



**SIERRA NEVADA**  
CONSERVANCY

## **Funding Research Memo: Forest and Watershed Health**

Updated February 2020

*Funding Research Memos are compilations of federal, state, and foundation grants available by project type. Grant guidelines and deadlines contained in these memoranda are subject to change—always check the individual program websites for new information.*

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## FEDERAL FUNDING

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

[Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs website](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/)

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

#### Summary

- Funding Range: Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies by program.
- Funding Focus: Programs for watershed protection on private property, including non-industrial timberland forest-health projects.
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing
- Eligible Costs: Varies by program. [Contact your local NRCS office](#) for information.

#### Details

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 at the [NRCS 2014 Farm Bill Financial Assistance website](#).

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 the [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

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

[USFS Fire Prevention Grant Program—California Fire Safe Council website](https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/apply-for-a-grant/)

(<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/apply-for-a-grant/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$250,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required.
- Funding Focus: Fire-prevention activities, including training, planning, hazardous fuel treatment, and fire-prevention education.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (Most recent deadline was June 5, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land (can include purchase of supplies and tools); Community Wildfire Protection Plans; education and outreach.

## Details

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

- 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
- Projects which address tree mortality

A 50 percent cost share/match is required, 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.

Projects are more competitive if they have the support of the local CAL FIRE 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

[USFS Western State WUI grants—California Fire Safe Council website](https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/apply-for-a-grant/)  
(<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/apply-for-a-grant/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$300,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required.

- Funding Focus: Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects in the WUI; Community Wildfire Protection Plans; education and outreach.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies (Most recent deadline was September 27, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land (can include purchase of supplies and tools); Community Wildfire Protection Plans; education and outreach.

## Details

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

## USFS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

[USFS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program website](https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/)

(<https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Multi-million dollar awards. A 50% match is required.
- Funding Focus: To encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies—Not an annual program (Most recent deadline was August 23, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Ten-year funding for landscape scale, collaborative, forest restoration efforts.

## Details

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes and:

- Encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability
- Leverage local resources with national and private resources
- Facilitate the reduction of wildfire-management costs, including through re-establishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire

- Demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives
- Encourage utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, benefit local economies, and improve forest health.

This program has only been authorized a few times, usually the funding rounds are years apart. Currently, \$80,000,000 annually has been requested for fiscal years 2019 through 2023. The funding may only be used on National Forest System lands and may not be used to cover planning costs. It can pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological-restoration treatments. A robust collaborative process is an essential element of successful applications.

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

[FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program website](https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program) (https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program)

[California Office of Emergency Services \(Cal OES\) Pre-disaster and Flood Mitigation website](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/pre-disaster-flood-mitigation) (https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/pre-disaster-flood-mitigation)

### Summary

- Funding Range: No set amount. A 25% match is required, which can be reduced to 10% in small, impoverished communities.
- Funding Focus: Projects to protect life and structures from wildfires. The project must be in a WUI within two miles of homes and structures. Funding cannot be used on federal lands.
- Estimated Deadline: Due date for Notice of Interest (NOI) to the state varies. (The most recent deadline was September 24, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: 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 in a WUI, must be adjacent to built environments, and must provide protection to life and property from future wildfires. NEPA is required.

### Details

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 WUI, 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.

General watershed protection activities are not eligible and 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 funding is to [submit a Pre-disaster and Flood Mitigation Notice of Interest form](#) to the state. In general, a cost share of 25 percent is required, though this can be reduced to 10 percent in small, impoverished communities.

## FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

[FEMA Hazard Mitigation—California Office of Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Grant Program website](http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/404-hazard-mitigation-grant-program) (<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/404-hazard-mitigation-grant-program>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: No set amount. A 25% match is required, which can be reduced to 10% in small, impoverished communities.
- Funding Focus: Projects to protect life and structures from wildfires. Projects must be in a WUI within two miles of homes and structures. Cannot be used on federal lands.
- Estimated Deadline: Due date for Notice of Interest (NOI) to the state varies. The most recent deadline was March 15, 2019.)

- **Eligible Costs:** 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 in a WUI, must be adjacent to built environments, and must provide protection to life and property from future wildfires. NEPA is required.

