

RURAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT

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To ensure a perpetual supply of forest goods and services from California's private forests and rangelands, technical and cost-share assistance are provided to private landowners, forest operators, wood processors, and public agencies. Estimated 30,000-50,000 forest landowners own or control almost half of the private forestland in California. About one million acres should and can be economically put back into production via reforestation, timber stand improvement, erosion control practices, and/or fish and wildlife enhancement projects.

To accomplish the program objectives, CDF provides technical advice and makes grants for forest improvement work to qualified landowners.

The legislation for rural forest improvement is located in PRC §4790-4799.

In 1947, the federal government developed a "Service Forestry" program in response to a nationwide concern about diminishing timber resources and woods-related jobs from private lands. This program allocated funds to the states to provide technical and financial assistance to small (nonindustrial) forest landowners to encourage improvement of timber resources. In 1978, the California Legislature initiated the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) to complement the underutilized and underfunded federal programs. The combination of programs, now called the Rural Forest Improvement Program (RFIP), provides a dynamic approach to meeting California's timber resource needs.

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO ISSUANCE HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

[\(See next section\)](#)

[\(See Table of Contents\)](#)