



Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

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Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program

Non-industrial Forest Landowner Forest Management Plan Application

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Introduction

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) is inviting non-industrial forest landowners to apply to receive technical assistance in creating a long-term document to guide land management decisions, called Forest Management Plans. This application packet serves as a guidance document that establishes the process, procedures, and general requirements for non-industrial landowners to apply for and receive Forest Management Plan development.

Forest Management Plans are long-term documents that are written in collaboration with landowners to identify and guide land management decisions and prioritize goals. Forest Management Plans are living documents that will change over time. A Forest Management Plan outlines landowner's goals and objectives, documents current conditions and capabilities of property resources, and identifies potential resource improvement projects. Forest Management Plans outline practical pathways for landowners to mitigate the risk of wildfire through fuels reduction treatments, improve forest health conditions, and enhance valuable wildlife habitat among many other objectives. In addition, Forest Management Plans address non-forest resource concerns such as water resources, threatened species, roads, and invasive species.

When complete, Forest Management Plans will enable landowners to implement identified conservation practices with cost-share funds through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#)) programs, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) California Forest Improvement Program ([CFIP](#)), or other funding sources.

Forest Management Plans are developed by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). Non-industrial forest landowners selected to receive Forest Management Plan development services may request their own RPF develop the plan or be provided RPF services through HCRCD. RPFs will develop Forest Management Plans consistent with the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan template approved by NRCS, United States Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and the American Tree Farm System or Mini-Management Plan template for small acre landowners. A plan will be selected in consultation with HCRCD, landowner, and RPF.

HCRCD has received funding through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) through the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to develop Forest Management Plans. Because this project is publicly funded, the final plans may be submitted to the grant funders as deliverables for the grant. Documents developed as part of the project may be subject to the California Public Records Act.

Application & Selection Process

HCRCDC has developed an application to provide a fair and equitable process to select non-industrial forest landowners who will receive assistance for the creation of a Forest Management Plan. This application process is competitive and consists of two phases of review. HCRCDC will be accepting applications on a rolling basis and will conduct quarterly reviews and selection of applications. Candidates not selected during the current review round will be rolled into future application rounds and/or provided suggestion on how to improve their application and ranking. The selection process will consist of two phases:

Phase 1 consists of a review and ranking of responses to the completed application by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of HCRCDC and outside partners.

Phase 2 consists of the TAC conducting interviews with the applicants who qualify after Phase 1. Once interviews are completed, the TAC will finalize the scoring and ranking, and select applicants who will receive assistance for Forest Management Plan development.

HCRCDC anticipates selecting several landowners to receive technical assistance per quarter, subject to change. HCRCDC is committed to supporting landowners and land managers who have demonstrated a land stewardship ethic. The selection of the landowner is a commitment by HCRCDC to fund the creation of a plan for the implementation of forest health, wildfire resilience and other restoration practices on your land.

Landowners or land managers who receive assistance are expected to implement the practices in their plans as funding opportunities become available. HCRCDC is committed to supporting the implementation of planned practices as funding allows.

HCRCDC reserves the right to revise this application for future selection rounds to best meet the goals of grant funding and the needs of land managers.

HCRCDC can assist landowners in filling out this application. Please contact HCRCDC at katrina@hcrdc.org to request assistance.

Priorities

Equity in Conservation:

Humboldt County RCD recognizes the importance of providing resources and assistance to underserved communities. We are striving to expand access to funding and technical assistance to historically underserved and socially disadvantaged landowners. Land managers who do not self-identify as part of a priority population are still eligible to receive assistance. This includes:

- Historically underserved groups as defined by NRCS (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>)

- Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders)
- Limited resource individuals (total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of your county's median household income <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov>)
- Landowners who are new to technical assistance programs.

Location and Acreage:

Eligible lands must be all or partially located in Humboldt County. Additionally, lands located in the following areas or of the following size may be prioritized for service during this funding round:

- CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones: Non-industrial forest lands located in High or Very High Fire Severity Zones will be prioritized; lands located in other zones are still eligible to receive assistance. View your Fire Hazard Severity Zone at <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>
- Community Collaboration: To increase resilience at a larger scale, HCRCD will prioritize applicants located in watersheds/communities/regions where other forest health and wildfire resilience projects are located.
- Acreages: Applications including contiguous forest lands of 20 to 2,500 acres will be prioritized.
- Wildfire footprint: A wildfire (an unplanned fire that burns in a wildland vegetation setting) occurred on or adjacent to the property.

Project Potential:

Forest Management Plans will be tailored to the property's existing conditions and outlines future goals and objectives. The goals of these plans include improving forest health, increasing wildfire resilience, and improving wildlife habitat. Because of this, we are prioritizing applicants who have the intention to seek funding for their practices, whose practices will have an environmental benefit, and whose land is contiguous with existing/potential high-quality habitat, wildlife corridors, or public lands.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible Lands: Non-industrial private forest landowners whose lands are located entirely or partially within Humboldt County.

