”, “The landowner is responsible for maintaining a copy of this Management Plan.”

Land Use

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete: use this section to document the zoning and land use classifications of the property from the county land use plan. Be sure to include any combining districts or special zones that apply to the property.

Appendix 3 – Past Plans and Updates

Appendix 4 – Supporting Data

Supporting data and modeling outputs

Alternative Deduction References

Soil Survey Data and or Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs)

Other References

Appendix 5 – Archaeological Addendum

Instructions for Plan Preparer to use then delete:

- *In this section the Plan Preparer should summarize, discuss, and show on a map those known historical, archaeological, and cultural sites.*
- *Include landowner information about known sites.*
- *If available, attach existing record checks, surveys, or Confidential Archaeological Report(s).*
- *Provide guidelines on how proposed practices might affect or be affected by observed or known sites.*
- *Provide possible mitigation practices to protect those sites.*