

Press Release

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USDA Forest Service awards Wood Innovations Grants to reduce wildfire risk, invest in rural economies and support healthy forests

WASHINGTON, April 16, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service is investing in rural economies, reducing wildfire risk and improving forest conditions by awarding \$7.62 million in grants as part of the agency’s Wood Innovations Grant program.

The Wood Innovations Grant program advances innovations in wood products that create jobs, revitalize local economies and support sustainable forest land management. Thirty-five business, nonprofit, university and tribal partners in 19 states and Puerto Rico will match the grants with an additional \$131 million.

“Markets for wood products are key to supporting sustainable management and restoration of our nation’s forested lands,” said Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen. “We can keep both public and private forests healthy and resilient by fostering economic opportunities around wood products.”

This year the Forest Service received 103 proposals, demonstrating the expanding interest in using wood in traditional and innovative ways as a building material and a renewable energy source.

Of the 35 projects selected, 27 focus on expanding markets for wood products and eight seek to increase markets for renewable wood energy. This year’s projects expand uses for small diameter wood, develop new markets for biochar and wood-powered energy, explore using cross-laminated timber in health care facilities, examine how to finance urgent restoration work, and more.

The projects will take place in 19 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Vermont and Washington) and Puerto Rico.

More information on the program is available online at the Forest Service [Wood Innovations](#) website.

2020 Wood Innovations Grant Recipients

Project Title	Organization	City, State
Hoonah Biomass Design Based on 2017 Feasibility Study	Hoonah Indian Association	Hoonah, AK
Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI) Wood Innovations and Utilization Team	Northern Arizona University Ecological Restoration Institute Forest Operations and Biomass Utilization	Flagstaff, AZ
Expanding the Forest Resilience Bond: Innovative Financing for a Forest Service Restoration Project	Blue Forest Conservation	Sacramento, CA

Riverpoint – Mass Timber Building Development	Crescent Real Estate LLC	Centennial, CO
Nail and Dowel Laminated Timber Diaphragms for Seismic Regions	Colorado School of Mines	Golden, CO
Characterizing and Quantifying Environmental and Economic benefits of CLT buildings across the US	Colorado School of Mines	Golden, CO
Increasing Processing Capacity and Overcoming Barriers for Utilization of Six Non-Native Plantation and Invasive Tree Species in Hawaii	Kamuela Hardwoods Inc.	Kamuela, HI
Timber City: An Awareness and Educational Program for the Tall Building Industry	The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat	Chicago, IL
Catalyzing the Deployment of Mass Timber Buildings in the Northeast	Generate LLC	Boston, MA
Demonstration Project for Increasing Whole House Pellet Heating Clusters	Maine Energy Systems, LLC	Bethel, ME
Mass Timber Hotel: Tuning CLT to Overcome Barriers to Adoption in the Hospitality Industry	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN
Development of Preservative-treated Southern Pine Cross-laminated Timber	Mississippi State University	Mississippi State, MS
Forestry Educational and Utilization Center: Showcasing Mass Timber and Other Innovative Wood Building Materials	Mississippi Forestry Foundation	Jackson, MS
Red Lodge Mountain Waste to Warmth Energy Project	Red Lodge Mountain	Red Lodge, MT
Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District Headquarters Heating Project	Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District	Valentine, NE
New York State Wood Utilization Team	SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry	Syracuse, NY
Prineville Renewable Energy Project Engineering and Design Study	City of Prineville	Prineville, OR
Expanding Small Diameter Wood Processing Capacity in Hood River, Oregon	Neal Creek Forest Products	Hood River, OR
Overcoming Market Barriers to Increase Use of Structural Mass Timber in Healthcare Environments	University of Oregon	Eugene, OR

Developing an application for Mass Plywood Panels in Seismic and Energy Wall Retrofit	University of Oregon	Eugene, OR
Expanding Forest Biomass Pellet Manufacturing Capacity	Blue Mountain Lumber Products, LLC	Pendleton, OR
Replacing and Upgrading Head-Rig Scanner System	Blue Mountain Lumber Products, LLC	Pendleton, OR
Building Markets for Forest Restoration Wood	Sustainable Northwest	Portland, OR
Fire Performance of Connection Made up of Custom CLT Layups Utilizing Pine from Logs Harvested in Western Forest Restoration Programs	Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR
Installation of Wood Chip Dryer and Processing Equipment using Renewable Energy and Heat Provided by Wind River Biomass Utility	Smokehouse Products, LLC	Hood River, OR
Economic Benefits and Ecosystem Services in Private Lands near El Yunque National Forest	Center for Landscape Conservation	San Juan, PR
Load Testing and Assessment of a Field Demonstration CLT Bridge	South Dakota State University	Brookings, SD
BRB Braced Frames for Seismically Resilient Mass Timber Buildings	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Market Assessments for the Expansion of Biochar Use and Sales	Next Generation Woods, Inc.	Hiwassee, VA
Part II of Expanding Markets for Thermally-modified Wood Products Produced from Low value Hardwood Species	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Blacksburg, VA
Increasing Hardwood Utilization in the Cross-laminated Timber Market	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Blacksburg, VA
Long Falls Paperboard Biomass Combined Heat & Power Conversion Project – Flue Gas Condensation Alternate to Achieve Maximum Efficiency	Long Falls Paperboard, LLC	Brattleboro, VT
Enhancing the Vitality of the Western U.S. Roundwood Manufacturing Industry	Western Wood Preservers Institute	Vancouver, WA
Demonstration of Fire Performance of Durable Wood Strand Mass Timber Panels	Washington State University	Pullman, WA

R&D Modular LLC Workforce Mass Timber Modular Housing	R&D Modular LLC	Seattle, WA
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