## Details

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 WUI and protect 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 Hazard Mitigation funding is to submit a Notice of Interest form to the state. This can be done using the [California Office of Emergency Services online form](#). In general, a cost share of 25 percent is required, though this can be reduced to 10 percent in small, impoverished communities.

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

[USFS Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act website](https://www.fs.usda.gov/pts/)  
(<https://www.fs.usda.gov/pts/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: No set amount. Match is not required, though many projects appear to have leverage.
- Funding Focus: Projects implementing stewardship objectives which enhance forest ecosystems and restore land health and water quality. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
- Eligible Costs: 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.

## Details

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. 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. Other types of projects that are often funded include trails, forest health improvements, and control of noxious weeds.

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. [View the RAC website to find a local Resource Advisory Committee](#) and see a list of the projects it has funded. Applications to the RACs can be submitted using the [Secure Rural Schools as Amended Title II Project Submission Form](#).

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

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.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): North America Wetlands Conservation Act Standard or Small Grants Program

[USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act website](http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php)

(<http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Small Grants up to \$100,000, Standard Grants over \$100,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required.
- Funding Focus: Protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.
- Estimated Deadline: February and July for Standard Grant Program, October or November for Small Grant program. (The most recent deadline was July 10, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: On-the-ground acquisition, restoration, and enhancement project costs, plus administration or overhead.

### Details

These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Restoration is defined as the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site, with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. Enhancement involves the manipulation of these characteristics to improve specific functions of the wetland. Funds can also be used for acquisitions. These grants require a 1:1 non-federal match.

Standard Grants Program for requests over \$100,000—Contact the program officers to discuss the process. The deadlines are generally February and July. Check the website for more details.

Small Grants Program for requests under \$100,000—The program supports the same types of projects and has the same guidelines as the Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$100,000 and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act’s Grants Program.

Discussions with program officers are recommended. See the website for more details.

## USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program

[USFS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program website](http://www.fws.gov/partners/aboutus.html)  
(<http://www.fws.gov/partners/aboutus.html>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Cost-share reimbursements depend on project.
- Funding Focus: Private landowners conserving habitat for rare, declining, or protected species.
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing.
- Eligible Costs: Discuss with field staff.

### Details

The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes who are willing to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of Federal Trust Species. Through voluntary agreements, the Partners program provides expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives directly to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats.

The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types. Eligible projects conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems, such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining, or protected species.

[Contact your USFS Partners for Fish and Wildlife State Coordinator to initiate the process.](#) Locally based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor their projects. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through the permitting process, as necessary. The landowner works one-on-one with a local Service biologist to develop a project plan addressing the goals and objectives of the landowner and the Service to benefit fish and wildlife species on the affected land.

To implement a project, a cooperative agreement with a minimum duration of 10 years is signed. The landowner is reimbursed after project completion, based on the cost-sharing formula in the agreement.

## US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART grant program

[Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Grant Program website](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/)  
(<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Project grants up to \$1,000,000 depending on the solicitation. Match is not required but makes the application more competitive.
- Funding Focus: Promote sustainable development of water resources, improve the ecological resilience of rivers and streams, and conserve water for multiple uses by supporting collaborative conservation efforts and the development of watershed groups
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was February 5, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: Depends on program, can be planning or implementation.

### Details

The BOR has a number of grants under its WaterSMART program, including funding for watershed-management projects. The funding can be used for projects that enhance water conservation, improve water quality and ecological resilience, reduce water conflicts, and advance goals related to water quality and quantity. The funding is directed at implementation projects identified through watershed action groups, including riparian restoration, invasive vegetation removal, and actions that increase instream flow. In the past, funding has also been available for the development of watershed groups. Other grants in the WaterSMART program include water efficiency, water recycling, and water-marketing strategies.

## USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program

[USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program website](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/)  
(<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Not stated. A 25% match from local sources is required.
- Funding Focus: Relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing
- Eligible Costs: Addressing watershed impairments, such as debris-clogged stream channels, undermined and unstable streambanks, jeopardized water control structures and public infrastructures, wind-borne debris removal, and damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought.

## Details

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is a federal emergency recovery program that helps local communities recover after natural disasters. The program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed.

