


## Resumen del formulario

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| Applicant Name and Title  | Galen Doherty, Owner Whitethorn Valley Farm LLC.                        |
| Applicant Address   | [REDACTED] Whitethorn CA<br>95589                                       |
| Applicant Phone   | [REDACTED]  |
| Applicant Email   | whitethornvalleyfarm@gmail.com  |
| Applicant interest in project/site  | Owner of property and farm.   |
| Business/Association Name   | Whitethorn Valley Farm LLC.   |
| Are you applying as a Humboldt County based business, cooperative, association, or nonprofit organization?  | Yes   |
| Are 75% or more of its operations based in Humboldt County?   | Yes   |
| Are you currently licensed and registered to operate in Humboldt County?  | Yes   |
| If you are not licensed or registered to operate in Humboldt County, are you in the process of doing so?  |   |
| Are the activities of your business, association, or organization, specific to the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution or retail of cannabis, or whose organization provides support and/or services to the cannabis industry? | Yes   |
| \$10,000 Eligibility  | Cultivation (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719-3)                  |
| Cultivation Lighting (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719-3)   | Outdoor   |
| \$50,000 Eligibility  |   |
| [[[]]]  |   |
| If Other, please explain  |   |
| What amount of the business is Humboldt-owned? "Humboldt-owned" is defined by registered residency of owners  | 100% Humboldt-owned   |
| Ownership Structure and Owners  | [REDACTED] is the sole owner and manager of Whitethorn Valley Farm LLC. |
| # of FTE Employees  | 1   |

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| Summarize the business/association and its activities Word Limit: 250  | Whitethorn Valley Farm is a small (10,000 sq. ft.) family-owned and operated regenerative cannabis farm located in southern Humboldt County. Our family has lived here for 5 generations. By recognizing their successes and failures, we claim our inheritance and take our turn at working in communion with this place. We are stewards to the land and the natural ecosystem that surrounds us. We follow a holistic land management philosophy, incorporating permaculture and regenerative practices to restore this section of earth we call home. Our flowers are an expression of the Southern Humboldt terroir; the climate, culture, and community that is our heritage. Together we can heal the earth and ourselves. |
| Program / Project Name   | Whitethorn Valley Farm Fuel Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Project  |
| Requested Amount   | USD 10000.00  |
| Total project cost/funding needed:   | USD 12951.00  |
| Additional Funding Sources   | Landowner cost share  |
| Type of project  | Implementation  |
| If Other, please explain   |   |
| Project Address  |  Whitethorn Ca 95589  |
| Project Assessor's Parcel Number (APN):  | 220-172-036   |
| Does the project/business consist of a qualified outdoor cultivating operation (as per Humboldt County Land Use Ordinance) that produces less than 10,000 sq. ft. of cannabis (not including co-ops and associations whose cumulative area may exceed 10,000 square feet)? | Yes   |
| Licenses & Permits   | CDFA Cannabis Cultivation Annual Permit, CDFW Lake And Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement or written verification if not needed., Humboldt County Provisional Permit, Jurisdiction Business License, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration tax permit, CDFA Weighmaster license, Articles of Incorporation, Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)   |
| Licenses, Permits, & Agreements  | <a href="#">archive-1.zip</a>   |

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Whitethorn Valley Farm is seeking \$10,000 in Trellis Grant funding to conduct fire hazard reduction and forest stand improvement on approximately 6 acres of dense brush, meadow, and forestland including dead and dying Tan Oak and Monterey pine, adjacent to the cultivation areas and primary ingress/egress route to Whitethorn Valley Farm (See project map). The project is located just north of Whitethorn Construction, a designated emergency evacuation center in the Upper Mattole Fire Safety Plan. Fuel hazard reduction efforts will reduce trees and brush, restore overgrown meadow habitat, and remove dead and dying tan-oak and Monterey Pine. The project will improve forest/meadow health, create defensible space around the domestic residence, cultivation areas, and farm outbuildings, reduce the risk of spread of any onsite ignitions, and reduce the intensity of a wildfire moving through the area. This will further improve the safety of the emergency evacuation site at Whitethorn Construction. This project will lay the groundwork for future fuel hazard reduction projects and create the opportunity to begin to utilize prescribed burning as a future method for improving fire safety and ecosystem health.

This project will utilize Trellis Grant Funds and landowner cost share to implement the project as soon as possible following grant awards and fund disbursement. A contractor bid from the Mattole Restoration Council is included in this application. Additionally landowner will provide 29% cost share (\$2,951) through covering the cost of all chipping, including chipper rental, operation, etc., burn permit and pile burning, and assist in clearing efforts through donation of time running saw. As a cannabis business, Whitethorn Valley Farm, and the landowners, [REDACTED] are precluded from using other more traditional funding sources, such as those available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As such there are no other viable funding sources for this project. While there are many other projects that demand funding to run a successful small scale cannabis business, they will all be for nothing if the property were to burn down in a wildfire.

