CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 51/2019

New App helps design Buildings that use Biomass for Heat. With the coming of the winter heating season, the Colorado State Forest Service is debuting a new tool to help builders make new buildings more climate conscious and less dependent on non-renewable sources of energy. The Biomass Ready tool helps builders, architects, engineers, planners and others in the building trade to design new buildings that can incorporate biomass as a heating source. Even if a biomass heating system is not a viable option for a builder today, this tool ensures that the new building would be able to incorporate one in the future. To view the Biomass Ready app, visit www.biomassready.org.

Biomass in the Sierra Nevada – A Case for Healthy Forests and Rural Economies. This just released paper by the Sierra Business Council is a proposition for a way to reinvest in rural economies and counties that have been disproportionately affected by some of the state's biggest climate impacts to date. Wildfire, drought, tree mortality, distressed watersheds – these are all symptoms of our changing climate. These events, large and small, long and brief, affect our economies and our homes, both urban and rural. They affect how and where we live, play, and breathe. This paper attempts to provide a clear-eyed, realistic look at the challenges that our forested Sierra Nevada communities face, the threat posed by massive and destructive wildfires, and an acknowledgment that while biomass cannot solve all of these problems, it should be pursued as part of the solution.

A brief stroll down Memory Lane:

A Community-scale Biomass District Energy System (2016). In the city of Burns, OR, the High Desert Biomass Cooperative consolidated and connected energy needs, streamlining systems and implementing district heating in 2016. Now, a 4-6 block radius is powered by a single biomass boiler, while supporting local employment and enhancing forest restoration on the surrounding landscape. It was the first community-scale biomass district energy system in the Western US that can use "hog fuel," a coarse wood chip material that is produced directly from forest management and restoration activities. Hog fuel can be produced in a single pass through a large chipper/grinder and does not need additional processing. This allows the community to source its biomass fuel from a wide variety of vendors, including future local forest products businesses that could become established locally.

Restoration Success Stories (2017). The Oregon Department of Forestry produced a multi-media series highlighting ways communities in Oregon and northern California are integrating forest restoration and local economic development. Forest restoration is important and expensive work. These stories show how increasing forest resilience requires collaboration and the right type of infrastructure. When environmentalists, land managers, and industry representatives work together they demonstrate how the profit motive and the stewardship ethic can go hand-in-hand. Restoration Renaissance: A New Paradigm in John Day**:** When the town's remaining lumber mill threatened to close environmentalists and local leaders stepped in to save it. From the Ground Up: A Story of Stewardship in Lake County**:** A remote rural community becomes a national leader in collaboration; redefining the idea of stewardship. Living with Fire: Black is the New Green in Trinity County: Local leaders and forest managers are discovering how living with fire keeps communities safe and creates new local businesses.

California's first full CLT building (2018). California's first full CLT building opened in Plumas County. The structure of the Biomass Boiler Building in Plumas County leverages the inherent thermal properties of cross-laminated timber to generate heat and energy to the Health and Human Services Department in

Quincy, CA. The industrial Biomass Boiler Building houses an innovative biomass system using organic and sustainable waste material to generate heat for the Health and Human Services Building as an alternative to fossil fuels. The boiler is only the second of its kind in the U.S.; it is a community-scale, biomass boiler unit that runs on hog fuel, a coarse woody material generated as a byproduct directly from forest restoration and management activities. Erection of the primary superstructure occurred over just a one week period in December of 2017. Here is a time-lapse video.

DID YOU KNOW? America's official national Christmas tree is not located at the White House, but rather in Kings Canyon National Park near Sanger, California. The tree, a giant sequoia known as the General Grant Tree, was designated the "Nation's Christmas Tree" by President Calvin Coolidge in 1926. It is 267 feet high, 40 feet across its base, and is estimated to be between 1,500 and 2,000 years old. In 1956, the tree was declared a national shrine to honor the men and women of the U.S. military. As a memorial, park rangers place a wreath at the base of the tree during the Christmas ceremony, which has been held every year since 1925.