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance for various activities under [EWP Program—Recovery assistance](#), including:

- Remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges
- Reshape and protect eroded streambanks
- Correct damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
- Establish vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
- Repair levees and structures
- Repair conservation practices

Recovery project begins with a local sponsor or legal subdivision of state or tribal government. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or any federally recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization. Interested public and private landowners can apply for EWP Program—Recovery assistance through one of those sponsors.

Watershed impairments that the EWP Program address are debris-clogged stream channels, undermined and unstable streambanks, jeopardized water-control structures and public infrastructures, wind-borne debris removal, and damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought.

## STATE FUNDING

### CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program

[CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program website](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forest-improvement-program-cfip/)

(<https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forest-improvement-program-cfip/>)

#### Summary

- Funding Range: Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies—see User’s Guide.
- Funding Focus: 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.
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing.
- Eligible Costs: Management planning, site preparation, tree purchase and planting, timber-stand improvement, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and land conservation practices.

#### Details

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a forestry-incentive program that provides funds to private forest landowners for management plans, Registered Professional 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 (10 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 CAL FIRE 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 [California Forest Improvement Program User's Guide](#) for more information.

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

[California Department of Water Resources—Integrated Regional Water Management Grants website](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management) (<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 50% but this can be waived for disadvantaged communities.
- Funding Focus: Very broad—the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region's IRWM Plan.
- Estimated Deadline: Set periodically.
- Eligible Costs: Very broad. Different solicitations fund planning and implementation projects. There is also a special program to fund the involvement of disadvantaged communities.

### Details

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 12 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.

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 (WIP) Forest Health Grants

[Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program Grants website](https://sierranevada.ca.gov/funding/snc-grants/)  
(<https://sierranevada.ca.gov/funding/snc-grants/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$100,000 for planning grants and \$500,000 for implementation grants. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Projects that will promote healthy forests and watersheds in the Sierra Nevada Region. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies (The most recent deadline was August 5, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: 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.

### Details

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 (WIP). 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 WIP as they relate to forest health.
- Meet the requirements of Propositions 1 and/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

[CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Grant Programs website](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/)  
(<https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: No maximum. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Healthy-forest and fire-prevention programs that improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadlines were December 2, 2019 for Fire Prevention and December 6, 2019 for Forest Health.)
- Eligible Costs: Fuel reduction, forest-health activities, biomass-energy generation, reforestation, etc.

### Details

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 supply originates, promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils, minimize the loss of forest carbon from large 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.

## CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs

[CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs website](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/)  
([https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/))

## Summary

- Funding Range: Not stated. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: The focus of the Watershed Restoration Grant Program is on watershed restoration and protection projects outside of the Delta. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on projects that benefit the Delta.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was November 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Funding for planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific studies/monitoring/ assessments. Indirect costs not to exceed 20% are eligible.
- Planning grants can include funding for environmental review.

## Details

This listing covers two grant programs. The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish-protection facilities that benefit the Delta.

Funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects. Funding is also available specifically for scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment projects, but these funds will only be awarded under the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. However, the Watershed Restoration Grant Program may include scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment activities as part of the work plan.

Eligible applicants are limited to public agencies (state agencies or departments, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), 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. Federal agencies may not be applicants, but there is no limitation against doing project work on federal lands. The applicant, however, must have site control of the property for at least 25 years.

## CDFW Proposition 68 Grant Programs

[CDFW Proposition 68 Grant Programs website](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Prop-68)  
(<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Prop-68>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Amounts will vary by solicitation.

- Funding Focus: Funding focus varies 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.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was November 26, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Planning, implementation, and acquisition projects.

## Details

This program consists of three new grant programs from Proposition 68: Rivers and Streams Restoration Grants, Southern California Steelhead Grants, and Habitat Improvement Grants. These three grant programs are combined with the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs discussed above into one program solicitation.

Proposition 68 funding is for projects that improve a community's ability to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change; improve and protect coastal and rural economies, agricultural viability, wildlife corridors, or habitat; develop future recreational opportunities; or enhance drought tolerance, landscape resilience, and water retention.

