TRIBAL INPUT WORKSHOP:

CAL FIRE TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE GRANTS, SOLICITATION 2025

1/7/2025, 1-3PM

* Recorded and posted to CAL FIRE website *

1

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Tribal Wildfire Resilience is a statewide program. We acknowledge the many tribes that have currently and ancestrally stewarded the land and called these places home.

This program exists to support Native land management and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. We are honored that CAL FIRE can be a partner in this work.

Map: https://native-land.ca/

2

HOW THIS WORKSHOP WORKS

* This meeting will be recorded.*
* Recording will be posted to CAL FIRE's website *

These slides are at https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/tribal-wildfire-resilience

Lots of time for comments today!

This forum is for cultural practitioners, tribal leaders, tribal governments, and Native-serving nonprofits. All others, please email comments to TribalWildfireResilience@fire.ca.gov.

3

3

AGENDA

1) Welcome

2) Brief Program Overview – please post comments in the Q&A

3) Highlighted Topics

4) Comments & Questions?

5) Contacts to follow up

6) Thanks!

4

4

SUMMARY

- Grant solicitation: up to $5 million for tribal grantees to plan or implement projects in Traditional Ecological Knowledge, land management, or wildfire resilience.
- Public comment for draft guidelines closes 1/21/2025.

- *What could improve this process?*

- *What could work better for your tribes and projects?*

5

5

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1) What We Fund
2) Solicitation-At-A-Glance
3) Grant Life Cycle
4) 2025 Timeline
5) What's New This Year
6) Terms & Conditions

6

6

TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE GRANTS: WHO WE ARE

Our History
- Began in 2021
- Second solicitation
- 17 grants statewide

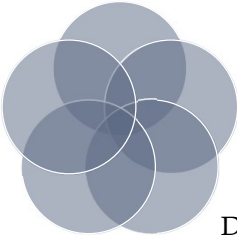**Climate & Energy Program**

Climate and Energy also administers :
- Forest Health Grants
- Business/Workforce Development Grants

7

7

WHAT WE FUND

Implementation

Work on the grant reporting

Planning

Training

Workforce Development

Funds for cultural expertise in surveys that will inform stewardship plans on Tribally owned land.

Fuel reduction and community education for defensible space initiatives.

Formation of Tribal forestry crews and trainings for crews like attending TREX, NWCG Classes.

Implementation of cultural burns and prescribed fire.

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 7, 10 - 13, 29 - 34

8

SOLICITATION AT A GLANCE

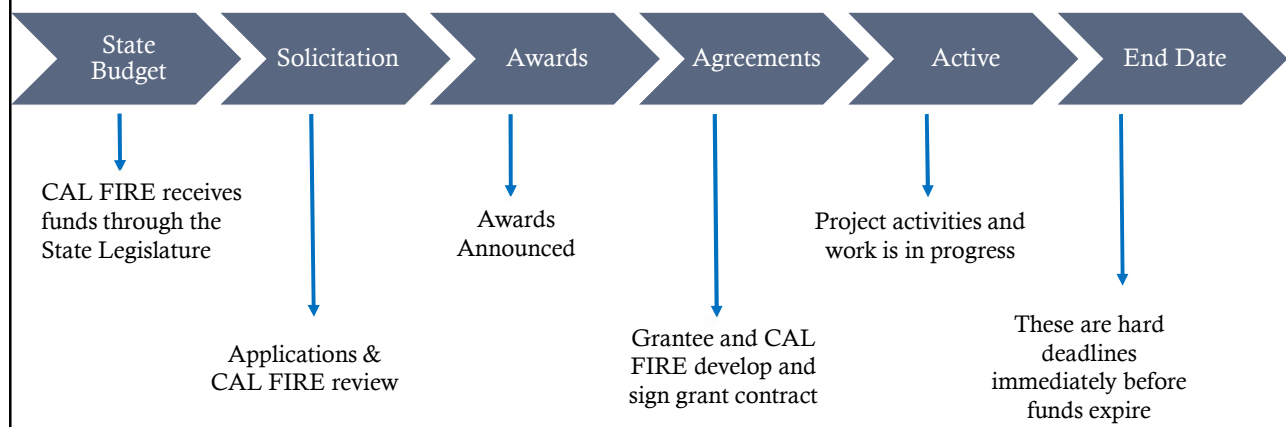| |
|---|
| **2025 Solicitation – Applications due in March** |
| $5,000,000 available for Tribes and Tribal Non-Profits |
| For planning, implementation, and/or training |
| Grant Size: $250,000 - $3,000,000 |
| Project End Date: March 30, 2028 |
| Reimbursements; option of advance payments |
| Eligible Locations: Any ancestral land in California, applicant must have long-term access |

