

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
July 27, 2022, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
RMRI Workforce Capacity Subcommittee
Meeting Summary – FINAL

RMRI WORKFORCE CAPACITY SUBCOMMITTEE	
ATTENDANCE: Justin Britton, John McCarthy, Molly Pitts, Tim Reader, Scott Segerstrom, Tara Umphries	
ACTION ITEMS	
Molly Pitts	Reach out to either Bill Jackson or Phil Iverson at the USFS to discuss their recreation workforce challenges.
Molly Pitts and Tim Reader	Send Kurt Mackes' draft curriculum for a forest operations program to Samuel Wallace to distribute to the Subcommittee for feedback.
Scott Segerstrom	Send Molly Pitts and Tim Reader the work plan for the Colorado Climate Corps.
MEETING SUMMARY	
PRESENTATION TOPIC: CalFire's Workforce Development Grant Program, presented by Justin Britton and John McCarthy	
<p>Presentation Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CalFire is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The agency has over 1,000 employees. • In response to forest crises in California, the state put forward the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. One goal of the plan is to scale up forest management to treat one million acres annually (one half on federal land and the other half on non-federal lands). California needs to expand its workforce and utilization capacity to reach this goal. • California established a wood products and bioenergy team with four staff members. This team manages grant programs to support forest sector business development and workforce capacity. • The first grant solicitation effort for workforce development projects occurred in January 2022. The grant administrators accept proposals continually and award projects quarterly. No match is required to be eligible for workforce development funding; business development funds require a match. • Eligible projects for the workforce development grant must focus on providing training opportunities in logging, fuels treatment, forest sector transportation, forest sector manufacturing, or other forest sector support services. Organizational eligibility is broad and essentially covers all applicants. • The grant administrators review the projects for the scope of work, budget, accreditation from the training, the project's viability beyond grant funding, cost efficiency, and how many hireable trainees will come from the program. They also look at letters of support to demonstrate local support for the project. They also want to support projects in disadvantaged communities. Lastly, they evaluate the administrative capacity to determine whether the applicant can manage the project. • The grant administrators use a disadvantaged communities map created by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify communities in need. They also rely on the grant application narrative. 	

- CalFire staff screen and summarize all the projects. A review committee composed of USFS partners, financing institutions, and other subject matter experts evaluates the proposals and shares their feedback with CalFire.
- The workforce development grant program has supported:
 - The forestry equipment operations program at Shasta College
 - The forestry education and job placement program at Lake Tahoe Community College
 - The Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions, a program that focuses on basic fire, chainsaw, first aid/CPR training in tribal communities
 - The Central Valley Forest Health Corps, a 16-week program that provides hands-on opportunities
 - The Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship Program
 - The Forestry Challenge, a program for high schoolers that introduces them to forest management concepts
 - A forestry institute for teachers that educates California teachers about forest science, operations, and manufacturing
 - The Forestry and Natural Resources Career Mentorship Program, which pairs recent forestry graduates with professionals
 - The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program, which provides career opportunities to people who were previously incarcerated
 - The expansion of the Central Forestry Corps at Reedley College
- Since CalFire opened the workforce development and biomass utilization program in January 2022, they have received 52 proposals requesting over \$60 million in grant funds. They have awarded 10 of 17 workforce applications for \$15 million and 18 of 33 biomass utilization applications for \$17.5 million.
- The workforce development projects can be categorized into professional development, education, or fuels/prescribed fire tech projects. CalFire funded one professional development project, three education programs, and six fuels/prescribed fire tech programs.
- CalFire established a statewide workforce development committee that is working on developing a strategic plan. Federal partners, like the USFS, participate in that committee. The committee anticipates releasing the plan in November 2022.
- The California State Legislature allocated \$24 million towards the workforce development program, but because demand for funding was so high, the legislature allocated more funding.
- CalFire requires quarterly reports for all grantees.
- The most successful workforce development projects involve partnerships. Communication between educational providers and industry is key to shaping curriculum and creating opportunities to expose students to potential employers and career paths.
- CalFire learned that they have to market the workforce development program to make it successful. CalFire staff attended logging conferences and spread the word about the program.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Action Item Updates

Discussion Points:

- Molly Pitts, Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA), has not had the opportunity to contact someone at the USFS about their recreation workforce capacity. Phil Iverson or Bill Jackson are good contacts at the USFS to discuss recreation workforce challenges.

Decision/Action Items:

- **Molly Pitts:** Reach out to either Bill Jackson or Phil Iverson at the USFS to discuss their recreation workforce challenges.
- **Scott Segerstrom:** Send Molly Pitts and Tim Reader the work plan for the Colorado Climate Corps.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Segerstrom, Colorado Youth Corps Association, will send Molly Pitts and Tim Reader, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), the work plan for the Colorado Climate Corps. • Molly Pitts and Tim Reader presented to the full Colorado Forest Health Council (CFHC) and their Legislative Committee. The CFHC represents key stakeholders, and they were interested in the workforce capacity topic. • Molly Pitts and Tim Reader presented at the Wildfire Matters Review Committee. They told the committee that there is a need to expand community college and intern programs. Molly and Tim will keep the Subcommittee updated if the Wildfire Matters Review Committee decides to move forward with legislation related to forestry workforce capacity. • It would be helpful to have legislation that allows students to use training programs (e.g., chainsaw training, invasive spraying) as accredits towards a community college degree. • Kurt Mackes has developed a draft curriculum for a forest operations program. • The University of Idaho is launching a new program. They offer three associate degrees in wildfire technology, harvesting technology, and tree nursery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly Pitts and Tim Reader: Send Kurt Mackes' draft curriculum for a forest operations program to Samuel Wallace to distribute to the Subcommittee for feedback.
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Next Steps

- Samuel Wallace will send out a Doodle to schedule the next Workforce Capacity Subcommittee meeting in September.