

CA Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 51/2018

Woody Biomass for Bioenergy Webinar Series Dec. 19th, 10am PST, Dec. 20th, 10am and 11:30am PST. Three webinars on woody biomass for bioenergy: (1) Evaluating the Technical and Economic Viability of Woody Biomass for Bioenergy; (2) Wood Energy Options - Save Money and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint; (3) Design, Implementation, and Operation of Modern Wood Energy Systems – Heating, Cooling, Combined Heat and Power. [Please see the flyer for more information.](#) All of these webinars can be accessed via <http://www.forestrywebinars.net> and will be archived for later viewing.

Mass Timber Market Analysis. Mass timber is an exciting and rapidly evolving opportunity for both forestry and the forest products industry across the West. How much is it expected to grow and what can state forestry organizations do to enable that growth? The Council of Western State Foresters—Forest Utilization Network recently commissioned a report by the Beck Group to answer these questions and more. The Beck Group’s report says that the business case for mass timber is solid— noting that benefits include lower cost, strong fire and seismic performance, aesthetics and environmental performance. They estimate that the mass timber market will consume 100 million board feet by 2020 and will double by 2025. The report authors point to the potential for states to provide more timber supply from federal forests through greater use of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) among other recommendations. Read the report here <http://ucanr.edu/sites/swet/files/295786.pdf>.

Save the Date: After The Flames - Workshop & Conference. Experts warn that year-round fire season is the new normal. Wildfire is no longer “if” it will occur, but rather “when.” Wildfires burned 9,781,062 acres in the United States in 2017. The impacts of a wildfire last long after the flames are extinguished. Community leaders, agency representatives, property owners, and anyone impacted by wildfire is invited to join this interactive workshop and conference featuring recovery experts and agencies engaging After The Flames. April 1-3, 2019; Denver, CO. More information here <https://aftertheflames.com/>.

The Timber Innovation Act in the 2018 Farm Bill. Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have announced that provisions of the Timber Innovation Act (S. 538 and H.R. 1380) are included in the 2018 Farm Bill. The Timber Innovation Act will establish a new research and development program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that focuses on developing the application of mass timber products for building construction; analyzing the safety of tall wood buildings; identifying building code modification for wooden buildings; and calculating the environmental footprint of wood buildings. The bill also creates a grant program that provides funding to accelerate the adoption of emerging wood technology for building construction.

U.S. building codes do not currently recognize mass timber products as official construction materials, according to the release. That leaves the products without a standard rating system for quality, fire and earthquake resistance and more. <https://www.timberinnovation.org/tia.html>.

Life Cycle Assessments of Christmas Trees. Dovetail Partners Consuming Responsibly Report No. 3 looks at the Environmental Assessment of Natural vs. Artificial Christmas Trees. Which has less impact, natural or artificial trees? The answer is that . . . [well, it depends.](#)

DID YOU KNOW? Oregon provides the 2018 United States Capitol Christmas Tree. A gift from the Willamette National Forest and the State of Oregon to the people of the United States, the tree is displayed on the West Lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Every year since 1970, the U.S. Forest Service has provided the Capitol Christmas Tree. This year, the Capitol Christmas Tree was cut from the Sweet Home Ranger District. Seventy smaller companion trees were also sent to Washington, D.C. to decorate government buildings and public spaces this December. Additionally, Oregonians contribute 10,000 handmade ornaments, that were created throughout 2018. These ornaments celebrate the state's cultural history and people, landscapes, natural resources, and fish and wildlife.