

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 23/2022

2022 USFS Wood Innovations and Community Wood Grants recipients announced. On May 27, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$32 million to fund 2022 [Wood Innovations and Community Wood Grants](#). Bolstered by \$12 million from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these grants aim to expand the use of wood products, strengthen emerging wood markets, and support active management to improve forest health and resilience, especially in light of the ongoing nationwide wildfire crisis. Many of the funded projects will help reduce hazard trees that fuel catastrophic wildfires as envisioned in the new Forest Service [10 Year Strategy to Confront the Wildfire Crisis](#). These projects cover activities ranging from the development of district wood heating systems and small-scale sawmill operations in Western states, to the continued expansion of markets for mass timber, biochar, and other emerging wood products. A complete list of grants is available on the [Forest Service Wood Innovations Program Website](#).

Woody Biomass Conversion Technology in California. The State of California is facing a massive undertaking to attempt to treat a million acres of California’s forested lands in coming years. This challenge will result in millions of tons of forest wood waste that will either be left on the ground to decay and contribute to further fire threat or be open pile burned. Another alternative is processing this wood waste for other products, one of those being energy. [This paper](#), recently released by the [Placer County Air Pollution Control District](#) and [CLERE, Inc.](#), explores the main technological pathways for transformation of forest wood waste to energy.

North American Biochar & Bioenergy Conference. [Biochar 2022](#) will be held in Morgantown, West Virginia, August 8 - 11, 2022. [The North American Biochar & Bioenergy Conference](#) is the largest event in North America dedicated to “Decarbonizing our Economy” and will focus on bridging scientific, industrial, practitioner, and policy gaps in biomass utilization for biochar and bioenergy production. The meeting will draw attention to biochar and bioenergy science, technology, and sustainability issues at local-to-global scales. The [US Biochar Initiative \(USBI\)](#) promotes the sustainable production and use of biochar and has hosted the pre-eminent North American biochar conference since 2009. West Virginia University (WVU) is the academic conference partner. WVU is leading the [MASBio](#) Program through funding from the [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#).

Wood Innovations Success Story: Old Wood, LLC. David Old was raised on the Viveash Ranch, northeast of Santa Fe, NM. In 2000—and again in 2013—the Old family witnessed and fought the Viveash and Tres Lagunas fires, which ultimately consumed thousands of acres of the ranch’s forested lands. Rather than be deterred, the family embraced their circumstances. With mountains of fire-burned trees all around them, they began exploring ways to reclaim the charred timber. Today, Old Wood, LLC, is a thriving enterprise, producing [export-grade end grain wood products from National Forests](#) that follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for commercial, industrial, and residential applications in the United States and throughout the world.

Biochar Basics: An A-to-Z Guide to Biochar Production, Use, and Benefits. Biochar is made from excess organic forest material and is proving to be a valuable economic and environmental resource. This “[A-to-Z guide](#)” highlights recent science and covers methods to make biochar on site, uses for biochar, and methods for application. Dive deeper in this [Science You Can Use Bulletin](#).