



## **Reforestation Assistance Program Overview and Guidance**

Through the [My Sierra Woods](#) (MSW) program in northern California, the [American Forest Foundation](#) (AFF) seeks to assist landowners with reforestation by providing technical and financial resources by launching the Reforestation Assistance Program (RAP). Through RAP, AFF seeks to increase necessary post-fire reforestation efforts on private forest lands. RAP provides funding to cover a portion of eligible landowners' out-of-pocket expenses for site preparation, planting, and post planting treatments. In so doing, AFF hopes to help private landowners recover post fire and increase the security of working forests, rural communities, and critical upland watersheds, while improving carbon storage.

### The RAP Process: Step-by-Step

- A Registered Professional Forester (RPF), on behalf of the landowner, will:
  - complete and submit the RAP application
  - secure appropriate CEQA compliance documentation.
  - negotiate a planting agreement with a contractor
  - submit a request for reimbursement with required documentation
- AFF will approve or deny the application and notify the RPF. If denied, the cause will be identified and if remediable the RPF/landowner will be invited to re-apply.
- Reimbursement requests may be submitted as work is on-going or at the completion of a reforestation project.
- AFF reviews and confirms accuracy and completeness of request and issues payment according to the schedule noted below.

### Program Eligibility

- Property must be privately-owned,
- Total property owned by landowner must be less than 15,000 acres, and
- Minimum of 10 acres per landowner.

### Registered Professional Foresters

RPFs are critical to the near and long-term success of the reforestation program and as such are responsible for 1) understanding and agreeing to comply with the rules and protocols of the program, and 2) representing landowner information truthfully and accurately on all program documents.

- The reforestation program does not assume any oversight of planting prescriptions. However, projects must promote stand heterogeneity.
- RPFs will be required to document pre and post treatment data for GHG reduction reporting to CAL FIRE.

### CEQA Compliance

Only projects that have demonstrated CEQA compliance are eligible to participate.

- RPFs are solely responsible for ensuring and documenting project CEQA compliance.
- Valid and current THP, NTMP, or Exemption permit numbers issued by CAL FIRE must be documented.
- Reimbursements under the program will **not** be made if the request for reimbursement occurs after CEQA expiration has occurred.
- Applications to participate in the program may be rejected if project CEQA documentation is set to expire within 45 days of project application.

### Reimbursement

The reforestation incentive is meant to act as an incentive to private landowners to undertake reforestation projects that otherwise may be uneconomical. The program is not intended to enable landowners to significantly profit from those projects.

- Reimbursement is based on the number of acres treated and planted.
- RPFs must document total project costs.
- Landowners, acting through their RPF, may request reimbursements up to two times per month. Reimbursement requests need to be made formally through submission of the Payment Request form to AFF.
- AFF guarantees reimbursement payment within 20 days of receipt of correctly submitted FBTI Payment Request forms.

### Oversight

AFF has a duty to ensure program accountability and transparency.

- AFF has convened a Steering Committee to review program implementation and make course corrections to ensure that all MSW financial programs are fully and effectively subscribed over the implementation period.
- AFF may, at its sole discretion, conduct randomized audits of program participants to ensure program integrity. By willingly participating in the FBTI program, landowners and their designated RPFs agree to provide such information as may be necessary to evaluate that integrity. RPF's are required to complete an economic breakdown of each project as part of the application process.
- Program rules and protocols may change to improve project performance based on recommendations of the Steering Committee. All changes will be documented on the My Sierra Woods website.

**Questions?** Contact Chantz Joyce, AFF California Conservation Manager:

[cjoyce@forestfoundation.org](mailto:cjoyce@forestfoundation.org)

Additional information regarding My Sierra Woods financial assistance programs can be found on our website: [www.mysierrawoods.org/programs](http://www.mysierrawoods.org/programs)



*“My Sierra Woods – Capturing Carbon on California's Family Forest Lands” project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities.*

*The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low income communities, and low-income households across California.*

*For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at:*  
[www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).