CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 46/2021

Webinar explores Economic Impacts of Labor Day fires. Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and partners will host a half-day webinar on November 16th, highlighting the findings of an Institute-commissioned study examining the economic impacts of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires on Oregon's forest-related businesses and industries. The 2020 Labor Day Fires webinar, which will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., will feature economists, researchers, landowners and forest managers discussing the impacts presented in the *2020 Labor Day Fires – Economic Impacts to Oregon's Forest Sector* study. The 104-page study, prepared for OFRI by Mason, Bruce & Girard and Forest Economic Advisors, was published this fall. It relies on extensive research, surveys and interviews to create the most comprehensive summary to date of the economic impacts of this megafire event, which burned more than 1 million acres across western Oregon. Join the webinar to engage in the conversation. Register at bit.ly/LaborDayFires.

ARPA-E Funding Opportunity - Harnessing Emissions into Structures taking Inputs from the Atmosphere (HESTIA). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced up to $45 million to support the development of technologies that can transform buildings into net carbon storage structures. With carbon storing building materials often being scarce, expensive, and geographically limited, DOE is pioneering technologies that overcome these barriers to lower or eliminate emissions associated with their production. The goal of the HESTIA program is to support the development of technologies that nullify embodied greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while simultaneously transforming buildings into net carbon storage structures. Specifically, projects funded under the HESTIA Program will develop and demonstrate building materials and whole-building designs that are net carbon negative on a life cycle basis by utilizing atmospheric CO_2 or CH_4 from a wide range of potential feedstocks (e.g., forestry and purpose-grown products, agricultural residues, marine derived, direct carbon utilization) in the production process. Apply to the HESTIA Funding Opportunity Announcement on ARPA-E's Funding eXCHANGE. Concept papers are due 12/20/21.

Low Carbon Construction Task Force launched by PCC. On November 6th, at the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) announced the launch of the Low Carbon Construction Task Force, an effort between the states of California, Oregon, Washington, the province of British Columbia and the cities of Vancouver, BC, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles to advance low carbon materials and methods in building and construction projects. The Task Force will create a shared regional strategy with the goal of accelerating innovation, investment, and market development for low carbon materials by leveraging the scale of the Pacific Coast regional economy. "California is proud to help anchor this joint effort to advance low carbon construction materials and decarbonize industry as we accelerate action on climate change," California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot said. "The Pacific Coast Collaborative has a strong track record of creating public-private partnerships and stakeholder coalitions that have already produced significant regional progress in low carbon transportation, clean energy, ocean health, and reduction of food waste. We're excited to apply that same approach to reduce embodied carbon in our buildings and infrastructure projects while we drive innovation and our goals for an equitable clean energy transition."

Report: Biomass to Biochar - Maximizing the Carbon Value. Forty biochar producers, practitioners, scientists, and engineers held a virtual workshop in April 2020 to chart a roadmap for future development of the biochar industry in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Converting biomass to biochar presents exciting opportunities to mitigate climate change, improve forest and soil health,

decrease wildfire risk, bolster ecosystem services, and revitalize rural economies. This expert panel examined how biomass is harvested, converted to biochar and applied, and where operational changes and funding could significantly magnify biochar's contributions. To advance knowledge and efficacies, they found that a rigorous combination of long-term multi-site coordinated research, near-term market-focused research and development and enhancement of business support infrastructure that leads to collaborative policy development is essential. They also identified how barriers to five specific biochar technology sectors could be overcome and provide guidelines for effective funding. Find the full report and more here.

Human Dimensions - Implications of High-Severity Wildfire and Post-Wildfire Flooding. On June 20, 2010, the Schultz Fire was ignited by an abandoned campfire and went on to burn 15,075 acres northeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. Following the fire, intense monsoon rains over the burned area produced flooding that resulted in extensive damage. In 2013, the Ecological Research Institute at Northern Arizona University (ERI) published a full-cost accounting that estimated costs for the first three years following the fire. Events like the 2010 Schultz Fire and post-fire flooding can have long-lasting effects that often go undocumented. Long-term studies that examine the ongoing costs of a major wildfire are important to understand the true scope and scale of the effects of uncharacteristic wildfire and post-fire flooding. Studies such as this can provide further justification for the importance of proactive forest restoration and fuel reduction treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire to ecosystems and communities. Over the past year, the ERI worked with a team of researchers to update the full costs of the 2010 Schultz Fire. In the updated study, they conservatively estimated that the total costs of the 2010 Schultz Fire for the period 2010–2021 was between $95.8 million and $100.7 million in 2021 dollars, including fire response and post-fire flooding response and mitigation, but excluding all losses and gains from assessed property values. This is a 30%–15% increase in the respective range of costs from 2013 — excluding 2013 property values. Highlights can also be found in the associated fact sheet.