

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 31/2022

Communicating Evidence for widespread Changes in Western North American Forest Landscapes.

Many western North American forested landscapes are vulnerable to increases in drought and wildfire, especially in a changing climate, due to profound structural and compositional changes as a result of fire exclusion. There is strong agreement that the pace and scale of implementing scientifically credible wildfire- and climate-adaptation strategies is insufficient to address today's increasingly challenging wildfire seasons. However, confusion persists regarding the need for proactive management. In partnership with Keala Hagmann, research ecologist and professor of environmental and forest sciences at the University of Washington, the [Ecological Restoration Institute \(ERI\) at Northern Arizona University](#) recently published a [working paper](#) and [fact sheet](#) to demonstrate the strength of scientific evidence regarding changing forest conditions and fire regimes and provide science-based strategies for adapting western forests to climate change and future wildfires.

Sonoma County Biomass Business Competition, Technical Assistance Guide. In June 2020, the [Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District](#) launched the Sonoma County Biomass Business Competition ([BioBiz](#)). The first of its kind in the region, the purpose of BioBiz was to create and implement an actionable model for the utilization of local excess forest biomass via small business innovation. Over 17 months of local and state stakeholder collaboration, material development, and community outreach, the BioBiz model was designed and then launched. At its conclusion, the BioBiz model demonstrated success and was able to raise funds that supported the launch/expansion of two local small business startups to utilize biomass. The success of the model to incubate new small business partners to address supply chain capacity for vegetation management within high wildfire risk areas can be replicated and scaled across California and the greater American West. The BioBiz project team has created this [Technical Assistance Guide](#) for other parties to quickly develop and implement their own biomass business competitions in other regions.

Wood Flows & Cash Flows Conference. Maximizing returns from timberland assets and wood-using facilities relies on a current, localized understanding of factors driving forest industry economics, markets and technologies. [Wood Flows & Cash Flows](#) details investment-relevant research and insights for the forest industry. This one-day conference includes tangible content that directly applies to strategic plans, market analyses, valuations, and competitive benchmarking. The Forisk team will share their newest investment research and strategic analysis for the forest industry, sector by sector. Forisk's [6th Annual Wood Flows & Cash Flows Conference](#) will be held virtually via live Zoom Webinar on Thursday, August 25, 2022, 7:00am - 1:00pm PDT.

Mass Timber: Better Buildings, Resilient Forests, Brighter Future. [Oregon's Mass Timber Coalition](#) strives to create equitable economic development and family-wage rural and urban jobs with sustainable wood products, grown and manufactured in Oregon. The Coalition, led by the Port of Portland, aims to expand the regional mass timber industry cluster to address climate change impacts, social inequities, and the economic disruption caused by the pandemic. The Coalition plans to address these regional issues by researching, prototyping, and commercializing prefabricated mass timber housing systems. Proposed projects are primarily focused on [creating a manufacturing facility, workforce education and training, and building facilities that support research and development](#). The Coalition is one of 60 finalist proposals in the \$1 Billion [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#), and if chosen to move forward, could receive up to \$100 million to expand mass timber

production, boost jobs (especially in rural areas), help with wildfire prevention, and lead to more affordable housing.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Summer Engagement Series. Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) webinars bring FEMA subject-matter experts and partners together to provide technical information, best practices, tools, and resources regarding the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. The [webinars](#) are designed for leaders in states, local communities, tribes, and territories, as well as private sector entities, non-profit organizations, and individuals interested in learning more about the HMA grant programs and strategies for how to apply for them.