



USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program

The USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program expands and creates markets for wood products and wood energy that support long-term, sustainable management of National Forest System lands and other forest lands. The program has two national competitive grants programs, as well as project activities funded under discretionary agreements and annual work plans.

State and Private Forestry staff in the Washington Office manage the Wood Innovations Program. The Washington Office staff works with Forest Service units throughout the country, and also works with States, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners to promote healthy, resilient forests and livable communities.

State and Private Forestry, Washington, DC:

The Forest Service State and Private Forestry national office provides leadership and coordinates national program emphasis areas, develops national partnerships, and provides market and technical support for mass timber, renewable wood energy, and other emerging wood products.

They also provide leadership for the Forest Service Wood Innovations Program grants and strategic investments with partners.

Forest Service Regions: Each of the nine Forest Service regions provide technical and market development leadership to the Wood Innovations Program and serve as the key point of contact for program grant recipients in their region. They also link regional priorities with on-the-ground activities and national program focus areas.

Forest Products Marketing Unit: The Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU) is part of the Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). FPMU’s focus is to work with FPL researchers, regional Wood Innovations Program managers, and external partners to advance high-value, high-volume wood products and energy markets to support healthy forests and economies.



Oregon Forest Restoration, USDA Forest Service

Wood Education and Resource Center: The Forest Service Eastern Region manages the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), a key Wood Innovations Program team member. The Eastern Region facilitates interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry to enhance opportunities for sustained forest product production. WERC staff also manage the National Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team, which evaluates and develops community-scale projects using woody biomass for heat or combined heat and power.

Addressing the Challenge of Hazardous Fuels; Sustaining Forest Health, Diversity, and Productivity

The majority of grants and agreements awarded under the Wood Innovations Program address the nationwide challenge of reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, disease, and infestations by retaining or expanding markets for excess biomass and low-value logs removed during forest management activities. The material removed supports traditional markets, new markets, and local economic development, and also reduces emissions from the open-air burning of excess forest biomass.



Wood Innovations Team; USDA Forest Service

Cover Page Photos:

Albina Yard Construction; photo by Jeremy Bittermann, courtesy LEVER Architecture

Montana Forest, USDA Forest Service

BurnBoss® Biochar Trial; Courtesy photo by Tom Miles

Carbon 12, Courtesy photo by Andrew Pogue

Georgia Harvesting, USDA Forest Service

Wood Innovations Program Competitive Grants Programs

Wood Innovations Grants Program

Launched in 2015, the Wood Innovations Grants Program stimulates and expands wood products and wood energy markets. Relevant legislation includes the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and Rural Revitalization Technologies (7 U.S. Code [USC] 6601). National focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports fuel reduction and sustainable forest management.

Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program

Launched in 2020, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 USC § 8113) and annual agency appropriations authorize and fund the grants awarded under this program. The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology.

For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>.