The Rivers and Streams Restoration Grant focuses on restoring rivers and streams in support of fisheries and wildlife, including reconnection of rivers with their floodplains, riparian and side-channel habitat restoration activities; and restoration and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems that are important for fish and wildlife resources. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat
- Reconnecting historical floodplains
- Installing or improving fish screens
- Modernizing stream crossings, culverts, and bridges
- Providing fish passage
- Acquisition of conservation easements for riparian buffer strips from willing sellers
- Improving local watershed management
- Restoration and protection of upper watershed forest and meadow systems
- Removing sediment or trash

Habitat Improvement Grants are available to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in streams, rivers, wildlife refuges, wetland habitat areas, and estuaries. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Short- or long-term water transfers or leases
- Provision of water for fish and wildlife
- Improvement of aquatic or riparian habitat conditions
- Invasive species removal

- Enhancement or acquisition of seasonal ponds, stock ponds or riparian buffer strips in agricultural landscapes

Implementation and Acquisition projects must include a summary of a long-term management and maintenance plan for the life of the project (25-year minimum).

## CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

[California Natural Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program website](http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/) (<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Grants up to \$500,000. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Projects designed to mitigate environmental effects of transportation facilities. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: Usually June but delayed in 2020 because of the continuing statewide impacts of COVID-19. (The most recent deadline was June 17, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Eligible projects include enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the detriment to resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements.

### Details

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.

## CDFW Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) Grant Program

[CDFW Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program website](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund/About)

(<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund/About>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: \$150,000 is average grant size. No match is required.
- Funding Focus: To support environmental-enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was November 16, 2018.)
- Eligible Costs: Projects can acquire, restore, or improve habitat, water quality, and ecosystem function above baseline conditions.

### Details

The purpose of this program is to support environmental-enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. For the purposes of this program, California waters are defined as any surface water, including saline waters, marine waters, and freshwaters, within the boundaries of the state. Groundwater is not included as a surface water. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife and be designed to acquire, restore, or improve habitat quality and ecosystem function above baseline conditions. Projects must have measurable outcomes within a predetermined time frame.

The EEF grant program is administered by the CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response and is funded by fines levied on entities that release oil and other substances into the state waterways. The amount of funding available each year depends on the fines that are collected. In years when the available funds are modest, smaller requests are more competitive. It is a good idea to call the program contact and discuss the targeted range for grants.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and federal agencies. The average grant size is about \$150,000 and no match is required.

## Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Streamflow Enhancement Program

[Wildlife Conservation Board Streamflow Enhancement Program website](https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement)  
(<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: No maximum or minimum. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Projects that enhance stream flows and are consistent with the CA Water Plan, especially streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: September. (The most recent deadline was September 10, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include environmental review.

### Details

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.

## Wildlife Conservation Board Forest Conservation Program

[Wildlife Conservation Board Forest Conservation Program website](https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Forest)  
(<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Forest>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Minimum grant is \$100,000, there is no maximum. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Forest restoration and conservation within the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains.
- Estimated Deadline: June. (The most recent deadline was June 28, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Planning, acquisition, and restoration projects such as forest thinning, meadow restoration, post-fire restoration, and logging road decommissioning.

### Details

The WCB Forest Conservation Program promotes the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation, and restoration of productive managed forest lands and other upper watershed lands in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. This includes forest lands, meadows, wetlands, chaparral, and riparian habitat. The projects should protect and improve water supply and water quality, improve forest health, reduce wildfire danger, mitigate the effects of wildfires on water quality and supply, increase flood protection, or protect or restore riparian or aquatic resources.

Project types include implementation (e.g., restoration and enhancement), planning (e.g., design and environmental review that lead to future implementation) and acquisition (e.g., conservation easement or fee title.) Examples of eligible projects include meadow restoration, forest thinning (hazard fuel reduction), post-fire restoration, etc. Eligible applicants include nonprofits organizations, and state, federal, and local government agencies.

## Wildlife Conservation Board Programs

[Wildlife Conservation Board Programs website](https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs) (<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Wide range of funding, no specific limits. Some landowner contribution is required.
- Funding Focus: Riparian restoration, inland wetlands, and other habitat restoration and improvement projects. Both public and private lands are eligible.
- Estimated Deadline: On-going. The Board meets quarterly. Contact the Program Officer for more information.
- Eligible Costs: Restoration and enhancement.

