

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 18/2023

**Over \$9M in Grants to strengthen California Wood Products Economy and Local Jobs.** 14 California projects were selected for funding through the new [Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grant program](#). This program was highly competitive and California had many more successful applicants than any other state. This is a testament to the great work that has been happening in the state to support wood utilization in California over the past few years. For a list of California awardees, see this [Region 5 press release](#). For more information about the program overall, see the [national press release](#).

**Regional Energy Listening Session: Sierra and rural forested Communities.** California's ability to meet the growing demand for abundant and sustainable energy is dependent on building out infrastructure and developing a workforce that supports energy generation and distribution. This [Regional Energy Listening Session](#), hosted by the [Sierra Business Council](#) on May 16, 2023 @ 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, will focus on the opportunities, barriers, and resources needed to make energy independence and reliability a reality in the Sierra and rural forested communities. Forest biomass energy and integrating microgrid technologies are emerging as solutions to localize energy generation and maintain operational performance. However, there are barriers to implementing these solutions, including filling workforce pipeline gaps in the energy sector.

**Forest Biomass Feedstock Plan Development Workshop:** As project bioenergy and biofuels production facility developers and proponents consider siting facilities, a key consideration should be a sustainable feedstock supply. Project investors (e.g., equity partners, angel investors, banks, and the state and federal governments) are keenly interested in having access to a detailed strategic plan to procure woody biomass feedstocks over the service life of the planned facility: a well thought-out feedstock procurement plan is key. The Department of Conservation is pleased to be able to offer two hours of interactive presentation and conversation on the topic of preparing a feedstock supply plan for your wood utilization facility. Topics discussed will include: feedstock specifications, agreements, seasonality, and risk management, as well as how to go about incorporating biomass from federally-managed lands into your procurement plan. Date/time: May 25th, 1:30-3:30. Held virtually; register in advance via Zoom: [https://uso6web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_T8xU6mHKQizCYiQiGExo8A](https://uso6web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T8xU6mHKQizCYiQiGExo8A). Questions? Contact Elizabeth Betancourt: [Elizabeth.Betancourt@Conservation.CA.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Betancourt@Conservation.CA.gov).

**Accelerating Forest Restoration: Stimulating a Forest-Restoration Economy and Rebuilding Resilience in California's Fire-Adapted Forests.** Forests of the Sierra Nevada and across the western U.S. are under unprecedented threat from catastrophic wildfire, insect outbreaks, and drought. [In this briefing paper](#), which was developed as a collaboration between Bain and Company and The Nature Conservancy, the authors assess the challenges and opportunities associated with making economic use of the by-products of forest restoration. They first present a systematic evaluation, using criteria such as commercial readiness and expected environmental effects, of over forty potential end markets for products sourced from small diameter trees. The evaluation is followed by recommendations designed to support the subset of end markets we think are most likely to defray the high costs of forest restoration over the next five to ten years.

**Principles of Forest Carbon Markets for Landowners and Credit Buyers.** Carbon markets, a component of nature-based solutions, are a market-based solution to provide funding for various

management practices that take up additional carbon on the forested landscape. Nature-based solutions describe various methods for mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem services preservation. All carbon projects must follow a set of principles to achieve meaningful emissions reductions. These principles govern how the projects are implemented, how the management is carried out, and how the credits are sold and traded on the carbon market. [This presentation](#), hosted by the [Sierra Nevada Alliance](#) on June 15, 2023 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm, will provide an overview of carbon markets, the necessary tools to understand how projects are developed conceptually, and what to look for in a high-quality carbon offset credit.