Environmental Quality Incentives Program for Forestland

**EQIP Overview**
The EQIP program provides technical assistance and incentive payments to eligible producers in order to achieve environmental benefits such as improved water quality, forest health, fuels reduction, reduced erosion and improved fish and wildlife habitat. NRCS technical staff will develop a Conservation Plan that will identify the practices the producer wants to implement in order to achieve the conservation goals of that property. The application will then be ranked according to the environmental benefits expected to be achieved. Highest ranked applications will be awarded a contract that includes an incentive payment for each practice.

**Forest Management Plans**
FMPs are prepared by a Registered Professional Forester. These plans are based on landowner goals and objectives and include an inventory of forest and other resource conditions. The plans identify projects that may qualify for financial incentives through EQIP.

**Eligibility**
Applicants must own land capable of growing merchantable trees and comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions.

**Incentive payments available for:**
- Forest Management Plans
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Fuel Breaks
- Road Improvements
- Reforestation
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Erosion Control

**and more…..**

**How to Apply**
Applications are accepted any time throughout the year. To receive an application or for more information, contact the NRCS Ukiah Field office at (707) 468-9223 or visit the office at 1252 Airport Park Blvd., Suite B1, Ukiah. More information is available at www.usda.nrcs.gov

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Why Protect and Preserve Oak Woodlands?

Benefits
In California’s North Coast region, deciduous oak woodlands represent hot spots of biodiversity. Oak woodlands in Mendocino County and throughout the North Coast, provide a wealth of ecological services to wildlife, people, and the landscape through improved water quality, maintaining fire-resilient landscapes, preventing erosion, and sequestering carbon.

Encroachment Problem
Oak woodlands are being lost to disease, urban sprawl, agriculture, and conifer encroachment. The spread of conifers into oak woodlands is due primarily to fire suppression in the past 50-100 years. Conifers, particularly Douglas-fir, grow quickly, overtop, and eventually shade out oaks, leading to a loss of this important habitat type.

Opportunities for Restoration
There are opportunities available to landowners interested in restoring and/or improving oak woodlands by working with local agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), CAL FIRE, and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD). These agencies can provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to participate in oak-centered conservation practices.

Mendocino County Resources
Contact the following organizations for more information.

NRCS - Ukiah: (707) 468-9223
1252 Airport Rd, Ukiah, CA 95482
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/

Mendocino County RCD: (707) 462-3664
410 Jones St. Ste. C3, Ukiah, CA 95482
http://mcrcd.org/

Cost-Share Funding for Oaks

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Oak Woodlands - NRCS
- NRCS and MCRCD staff are available for technical assistance
- Projects include conifer removal from historic oak woodlands

Eligibility
Applicants must own non-industrial forestland. Limitations on Adjusted Gross Income must also be met and control of the land must be documented.

How to Apply
Applications to NRCS’s EQIP program are accepted throughout the year. To receive an application, call their office or visit their website.

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