## Details

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 agencies, state departments, and federal agencies.

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.

## CDFW Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction

[CDFW Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program website](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Wetlands-Restoration)  
(<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Wetlands-Restoration>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: No maximum or minimum. Match is not required but adds to score.
- Funding Focus: Achieve net greenhouse gas emission reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was August 13, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Planning, implementation, indirect.

## Details

The intent of this grant program is to contribute to the goals of AB 32 and the California Water Action Plan while restoring or enhancing important wildlife and fish habitat (co-

benefits). All proposed projects must outline plans to achieve net GHG reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows and be able to demonstrate how project success will be monitored and reported. Proposals must also consider if and how expected climatic changes in California may impact project planning, implementation, and long-term sustainability of the project investment. Projects may include planning, but must have an on-the-ground restoration component. Linkages to other restoration activities and co-benefits are a plus for scoring.

Each proposal submitted for consideration must present a conceptual model that describes how the proposed restoration or enhancement activities are expected to result in net GHG reductions. The conceptual model should describe projected emissions and/or sequestration of relevant GHGs (i.e., carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>], methane [CH<sub>4</sub>], and nitrous oxide [N<sub>2</sub>O]) and how those are anticipated to change over time following implementation of the proposed project.

There is no minimum or maximum funding amount. A match is not required, though it adds to points. The grant period is five years. Entities eligible to apply for grants are limited to public agencies, recognized tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations.

This program relies on an allocation from GHG reduction funds, which varies year by year. Check the website for the latest information.

## Non-Point Source (NPS) Grant Program—319(h) Nonpoint Source Grants and Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Funds

[Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program—319 Grants website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.html)  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/319grants.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.html))

### Summary

- Funding Range: Grants range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. A 25% match is required except for post-fire recovery projects.
- Funding Focus: 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.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was December 17, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Eligible forest management measures include streamside management areas, timber harvesting, revegetation, wetlands management, outreach and education, etc. In 2019, additional funding was available under this program for post-fire recovery projects.

## Details

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 pollution. This is pollution that comes from many diffuse sources, as opposed to contaminants from a specific plant or facility. The goal of these projects is to restore 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.

## The CA Department of Conservation Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program

[California Department of Conservation Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program website](https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Working-Lands-and-Riparian-Corridors-Program.aspx) (https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Working-Lands-and-Riparian-Corridors-Program.aspx)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Not stated.
- Funding Focus: Provides grants to protect, restore, and enhance working lands and riparian corridors through conservation easements and restoration projects on agricultural lands.

- Estimated Deadline: July. (The most recent deadline was July 31, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Activities must target agricultural lands and may include:
  - Project development
  - Land trust strategic planning
  - Local and regional planning
  - Conservation acquisitions
  - Sustainable management practices
  - Watershed restoration

## Details

The Working Lands and Riparian Corridors program provides grants to protect, restore, and enhance working lands and riparian corridors through conservation easements and restoration projects on agricultural lands.

Activities funded under this program must target agricultural lands and may include:

- Project development
- Land trust strategic planning
- Local and regional planning
- Conservation acquisitions
- Sustainable management practices
- Watershed restoration

Recently funded projects focused on planning, developing, and implementing climate adaptation and resilience projects. These include awards to local governments, regional governments, and planning organizations to integrate natural and working lands into local and regional planning documents. Other awards included land trusts, which received funding to build capacity to initiate and conduct agricultural conservation activities in their service areas. These projects will increase the pace and scale of agricultural land conservation throughout the state and support climate adaptation and resilience via agricultural lands conservation.

## FOUNDATION FUNDING

### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program website](https://www.nfwf.org/mitigating-impacts/sacramento-district-california-lieu-fee-program) (<https://www.nfwf.org/mitigating-impacts/sacramento-district-california-lieu-fee-program>)

#### Summary

- Funding Range: No match required but cost-effectiveness is a factor.
- Funding Focus: On-the-ground wetland and water restoration, establishment, and enhancement.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was March 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: Acquisition, project planning, project implementation, management, monitoring, and maintenance.

