

# EFRP –Emergency Forest Restoration Program

April 2023

# EFRP Purpose and Eligibility

EFRP provides assistance to owners of NIPF land damaged by natural disaster

Land must be physically located in the county affected by the natural disaster – has to be zoned as rural

Land must have or had existing tree cover before disaster event

Damage that ,if not treated, would impair or endanger natural resources or affect future use of NIPF

# Environmental Benefits of EFRP

Reduce Erosion

Improve Ground Water Quality

Enhance Food and Cover for Wildlife

Restore Forest Health

Promote Carbon Sequestration

# EFRP Flow Chart of Process



- State requests EFRP implementation
- WDC Approves requests to implement EFRP

- 30-60 day Sign-up period for producers at Local FSA County Office

- Application Review
- Land/producer eligibility determination
- Environmental Compliance

- STO requests funds for applications “willing to approve”
- County Committee approves cost-share funds
- Funds are obligated to the application

- 6-12 months Producer performs rehabilitation measures

- FSA Verifies Practice completion
- FSA calculates and issues cost- share payment

# Eligible Land

1) Land owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision making authority over the land.

2) Land that has existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster & where the land is suitable for growing trees)

# Eligible Land

3) Statute requires the land be rural (nonmetro" does not mean rural)

The Census Bureau defines rural as "any population, housing, or territory NOT in an urban area".

Urban areas are defined as any population of 2,500 or more

As a result, rural is defined as any population of less than 2,500

# NIPF Definition Example

- NIPF owners that don't have a mill are considered nonindustrial & therefore eligible.
- NIPF owners with a mill for processing their own wood, whether they sell or don't sell, are considered non industrial and are eligible
- NIPF owners with an industrial mill that buy & sell other people's timber are considered industrial and are Not Eligible

# Forestland Size

- FSA & NRCS identify someone as a nonindustrial private landowner if they own fewer than 45,000 acres of forest land in the United States
- California FSA does have a minimum restoration cost of \$20,000 per participant so a few damaged trees may not meet the \$20,000 requirement



# Duplicate Payments Policy

- Cost Share is not eligible to be earned for the same or similar expenses on the exact same piece of NIPF on which the owner has or will receive funding from any other Federal or State C/S program that covers the same or similar expenses to create duplicate payments or, in effect, a higher rate of C/S than is allowed.

Other C/S programs include, but are not limited to:

CRP, ECP, EQIP, TAP, EWP, ACEP, WRP/Emergency WRP, USFS programs, FEMA programs and/or any State Forestry program.

# Cost-share assistance to landowners

75% share of eligible expenses, not to exceed FSAs rates (year of disaster's NRCS scenario rates)

\$500,000 maximum payment limitation

Up to 2 years to complete restoration work

# Not an Entitlement Program

EFRP's purpose is not that everyone who suffers a loss gets a payment

Damage must be extensive enough that Federal Assistance is needed to return the land to productive Use

# Technical Assistance (TA)

In California, Cal Fire is our technical provider, historically, they have contracted with RCD to perform the technical assistance

After disaster & approval to implement the EFRP program, FSA confirms with RCD that they will be the T.A. provider, we have a meeting with them to discuss policy, requirements, responsibilities & the importance of environmental review & guidance is provided on how to document the environmental review on our FSA-850 form.

# Types of Disaster Eligible for EFRP

Hurricane Damage



Ice Storm Damage





# Types of Disaster Eligible for EFRP, continued





# Types of Disaster Eligible for EFRP, continued

**Flood Damage**



**Drought**





# Environmental Requirements

FSA-850 – Environmental review must be completed for all applications **before the practice is started**

Consideration has to be given for impacts to endangered species, historic properties, floodplains, no drainage or negative impacts to wetlands, etc.

FSA will perform all applicable consultations



# Types of Restoration Eligible for all Practices

- Debris Removal required to remove trees & other debris as a result of the disaster
- Site Prep for planting or natural regeneration
- Temporary cover (tree seedling unavailable or planting period for species has passed)
- Tree Planting
- Fire Breaks and Fire Lanes

# What is Eligible for Financial Assistance?

# Debris Removal

- required to remove trees & other debris as a result of the disaster
- Necessary to rehabilitate or reestablish a stand
- To enable site preparation for planting or natural regeneration

# Site Prep & Conservation Cover

- To prepare the site for reestablishment through planting or natural regeneration
- Seeding of temporary cover to prevent erosion:
  - If needed until required planting stock is available or if normal planting period has passed
  - If needed to enhance wildlife or
  - To establish a cover where a solid condition, such as chemical residue will not immediately allow establishment of permanent cover

# Tree Planting

- If necessary to reduce erosion from wind or water
- To provide food & cover for waterfowl & other wildlife
- To improve surface or ground water quality
- To restore forest health & forest-related resources

## Other Eligible Practices

- Firebreaks & Prescribed Burning to establish & maintain & reduce the risk of wildfire
- Fencing if it was preexisting & necessary for livestock exclusion
- Roads & other structures located on NIPF & necessary for forest restoration

Other restoration activities necessary for restoration & protection of natural resources impacted by the disaster

# Not Authorized for Cost Share

- Roads & other structures not located on NIPF
- Annual food plots
- To establish a tree species for
  - Ornamental purposes
  - For Christmas trees
  - Nursery tree production
  - Production of commercial nuts, other than species customarily planted for forestry purposes
  - Herbicides or insecticides to maintain the vegetative cover including trees

# Other Types of Restoration Not Eligible for EFRP

Engineering, consultant, project manager fees

Landowner transportation costs

Loss of revenue





# EFRP Practices

- EF1 – Hardwood Forest Restoration
- EF2 – Softwood Forest Restoration
- EF3 – Mixed Forest Restoration
- EF4 – Longleaf Pine Restoration

# EFRP Practices

## EF 9 - Other Emergency Forest Restoration Measures

Other emergency forest restoration practices that may be needed have to be approved by CEPD.

IF component is...	THEN financial assistance is...
replacing or restoring a conservation or pollution abatement practice damaged by the natural disaster	authorized.
restoring forest health or forest-related resources directly related to a natural disaster	
for the solution of conservation or environmental problems existing before the disaster	
	not authorized.

