



Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and can be unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

Note: These grants focus on projects that remove excess trees and brush for forest health, wildfire protection, water quality, and streamflow enhancement. Grants focused on vegetation removal for meadow, riparian, or other habitat restoration can be found in the ‘Habitat Restoration and Enhancement’ and ‘Riparian, Wetland, and Aquatic Habitat’ funding research memos.

Funding Summary Table

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information below, including links to program websites)

*Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
<p>Note: The passage of Prop 68 in June 2018 may add funding resources to some of these grant programs and may also result in additional funding opportunities. At the time of publication, most of these opportunities have not yet been released. Please check the websites of relevant California state agencies for updates. The SNC funding opportunities newsletter will also have the latest information. You can subscribe by adding yourself to the funding listserv here.</p>				
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs	Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies by program.	Programs for watershed protection on private property, including non-industrial timberland forest health projects. <i>Private land only</i>	Ongoing	Varies by program. Contact your local NRCS office for information: http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA .

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

*Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Fire Prevention Grant Program – CA Fire Safe Council	Up to \$250,000. 1:1 non-federal match required. Tree mortality project grants up to \$300,000 with 25% match.	All fire prevention activities including training, planning, hazardous fuel treatment, and fire prevention education. Recent grant rounds have included category for tree mortality projects, restricted to ten high tree mortality counties.	Varies (August 30, 2018)	Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land (can include purchase of supplies and tools); Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other planning or assessment documents; prevention and mitigation education and outreach for landowners and residents.
USFS Western State Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants	Up to \$300,000. 1:1 non-federal match required.	Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects in the WUI; Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other planning or assessment documents; Prevention and mitigation education and outreach for landowners and residents in at-risk communities.	Varies (September 8, 2017)	Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land (can include purchase of supplies and tools); Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other planning or assessment documents; prevention and mitigation education and outreach for landowners and residents.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding	No set amount. 25% match required, which can be reduced to 10% in small, impoverished communities.	Projects to protect life and structures from wildfires. Must be located in a WUI within two miles of homes and structures. <i>Cannot be used on federal lands.</i>	Due date for Notice of Interest (NOI) to the state varies (September 24, 2018)	Defensible space measures, hazardous fuel reduction, post-wildfire reforestation and other activities. Not available for federal lands. Not available for forest health purposes. Projects must be located in a Wildland-Urban Interface, must be adjacent to or intermingled with the built environment, and must provide protection to life and the built environment from future wildfires. NEPA is required.
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	No set amount. 25% match required, which can be reduced to 10% in small, impoverished communities.	Projects to protect life and structures from wildfires. Must be located in a WUI within two miles of homes and structures. <i>Cannot be used on federal lands.</i>	Due date for Notice of Interest (NOI) to the state varies (October 5, 2018)	Defensible space measures, hazardous fuel reduction, post-wildfire reforestation and other activities. Not available for federal lands. Not available for forest health purposes. Projects must be located in a WUI, must be adjacent to or intermingled with the built environment, and must provide protection to life and

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

*Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (<i>most recent deadline</i>)	Eligible Costs
				the built environment from future wildfires. NEPA is required.
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Title II)	No set amount. No set match amount, though many projects appear to have leverage.	Projects implementing stewardship objectives which enhance forest ecosystems and restore land health and water quality. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	Applications accepted on a rolling basis.	Planning, implementation, community education and outreach, etc. These projects are mostly on public lands but can be on private lands if the project will impact public lands.
Non-Point Source (NPS) Grant Program - Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Funds	Grants range from \$250,000 to \$800,000 million. A 25% match is required except for post-fire recovery projects.	Projects must address one or more of the following pollutants: Sediment, Temperature, Nutrients, or Pesticides. Projects must demonstrate water quality improvement through the application of Forest Management Measures within the State Responsibility Area.	Varies (<i>December 18, 2018</i>)	Examples of projects include erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, fuel reduction and/or post fire rehabilitation. Along with implementation work, projects may include project planning, design, and permitting; and demonstration and evaluation of adaptive management response to current or past forestry management measures.
CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program	Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies – see User’s Guide.	To ensure adequate high-quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system. <i>Private land only</i>	Ongoing	Management planning, site preparation, tree purchase and planting, timber stand improvement, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and land conservation practices.
Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants	Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 50% but can be waived for disadvantaged communities.	Very broad – the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region’s IRWM Plan. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	Set periodically. Proposition 1 implementation funding announcement expected in late 2018.	Very broad. One category of eligible projects is watershed protection, restoration and management projects, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire or improve water supply reliability.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

*Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program	Up to \$100,000 for planning grants and \$500,000 for implementation grants. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that will promote healthy forests and watersheds in the Sierra Nevada Region. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	Varies (July 25, 2018 for pre-applications)	Fuel treatment and forest management projects are eligible but must show impact on water or watershed health. There is funding for both planning and implementation projects.
California Department of Fire and Forestry (CAL FIRE) Climate Change Investment (CCI) grants	No maximum. Match not required but adds to score.	Healthy forest and fire prevention programs that improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	Varies (December 19, 2018 for Fire Prevention, January 29, 2019 for Forest Health)	Fuel reduction, forest health activities, biomass energy generation, reforestation, etc.
CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	Grants up to \$500,000. Match is not required but makes the application more competitive.	Projects designed to mitigate environmental effects of transportation facilities. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	June (June 22, 2018)	Eligible projects include enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements.
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 68 grant program	Amounts will vary by solicitation.	One category of funding is restoring rivers and streams in support of fish and wildlife, which includes funding for restoration and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems.	New program, no solicitations yet as of this writing.	Planning, implementation, and acquisition projects.
Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that enhance stream flows and are consistent with the CA Water Plan, with an emphasis on providing and protecting enhanced stream flow, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	September (September 4, 2018)	Planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include environmental review.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

*Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Programs	Wide range of funding, no specific limits. Some landowner contribution required.	Riparian restoration, inland wetlands, and other habitat restoration and improvement projects. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	On-going. Board meets quarterly. Contact Program Officer.	Restoration and enhancement.
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities: Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grants	Grants up to \$250,000, depending on category of funding. General match requirement is 25% but can be reduced to 10% if an undue hardship.	Accelerate the strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. <i>Both public and private lands are eligible.</i>	February (February 1, 2018)	Project categories include watershed action projects, building watershed protection capacity, and advancing the state of practice. Funding is available for land stewardship activities which reduce wildfire hazards.
National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program	\$500 - \$100,000. Requires 1:1 cash match of non-federal funds.	Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences. Civic involvement is an important component.	January and June (June 13, 2018)	On-the ground, activities citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore ecosystem resiliency on National Forests.
National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation and Forest Stewardship Funds	Awards vary based on funding. 50% match required	Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences. Civic involvement is an important component.	Vary based on National Forest from which the contributions originate.	On-the ground, activities citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore ecosystem resiliency on National Forests.
PG&E Wildfire Prevention Project Grants	\$200,000	Local initiatives to build greater climate resilience throughout Northern and Central California.	May (May 12, 2017)	Eligible projects include research, planning or demonstration projects that better prepare communities for a future with more frequent and extreme wildfires.
Bella Vista Foundation	Up to \$150,000. Other sources of funding are important.	Watershed restoration with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems.	Varies	Restoration work and conservation easements.



Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/>

The NRCS offers a variety of programs that fund ecosystem restoration work on private property. Usually they are cost share programs focused on privately-owned land, although sometimes they can be applied to a watershed in general, particularly in emergency watershed restoration circumstances. More information on these programs can be found [here](#).

The most popular NRCS program is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, or improved wildlife habitat. Eligible applicants include owners of non-industrial private forestlands.

The funding opportunities can be accessed by talking to staff in the local NRCS offices. To find a local office, go to [this site](#).

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Fire Prevention Grant Program – CA Fire Safe Council

<http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-clearinghouse/>

The Fire Prevention grant program is a federal program offered through the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC). It funds the following areas of wildfire prevention:

- Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects in the WUI
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other planning or assessment documents
- Prevention and mitigation education and outreach for landowners and residents in at-risk communities

There is a dollar for dollar or 50 percent cost share/match, which means the federal funding can account for up to 50 percent of the project's cost. The remaining 50 percent must come from non-federal sources and can include cash and/or third party in-kind contributions.

In the 2018 grant round there was also a category for tree mortality projects. These grants could be for up to \$300,000, and the match was only 25 percent.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

Projects are more competitive if they have the support of the local CALFIRE unit. There is also a preference for areas that have not received past funding from this grant program. Associating the project with a 'landscape-scale' effort will also increase competitiveness.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, property owners' associations, Native American tribes, resource conservation districts, state and local government, special districts, school districts, for-profit companies, and joint powers authorities.

