

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Forest Service Announces \$1.2 Million in Forest Restoration Partnership Grants**

**MADISON, WISCONSIN** — The USDA Forest Service has awarded \$1.2 million as a one-time grant opportunity for forest restoration working partnerships involving the use of woody biomass. Small trees, tree limbs, and other woody plants that are byproducts of forest improvements, ecological restoration, and hazardous fuel reduction treatment activities are considered woody biomass material.

“Our goal is to provide financial assistance to working partnerships among State Foresters, Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils, and local governments that have demonstrated the collective capacity to advance landscape-scale forest restoration projects,” said USDA Forest Service Steve Yaddof, coordinator for this grant initiative.

The concept of landscape-scale work means a geographic area that supports the balance of biological systems and economic activities. A working landscape of sufficient size and productive ability will support actions that fit the resource capacity of the land and the people.

This grant process was lead by the Forest Service Technology Marketing Unit (TMU), located at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.

Yaddof explains that “working together can better define and implement market-based projects that utilize and recycle woody biomass for the health of the forest and the local economy.”

Individual grants were between \$25,000 and \$100,000. All grant recipients matched the federal portion by at least 20% of the total project cost.

In total, 45 applications were submitted from 18 states, proposing almost \$4 million in projects. The following 13 applicants received awards:

California	\$84,184	Northwest California RC&D Council
Colorado	\$100,000	Colorado State Parks
Georgia	\$77,500	Georgia Forestry Commission
Idaho	\$88,900	Framing Our Community
Idaho	\$70,000	Western Central Highland RC&D Council
Michigan	\$99,450	Upper Peninsula RC&D Council
Missouri	\$88,000	Top of the Ozarks RC&D Council
Oregon	\$95,000	Lane County Government
Oregon	\$100,000	Southwest Oregon RC&D Council
Virginia	\$99,676	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Wisconsin	\$97,650	River Country RC&D Council
Wisconsin	\$99,640	Southwest Badger RC&D Council
Wyoming	<u>\$100,000</u>	Western Wyoming RC&D Council
Total	\$1,200,000	

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**Summaries of Restoration Partnership Grantees**

California	Northwest California RC&D Council	\$89,693	Expand on efforts to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildland fire through fuels reduction projects and work on the development of local woody biomass utilization in this isolated rural county.
Colorado	Colorado State Parks	\$100,000	Establish three collection site/sort yards in the north, central, and southern portion of the project area. Material will be collected and sorted by a site manager. Products will go to appropriate market outlets and be marketed using the existing Colorado Forest Products Marketing/Branding Program.
Georgia	Georgia Forestry Commission	\$77,500	This project intends to verify that poultry producers can safely, economically, and efficiently utilize wood pellets converted from large quantities of unused biomass as an inexpensive and safe fuel for heating poultry houses. Not only will this project aid in weaning a portion of our farm economy from the volatile pricing of natural gas and propane, but will open a large local market for the production of compressed wood pellets in Georgia.
Idaho	Western Central Highland RC&D Council	\$70,000	Will allow full funding of Biomass Coordinator position, which is critical to bring forest resources together with new technology and new entrepreneurs to create business opportunities and improved economic conditions in our RC&D area.

Idaho	Framing Our Community	\$88,900	Develop a 10-acre, year-round accessible public sort yard that is close to private and federal lands, purchase a ASV RC100 Rubber Track Loader, hire a loader operator, and inform private and Federal land managers about lost value of sub/non-merchantable woody biomass.
Michigan	Upper Peninsula RC&D Council	\$99,450	Work with partners on a multi-faceted woody biomass utilization project. The project will highlight and promote biomass utilization opportunities in the Upper Peninsula to facilitate the development of an active and commercially viable woody biomass industry.
Missouri	Top of the Ozarks RC&D Council	\$88,000	Development of a Best Management Practices Manual for Biomass Harvest. Feasibility study focusing on investigation of public and private incentives and on the structure and viability of third party audits to ensure sustainable harvest.
Oregon	Southwest Oregon RC&D Council	\$100,000	Improve forest health across the landscape of the Rogue River Watershed by accelerating the removal of uncharacteristically high densities of small- diameter trees while working to increase the utilization and value of such material.
Oregon	Lane County Government	\$95,000	Start a multi-party collaborative initiative to attract grants, equity, and debt to help build a cellulosic ethanol industry in western Oregon. Will develop a path to process and utilize 50,000 green tons of woody biomass to produce 2 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol on public and private forestlands.
Virginia	Virginia Poly-technic Institute & State University	\$99,676	Develop a forest land care industry to improve green infrastructure in Virginia's headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, Albemarle Sound, and Mississippi River Basins
Wisconsin	River Country RC&D Council	\$97,650	The rugged and fragile landscape of the Driftless Area blends steep slopes and fragile, productive soils with an unusually high diversity of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and abundant game populations. The DAI believes that one of the keys to sustainable and economical logging of woody biomass in the Driftless Area may already exist with current technology in use in the Pacific Northwest. Excavator-based cable yarding systems have been used successfully in Oregon to affordably log steep slopes with minimal impact on the residual stand and forest floor. We propose to conduct a minimum of three excavator-based cable yarding demonstrations throughout the four-state area.
Wisconsin	Southwest Badger RC&D	\$99,640	Implement a pilot project to determine the true costs of sustainably harvesting woody biomass in the driftless area of the Upper Midwest. In addition, this project will determine the average woody biomass yield and projected harvesting schedules for woodlands in the driftless area of the Midwest.
Wyoming	Western Wyoming RC&D Council	\$100,000	Develop a woody biomass utilization program and restore a wood products infrastructure. Evaluate three log sort yards and uses for the biomass generated from forest restoration projects, conduct a series of public education programs, and fund a full-time stewardship contracting coordinator.