

Forest Management Plans (FMP) Approved for Forestry Projects June 2019.

The official policy on approved FMPs for California are found in the appendix of the *“Tree Mortality Strategy and Guidance 2019”* document in eFOTG, Section III, Forest Management.

The EQIP manual mandates that participants have a “forest management plan” prior to implementing any NRCS funded forestry related conservation practices. Almost all the FMPs listed below could be used for tree mortality projects. The Tree Mortality Forest Management Plan is specifically designed to be a brief FMP to help expedite emergency recovery actions. The types of FMPs approved for EQIP forestry projects are summarized below.

- **Conservation Activity Plan 106 Forest Management Plan** prepared by a Technical Service Provider using the California Cooperative Forestry Management Plan (CA FMP) template. The CA FMP template may also be used when prepared by a NRCS Certified Planner with professional forestry experience, a forestry degree, or a GS 460 Civil Service Classification. These FMPs can be used for any type of forestry projects and are recommended for use for clients with large size forestry properties who want a comprehensive assessment of their property.
- **NRCS Conservation Plan FMP** - Prepared by a NRCS Certified Planner with Forestry JAA or other partners, these FMPs are designed for smaller forestry projects associated with live vegetation treatment.
- **Tree Mortality Forest Management Plan** - This is a FMP prepared by a NRCS Certified Planner with forestry JAA, Forestry Technical Service Provider, NRCS partner forester, or a Registered Professional Forester assisting NRCS. The Tree Mortality FMP is intended for forestry projects that address tree mortality resulting from fires, pest, and disease. Other live vegetation treatments may be including the TM FMP so long as the project contains dead tree treatments.
- **FMP for 100-foot Area Around Homes** – Use only when authorized by the STC. This FMP is applicable to projects that solely include areas 100-foot areas from permanently located buildings or structures intended for human habitation. It is intended to be used for projects that have dead trees and other vegetation needing treatment in 100- foot area around homes in the Sierra Nevada Tree Mortality RCPP.
- **Other plans that meet the NRCS FMP policy**- Other forest management plans prepared by a RPF can substitute for the NRCS forest management plan policy requirements stated above. Examples of suitable substitutes are a CAL FIRE Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP); and FMPs completed under the CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program.

Selecting the type of FMP

The selection of a particular forest management plan to be used as the basis for a forestry EQIP contract will be determined locally on a case by case basis. The NIPF landowner, District Conservationist, and Area Forester can collectively be involved in the decision-making process. The decision will be based on

a number of factors, including the consideration of the desires and needs of the landowner, the size and complexity of the forest ownership, available staff time, workload and deadline considerations, availability of TSPs or RPFs, as well as any other valid consideration as conditions warrant.

For expedited emergency recovery actions for tree mortality projects, staff should prepare more basic conservation plans instead of CAP 106 FMPs.

Technical Service Provider required for CAP 106 FMPs:

All CAP 106 Forest Management Plans must be signed by a TSP per General Manual Title 440, Part 504B.

1. Technical Service Provider Assistance. The TSP must be registered with NRCS and have a RPF license. CAP 106 FMPs may be prepared by a RPF who is not a TSP and submitted to NRCS. Prior to certifying the FMP for payment, NRCS will submit the CAP 106 to a CAL FIRE TSP for the signature on the TSP cover page line. The RPF preparing the CAP 106 for CAL FIRE TSP signature must include their name, signature and RFP license number on the signature page of the CAP 106. CAL FIRE TSP assistance is an informal agreement and may be limited by CAL FIRE TSP personnel availability. NRCS planners and their clients are advised to use a private registered TSP to assure timely signature by a TSP.

Multiple landowners in an FMP

The State Conservationist has determined multiple landowners may be included in a single California Cooperative Forestry Management Plan template (CAP 106 or FMP prepared by a NRCS planner) or a CAP 112 Prescribed Burn Plan (PBP) conducted in non-industrial private forestlands. Such multiple landowner FMPs and PBPs shall contain enough information on practices and environmental protection requirements for each landowner's property.