

Forest Health Program

Tribal Wildfire Resilience Roundtable

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Presented by

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Grant solicitation opening December 15, 2022
Application due by February 28, 2023

Roundtable Overview

- Summary of Forest Health Program
- Four Forest Health Grant Types
 1. Forest Health Grants
 2. Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grant
 3. Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program Grants
- Application Process and Timeline
- Resources
- Question & Answer



Forest Health Program Summary

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program awards funding to landscape-scale land management projects that achieve the following objectives:

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.
- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally severe disturbance events.
- Further the goals of the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan





CAL FIRE Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Forest Health Grant Solicitation Overview

- Solicitation opens December 15, 2022.
- Applications due by February 28, 2023.
- Four different grant types this solicitation

Grant Type	Funding Available Amount	Grant End Date
Forest Health	Up to \$120 million	3/31/2029
Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration	Up to \$50 million	3/31/2029
Tribal Wildfire Resilience	Up to \$15 million	3/31/2026
Tribal Wildfire Resilience Planning	Up to \$4 million	3/31/2026

Forest Health Grant Type



- Eligible activities: forest fuels reduction, prescribed fire, pest management, reforestation, and forest biomass utilization.
- Eligible applicants: local, state, and federal public agencies, Native American tribes, universities, special districts, industrial and non-industrial private forest landowners, and non-profit organizations.
- Project size: >800 acres, does not have to be contiguous
- Funding limits: Minimum of \$750,000 Maximum of \$7 million
- Environmental compliance for project must be completed within 1 year of award
- All grant funded work must be completed by March 31, **2029.**
- Grant solicitation opening December 15, 2022.
- **Applications due February 28, 2023.**

Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grant Type

- Goal to reforest or restore forestlands following catastrophic fire.
- Eligible activities: Reforestation treatments include, and are not limited to tree planting, installing tree shelters, site preparation, oak woodland restoration, invasive plant removal, and herbicide.
- Eligible applicants, project size, funding limits are the same as Forest Health grant type.



Grant solicitation opening
December 15, 2022.

Applications due **February 28,**
2023.

Questions

Do the projects your tribe needs funding for fit under these guidelines? If not, what can be added or removed to allow for your project?

Are the funding limits appropriate?

Can the scoring criteria be improved?

Is the application process burdensome?

Are there important elements of the draft guidelines that should not be changed?



Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program

- Grant solicitation opening December 15, 2022.
Applications due February 28, 2023.
- Goal to assist California Native American tribes in managing ancestral lands, implementing and promoting Traditional Ecological Knowledges in wildfire resilience, and establishing wildfire safety for tribal communities.
- General Requirements:
 - Projects must serve California Native American tribes and their communities located within the State of California.
 - Projects must establish and/or improve wildfire resiliency and/or forest health on tribal ancestral lands to address a critical need in tribal communities or prepare tribes to develop and/or increase wildfire resiliency and/or forest health through planning activities.



Tribal Wildfire Resilience Eligibility

- Eligible projects: projects focused on wildfire resiliency and forest health in tribal communities and address a critical need for the tribe
- Eligible Applicants:
 - federally recognized Native American tribes
 - Non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Contact List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as described in Section 65352.4 of the Government Code.
- Funding: Total of \$19 million. Up to \$15 million available for implementation projects, the remainder is available for planning projects.
- Grant Amounts: Minimum of \$250,000. Maximum of \$5 million.
- Project period: Must be completed by **March 31, 2026**



Tribal Wildfire Resilience Implementation Funding Priorities

- Projects that are ready to implement. “Ready to implement” means projects in which 25 percent or less of the requested grant funding will be used for planning, permitting or administrative costs and the project can be completed within two years of grant award.
- Projects that propose cultural and/or prescribed burns.
- Projects that utilize tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise, Traditional Ecological Knowledges, and existing expertise within a tribe.
- Projects that will establish and/or improve wildfire resiliency, forest health and wildfire safety within a tribe’s ancestral lands, and/or focus on increasing biodiversity and restoration within a tribe’s ancestral lands.
- Projects that will include workforce development, training programs, and/or conservation corps programs for tribal members (less points for non-tribal members) or projects including economic development, access, co-management, or ancestral land return for California Native America tribe(s).

Examples of Potential Funding Activities- Implementation

- Implementation of a cultural burn
- Implementation of a prescribed burn
- Implementation of forest and wildfire resiliency projects including, but not limited to, dead and dying tree removal, understory thinning and/or removal, tree or other native and/or traditional vegetation plantings
 - Implementation of restoration projects focused on forest health that provides benefits including, but not limited to, increasing biodiversity and improving access and use to traditional foods and culturally significant species.