#### Details

The NFWF Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program (ILF Program) obtains funding for wetland and stream restoration projects from permittee fees, which satisfy the requirement for mitigating impacts to aquatic resources. Projects must be located in the ILF Program Area, which generally includes the California Central Valley, Sierra Foothills, and Sierra Nevada. ILF Projects must generally provide on-the-ground wetland and/or waters restoration, creation, and/or enhancement. In certain circumstances preservation projects may be acceptable, particularly in cases of difficult-to-replace resources, such as fens and vernal pools. The benefits of the projects must be clearly demonstrated.

There are two application cycles per year and the process includes pre-applications and full applications. Check the ILF Program website for the most up-to-date information and deadlines. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribal entities, educational institutions, and private businesses.

### NFWF Bring Back the Natives/More Fish

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives website](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/bring-back-natives) (<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/bring-back-natives>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: \$50,000–\$100,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required, a 2:1 match is preferred.
- Funding Focus: Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems; reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Estimated Deadline: June (The most recent deadline was June 27, 2019 for pre-proposals.)
- Eligible Costs: Restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; invasive species management.

## Details

The Bring Back the Natives program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. Recent Sierra Nevada priorities include Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery. Proposals should focus on protecting and maintaining intact and healthy aquatic systems, preventing further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected, and increasing the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of native fish and other aquatic species.

A broad range of activities has been funded, including restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water-conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; and invasive-species management.

## NFWF-Wells Fargo Resilient Communities Program

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Resilient Communities Program website](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/resilient-communities-program)  
(<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/resilient-communities-program>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: \$100,000–\$500,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required.
- Funding Focus: Adaptation through conservations, community capacity building and demonstration projects.
- Estimated Deadline: February. (The most recent deadline was February 18, 2020.)

- Eligible Costs: Management of forests, fuels reduction, habitat restoration and conservation easements for healthy forest ecosystems, community engagement and capacity building.

## Details

The program focuses on water quality and quantity declines, forest health concerns, and sea level rise. It emphasizes community inclusion and assistance to traditionally underserved populations in vulnerable areas. Specific funding priorities include:

- High-impact resiliency adaptations to help communities prepare for potential disasters, including wildfire
- Community demonstration and capacity-building projects that help communities understand environmental risks and opportunities and organize and take actions to improve local resiliency by enhancing natural buffers and system functions
- Scalable, nature-based resilience solutions benefiting affordable housing and/or small businesses in communities vulnerable to impacts from natural disasters

## NFWF—Northern California Forests and Watershed Program

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Northern California Forests and Watershed Program website](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/northern-california-forests-and-watersheds) (<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/northern-california-forests-and-watersheds>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: \$25,000–\$250,000. A 50% match required, a 1:1 match is preferred.
- Funding Focus: Recovery of lands and watersheds degraded from the influences of past wildfire events.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was January 25, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: Planning and/or implementation projects designed to advance restoration or ecological resilience.

## Details

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation now administers the [Sierra Nevada Meadows Program](#) funding through the Northern California Forests and Watersheds Program. Conservation priorities include but are not limited to:

- Restoration of watersheds, landscapes, meadows, riparian, and other habitats
- Aquatic organism and fish-passage enhancements
- Native species restoration and non-native species control
- Fuels management

- Recreational use management of trails, roads and campsites that may have a deleterious impact on natural resources

This program funds meadow restoration throughout the Sierra Nevada meadows range referenced in the [Northern California Forests and Watersheds Restoration Strategy](#) (Restoration Strategy).

## Environmental Protection Agency Five Star Restoration Grant Program

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star Restoration Grant Program website](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program)  
(<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$50,000. Substantial match is required.
- Funding Focus: Environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams.
- Estimated Deadline: February (The most recent deadline was January 30, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

### Details

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners, and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. These are small grants (less than \$50,000) that are focused on education. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Native American tribes, and educational institutions.

