

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 4/2020

**2021 USFS Grant Programs announced.** The US Forest Service [announced two competitive wood utilization funding](#) opportunities. The application and instructions for the [Wood Innovations Grant](#) can be found [here](#). Applications are due via email to Larry Swan ([larry.swan@usda.gov](mailto:larry.swan@usda.gov)) by 5pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The second funding opportunity is a new program called the *Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program*. More information can be found [here](#). Applications to this grant are due via email to Larry Swan ([larry.swan@usda.gov](mailto:larry.swan@usda.gov)) by 5pm on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. A national webinar was held on November 10<sup>th</sup> that covered important details about both programs. A link to the recording can be found [here](#). A USFS Region 5 pre-application webinar focused on regional issues and priorities will be offered on [Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am Pacific Time](#).

**Virtual Wood Solutions Conference. November, 16 - 20 2020.** The annual [Wood Solutions Conference](#) is dedicated to showcasing innovative advancements and applications for wood products and building systems in design and construction. Leading-edge speakers will inform and inspire at the 2020 Virtual Wood Solutions Conference. Learn about the latest in wood innovations from distinguished presenters and two renowned keynote speakers. Interact with wood product experts at the virtual exhibit hall and find the resources you need to achieve your vision in wood design and building. Participate in seminars with wood design leaders and project teams from across Canada.

**Warm Toes and Healthy Forests.** There is a compelling case to be made for ski areas and mountain communities to embrace modern wood energy. In many cases it is a way to save money on energy expenses, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and send a compelling message to guests, employees, the ski industry, and even other industries: that [a ski] area is committed to minimizing its environmental footprint, supporting the local economy, and preserving the slopes for skiing and snowboarding for future generations. Such are the conclusions by Julie Kies, USDA Forest Service Wood and Biomass Utilization Coordinator, Region 1 & 4, as she summarizes her findings in an [article in the Fall issue 2017 of the NSAA Journal](#) (National Ski Area Association).

**Joint Institute Recommendations to expand Wood and Biomass Utilization in California.** Innovative wood products can support carbon-beneficial, sustainable forest management in California. Their development and deployment can help the state increase the pace and scale of forest management and restoration efforts needed to address the problems of overstocked forests and climate change. In [this recently released report](#), a panel of experts with the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation recommends initial actions to spur wood and biomass products innovation in California. The recommendations are intended to put material from forest fuel removal projects to its highest value use rather than pile burning or leaving it to decompose.

**Senate Bill 100 Draft Report Workshop.** Senate Bill (SB) 100 established a landmark policy requiring California's renewable energy and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of electric retail sales to end-use customers by 2045. On [December 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m.](#), the California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a remote-access workshop jointly with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) to discuss the draft report for the Senate Bill (SB) 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) Joint Agency Report. Staff will present an overview of the draft report that summarizes modeling results, key takeaways from the assessment, next steps for analytical work, and recommended actions. Following the staff presentation, leadership from the California Natural Resources Agency, California balancing authorities, and the three host agencies will provide remarks.

The agenda will conclude with a public comment period and closing remarks from the host agencies. A detailed meeting agenda will be posted prior to the workshop at the SB 100 Joint Agency Report webpage, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sb100>.