Tribal Wildfire Resilience Planning Funding Priorities

- Planning activities to prepare a tribe to apply for and implement a State or federal grant for forest and wildfire resiliency and wildfire safety within the tribes ancestral lands and/or implement and promote Traditional Ecological Knowledges in wildfire resilience and/or forest health.
- Planning activities to prepare a California Native American tribe for a cultural or prescribed burn.
- Planning activities that incorporate tribal wildfire fire prevention and forestry expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledges.
- Planning activities to prepare tribal and ancestral lands for wildfire resilience.
- Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a restoration project with the goal of increasing biodiversity and/or access to traditional food sources and/or habitats.
- Planning activities focused on forest health.
- Planning to include a workforce and/or economic development aspect into a proposed project.

Examples of Potential Funding Activities- Planning



- Preparation of CEQA and/or NEPA compliance documents
- Surveying and/or mapping of proposed project areas
- Development of site maps and implementation plans
- Obtaining project permits
- Preparing and delivering an outreach campaign targeted at adjacent landowners, tribes, community partners, etc.
- Researching and training tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledges practitioners and/or staff
- Developing restoration plans that will incorporate cultural or prescribed burns to increase biodiversity, restore habitats and improve wildfire resiliency, forest health, and/or increase access to traditional foods and materials.
- Developing a workforce development component of a future cultural or prescribed burn, forest restoration, and/or wildfire resiliency project
- Planning for one or more of the implementation activities on the previous slide

Examples of Ineligible Projects



- Projects that do not serve tribes and/or tribal communities
- Planning or implementation projects that will not move a tribe towards wildfire resiliency and/or cultural or prescribed burns and/or increased biodiversity and/or improved forest health on ancestral lands
- Project proposals that include more than one project (however, more than one project proposal can be submitted by an applicant)
- Implementation projects contingent on future land acquisition for project
- Cash reserves, endowments, or fundraising activities
- Payment of a debt or mortgage
- Lobbying or lawsuits
- Sub-granting or regranting
- Implementation projects where the applicant cannot gain permission to develop/maintain the site

Environmental Compliance

- Projects carried out on lands subject to the jurisdictional control or the ownership of a California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073, may be exempt from CEQA. The applicant should work with CAL FIRE to determine eligibility.



Selection Process

Step 1: Applicants submit a project proposal grant application through eCivis Grants Portal

Step 2: Filed visit or project presentations are conducted for the most competitive projects.

Step 3: Applicants selected to further complete will submit additional documentation. Documentation is evaluated, with the most competitive projects being recommended for funding.

Once Step 3 evaluation have been completed, recommendations are submitted to the California Secretary for Natural Resources. Upon approval by the Secretary, grant awards are announced.

Criteria for Scoring Implementation Projects

Implementation Project Scoring Criteria	Points
Implementation-ready projects	0-20
Cultural or prescribed burns	0-20
Projects that will utilize tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledges. Projects that have a hands-on Traditional Ecological Knowledges and other tribal expertise training component will also qualify for this category.	0-15
Restoration projects to increase biodiversity and/or access to traditional food sources and/or culturally important species	0-10
Wildfire resilience projects	0-10
Forest health projects	0-10
Projects that include workforce development and/or training for tribal members (less points for non-tribal members) or projects that include economic development, access, co-management, or ancestral land return for California Native American tribe(s)	0-5
Organizational capacity	0-10
Total Points Possible	100

Criteria for Scoring Planning Projects

Planning Project Scoring Criteria	Points
Planning activities to prepare a tribe to apply for and/or implement a State or federal grant for forest and wildfire resiliency and wildfire safety within a tribe's ancestral lands, and/or implement and promote traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire resilience.	0-20
Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a cultural or prescribed burn	0-20
Planning to include the identification, study, and/or use of tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledges in the project	0-15
Planning activities to prepare tribal and ancestral lands for wildfire resilience	0-10
Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a restoration project with the goal of increasing biodiversity or access to traditional food sources and/or culturally important species	0-10
Planning activities focused on forest health	0-10
Planning to incorporate a workforce and/or economic development aspect to a proposed project	0-5
Organizational capacity	0-10
Total Points Possible	100