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg. 3

9

9

LIFE CYCLE OF A GRANT

| State Budget	Solicitation	Awards	Agreements	Active	End Date
CAL FIRE receives funds through the State Legislature	Applications & CAL FIRE review	Awards Announced	Grantee and CAL FIRE develop and sign grant contract	Project activities and work is in progress	These are hard deadlines immediately before funds expire

10

2025 TIMELINE

- Public Comment- *ends 01/21/2025*
- Tribal input round table- *01/07/2024*
- Step 1 Applications- *open for 2 months*
  - Eligibility
  - Proposal Info
- Step 2 for Competitive Applications
  - Online video interviews
  - Additional Document Requests
- Awards announced &
  grant agreements developed- *Summer*
- Projects Start- *Fall/Winter*
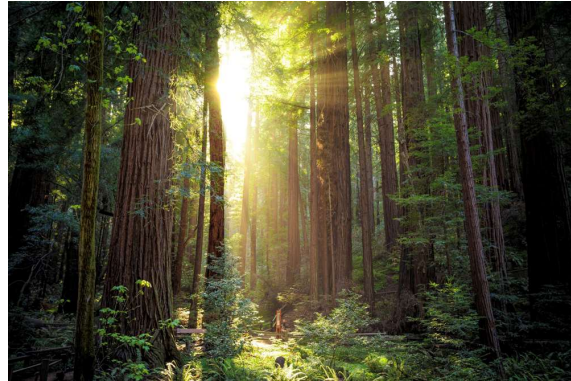
See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg. 4

11

11

2025 WHAT'S NEW

Changes

- Stand-Alone Solicitation (not part of Forest Health solicitation)
- Eligibility expanded, now includes tribally led non-profits
- Projects can combine planning, training, & implementation
- CEQA discussions as part of application
- CCI Funding May Be Used

Clarifications

- Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity required for many projects with federally recognized tribes
- CEQA applies to **all projects**
- Grantee must have long-term access to the project area. This can be co-management, MOU, etc.

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg. 4

12

12

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- CAL FIRE's new contract grant Terms & Conditions are posted here:
  2024 Terms & Conditions

- We are open to working with awarded grantees if concerns arise about contract terms.
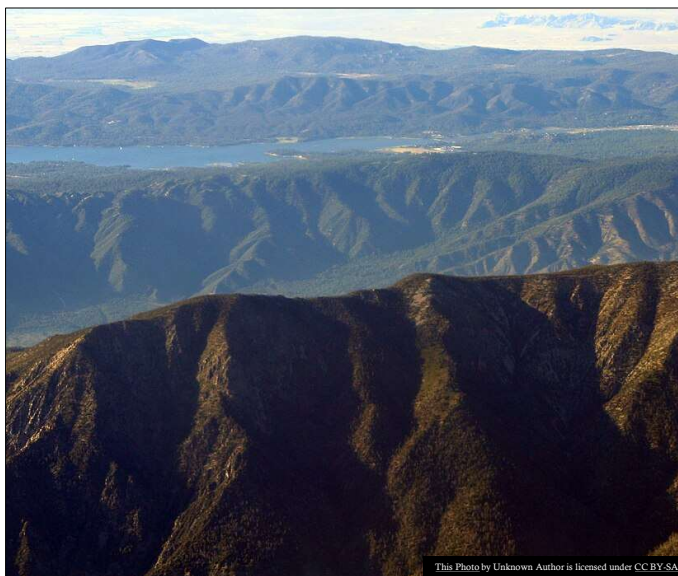
See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 9, 25-28   13

13

CLARIFICATIONS ON PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

14

14

OPINIONS?
COMMENTS?
QUESTIONS?

Please raise your hand or type into the Q&A.

