

Costs for Use of Cal Fire Chippers on Grant Projects

California Fire Safe Council, rev May 2013

All grant application writers should consider the support costs (itemized below) for using Cal Fire chipper(s) on fuel reduction projects when writing grant applications. The information below was provided by Cal Fire for cost estimating purposes, but the best estimates can be developed by consulting with the Cal Fire staff at the nearest conservation camp.

Shown below are approximate operating costs associated with use of chippers owned by Cal Fire and used on grantee fuel modification projects. These costs were developed by Cal Fire staff at Deadwood Conservation Camp in Siskiyou County in March 2012, but are representative of charges that should be expected from other conservation camps. These costs ARE NOT included in the daily fee that the grantee pays for crew operating costs, so applicants should budget accordingly.

Additional costs may apply for use of a Cal Fire vehicle and driver to pull the chipper, so verify all costs with the Cal Fire conservation camp staff before budgeting for chipper use. (See below.)

Chipper knives	\$350 per set
Chipper knife sharpening:	\$40 each time (Once per week with heavy use)
Hydraulic Oil and Filter:	\$165 per change (10 gallons hydraulic oil @ \$15/gallon and one filter @ \$15, changed every 2000 hours with normal use, every 1000 hours with heavy use)
Motor Oil and Filter	\$40 per change (every 200 hours of use: 6 quarts oil @ \$4, plus one filter @ \$15)
Fuel Filters	\$35 annually

Based on these costs, normal use of the chipper alone would result in a cost of approximately \$50 per day.

The operating cost for a vehicle to pull the chipper and a Cal Fire person to drive it are extra. The cost of a Cal Fire employee to drive the vehicle would include wages, and possibly a lunch. This cost could be lower if using Cal Fire-approved volunteers to drive the vehicle.

Chipper tow vehicle operating costs will depend on the distance the vehicle will be driven. Conservation camp staff can provide an estimate based on projected operating expenses or on a standard Cal Fire mileage rate.

The cost of commercial rental and cleaning for a portable toilet should also be considered if a toilet is needed for exposed work sites. Applicants should get cost estimates based on location and duration of need from local vendors.

Exhibit X

Average In-Kind Value of Cal Fire Conservation Camp Crews Fiscal Year 2013/14

The following information is provided for planning and estimating purposes only. Actual value will be provided on an invoice from Cal Fire staff at each conservation camp.

Average Crew Value Per Hour	\$189.60
Average Crew Value Per Day	\$1,516.84

This is the estimated daily in-kind value that grantees can use in project planning as a matching contribution from Cal Fire. The actual matching value will be provided by Cal Fire on a monthly invoice.

Daily Charge to Project Sponsors for Cal Fire Crew Work	\$225.96
--	-----------------

This is the amount that the grantee will pay Cal Fire. The Daily Charge is based on a statewide daily average of \$200 for crew operational costs for items such as vehicle and chainsaw fuel, tool and equipment wear and tear, safety equipment, etc., plus an administrative charge of 12.98%. **This is the daily amount that Cal Fire charges to project sponsors for crew work.**

Information provided by the Cal Fire Conservation Camp Program Office, 4/22/13.