Forest Health

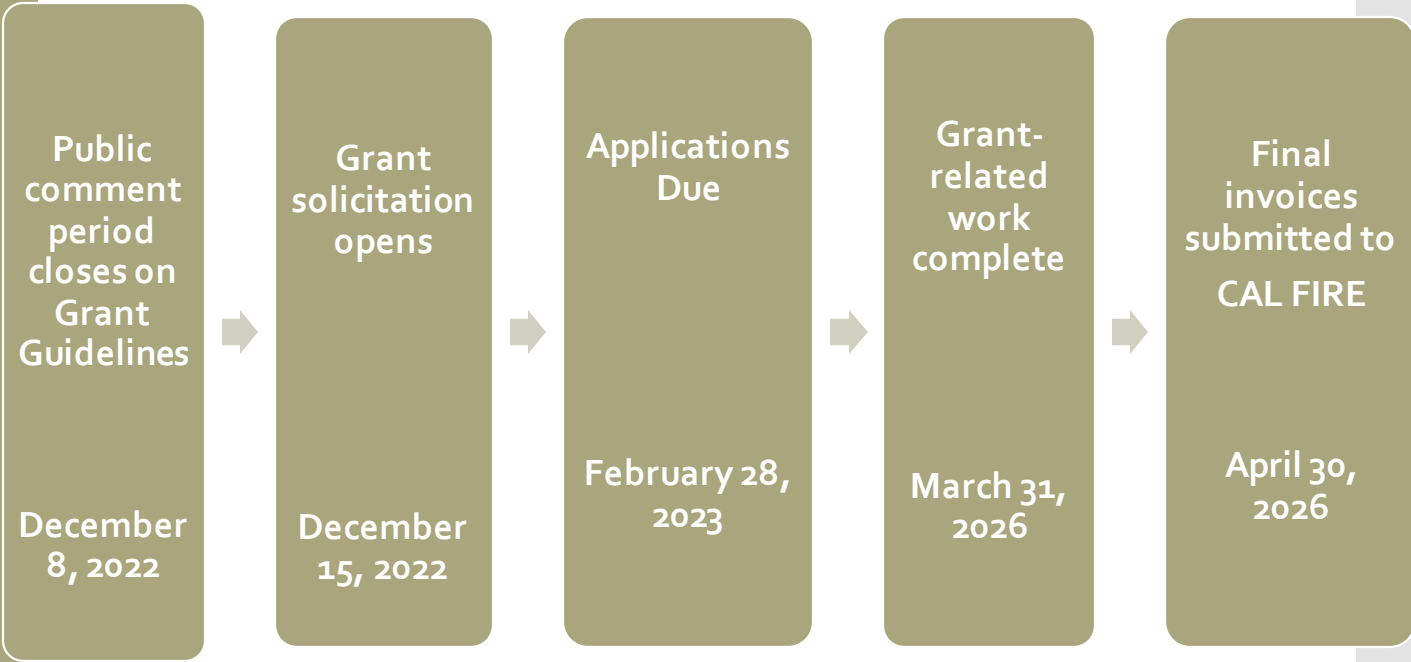
Application Process



- Application must be submitted using Grants Portal in eCivis by the application deadline of 3 p.m. PST on February 28, 2023.
- Standard Forms that will need to be completed before grant award:
 - Governing Resolution
 - Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement (Std. 19)
 - Drug-Free Workplace Certification (Std. 21)
 - Payee Data Record (Std. 204) A W-9 may be substituted for tribal and governmental agencies

Applications due 3:00 PM, February 28, 2022

Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant Timelines



All Forest Health Program grant solicitation funding opportunities open Dec 15, 2022.
All Applications are due February 28, 2023.

Web Page Resources

www.fire.ca.gov

Type in "CAL FIRE"
in any internet
search engine

The screenshot shows the CAL FIRE website interface. At the top, the CAL FIRE logo is visible. A navigation bar contains several menu items: Incidents, About Us, Careers, Programs, Grants, Resources, Stats & Events, and Search. The 'Grants' menu item is circled in yellow, with a red arrow pointing to it from above. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of a forest. The main content area features a section titled 'Forest Health Grants'. A red arrow points to a highlighted link: 'Attention: FY 22-23 Forest Health Draft Grant Guidelines - Public Review'. Below this link, there is a sub-section titled 'Tribal Wildfire and Forest Resilience Roundtable dates and times:' with two bullet points: 'Wednesday, November 30, 2022: 5:30 - 7:30 pm Click here to join the meeting or call in (audio only) +1 650-564-3271 Conference ID:144757114#' and 'Thursday, December 1, 2022: 12:00 - 2:00 pm Click here to join the meeting or call in (audio only) +1 650-564-3271 Conference ID:436786774#'. Below the meeting information, there is a paragraph stating: 'Draft Grant Guidelines are available for public review and comment. Please email ForestHealth@fire.ca.gov with your comments and recommendation by December 8, 2022.' and another line: 'FY 22-23 Forest Health Grant Solicitation will open on December 15, 2022.' Below this is a section titled 'Program Intent' with an image of a forest and text: 'CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program funds active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests to ensure future existence of forests in California while also mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, strengthening rural economies and improving California's water & air. Through grants to regionally-based partners and collaboratives, CAL FIRE seeks to significantly increase fuels management, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas, and conservation of forests.' Below the 'Program Intent' section is a 'Project Activities' section with a list of activities: 'Forest fuels reduction', 'Prescribed fire', 'Pest management', 'Reforestation', 'Biomass utilization', 'Conservation easements and/or land acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program', and 'Research through the Forest Research Program'. To the right of the 'Project Activities' list is an image of a forest. At the bottom of the page, there is a list of links: 'CAL FIRE Forest Health Program', 'Forest Health Grantee Resources', 'Forest Health Program Partners', and 'Forest Health Program Staff'. The 'Forest Health Grantee Resources' link is circled in yellow, with a red arrow pointing to it from the right.

Questions?

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We want to hear from you!

- Do the projects your tribe needs funding for fit under these guidelines? If not, what can be added or removed to allow for your project?
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Be sure to sign up for Grant E-mail Updates on any of the CAL FIRE Grants websites (bottom of the page).