- Discussion Prompts
- Input from Tribal Leaders, Elders, & Elected Officials
- Open Discussion

15

15

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Eligibility documentation for Tribal-serving non-profits
2. Tribal Data Sovereignty & Spatial Data
3. Acres Treated & Progress Reporting
4. Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity
5. California Environmental Quality Act

16

16

NATIVE-SERVING NON-PROFIT DOCUMENTATION

- Eligibility expanded

- All applications will include eligibility description & documentation

- For Tribal-serving nonprofits:
  1) Contact TWR to discuss (no one wants to spend lots of time on an application if we know you won't be eligible)
  2) Letter of Support from a California Native Tribe
  3) Description & documentation that the non-profit is tribally led. For example: majority-tribal board; mission statement & programs, etc.
  4) Describe how project serves tribal communities

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 6, 17
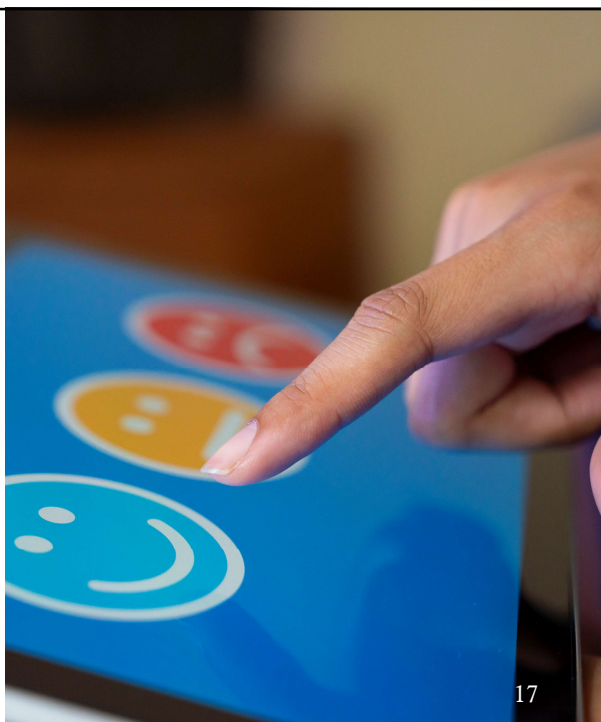
17

17

## TRIBAL DATA SOVEREIGNTY & SPATIAL DATA

- We recognize tribal data sovereignty is important. Tribes may have sensitive or confidential locations.

- Spatial data (polygons, maps) of acres treated will be posted on CalMAPPER alongside other fuels treatment projects.

- This is available to emergency responders and to the public for planning landscape resilience.

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 26, 44-47

18

18
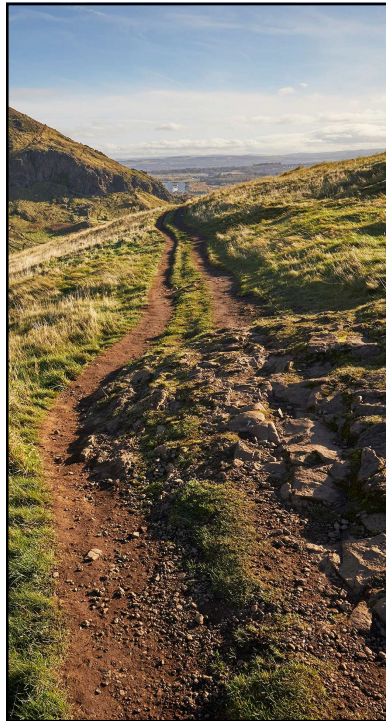
PROGRESS & ACRES TREATED REPORTING

Spatial data requirements for all implementation work*

Ensure capacity and funds to track this work

Furnish spatial data quarterly

Please do not give CAL FIRE sensitive or confidential data

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 26, 44-47

19

19

UPDATED: LIMITED WAIVERS OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

• We recognize that tribal sovereignty is important, and waiving tribal sovereignty in any way is a serious issue

• CAL FIRE stewards public funds, and has responsibilities to manage risk and account for public dollars

• CAL FIRE-wide policy in development

• **LWSI likely required for federally recognized tribes** whose projects include any of:

   • Advance payments
   • Equipment purchases
   • On-the-ground work (fuels reduction, fire)
   • New to financial management of grants

• Each one is individually negotiated

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 3 - 4, 9, 22, 34

20

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- CEQA applies to **ALL** projects
  - Yes, it applies to the funding source even for projects by federally recognized tribes that usually only have NEPA
  - Yes, planning-only projects will still need to confirm with TWR on CEQA needs

- **Proposal discussions required**

- This can be done at Environmental Compliance Office Hours.

- Contact CEgrants.CEQA@fire.ca.gov

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 8, 21, 47-51   21

CEQA Applies

Implementation

Planning

21

OPINIONS?
COMMENTS?
QUESTIONS?

