

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 4/8/2023

Forest Biomass to Carbon-Negative Biofuels Pilot Program – Phase 2. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has announced that the *Draft Phase 2 Forest Biomass to Carbon-Negative Biofuels Program* solicitation is now live. Phase 2 of the pilot program will offer funding for facility construction, and will include financial commitments to up to four individual projects of up to \$20 million. For more information, [view the Summer 2023 Program Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#). Solicitation guidelines are posted on the DOC [project webpage](#), under "Announcements." To support developing an application, the DOC and collaborating agencies will be holding a public workshop via webinar on [Friday, December 1, 12:30 to 2:30 pm](#), to review the draft solicitation and answer any questions that potential applicants may have. [All interested parties are encouraged to register and attend](#). NOTE: At this time, the DOC anticipates releasing the final solicitation for application in early December. This is a quick turn-around, and the DOC wants to ensure that stakeholders have adequate time to submit letters of comment, if they are being planned. In the meantime, if you have questions or otherwise are interested in reaching out to the DOC, please contact them via their program e-mail address, DOCForestBiofuelsPilot@conservation.ca.gov.

NEW! The Forest Business Alliance. The newly formed [Forest Business Alliance](#) provides technical assistance, workshops, and a peer-learning network to increase local and regional capacity for applicants to [CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Program](#). Among others, its workshops provide general information and guides that are helpful for many kinds of proposals, including *Project Design & Planning for Proposals* as well *Budgeting for Grant Proposals*. The Peer Learning Network connects forest businesses throughout California. With an emphasis on peer-based expertise, the Network's goals are to: Promote community learning and knowledge exchange in the forest business realm; Share tools, best practices, and lessons from successfully running forest businesses; and strengthen the organizational, community, and regional business capacity.

Calculating the full Costs of Wildfire. A newly published [study](#) in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* remeasured the full costs of the 2010 Schultz Fire, which burned 15,075 acres near Flagstaff, Ariz., and resulted in damaging floods post-fire. The study is a remeasurement of the full-cost accounting study by [Combrink et al.](#) (2013) and is a long-term cost analysis examining the socio-economic implications of high-severity wildfire and post-fire flooding. Events like the 2010 Schultz Fire and post-fire flooding can have long-lasting effects that often go undocumented. These include long-term financial costs, but also effects that are more difficult to quantify such as decreases in local ecosystem services and societal costs like community well-being. 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.

Closer to home, the report [Long-Term economic Impacts of large Fires in California from 2018-2021: Losses and Opportunities](#) focuses on impacts of large wildfires in 2018 through 2021 on the timber industry sector and characterizes some of the economic impacts caused

by these fires. The project focuses on fires within a 40-million-acre area across the North Coast, Cascade Mountains, and Sierra Nevada Mountains. A recent presentation and discussion of the report are available [here](#).