

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 32/2019

Shasta College FIRST SEAT Program Tour on August 8-9th. Join the [Shasta College FIRST SEAT Program Tour](#) on August 8-9th. You will have the first tour through SPI's brand new, state-of-the art sawmill in Burney and get to see the current class of Shasta College students in the seat & on-the-job at a key fuels reduction project in Shasta County. Please see the [schedule, accommodations, and RSVP details](#).

Forest Stewardship Education Initiative: A product of the Forest Management Task Force's [Landowner Education and Outreach Working Group](#), this new [Forest Stewardship Workshop series](#) will help forest landowners develop plans to improve and protect their forest lands in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner. The workshops will address management objectives and planning, forest restoration, fuels reduction, project development, permitting, and cost-share opportunities. Participants will connect with other landowners and learn how to collect information to develop their own forest management plans.

Sustaining a Forest Restoration-Based Economy in the Sierra. Join the [Sierra Nevada Conservancy \(SNC\) Governing Board and staff members on their September Board Tour](#) to learn how managing Sierra forests for health can support local and regional economic development while also helping the state achieve its climate resilience goals. Discover firsthand how one organization – Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) – leveraged a small investment from SNC to successfully address ecological issues, while also providing employment opportunities for local tribal members and other area residents.

Evaluating Potential Programmatic Changes to the BioMAT Program: In October 2018, The CPUC Energy Division issued its draft [BioMAT Program Review and Staff Proposal](#). The document describes Energy Division staff's key observations about BioMAT program performance to-date, sets a timeline for the program review, lays out Energy Division's straw proposal for program changes, and poses questions to stakeholders. On July 19, 2019 the CPUC held a public workshop *Evaluating Potential Programmatic Changes to the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) Program* to discuss potential BioMAT program changes raised in the straw staff proposal and comments to simplify the program and better align it with the achievement of program and state goals. [More information here](#), including the download for the [Workshop Presentations](#).

Bioenergy Day 2019 is on Wednesday, October 23. The [7th Annual Bioenergy Day](#) will take place on October 23rd during [National Forest Products Week](#) (October 20-26, 2019). Bioenergy Day is a great way to educate the public about the importance and benefits of biomass power. In previous years participants have invited local schools, elected officials, and media outlets to share how bioenergy positively impacts the community.

DID YOU KNOW? A super-thin slice of wood can be used to turn saltwater drinkable. Filtering the salt from seawater can take a lot of energy or specialized engineering. A thin membrane made of porous wood may be able to fix that. In membrane distillation, salty water is pumped through a film, usually made of some sort of polymer with very narrow pores that filter out the salt and allow only water molecules through. Now researchers at Princeton University in New Jersey have developed a [new kind of membrane made of natural wood](#) instead of plastic.