

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 18/2021

USDA awards \$15 Million in Grants to expand Wood Products, Wood Energy Markets and Community Forests. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded more than [\\$15 million to fund grant proposals to develop and expand the use of wood products, strengthen emerging wood energy markets and protect community forests](#). The grant funding, delivered through USDA Forest Service programs, will support 60 projects that cover a diverse range of activities from the development of affordable housing to expanding markets for mass timber, biochar, wood energy and other emerging wood products. The grants also include funds to help tribes, local governments and qualified non-profit organizations permanently conserve working forests that benefit communities.

Solicitation for Public Comment on DRAFT Report on Forest Management Research. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection ('Board'), in cooperation with CAL FIRE and the Science Advisory Panel of the Forest Management Task Force has prepared a DRAFT Report on Forest Management Research ('Report') pursuant to the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) § 4789.6(a). The DRAFT Report is [available online for public review](#), or can be located on the Board's webpage by navigating to the following location on <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/>: Current Board Binder Materials / May 2021 / FULL / FULL 13 Board 2021 Research Report DRAFT (PDF). Comments must be received on or before COB Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Interested parties may file a comment by email to Kristina Wolf, kristina.wolf@bof.ca.gov, with the Subject Line "Comments on Draft Report on Forest Management Research".

Grant Program opens to address National Forest Challenges through Innovative Finance. The [Innovative Finance for National Forests \(IFNF\)](#) grant program opened its [next round of solicitations for program funding](#). The IFNF grant program supports the development and implementation of innovative finance models that leverage private and public capital other than US Forest Service (USFS) appropriations to support the resilience of the National Forest System. Grants are funded by and administered by the [USDA Forest Service \(USFS\) National Partnership Office \(NPO\)](#) and the [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities \(Endowment\)](#) in collaboration with the [National Forest Foundation \(NFF\)](#). [Deadline for proposal submissions is June 30, 2021.](#)

Forest Health Research Grant Update. The CAL FIRE Forest Health Research Program has extended the deadline for submitting grant applications to 3 p.m. PDT on June 7, 2021. This extends the deadline by a total of 19 days. This extension applies ONLY to the Forest Health Research Program and not to any of the other grant programs managed by CAL FIRE, including but not limited to Forest Health, Forest Legacy, and Fire Prevention grants. Additionally, several corrections have been made to the section of the [Forest Health Program Grant Guidelines](#) pertaining only to the Research Program (Appendix B). These corrections clarify allowable project length and phasing requirements. If you have previously viewed the guidelines online, you may need to refresh the webpage in your browser in order to see or download the updated

version. For questions about this announcement or for further information, please reach out to the Forest Health Research Program at FHResearch@fire.ca.gov.

Wildfire Risk to Communities. [Wildfire Risk to Communities](#) is a free, easy-to-use website with interactive maps, charts, and resources to help communities understand, explore, and reduce wildfire risk. It was created by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of Congress and is designed to help community leaders, such as elected officials, community planners, and fire managers. This is the first-time wildfire risk to communities has been mapped nationwide.