# Natural Resources Conservation Service



#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

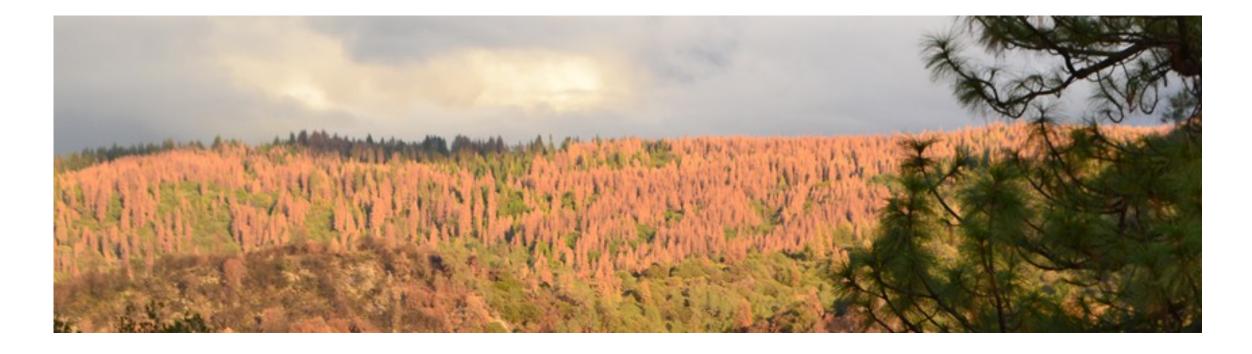
## What is EQIP?

- \*EQIP is a federal program managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), under the US Department of Agriculture.
- \*EQIP is funded through the Farm Bill.
- \*The purpose of EQIP is to promote agricultural production, forest management & environmental quality by conserving natural resources.

#### What does this mean to private landowners? \* We help people manage forest, crop, range & pasture lands.

- \* Our focus is on caring for the natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals...).
- \*We provide technical advice & conservation planning assistance.
- \* We may provide funding for projects to care for the resources.





\*We work with forest landowners to plan & implement projects to reduce fire risk & improve forest health & productivity (thinning, brushing, removing slash, planting and more...)

\*We work with livestock producers to design projects to distribute animals better across the land to improve rangeland health & productivity (Cross Fencing, Water Developments, Brushing, etc.)



### **Other Common EQIP Assistance**



- \* Development of Forest or Range Management Plans.
- \* Assistance to Crop Producers (Seasonal High Tunnels, Micro-Irrigation Systems, Pollinator Hedgerows, etc.).
- \* General Assistance to Producers (Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Erosion Control, Stream Restoration, Restoration after Fire, etc.).

# How Do you apply?

- \* Call, schedule an appointment. We will help you with the process.
- \* Bring a copy of your deed.
- \* We help you establish eligibility for our programs.
- \* We meet with you, look at the property, discuss concerns, provide recommendations, & plan the project with you.
- \* Your application & project plan, compete with others for funding.
- If funded, we prepare the contract & necessary documentation (including Practice Requirements).
- \* You find a contractor or do the work yourself.
- \* When work is completed, we inspect, process payment requests & reimburse at the scheduled rate for work done to NRCS

### **Other Important Information**



\* NRCS is a non-regulatory agency; however, we require that the landowner follow all local, state & federal rules and regulations, & get any permits that are needed related to the work we are doing. Just follow the rules... ③



### Any Questions?



#### Please feel free to contact us:

#### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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#### **Mariposa County Resource Conservation District**

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