USFS Western State Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants

<http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/2018-grant-program/>

This USFS grant does not have its own website, but instead is usually announced on the CA Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse site. Qualifying projects include:

- Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects in the WUI
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other planning or assessment documents
- Prevention and mitigation education and outreach for landowners and residents in at-risk communities

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding

<https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/For-Governments-Tribal/Plan-Prepare/Pre-Disaster-Flood-Mitigation>

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program is funding from FEMA that is granted to states, federally-recognized tribes, and local communities to help them implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. These funds can be used for hazard mitigation projects and planning activities. The state applies for this funding from the federal government and individual communities apply for the state to include their programs in the state's application.

Wildfire mitigation projects are allowable, but must meet several requirements, including being in conformance with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Contact your county emergency services staff (often this is in the sheriff's department) to get a copy of this plan. Projects must have completed NEPA prior to funding. This can be a barrier because the amount of time required to complete NEPA is often longer than the grant period.

Projects must be located in a Wildland-Urban Interface, adjacent to or intermingled with the built environment, and provide protection to life and the built environment from future wildfires. Eligible activities include defensible space measures (immediately adjacent to structures) and hazardous fuel reduction (beyond defensible space perimeters, but proximate to at-risk structures). All property owners who receive funds

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

for fuel reduction for defensible space must commit to maintaining that defensible space.

General watershed protection activities are not eligible; the funding must be directed towards the protection of homes, neighborhoods, structures, or infrastructure. However, reforestation after wildfires is an eligible cost. Projects on federal land are also ineligible. Prescribed burning is not allowed.

The first step in obtaining PDM funding is to submit a Notice of Interest form to the state. This can be done [online](#). In general, a cost share of 25 percent is required, though this can be reduced to ten percent in small, impoverished communities.

These are very complicated grants. If considering an application, it is wise to track down a staff person at the state OES for guidance.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/404-hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is very similar to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. It also consists of FEMA funding, but is distributed to states after a federally-declared disaster to help mitigate the impacts and prevent future disasters. The state submits an application for this funding to FEMA with multiple projects which are competitively selected from sub-applications submitted by local governments, tribes, and districts (including Resource Conservation Districts.)

Wildfire mitigation projects are allowable, but must meet several requirements, including being in conformance with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Contact your county emergency services staff (often this is in the sheriff's department) to get a copy of this plan. Projects must have completed NEPA prior to funding. This can be a barrier because the amount of time required to complete NEPA is often longer than the grant period, however in some cases projects may be exempt. Again, talk to your county staff.

Projects must be located in a Wildland-Urban Interface, adjacent to or intermingled with the built environment, and provide protection to life and the built environment from future wildfires. Eligible activities include defensible space measures (immediately adjacent to structures) and hazardous fuel reduction (beyond defensible space perimeters, but proximate to at-risk structures). All property owners who receive funds for fuel reduction for defensible space must commit to maintaining that defensible space. Re-vegetation after a wildfire is also an eligible project. Projects on federal land are ineligible. Prescribed burning is not allowed.

The first step in obtaining PDM funding is to submit a Notice of Interest form to the state. This can be done [online](#). In general, a cost share of 25 percent is required, though this can be reduced to ten percent in small, impoverished communities.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Title II)

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3qjAwhwtDDw9_Al8zPwhQoY6BdkOyoCAPkATIA!/?ss=119985&navtype=BROWS EBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003853&navid=0910000000000000&pnavid=null&position=BR OWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Secure%20Rural%20Schools-%20Home

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act provides funding for counties where much of the land is designated as National Forest. The purpose of the funding is to help compensate for the lack of tax revenue that would have been generated if the land were privately owned. The funds available represent a percentage of the receipts that the U.S. Forest Service collects from timber, grazing, land use, and other revenue-generating activities. The program provides funding for schools and roads, makes additional investments in projects that enhance forest ecosystems, and aims to improve cooperative relationships. There are several categories of funding in the Act, and counties have options on which of these categories to select. One category of funding is Title II. These funds may be used for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and to achieve other resource objectives consistent with the Act. The projects must either be located on National Forest land or on non-federal land where projects would benefit the resources on the National Forest.