Please raise your hand or type into the Q&A

First comments from Tribal Leaders, Elected Officials, and Elders

Open Discussion

22

22

FOLLOW-UP?

Updates & additional info will be posted at:
Tribal Wildfire Resilience | CAL FIRE

Mailing List sign-up:
Grants Subscription Page | CAL FIRE

Please contact us at:
TribalWildfireResilienceGrants@fire.ca.gov

23

23

THANK YOU FOR JOINING TODAY

24

PREPARED INFO FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

25

25

INVOICING

- Reimbursements
- Option for 6-month advance funds
- Work in-house and/or with subcontractors
- Ineligible Costs:
    - Roads, Culverts, Buildings
    - Fundraising, Endowments, Cash Reserves
    - Payment of a debt or mortgage
    - Lobbying or Lawsuits
    - Sub-granting or re-granting

Draft guidelines pages 25-28, 29-34, 52-53

26

26

THINGS WE DON'T FUND
(& OTHERS DO)

- Land purchase (Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program)
- Conservation easements (Forest Legacy)
- Smaller-scale projects (California Forest Improvement Program)
- Disaster recovery (CalOES, FEMA)
- Research (Forest Health Research Program)
- Businesses, infrastructure (Business Development Grants)
- Riparian-focused restoration (CDFW, WCB)

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 13, 32, 55   27

27

28

REPORTING

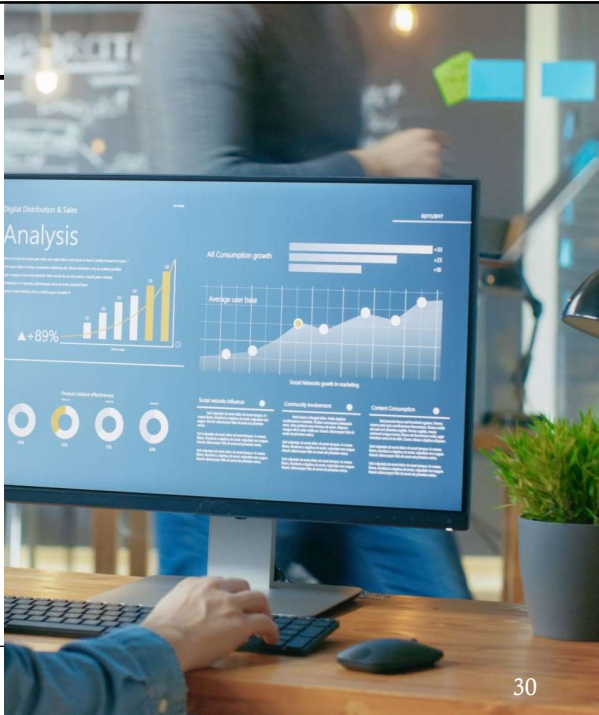| Deliverables	Quarterly Report of Acres	Financial Reporting (Invoices)	Qualitative Progress Report
Checked for eligibility and reporting	By Planned Treatment Area	Required AT LEAST quarterly	When changes occur, at least with every invoice

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 25-27

29

29

ECIVIS, ONLINE APPLICATION

Application link will be posted on TWR Website.

Draft grant guidelines page 21; more info will be Posted on TWR website.

30

30

VIDEO INTERVIEWS

- Online video calls are part of Step 2

- Goal is to learn more about each other and for reviewers to better understand each project

- 2 - 4 TWR staff (who have read application)
  1 - 4 Applicant Reps

- Half-hour each
  - 10 minute presentation of proposal (3-5 slides only!)
  - Q&A about the project proposal
  - Q&A about the program

- Tentatively April 7-11, 2025

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg. 15

31

31

PROJECT LOCATIONS

- Required: Within State of California

- Required: Ancestral land, as defined by the tribe

- Tribal land such as trust, allotment, fee title

- Partner with other landowners:
  Needs long-term access
  - Forest Service, Local Parks District, Privately owned…
  - Access agreement, Co-management, Memorandum of Understanding, etc.

- Letters of Support from other tribes with current and/or ancestral ties to that area

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg 7

32

32

WHAT ABOUT CARBON?

- Some projects *may* be funded by California Climate Investments

- Those projects will have additional analysis about carbon sequestration, co-benefits, jobs created, etc.

- More information will be provided in Step 2 to any proposals this applies to

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 9, 54-55

33

33