

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 43/2021

2022 Wood Innovations & Community Wood Grants. The [USFS Wood Innovations Grant and Community Wood Grant Programs](#) are now accepting applications. These grants are designed to develop and expand the use of wood products and strengthen emerging wood energy markets that support sustainable forest management – particularly in areas of high wildfire risk. The [Wood Innovations Grant Program](#) stimulates and expands wood products and wood energy markets. Focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. The [Community Wood Grant Program](#) provides funding to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology.

The US Forest Service will hold an informational [Pre-Application Webinar on Tuesday, November 9th, 11:00am](#). This webinar will introduce the grant application process and highlight regional priorities to help applicants develop successful proposals. A [USFS Region 5-specific webinar will be offered on Wednesday, November 17th, 2:00pm](#). Potential applicants are recommended to participate in both the national and R5 webinars to meet with Region 5 Wood and Biomass Specialists [Larry Swan](#) and [Helena Murray](#). The application period for both programs closes on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Innovations in Forest Operations & Biomass Utilization in the Southwest. The [Innovations in Forest Operations & Biomass Utilization in the Southwest workshop](#) will take place in-person November 17th-18th in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sponsored by the USDA Wood Innovations program and the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes, this is a sequel to the virtual [Wood Utilization Team Spring 2021 Webinar](#), and will address questions like: Can we realize value-added products from (Southwest) small-diameter trees? Can we make forest operations and transportation more efficient and cost effective? Two virtual workshops, Introduction to Lumber Dry Kiln Operations, and a session on USDA Wood Innovation Grants and economic assistance programs will be immediately preceding the in-person workshop. Due to travel restrictions in place for some organizations, the conference is offering a hybrid attendance option, and will be streamed to allow remote attendance. To register as a remote attendee, follow the [link to the registration site](#), and select the option to attend remotely. The early-bird deadline has been extended until November 3rd.

National Bioenergy Day 2021. October 20th was [#BioenergyDay](#). Organizations across the country that support bioenergy opened their doors to their communities to demonstrate the many benefits that bioenergy provides on the local level. To celebrate this day, Brian Gannon hosted our [field trip to BioGas Energy](#), a small pyrolysis demo installation that is funded mostly through a California Energy Commission grant and some 2021 USFS Wood Innovation Grant funds. 25 participants from CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, the Watershed Research and Training Center, Butte County Fire Safe Council, California Air Resources Board, California Forestry Association, Caltrans HQ, CLERE Inc., Earth Foundries, Inc., Golden Grid Clean Energy, Tahoe Fund, TSS Consultants, and West Biofuels took advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about [ablative fast pyrolysis](#).

California Forest Improvement Program Funding announced. CAL FIRE is allocating more than \$18 million for the [California Forest Improvement Program \(CFIP\)](#), which is designed to provide up to a 90% cost-share assistance to small private and public forestland owners to improve forest health and increase the resilience of California's forestlands to adapt to climate change. Funding to support private forestland owners through this and other programs was provided through Senate Bill-170 Budget Act of

2021. The funds will be released over the next 3 years beginning in 2021 for forest health projects. The funds will be dispersed in bi-monthly blocks of approximately \$2 million until all monies have been applied for by project applicants. Cost-share assistance is available to private and public ownerships containing 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land, and cost-shared projects include thinning for forest health and fire resilience, tree planting, pruning, and other forest health improvement activities as described on the [CFIP webpage](#).

Researchers win Grant to build 3D Wood Printing Technology. The University of Idaho is developing technology to turn wood waste into one the most sustainable building construction materials on the market — by using it as a medium for [3D-printing building construction materials](#). An interdisciplinary research team has been awarded nearly \$4 million from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program. Funding through 2025 supports further development and testing of an additive manufacturing process and the design and construction of a 3D printer capable of producing modular wall, floor and roof panels printed from wood for industrial construction.