Projects can:

- Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems
- Restore and improve land health and water quality

At least 50 percent of all Title II funds must be used for projects that are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration; or restoration of streams and watersheds. Specific types of projects that are often funded include:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds
- Re-establishment of native species

Each county electing to administer Title II project funds works with the U.S. Forest Service to establish Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) that will recommend how the Title II funds should be spent. Find a local Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and see a list of the projects it has funded [here](#). Applications to the RACs can be submitted [online](#).

The size of the grants varies widely depending on the amount of funding available, competition from other projects, and other factors. Contact RAC members or a local

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

U.S. Forest Service staff person who is assigned as the 'designated federal official' to get more information about the typical size of grants given locally.

Non-Point Source (NPS) Grant Program - Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Funds

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.html

The California Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program allocates funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support implementation and planning projects that address water quality problems in surface and ground water resulting from NPS pollution¹. The goal of these projects is restoring the impacted beneficial uses in these water bodies. Projects are required to be located in a watershed that has an adopted/nearly adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the constituent of concern and has been identified in the NPS Program Preferences. These priority watersheds and problems are listed in the grant guidelines. Exceptions are made for these requirements in certain post-fire recovery projects.

In addition, California appropriated the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Timber Fund) for projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.

The program used to include both planning and implementation grants, but for the general NPS grants the planning funding has been used up and the Water Board is only funding implementation projects. The new Timber Fund grants can be used for planning if the project also includes implementation, and the entire project can be completed within three years.

Eligible applicants include local public agencies, public agencies, nonprofit organizations (501[c][3]), federally recognized Native American tribes, state agencies, public colleges, and federal agencies. Applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Contact when developing their proposals. Grant contacts are identified in the Grant Program Guidelines.

California Department of Fire and Forestry (CAL FIRE) California Forest Improvement Program

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a forestry incentive program that provides funds to forest landowners for management plans, Registered Professional

¹ Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants (point sources), nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. See <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

Forester (RPF) supervision, site preparation, tree planting, thinning, pruning, follow-up, release, land conservation, and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. The purpose of the CFIP is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forestlands and resources. This focus is to ensure adequate high-quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system for the benefit of present and future generations.

This is a cost share program in which the landowner shares a portion of cost (ten to 25 percent) and the state shares a portion of cost (75 to 90 percent). Additional caps apply (per-acre maximum costs).

The program gets funding from a variety of different sources which can impact the type of activities. Current funding sources include the High Speed Rail Authority, which only covers reforestation projects, used to offset direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the construction of the rail project. Proposals must account for the total carbon dioxide equivalents sequestered because of the reforestation activities, which is determined using the most recent greenhouse gas quantification methodology.

CFIP applications may be submitted at any time to the CALFIRE Unit in which the project occurs. Landowners wishing to apply for CFIP are encouraged to contact their CAL FIRE Unit Forester or the unit's Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS), or their Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for assistance in developing their application package. See the [User's Guide](#) for more information.

CA Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management>

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program is an effort to develop collaborative approaches to identifying and implementing water management solutions on a regional scale. The state is divided into twelve funding areas, each of which is allocated a portion of the overall IRWM grant funds. Each funding area is divided into regions. These regions can be based on county lines, watersheds, or other factors. The IRWM activities in each region are governed by the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). These RWMGs are responsible for identifying needs and approving IRWM grant applications in alignment with an IRWM regional plan.

IRWM grants are now funded through Proposition 1. In order to be approved, the proposed grant activity must be included in the IRWM Plan. These Plans can be amended and modified by the RWMG. So, if you are considering funding your project through IRWM funding, check the IRWM Plan for your region and if the project is not already part of the plan, take steps to have it added.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

IRWM grants do not have a standard maximum amount; this is set in each solicitation. The general match requirement is 50 percent, though that can be waived or reduced if the project addresses the needs of a disadvantaged community.

The scope of IRWM grant projects is very large. The projects must address statewide priorities, which are listed in the program solicitation. One category of eligible projects is watershed protection, restoration and management projects, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire or improve water supply reliability.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program Grants

<http://sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/applying-for-a-grant>

The focus of this grant program is forest health projects that result in multiple watershed benefits or for projects related to climate adaptation and resiliency under the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program. The program has two funding categories: Category 1 for implementation projects and Category 2 for project planning. Category 2 grants may include funding for completion of CEQA and NEPA requirements related to a specific future on-the-ground project. The maximum grant under Category 2 is \$100,000. Match is not required but leverage will add to point scores. Eligible applications include public agencies, qualifying nonprofit organizations and certain tribal organizations.