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The wildfires of 2020 were a huge wakeup call for rural landowners across California, and had devastating impacts on many small cannabis businesses in Humboldt, Mendocino, and beyond. Many were forced to evacuate leaving their homes and businesses defenseless in the face of oncoming wildfires. Losing both home and business would be a devastating setback to anyone, however for small craft cannabis producers, this would be an unrecoverable event. The amount of capital outlay needed to become compliant means that Whitethorn Valley Farm is 'all in' and depends entirely on annual harvest revenue in order to remain solvent, pay debts, and continue operations in the next season. In 2021, creating defensible space is going to be a huge priority for many landowners and businesses, however it is simply not in the budget for many cannabis businesses that are struggling to compete in the California marketplace. The Trellis Grant funding will provide the funds necessary to make this project a top priority and ensure that it is accomplished as soon as possible without detracting from other farm/business activities and projects. Improving the forest health and reducing the risk of wildfire to WVF will also help ensure that it continues to remain in business and is able to pay the excise tax.

The project will utilize local contractors thereby directly assisting in the retention of jobs in this community.

Whitethorn Valley Farm is a member of the Humboldt County Growers Alliance. Up until recently, owner, [REDACTED] served on the policy committee. In addition [REDACTED] is a founding board member of the Lost Coast Farmers Guild whose mission is to create the Lost Coast Appellation of Origin for Cannabis. Whitethorn Valley Farm is also a member of the Sanctuary Forest Fund an Acre family and has donated in order to help with the conservation of the nearby Van Arken Watershed. [REDACTED] is also a member of the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association and is working with other southern Humboldt community members to form the southern Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association.

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This project will result in fire hazard reduction and forest stand improvement on approximately 6 acres of dense brush, meadow, and forestland including dead and dying diseased tan oak and Monterey pine, adjacent to the cultivation areas and primary ingress/egress route to Whitethorn Valley Farm (See project map). These efforts will have immediate benefits to the environment especially to the forest, meadows, and wildlife in the Buck Creek watershed where the farm is situated. The project will reduce the number of trees per acre, removing the least healthy, thinning overcrowded stands, and clearing overgrown meadow habitat. This will include removal of tan oak observed to be dying from Sudden Oak Death (SOD), and known carrier species such as Bay Laurel, and removal of dead or dying Monterey Pine planted in the 70's. The 'leave' trees will be limbed to no less than 6' off the ground. Some higher ecological patches of brush will be left, but ladder fuels will be eliminated and brush will be thinned into small isolated pockets to reduce the fuel load/fire intensity. All of these activities will improve health of remaining trees and vegetation, reduce the risk of spread from onsite ignitions, and reduce the severity of wildfire moving through the valley. In addition the more open forest and increased meadow habitat will provide improved forage opportunities and additional 'edge' habitat for the many species of wildlife present in the area.

In the winter following the vegetation management activities the landowners will come back through with native grass seed in the newly opened up meadows to ensure expansion of the meadow and reduce competition from tree sprouts. During forest stand improvement all limbs/trunks greater than 6" diameter will be left onsite and placed perpendicular to the hill slope to catch leaves and debris, build soil organic matter, and improve groundwater infiltration during high rainfall events. All cleared vegetation under 6" diameter will be stacked and chipped whenever possible. However, on the steeper more difficult to access portions of the property pile burning will be utilized. Chipping will reduce the carbon emissions of the project and ensure that it is as carbon neutral as possible.

The landowners will be responsible for maintaining the fuel brakes along the roads as well as conducting follow up thinning to maintain the more open forest structure.

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Over the past 4 years, [REDACTED] (the landowners) have been making improvements to the property and addressing extensive overgrowth of vegetation that occurred during the previous ownership. This has included the removal of numerous outbuildings, road and stream crossing upgrades, ongoing vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk, and most recently the installation of a new water system consisting of buried 2" PVC, 6 fire hydrant standpipes, and 65,000 gallons of water storage. All of which occurred prior to trellis grant funding being available and at considerable financial expense. Although there is still much work to be done to improve farm infrastructure, build up the Whitethorn Valley Farm cannabis brand, and run a successful small scale cannabis business, it will all be for nothing if the property were to burn down in a wildfire.

The \$10,000 in Trellis Grant funding will be instrumental to quickly and effectively implementing fuel brakes along the ingress/egress routes to the farm, increasing defensible space around domestic residence and outbuildings, and improving forest/meadow health and resiliency. All work will occur as soon as possible following funding award.

A bid from the Mattole Restoration Council has already been obtained for the project and is included in this application.

Site photos are included as an attachment to this application. Pre and post project photos will document work completed.

Landowner will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.

Landowner will continue such vegetation management efforts over subsequent years in order to build upon the work completed by this project.

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Project Budget

[archive-2.zip](#)

Select each item being uploaded.

Any accompanying and supportive project documents such as site maps, equipment specifications, contractor bids and estimates.

File upload

[archive-3.zip](#)