

# US Forest Service Programs to Support Woody Biomass Utilization

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# Overview of 3 Programs

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## Focus-Retain/Enhance Wood Processing Infrastructure

1. Technical assistance:
  - ✦ Developing new biomass facilities in CA: FS/CARC&D Program
2. Financial assistance:
  - ✦ In-woods or value added manufacturing infrastructure: FS National WBU Grant
3. SBA Sawmill Infrastructure support:
  - ✦ SBA Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants 2008-2009

# Technical Assistance for Planning New Biomass Heat/Cogen Facilities

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- ★ FS/California Assn of RC&D Areas
- ★ Targets facilities considering replacing/installing heating systems that will use woody biomass
- ★ Engineering firms on retainer to help assess feasibility of potential biomass heat/cogeneration facility installations in CA

## FS/California Assn of RC&D Areas- Technical Assistance

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- ★ Engineering firms are available to assess
  - ★ Heat/energy needs
  - ★ Appropriate Technology
  - ★ Resource availability
  - ★ Economic viability
  - ★ Advance engineering
- ★ Opportunity for public facilities, conservation camps, local schools, business with heating needs to receive engineering assistance
- ★ Up to \$25,000 of professional engineering services per site



# Process and Timeline

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First round of projects is complete

- ★ Fuels to Schools Projects
  - ★ Alturas, Etna
- ★ Combined Heat and Power
  - ★ Ft Bragg, Parlin Forks, Lake Tahoe
- ★ Ongoing outreach to additional site hosts
  - ★ Siting new technologies
- ★ Contact your local **Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)** for more details...



# Programs to Site/Retain/Expand Wood Processing Infrastructure-In Woods



# Value-added



# USFS Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Program

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- ★ USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Technology Marketing Unit
  
- ★ **Goals:**
  - ★ Reduce cost of forest restoration and fuel hazard reduction
  - ★ Create/improve markets for small diameter materials removed from forest restoration projects
  - ★ Help remove economic and market barriers to biomass utilization
  
- ★ **Program Requirements:**
  - ★ Must treat FS land
  - ★ Need letter of support from NFS
  
- ★ **Funds Available:**
  - ★ ~\$4-5 million/year available nationally - 5 year program

# 2009 National Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

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- ★ **Who is eligible to apply?**

State, local, and Tribal governments, school districts, communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, companies, corporations, or special purpose districts, e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, or ports

- ★ **What?**

Equipment

- ★ **Match funding required:**

20%

- ★ **Grant amount:**

\$50,000-\$250,000

[spend within 3 years of grant award]

# California Projects

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- ★ Restart 8Mw Cogen Facility-Beiber CA
- ★ Small Log Sawmill-Beiber CA
- ★ Bear Mountain Forest Products, Sonora (densification equipment \$250,000)
- ★ Watershed Research and Training Center, Hayfork (feller-buncher \$245,000)
- ★ Upstream 21, Hayfork (log merchandising system, \$250,000)
- ★ 2009 will be announced shortly

# Examples of Funded Projects

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- ★ **In Woods Equipment**

- ★ Log Forwarder, Feller buncher, Chippers, Grinders, Loaders

- ★ **Value Added Processing Lines**

- ★ Post and Rail Processor
- ★ Pressure Treatment Cylinder,
- ★ Log Shavers,
- ★ Doweling machine,
- ★ Laminating equipment,
- ★ Edger,
- ★ Wood fired Dry Kiln

- ★ **Bioenergy Facilities**

- ★ Construct 1MW Cogeneration facility
- ★ Install Biomass Fueled Chip Drier
- ★ Turbine Upgrade

<http://ucanr.org/woodybiomass>

# Move Woody Biomass!

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# Evaluation Criteria

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- ★ Tangible and intangible benefits to national forest lands (40%)
  - ★ Technical feasibility (25%)
  - ★ Financial feasibility (25%)
  - ★ Qualifications (10%)
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- ★ Local Forest Service Relationship
  - ★ Local Forest Service Support
  - ★ Establish infrastructure, markets, efficiencies to reduce cost of forest restoration



# Tangible benefit examples

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- ★ Project involves acquiring more efficient equipment, which allows lower unit costs per acre treated
- ★ Business contractor can lower cost/acre bid with offset from higher value uses for material from hazardous fuel treatments
- ★ Investment in wood processing facility provides outlet and revenues for material that previously was hauled to landfill, lopped and scattered, piled and burned, masticated or burned on site.

# 2009 National Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

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## ★ Timeline:

- ↓ RFP Sept 2008
- ↓ Pre-app decisions Nov 2008
- ↓ Final decision May 2009

★ Further info: <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu>

## ★ Guidance:

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<http://ucanr.org/woodybiomass>

# USFS SBA Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants 2008-2009

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For information only...a targeted grant support package

## **Funding source:**

- ★ 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (P.L. 110-161)
- ★ 2008 WFHF Carryover
- ★ 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (P.L. 111-08)

## **Available Funds:**

- ★ \$1,250,000/\$1,500,000/\$1,700,000

## **Purpose:**

- ★ Help SBA sawmills to sustain operations through 2008-2009
- ★ Equipment Upgrades/Transportation Subsidy



# Eligibility criteria

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- ★ Sawmills must meet SBA eligibility requirements for small business defined in 13 CFR Part 121 (NAICS category: 321113)
- ★ Sawmills must purchase a minimum of 20,000 ccf per year of timber from public and private forest lands in California
- ★ Applicants must follow the correct application procedure to be eligible for funding
- ★ Only one application per business will be accepted
- ★ Projects may target equipment infrastructure upgrades and/or a transportation subsidy

**4 eligible mills in California**

# Eligible expenditure

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- ★ Equipment purchase or upgrades
- ★ Transportation subsidy
  
- ★ Projects to improve efficiencies, make critical facility investments, or offset transportation costs of raw materials



# Timeline/Status

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- ★ March 2008 – grant development
- ★ April 2008 – outreach/application development
- ★ May 2008 – award
- ★ November 2009 – outreach/application development
- ★ Multiple Awards in process



# Summary

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1. Technical Assistance in planning installation of biomass heat/electricity technologies:  
USFS CA RC&D grant
  - ★ up to \$25,000
2. Equipment grants for projects that help USFS achieve forest restoration objectives:  
FS WBU Grant
  - ★ \$50,000-\$250,000
3. Maintaining critical infrastructure: SBA  
Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants
  - ★ in progress

# Contact Information

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1. Your local RC&D
2. <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu>
3. Gareth Mayhead (UC Berkeley)  
510-665-3662  
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Questions?