To be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet **all** the following criteria:

- Be located within a conifer or mixed-conifer forested area of the Sierra Nevada Region, or have a direct impact on forest lands and waters within the Region.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) as they relate to forest health.
- Meet the requirements of Propositions 1 or 68.
- Result in a clear and demonstrable public benefit.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with SNC Area Representatives (listed in the Grant Guidelines) to discuss their projects prior to applying. The process is two-phase, with mandatory pre-applications.

CAL FIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) grant programs

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants>

CAL FIRE administers several programs under the headings of 'Climate Change Investment' (CCI) grants which are funded by California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. Currently, these include Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, and Fire Prevention programs. These programs fund projects that proactively restore forest health to reduce greenhouse gases, protect upper watersheds where the state's water

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

supply originates, promote the long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils, minimize the loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires, and further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). Of the current grants, the Forest Health grant focuses on larger, collaborative projects and the Fire Prevention grant programs focus on smaller projects on private and other State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. These programs have been allocated a great deal of money and are probably the best source of funding for fuel reduction projects.

CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program is designed to fund projects that contribute to mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. This means that the proposed project must be in the immediate vicinity or general area of work done on a public street, highway, mass transit guideway (trains, light rail lines, city streets, airports, etc.) or their appurtenant features (park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.). These are called Related Transportation Facilities (RTF). Not all road work qualifies; see the guidelines. Eligible RTFs can be identified by contacting the local city or county transportation department, regional transit agency, metropolitan transit authority, council of local governments, metropolitan planning organization, or Caltrans District Office. A lot of documentation will be needed from this transportation agency, so contact them early in the process.

Project categories are as follows:

- Urban forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide
- Resource lands projects for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements
- Mitigation projects beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement

The EEM Program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Environmental review must be complete for the proposed project, and final compliance documents submitted to the state with the grant application. Eligible applicants are local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The maximum grant is \$500,000. Match funding is not required but contributes to the competitiveness of the project. Optional one-page concept proposals may be submitted for review and feedback. The deadline for submitting these is generally a month before the application due date.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 68 grant program

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Prop-68>

CDFW is one of the state agencies which received Prop 68 funding. As of the publication of this Research Memo, the draft Guidelines for the CDFW Prop 68 program have been released but not finalized. There will be three new categories of funding opportunities, one of which is the Rivers and Streams grants. These grants include funding for restoration and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems that are important for fish and wildlife resources. Fuel reduction could be included in this funding category. Eligible applicants include public agencies (federal, state, local), nonprofit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes, and State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.

In general, funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition, though future funding solicitations will more specifically set out the type of project that is their funding focus. Check the website for the latest information on the guidelines and the solicitations.

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Streamflow Enhancement Program

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

This program allocates funds to projects that enhance stream flows, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish, special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Projects must measurably enhance stream flows at a time and location necessary to provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits that improve upon existing flow conditions.

One eligible project type is habitat restoration projects (e.g., weed eradication, wet meadow restoration, restoration of entrenched streams, upper watershed restoration or forest thinning) that reshape stream hydrograph. Funding can be used for planning, implementation, acquisition, studies, monitoring, and assessments. Eligible grantees are public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation list, and mutual water companies.

Matching funds are not required, but leverage adds points in scoring.

Wildlife Conservation Board Programs

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs>

The state WCB has several relevant programs, including its [Riparian](#), [Forest Conservation](#), and [Habitat Enhancement and Restoration](#) Programs.

The WCB programs emphasize partnerships and have a great deal of flexibility. Each program web page has a link to the program officer. Contact the program officer for information on how to apply and how to maximize your chance of obtaining funding. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, local governmental

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

agencies, state departments, and federal agencies. More information on the grant process can be found at: <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Applications>.

The WCB meets four times a year, typically in February, May, August, and November. Processing time for applications can vary depending on completeness of the application, project benefits, and funding availability.