Competitive proposals should address each of the five priorities:

- On-the-ground restoration and planning
- Partnerships
- Environmental outreach, education, and training
- Measurable results
- Sustainability

## National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program

[National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program website](http://www.nationalforests.org/conserves/grantprograms/ontheground/map)

(<http://www.nationalforests.org/conserves/grantprograms/ontheground/map>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: \$500–\$100,000. Requires a 1:1 cash match of non-federal funds.
- Funding Focus: Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences. Civic involvement is an important component.
- Estimated Deadline: January and June (The most recent deadline was June 9, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: On-the-ground activities, citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore ecosystem resiliency on National Forests.

### Details

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.

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

[National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation and Forest Stewardship Funds website](https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/stewardship-funds)

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

## Summary

- Funding Range: Awards vary based on funding. A 50% match is required.
- Funding Focus: Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences. Civic involvement is an important component.
- Estimated Deadline: Vary based on National Forest from which the contributions originate.
- Eligible Costs: On-the-ground activities, citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore ecosystem resiliency on National Forests.

## Details

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.

## The Nature Conservancy Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator Grant

[The Nature Conservancy Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator Grant website](https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/natural-climate-solutions-accelerator-grant/)  
(<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/natural-climate-solutions-accelerator-grant/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: Maximum grant \$250,000.
- Funding Focus: Kick-starting innovative and scalable approaches to capturing greenhouse gas emissions by using natural and working lands.

- Estimated Deadline: Varies. (The most recent deadline was March 13, 2020 for pre-applications.)
- Eligible Costs: Implementing and testing Natural Climate Solutions—which include reforestation, cover crops, coastal restoration, and other management practices.

## Details

This grant-funding program is focused on helping kick-start innovative and scalable approaches to capturing greenhouse gas emissions by using natural and working lands in the United States. While significant progress is being made to expand adoption of renewable energy, electric vehicles, and other technologies that reduce emissions from the energy and transportation sectors, the Accelerator program seeks to correspondingly increase adoption of the oldest, and one of the most cost-effective carbon capture technologies there is—nature. Over time, the Accelerator strives to support the development of diverse portfolio strategies and mechanisms that landowners, state and federal governments, corporations, and other leaders can deploy to accelerate climate action.

Projects priorities include the potential for delivering significant climate-change mitigation benefits; the likelihood of reaching transformative scale; and the capacity of the affiliated organizations to achieve success.

The funder is interested in receiving proposals from a diverse portfolio of projects representing novel approaches for scaling climate solutions in a range of natural and working lands (forests, agricultural lands and grasslands, and wetlands) and geographies.

## California Fire Foundation Fire Prevention Grant Program

[California Fire Foundation Fire Prevention Grant Program website](https://www.cafirefoundation.org/programs/fireprevention/)

(<https://www.cafirefoundation.org/programs/fireprevention/>)

## Summary

- Funding Range: \$7,500–\$15,000. No match is required.
- Funding Focus: Wildfire relief and prevention, including fuel reduction, fuel breaks, and community-defensible spaces.
- Estimated Deadline: November. (The most recent deadline was November 15, 2019.)
- Eligible Costs: Fuel mitigation, habitat restoration, first responder training, fire safety and prevention education, planning, and outreach programs.

## Details

The California Fire Foundation offers grant opportunities available to fire departments, firefighter associations, and community organizations serving the residents of California to address tragic events such as wildfires, floods, and climate-caused disasters.

Funding requests may include programs such as:

- Improved land-use planning regarding vegetation near power lines
- Clearing grass and brush near homes
- Specialized firefighting equipment, or other fire safety and disaster preparedness and prevention programs
- First-responder training
- Fire safety education, prevention, and preparedness outreach programs

Eligible applicants include fire departments, firefighter associations and community-based organizations (CERT/NERT or safety-focused organizations) throughout California. Factors for funding consideration may include size of organization's impact reach, percentage of organization's service area identified as a disadvantaged community, and percentage of organization's service area located in a Tier 3 or 2 high-wildfire risk area.

## Bay Area Council: California Resilience Challenge

[California Resilience Challenge website](https://resilientcal.org/) (https://resilientcal.org/)

### Summary

- Funding Range: \$100,000–\$200,000. Match is not required but additional funding needed for project must be identified.
- Funding Focus: Diverse, replicable and innovative climate change adaptation planning projects across California.
- Estimated Deadline: February (The most recent deadline was February 7, 2020.)
- Eligible Costs: Modeling or feasibility studies to help fill knowledge gaps about vulnerabilities and/or costs and benefits; planning projects designed for implementation of resilience infrastructure, hazard mitigation plan updates, climate vulnerability assessments.

