

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 32/2024

Wood Business Development & Funding Resources Workshop. The [Forest Business Alliance](#) is offering a [workshop](#) to provide an overview of resources for businesses beyond grants, such as tax credits, payroll, training, and more. Invited/confirmed participants include Elise Candelaria, [Employment Training Panel](#); Lauren Nikkel, [Fresno Economic Development Corporation](#); Nina Natina, Business Investment Services ([CalBIS](#)); Erik Meza, [National Logistics Team, LLC](#); and Lisa Hoveman, [Shasta College](#). August 15, 2024 10:30am. [Registration](#) is required.

Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Grants. [Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance grants](#) support projects that remove hazardous fuels from National Forests and Grasslands to a location where the materials may be used for various wood products and services. This program contributes to the [Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#) implementation by removing hazardous fuels from forests and supports local forest product facilities and rural economies. Proposals and/or projects must explain how and why they reduce hazardous fuels and why transportation to locations where they can be utilized is the limiting factor. These materials must be removed from National Forest System lands and/or demonstrate benefit to the lands. Project level applications will only be accepted from existing projects, e.g. Forest Service Contracts and Agreements. Organizations supporting underserved communities and first-time applicants for federal funds are encouraged to apply. The Forest Service anticipates up to \$25 million may be awarded through this funding opportunity. Applications are due by September 6th. To learn more about this IRA-funded grant, visit the [Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Grants website](#). The US Forest Service will be hosting public webinars on August 16, 10am PDT, August 21, 10am PDT, and August 28, 1pm PDT in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation. The webinars will help guide interested applicants through the application process and provide opportunities for questions to be answered. Advanced [registration](#) is required.

Feasibility Study for a Value-Added Wood Products Campus within the Central Sierra Region of California. The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is working closely with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to implement the Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Program within the Central Sierra Region of California. The pilot program will be an opportunity for significant innovation in the natural resources manufacturing industry and forestry management sector in California by spearheading a regional approach with a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between Alpine, Amador, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa counties. The project will encourage development of small enterprises where innovative forestry businesses focused on forest fuels reduction and forest restoration can develop and thrive. The project and associated deliverables address how forest restoration, climate adaptation, and stakeholder engagement can arise from delivering forest biomass to businesses, all while promoting community stability, fire resilience and enhancement of public safety. This report is focused on delivering results of a [feasibility study for a value-added wood products campus](#) within the five-county pilot area and provides recommendations regarding next steps.

Northeast California Pilot Project: Funding Options and Strategies for a new Joint Powers Authority. As part of a broader effort to establish a governance framework for promoting biomass utilization in the Northeast California region (Region), [this report presents an overview of funding sources and financing strategies](#) for the ongoing operations of a potential new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) involving existing Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) serving the Region. The potential formation of a JPA comprising existing RCDs is the outcome of a State of California (State) Office of Planning and Research (OPR) pilot project to address wildfire prevention and improve forest health and resilience by supporting and

strengthening an entire industry cluster to increase biomass utilization that would otherwise remain unused in the forest and contribute to fuels loading. Such an industry cluster would encompass all the private sector business types involved with forest management, wood products manufacturing, energy production, environmental enhancement, and related professional and technical services. Given the scale of existing and continued biomass supply in the Region, such an industry sector has the potential to strengthen the regional economy—creating well-paying basic industry jobs, supporting existing and new population-serving businesses, and expanding the tax base of local governments that support the local economy through infrastructure investment, assuring public safety, and providing education and social services.

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group Meeting Archive. Meetings of the CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group are being recorded and can be viewed on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/user/202252950/folder/16862097>.