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities: Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grants

<http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html>

The Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program is a partnership that includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Endowment for Forests and Communities. The goal of the program is to accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. A healthy watershed is defined as one in which the hydrological, biological, and land-based functions of the ecosystem are largely intact. Rather than funding direct on-the-ground work, the program is interested in developing funding mechanisms and strategies to implement large-scale watershed objectives, including building sustainable organizational infrastructure, social support, and long-term funding commitments. It also funds innovative or catalytic projects that advance the field of practice.

Awards are given in three categories:

- *Watershed Action Projects* are specific projects that fulfill components of an established plan or guiding document. The projects should cover a large landscape area and significant leverage is required.
- *Building Watershed Protection Capacity* awards grow the organizational capacity needed for large-scale, long-term healthy watershed protection.
- *Advancing the State of Practice* —Awards for new or experimental technologies, methods, financing strategies, or approaches to incentivize watershed protection that can be scaled to a broader level.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, tribes, intertribal consortia, interstates, state, and local government agencies including water utilities and wastewater facilities, and colleges and universities. Unincorporated individuals and federal agencies are not eligible. Public/private partnerships are particularly desirable.

National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program

<http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/grantprograms/ontheground/map>

The NFF Matching Awards Program (MAP) is a grant program that provides matching funds for direct on-the-ground projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on America's National Forests and Grasslands. MAP supports the strategic focus areas of Forest Health and Outdoor Experiences.

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

Projects that fit into the Forest Health program area are results-oriented, on-the-ground, citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore forest resiliency by:

- Promoting ecosystem structure, function and diversity; and/or
- Promoting forest health through the removal or control of non-native invasive species, and/or reintroduction of native plants and trees.

Projects should be consistent with or supportive of identified large-scale conservation initiatives.

Eligible applicants are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and Native American tribes working on or adjacent to National Forests and Grasslands throughout the U.S. The average award is around \$25,000. Deadlines are twice a year in January and June.

National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation and Forest Stewardship Funds

<https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/stewardship-funds>

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) [Ski Conservation Fund \(SCF\) and Forest Stewardship Fund \(FSF\)](#) provide funding for action-oriented on-the-ground or citizen-based monitoring projects that improve forest health and outdoor experiences on National Forests and Grasslands. Award funds come from guest contributions at ski areas and lodges operating on or adjacent to National Forest System lands, with added National Forest Foundation federal funds for SCF.

SCF and FSF support the implementation of on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on the National Forest System. These projects provide a lasting impact to the lands, waters, and wildlife of the National Forest System through the alteration of the physical environment.

The current NFF strategic plan focuses on the program areas of Outdoor Experiences and Forest Health. Projects that strongly integrate the program areas are highly encouraged.

Eligible applicants are 501(c)3 nonprofits, universities, and Native American tribes. SCF and FSF are geographically restricted to the same National Forests from which individual guest contributions originated.

PG&E Wildfire Prevention Project Grants

<https://pge.com/resiliencegrants>

PG&E has a [general grant program](#) which includes modest funding (around \$5,000) environmental projects. However, in addition to this they also made a commitment in 2017 to provide \$1 million in grants over a five-year period (\$200,000 per year, usually awarded to just two organizations). These grants are for projects that will build healthy and resilient forests and watersheds to help communities prevent and prepare for

Funding Research Memo: Fuel Reduction on Public and Private Lands

Last updated: September 2018

increasing wildfire risk. Eligible projects include research, planning or demonstration projects that better prepare communities for a future with more frequent and extreme wildfires. Applicants must be a governmental organization, educational institution or 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and must also include a local government within PG&E's Northern and Central California service area as a partner. Evaluation criteria include demonstrated partnerships, replicability, assistance to disadvantaged communities, and measurable impact.

Bella Vista Foundation

<http://www.bellavistafoundation.org/>

Under its ecosystem restoration grant category, the foundation focuses on protecting, restoring, and revitalizing high-priority watershed ecosystems in California and Oregon. Within these watersheds, the priorities are promoting the sustainable management of forest and agricultural land, revitalizing streams, and restoring riparian areas, with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems. Target watersheds in California include the Mattole River watershed; the mid-Klamath/Scott/Shasta Rivers; the McCloud tributary of the Sacramento River; and in the Sierra Nevada, the Truckee River watershed and Yuba/Bear/American Rivers.

No specific match is required, but the foundation strongly prefers not to be the sole or primary source of funding.