Eligible Applicants must:

1. Own the property or lease the property and demonstrate land control.
2. Be willing to participate as an engaged partner in the development of a plan. The landowner(s)/lessees must actively engage with HCRCD in the planning process and agree to the following:
 - Participate in the application process.

- Understand that a commitment for participation could take approximately 40 hours of your time for plan development.
 - Participate in 1-3 site visits with your plan developers and provide relevant information.
 - Participate in 2-3 planning meetings.
 - Review and comment on your plan.
3. Be willing to implement, maintain and monitor forest health and wildfire resilience practices on your lands. If funded by public funds, you should expect to monitor and maintain the integrity of any implemented practices for up to 10 years.
 4. Be willing to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with HCRCD to commit to the above items.

Schedule

Date	Description
First Round	
September 1, 2023	Opening of 1st application round
October 19, 2023	Last day to submit application for 1st round
November 15, 2023	1st round applicants selected
Second Round	
October 20, 2023	2nd application round open
December 18, 2023	Last day to submit applications for 2nd round
January 12, 2024	2nd round applicants selected
Third Round	
December 19, 2023	3rd application round open
March 1, 2024	Last day to submit for 3rd round
March 29, 2024	3rd round applicants selected

Schedule subject to change. Additional application rounds may be released, pending grant funding.

Scoring/Selection Criteria

Criteria	Points
Social Equity (10 points each)	20
Historically underserved group	
Landowner is new to technical assistance programs	
Location & Acres (10 points each)	40
High/Very High Fire Severity Zone	
Community Collaboration	
Acreage	
Wildfire Footprint	
Project Potential (10 points each)	40
Willingness to implement practices identified in the plan if funding can be secured and maintain practices for up to 10 years.	
Fuels reduction, wildfire resilience, and forest health factors into management decisions.	
The land is contiguous with existing/potential high-quality habitat, wildlife corridors, or public lands.	
The landowner is interested in adding one or more of the following practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed fire • Forest thinning • Tree plantings • Wildfire resilience 	

Application

Please contact HCRCDC at katrina@hcrccd.org if you would like assistance with this application.

Applicant

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

INFORMATION

Address: _____

Do you own, lease, or rent the property? _____

If you are not the landowner, can you demonstrate land control and lease agreement? Y/N Is there an existing easement on any part of the property? Y/N

Legal Property Owner Name and Address

Assessor Parcel(s) #

Property background:

1. Describe your land management goals (ex: oak woodland restoration, fuels reduction such as prescribed burning, shaded fuel break, forest thinning, defensible space, roadside fuels reduction, etc.)

2. Describe or list your long-range plans for your land, including any plans to increase forest health and wildfire resilience (examples may include carbon sequestration, timber harvesting, prescribed fire, etc.). Also, briefly describe any succession plans for the property, if applicable.

3. Why are you interested in receiving a Forest Management Plan? Please explain. For example, forest thinning, prescribed burning, drought resilience, wildlife habitat, soil health, etc. If your interest is wildlife enhancement, please give an overview of the type of conservation practices that you would like to develop or implement (*including wildlife habitat enhancement, sediment reduction, riparian/wetland habitat enhancement, native vegetation planting, etc.*)

Please make sure your response also addresses the following questions:

- Is your current management working for you?
- What types of changes would you like to make?
- Why do you want to make changes?
- What are your motivations for seeking a Forest Management Plan?
- What do you want HCRCD to see on your property and help with?

Add any additional information you believe would be helpful to HCRCD in the selection of your property for plan development.

4. **YES / NO** Do you have detailed land history (wildfire history and severity, land use, forest conversion, etc.)?

If so, for how many years?

5. Have you worked with any of the following groups. Mark all that apply:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD)
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- Fire Safe Council(s) (Humboldt County and/or local Fire Safe Councils)
- Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association (HCPBA)

If yes, in what capacity? Please explain and describe any other relevant groups you have worked with (nonprofits, trade associations, etc.).

6. **YES / NO** Do you have an RPF you would like to work with?

If yes, Name: _____

RPF license #: _____

7. How did you learn about this opportunity?

Scored Questions

8. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? Mark all that apply:

Historically Underserved as defined by NRCS, for more information, see

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>

Community Collaboration. If known, please list the Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience projects in your area:

Wildfire Footprint. List the name of the wildfire(s) that burned on or adjacent to your property:

9. How large is your property (acres)?

10. **YES / NO** Are you willing to implement practices identified in the plan if funding can be secured and maintain practices for up to 10 years?

11. **YES / NO** Does fuels reduction, wildfire resilience, and forest health factor into your management decisions?

12. **YES / NO** Is the land contiguous with existing/potential high-quality habitat, wildlife corridors, or public lands? If **YES**, please describe.

13. Are you interested in implementing any of the following practices?

- Prescribed fire
- Forest thinning
- Tree plantings
- Wildfire resilience

14. **YES / NO** Would you share the information in your plan with other landowners?