

**Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)**  
**June 24, 2022, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**  
**RMRI Biomass Utilization Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Summary – FINAL**

**RMRI BIOMASS UTILIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ATTENDANCE:** Ken Curtis, Kate McIntire, Molly Pitts, Tim Reader, Nathan Van Schaik, Kyle Weber, Laura Wolf

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Tim Reader</b>	Send information on the Southwest Colorado Industry Tour to Samuel Wallace to distribute to the Subcommittee.
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**MEETING SUMMARY**

**DISCUSSION TOPIC:** Partner Updates

<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Reader, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), has been researching the application of air curtain burners to produce biochar. The CSFS has a small grant to fund the application and utilization of air curtain burners as an alternative to building slash piles.</li> <li>• The US Forest Service (USFS) has awarded funding through its Wood Innovations Program and Community Wood Program. They announced funded projects at the end of May. They funded six of the seven projects that applied for Wood Innovations grants in Colorado and all three that applied for Community Wood Program funding in Colorado. Not all the projects were based in Colorado, but they will all have an impact in Colorado. The amount of funding the USFS allocated was close to \$3 million. A list of funding recipients from both programs is available at <a href="#">this link</a>.</li> <li>• The Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative (DWRF) is hosting a tour of local industry in Southwest Colorado on July 13.</li> <li>• New ownership of a sawmill in Hotchkiss is looking to upgrade and expand the mill. They may apply for USFS funding in the future.</li> <li>• Tim Reader continues to work to identify potential Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zones in Colorado. He is working with the USFS to identify an economic development group to make the analysis viable.</li> <li>• Jefferson Conservation District and Jefferson County have been working on establishing a slash yard. They are looking to establish a permanent site and transition the site to a sort yard to better differentiate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions/Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tim Reader:</b> Send information on the Southwest Colorado Industry Tour to Samuel Wallace to distribute to the Subcommittee.</li> </ul>
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<p>materials. Southwest Colorado is also exploring the option of establishing a sort yard.</p>	
<p><b>DISCUSSION TOPIC:</b> Colorado Timber Industry Association Annual Meeting</p>	
<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) held its annual meeting. Around 60 people attended the meeting. The annual meeting covered a variety of topics, from noxious weeds to forest ecology.</li> <li>• This year, CTIA focused on inviting more foresters to strengthen the relationship between foresters and operators.</li> <li>• Industry members discussed preventative equipment maintenance.</li> <li>• There was a session on blanket purchasing agreements. The USFS Region 2 Office is working on implementing blanket purchasing agreements. Under a blanket purchasing agreement, contractors must apply for whatever forest they want to work on in Colorado, except the Rio Grande National Forest. Once the USFS approves a blanket agreement, the contract will be qualified to apply for any project on that forest. They will also receive emails about upcoming projects for bid.</li> <li>• Jason Lawhon, USFS, gave a presentation on RMRI. He discussed how partners prioritized landscapes based on potential operational delineations (PODs).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions/Action Items</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION TOPIC:</b> 2020 Colorado Industry and Timber Harvest Report</p>	
<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSFS conducted a survey of the forest industry in Colorado in 2020. The results from the survey indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A decline in the number of timber facilities, sawmills, and log home manufacturers</li> <li>○ An increase in timber harvesting on National Forest lands and a larger increase in timber harvesting on private lands (particularly in Gunnison, Eagle, Costilla, Pitkin, and Dolores Counties)</li> <li>○ An increase in timber harvesting in spruce, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and true fir forests</li> <li>○ A decline in finished product sales, particularly in post and pole products, furniture, and energy</li> <li>○ A slight increase in saw log, mill residue, chips, shavings, and mulch sales</li> <li>○ Increase in labor income and employment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The results of the survey are still under review.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions/Action Items</b></p> <p>None.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The data was collected in 2020. The hope is that there will be increases in industry numbers from 2020 to the present.</li><li>• The response rate to the survey was low, and the survey results do not include some counties where timber harvesting occurs. There is survey fatigue among industry members.</li><li>• Recent increases in fuel prices make it harder to export timber. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is partnering with the USFS to work on innovative transfer methods, such as railroads. In the future, there may be an opportunity to bring NWTF staff to discuss this project.</li></ul> |  |
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<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Samuel Wallace will distribute a Doodle to schedule the next Biomass Utilization Subcommittee meeting in late August/early September.</li></ul> |  |
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