

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
April 19, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
RMRI Biomass Utilization Subcommittee
Meeting Summary – FINAL

RMRI BIOMASS UTILIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE	
ATTENDANCE: Ken Curtis, Molly Pitts, Tim Reader, Laura Wolf, Nathan Van Schaik	
ACTION ITEMS	
Laura Wolf and Tim Reader	Discuss opportunities to organize demonstrations of modular technology, such as curtain burners, on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests.
Laura Wolf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Tim Reader and Molly Pitts to join the next meeting on the prospective Xcel bioenergy plant. • Share any information on the CharBoss, a mobile biochar unit, with Tim Reader.
Tim Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the date and time of any technology demonstration events with the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee. • Share the one-pager on ski areas and biomass utilization with Laura Wolf and Samantha Albert to share during the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit.
Tim Reader and Nathan Van Schaik	Develop a 2022 work plan for the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee based on the Subcommittee’s discussion.
MEETING SUMMARY	
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Partner Updates	
<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) has recently been interested in identifying and promoting impactful biomass businesses on the Front Range through their financial assistance program. • Colorado Timber Resources is looking to expand its product manufacturing capacity. They bring in a significant amount of feedstock. • A prospective biochar company in Southwest Colorado is exploring whether agricultural producers might consider using biochar. They need to know there is a viable market before pursuing operations. • Pueblo Community College – Bayfield is exploring the option of launching a forestry operations program. They are touring mills in Southwest Colorado to understand the labor market and develop a curriculum. • The federal infrastructure bill will likely provide funding for biomass utilization operations. • Forestry technology providers are interested in demonstrating their products, such as curtain burners, to attract investment and community support. The CSFS is looking for opportunities to organize these demonstrations across Colorado. The 	<p>Decisions/Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Wolf and Tim Reader: Discuss opportunities to organize demonstrations of modular technology, such as curtain burners, on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests. • Tim Reader: Share the date and time of any technology demonstration events with the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee. • Laura Wolf: Invite Tim Reader and Molly Pitts to join the next meeting on the prospective Xcel bioenergy plant. • Laura Wolf: Share any information on the CharBoss, a mobile biochar unit, with Tim Reader.

companies are willing to front most of the cost of the demonstrations.

- The US Forest Service (USFS) Wildfire Crisis Strategy is allocating over \$18 million for forest management on the Front Range. This funding can help support forestry businesses on the Front Range and is something that the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee should consider.
- The USFS will announce the Wood Innovations Grant awards in May.
- The USFS, CSFS, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are in conversations with Xcel about establishing a bioenergy plant. The USFS, CSFS, and BLM are assessing the amount of biomass supply available to the plant over the next ten years.
- The Pike-San Isabel National Forests (PSICC) staff is interested in using mobile biochar units, such as the CharBoss. The USFS and Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) are exploring options to use mobile biochar units on the PSICC.
- The City of Boulder is interested in establishing bioenergy and biochar facilities to utilize compost and urban wood waste. Laura Wolf will be meeting with the City of Boulder staff to explore options.
- The USFS Washington Office is developing guidance to allocate funding to establish firewood banks. Laura Wolf is participating in those discussions. The Washington Office is also establishing a subteam on biochar as part of their carbon partnership program.
- Colorado Springs Utilities is exploring opportunities to transport biomass in the Pikes Peak area to facilities around the nation. Colorado Springs Utilities would like to use the rail system to take biomass to sawmills in Wyoming. They are working with the USFS and CSFS to calculate the biomass supply available for transport. Industry partners are meeting with Colorado Springs Utilities to discuss transportation options on April 28.
- Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) has been presenting to the state legislature on workforce and biomass issues.
- CTIA has been talking with the National Forests in Colorado about quantifying biomass availability to promote biomass businesses. The best information on biomass availability is on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests and the Rio Grande National Forests because they have the most up-to-date Forest Plans.
- The CTIA annual meeting is on May 5 and 6 in Delta.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IronWood Mill in Southwest Colorado has suspended their operations. They have faced challenges from the community related to noise and sawdust production. • Southwest Colorado is organizing a governance structure to implement a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) grant. The CFLRP boundary partially overlaps the RMRI boundary in Southwest Colorado. 	
---	--

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Communication Opportunities

<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMRI (RMRI) can provide support to anyone interested in presenting on RMRI at an event or conference. Anyone interested in presenting on RMRI at an event should reach out to Nathan Van Schaik. RMRI has also released the latest edition of The Source. • The Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office is hosting the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit. The USFS is planning on presenting on biomass utilization and ski areas. The CSFS can share their one-pager on ski areas and biomass utilization with Laura Wolf and Samantha Albert to share during the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit. 	<p>Decisions/Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Reader: Share the one-pager on ski areas and biomass utilization with Laura Wolf and Samantha Albert to share during the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit.
---	---

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Biomass Utilization Subcommittee 2022 Work Plan

<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RMRI Biomass Utilization Subcommittee could potentially pursue the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support infrastructure implementation on the Front Range ○ Track State Legislation (pending, proposed, and passed) ○ Organize facility and/or biomass project site Tours ○ Organize technology demonstrations for partners ○ Invite guest speakers to talk about biomass utilization efforts across Colorado and in other states. • The federal infrastructure bill is allocating funding to support biomass utilization. The RMRI Biomass Utilization Subcommittee should identify opportunities to promote biomass utilization from the federal infrastructure bill and determine how the Subcommittee could support businesses with those funds. • The Biomass Utilization Subcommittee should be mindful not to promote biomass utilization in areas that cannot support growth due to a lack of wood supply or critical infrastructure, such as roads. 	<p>Decisions/Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Reader and Nathan Van Schaik: Develop a 2022 work plan for the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee based on the Subcommittee's discussion.
---	---

- The Communications Subcommittee could develop a factsheet or one-pager that answers common industry partner questions to share with the RMRI landscapes.
- Southwest Colorado may be interested in organizing a local technology demonstration in their region.
- CSFS is working with an economic development group in Colorado Springs to see if there is an opportunity to conduct a biomass facility investment analysis in the Colorado Springs area.
- The Biomass Utilization Subcommittee should identify data gaps that are barriers to industry expansion and growth, such as data on weight limits in transportation corridors, wood supply, and industry capacity. The statewide biomass assessment will identify data gaps in industry capacity. Partners will be able to use the data from the statewide biomass assessment as a tool for local planning. The statewide biomass assessment leads should present at a future Biomass Utilization Subcommittee meeting as they begin to gather data.
- The Biomass Utilization Subcommittee should pursue all five potential tasks as part of its work plan.

NEXT STEPS

- Samuel Wallace will distribute a Doodle to schedule the next Biomass Utilization Subcommittee meeting in June.