

Forest Service Programs to Support Woody Biomass Utilization

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Overview of 3 programs providing technical and financial assistance to WBU projects

Technical assistance:

- + Developing new biomass facilities in CA:
FS/CARC&D Program

Financial assistance:

- + In-woods or value added manufacturing
infrastructure: FS National WBU Grant

SBA Sawmill Infrastructure support:

- + SBA Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants 2008

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FS/California Assn of RC&D Areas New Biomass Facility Planning



- ★ Engineering assistance to facilities considering replacing existing heating systems, installing new systems that will use woody biomass
- ★ Three engineering firms specializing in developing biomass conversion projects are available to help assess feasibility of potential biomass heat/cogeneration facility installations in CA

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FS/California Assn of RC&D Areas- Technical Assistance



- ★ Consultancy firms are available to assess
 - ★ Economic viability
 - ★ Appropriate Technology
 - ★ Resource availability
 - ★ Advance engineering
- ★ Opportunity for public facilities, conservation camps, local schools, business with heating needs to receive engineering assistance
- ★ Up to \$25,000 of professional engineering services per site

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Process and Timeline

First round outreach complete

- ★ 6 Sites selected:
 - ★ Alturas, Ft Bragg, Parlin Forks, Pioneer, Lake Tahoe, Etna
- ★ Ongoing outreach to additional site hosts
- ★ Contact your local **Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)** for more details...

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2009 National Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

- ★ USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Technology Marketing Unit
- ★ **Objective:**
“help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities”
- ★ **Goals:**
 - ★ Reduce management costs
 - ★ Create incentives for biomass use
 - ★ Start projects that remove economic and market barriers to biomass utilization
- ★ Must treat FS land
- ★ Need letter of support from NFS
- ★ ~\$4-5 million/year available nationally - 5 year program

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2009 National Woody Biomass Utilization Grant



- * **Who is eligible to apply?**
State, local, and Tribal governments, school districts, communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, companies, corporations, or special purpose districts, e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, or ports
- * **What?**
Equipment
- * **Match funding required:**
20%
- * **Grant amount:**
\$50,000-\$250,000
[spend within 3 years of grant award]

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Examples of Funded Projects



- * In Woods Equipment
 - ★ Log Forwarder, Feller buncher, Chippers, Grinders, Loaders
- * Value added processing lines :
 - ★ Post and Rail Processor
 - ★ Pressure Treatment Cylinder,
 - ★ Log Shavers,
 - ★ Doweling machine,
 - ★ Laminating equipment,
 - ★ Edger,
 - ★ Wood fired Dry Kiln
- * Bioenergy Facilities
 - ★ Construct 1MW Cogeneration facility
 - ★ Install Biomass Fueled Chip Drier
 - ★ Turbine Upgrade

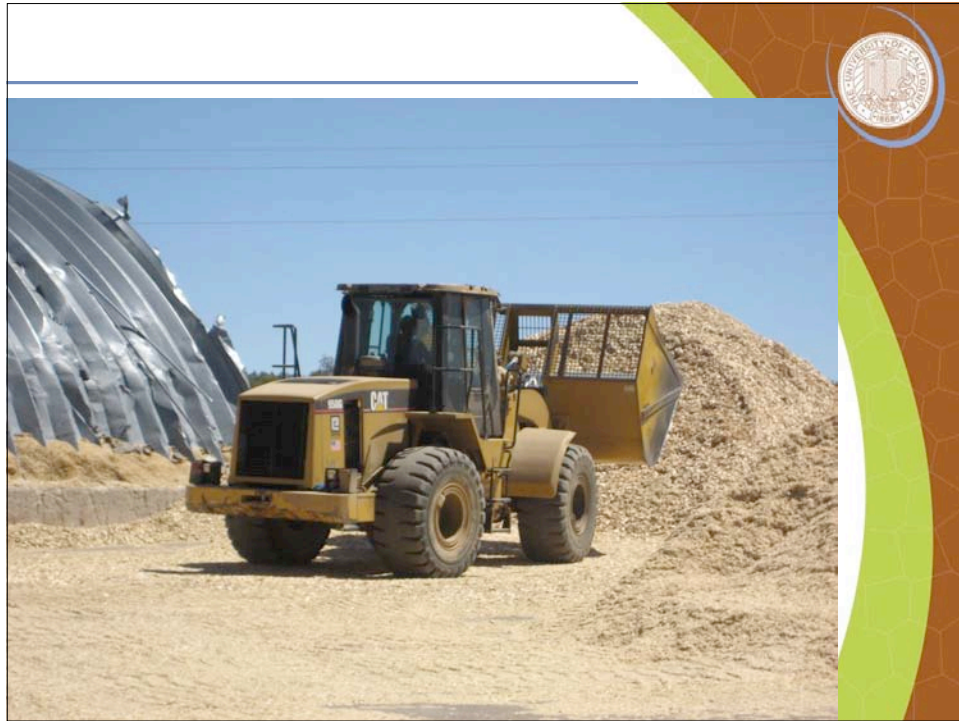
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In-woods equipment



Value-added





2008 California Projects

- ★ Bear Mountain Forest Products, Sonora (densification equipment \$250,000)
- ★ Watershed Research and Training Center, Hayfork (feller-buncher \$245,000)
- ★ Upstream 21, Hayfork (log merchandising system, \$250,000)

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Evaluation Criteria

- * Tangible and intangible benefits to national forest lands (40%)
- * Technical feasibility (25%)
- * Financial feasibility (25%)
- * Qualifications (10%)

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Tangible benefit examples

- * Project involves acquiring more efficient equipment, which allows lower unit costs per acre treated
- * Business contractor can lower cost/acre bid with offset from higher value uses for material from hazardous fuel treatments
- * Investment in wood processing facility provides outlet and revenues for material that previously was hauled to landfill, lopped and scattered, piled and burned, masticated or burned on site.

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2009 National Woody Biomass Utilization Grant



* **Timescale:**

- ↓ RFP Sept 2008
- ↓ Pre-app decisions Nov 2008
- ↓ Final decision Mar 2009

* **Further info:** <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu>

* **Guidance:**

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USFS SBA Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants 2008



For information only...a targeted grant support package

Funding source:

- * 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (P.L. 110-161)

Available Funds:

- * \$1,250,000

Purpose:

- * Help SBA sawmills to sustain operations through 2008-2009

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Eligibility criteria

- * Sawmills must meet SBA eligibility requirements for small business defined in 13 CFR Part 121 (NAICS category: 321113)
- * Sawmills must purchase a minimum of 20,000 ccf per year of timber from public and private forest lands in California
- * Applicants must follow the correct application procedure to be eligible for funding
- * Only one application per business will be accepted
- * Projects may target equipment infrastructure upgrades and/or a transportation subsidy

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Eligible expenditure

- * Equipment purchase or upgrades
- * Transportation subsidy
- * Projects to improve efficiencies, make critical facility investments, or offset transportation costs of raw materials




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Timeline/Status

- ★ March 2008 – grant development
- ★ April 2008 – outreach/application development
- ★ May 2008 - award


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Summary

-  Technical consultancy: USFS CA RC&D grant
 - ★ up to \$25,000
-  Equipment grants for projects that help USFS achieve forest restoration objectives: FS WBU Grant
 - ★ \$50,000-\$250,000
-  Maintaining critical infrastructure: SBA Sawmill Infrastructure Assistance Grants
 - ★ in progress

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Contact Information

 Your local RC&D

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Questions?

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