

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 12/2021

**Wood Handbook: Wood as an Engineering Material.** The new and improved [Wood Handbook \(2021\)](#) is now available. The Wood Handbook is a great resource for basic technical information about wood products. This version includes many updates including to the forest management section, mass timber, and other products. Prepared by USFS Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) staff and colleagues, the audience for the Wood Handbook is broad — users of this handbook run the gamut from engineers, architects, and homeowners to those who use wood and forest products in their artwork. Consequently, the coverage of each chapter is aimed at providing a general discussion of the topic, with references included for those seeking additional information. Many more scientific and technical publications and reports are available on FPL's website ([www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us)).

**Opportunity for Public Comment and Public Workshop - CalVTP.** The State Water Resources Control Board ([State Water Board](#)) will hold a public workshop to present information on the proposed [General Waste Discharge Requirements for Vegetation Treatment Activities Conducted in Conformance with the California Vegetation Treatment Program](#) (proposed General Order). The proposed General Order will apply statewide to vegetation treatment projects conduct in conformance with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Vegetation Treatment Program. A quorum of the Board may be present; however, the Board will not take final action at the public workshop. [The public workshop will be held: Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.](#)

**Biochar Opportunities in the Southwest.** A free [interactive virtual workshop](#) about ecosystem services and entrepreneurial opportunities using forest biochar in the Four Corner States. Representatives and entrepreneurs from business, Cooperative Extension, and research will discuss current status and future market opportunities for biochar in the southwest. The workshop is free and daily registration and attendance options are available. April 7, 8, 9, 2021. All the details as well as registration can be found in this [announcement](#).

**Two-Day Seminar brought together hundreds of Forest Industry Experts.** A critical barrier to achieving forest restoration goals in the Southwest is a lack of capacity in the forest products industry. Expanding opportunities in the industry sector allows for an increase in forested acres restored, which improves forest health and reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire. On March 2 and 3, 2021 the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institute's (SWERI) Wood Utilization Team hosted a [virtual seminar](#) on the theme of expanding the forest industry in the southwestern US. The participants included federal and state agency employees, academics, forestry contractors, and forest products business employees. The webinar was an open forum for the audience to share innovative ideas, operations strategies, and best management practices to expand forest industry capacities. The website for the event, which includes [links to the recordings, can be accessed here](#).

**Seeing the big Picture: Long-term Studies at Lick Creek demonstrate how Fuel Treatments impact a changing Forest:** The recent [RMRS Science You Can Use \(in 5 minutes\)](#) summarizes a [long-term study at Lick Creek \(Bitterroot NF, Montana\)](#) that demonstrates how fuel treatments in dry forests provide benefits beyond mitigating the chance of a high-severity fire. These benefits include persistent increased tree growth, even during drought, and reduced tree mortality from mountain pine beetle. Fuel reduction and restoration treatments are most beneficial with a combination of cutting and burning strategies. To maintain these benefits, cutting and burning must be repeated in a cycle that mimics the historic occurrence of fire on the landscape.

**DID YOU KNOW?** If you are looking for an opportunity to channel your inner child that enjoys playing with LEGO, or joyfully embrace the challenge of assembling IKEA flat-pack furniture, the concept of [U-Build and the Future of Self-Construction](#) might appeal to you.