### Details

The California Resilience Challenge is a statewide effort, led by businesses, utilities, and a diverse range of partners, to build local and regional climate resilience and to support a shared vision for a resilient California in the face of increasing climate threats. This program funds resiliency planning projects aimed at improving local resilience to

climate impacts, including drought, flooding (including sea level rise), extreme heat, and wildfire. Plans should be innovative and replicable for other locations, should help protect critical infrastructure and vulnerable communities, and must enjoy broad community support.

Activities eligible for funding are those related to climate-resilience planning. Examples of eligible activities include feasibility studies, public consultation, planning, economic analyses, funding/financing analyses, conceptual drawings and design, and data and geospatial analyses.

## Hind Foundation:

[Hind Foundation website](http://www.hindfoundation.org/) (<http://www.hindfoundation.org/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$100,000. There is a preference for projects with most of the funding in place.
- Funding Focus: Ecosystem conservation, and plant and wildlife protection
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing
- Eligible Costs: Project implementation.

### Details

This is a standard foundation grant. The Hind Foundation has several areas of interest. The most relevant areas are ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection. The ecosystem conservation program funds projects that enhance habitats in which plants and wildlife thrive. Plant and wildlife protection funding is granted to private organizations that desire to see plant and wildlife flourish and that work for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Grants seem to be in the range of \$100,000. There is an online application process. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, must receive the majority of their funding support from our local community, must hold or sponsor at least one fundraising event annually, and must have been in operation for more than one year. The foundation prefers to fund organizations that have raised most of the funding needed to complete the project.

This grant has no deadline; the foundation accepts applications July 1—June 30 until it runs out of funds.

## Patagonia Foundation

### [Patagonia Foundation Retail Grant Program](https://www.patagonia.com/how-we-fund/retail-grant/)

(<https://www.patagonia.com/how-we-fund/retail-grant/>)

#### Summary

- Funding Range: \$8,000–\$12,000.
- Funding Focus: Groups working to protect local habitat.
- Estimated Deadline: Ongoing.
- Eligible Costs: On-the-ground restoration work and direct-action campaigns with a focus on protecting local habitat.

#### Details

The Patagonia Foundation funds environmental work, specifically for organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change and a strong base of citizen support. The foundation focuses on small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect the environment. They have several different grant programs, the most appropriate for local projects is the Retail Grants program, which funds projects that take place within the communities of Patagonia retail stores.

The Foundation accepts one proposal per group, per fiscal year. The typical grant range is \$8,000 to \$12,000.

## Rose Foundation California Watershed Protection Fund

### [Rose Foundation California Watershed Protection Fund website](https://rosefdn.org/california-watershed-protection-fund)

(<https://rosefdn.org/california-watershed-protection-fund>)

#### Summary

- Funding Range: \$7,500–\$25,000.
- Funding Focus: Projects designed to benefit the water quality of specific California watersheds and their ecosystems.
- Estimated Deadline: February and August (The most recent deadline was August 20, 2020 for pre-applications.)
- Eligible Costs: Projects designed to address water quality and environmental justice.

## Details

The California Watershed Protection Fund supports projects designed to benefit the water quality of specific California's watersheds and their ecosystems. The specific [watersheds eligible for grants](#) vary from year to year. Most grant awards are in the \$7,500–\$25,000 range. This program is targeted toward well-established organizations with a strong track record of community-based, water-quality stewardship.

## Bella Vista Foundation

[Bella Vista Foundation website](http://www.bellavistafoundation.org/) (<http://www.bellavistafoundation.org/>)

### Summary

- Funding Range: Up to \$150,000. Other sources of funding are important.
- Funding Focus: Watershed restoration with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems.
- Estimated Deadline: Varies
- Eligible Costs: Restoration work and conservation easements.

### Details

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 the Sierra Nevada are the Truckee River watershed, Yuba/Bear/American rivers, and the North Fork Feather River.

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