

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
February 12, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
RMRI Biomass Utilization Subcommittee
Meeting Summary – FINAL

RMRI BIOMASS UTILIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE	
ATTENDANCE: Liz Dowling, Todd Gardiner, Derek Lowstutter, Megan Maxwell, Tim Reader, Nathan Van Schaik	
ACTION ITEMS	
Tim Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute the Colorado Mass Timber Coalition working documents to the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee once they are ready for public distribution. Organize a tour with Charm Industrial in the middle of March.
Nathan Van Schaik and Todd Gardiner	Coordinate an RMRI lunch-and-learn on the USFS's woody biomass grants in the late summer/early fall.
MEETING SUMMARY	
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Action Items Update from November Meeting	
Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Reader had the action item to distribute the working documents from the Colorado Mass Timber Coalition to the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee. The Colorado Mass Timber Coalition managers informed Tim that the documents were not ready for distribution. Those documents are currently out for review by coalition members. Tim will distribute the working documents once they are ready for public distribution. Nathan Van Schaik and Todd Gardiner, US Forest Service (USFS), had the action item to explore hosting an RMRI lunch-and-learn about the USFS's woody biomass utilization grants. The applications will likely be due in October, so hosting that lunch-and-learn in the late summer/early fall makes sense. Todd will also be presenting on this topic at the Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) meeting in March. 	Decisions/Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Reader: Distribute the Colorado Mass Timber Coalition working documents to the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee once they are ready for public distribution. Nathan Van Schaik and Todd Gardiner: Coordinate an RMRI lunch-and-learn on the USFS's wood utilization grants in the late summer/early fall.
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Legislative Updates	
Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) has hired a new CSFS legislative affairs specialist. Several bills are going through the Wildfire Matters Review Committee, including a couple related to biomass utilization. One bill is on disaster response and includes language on providing support and assistance to communities to develop slash programs. Another bill is to fund biochar research on Colorado-specific production and opportunities. Additional bills are going through the Wildfire Matters Review Committee on outreach and helping communities access federal, state, and local grant programs. There is also a bill concerning the ability to utilize fire-resistant materials in buildings. Tim can no longer publicly distribute the legislative summaries produced by CSFS. Biomass Utilization Subcommittee members can search for these bills on the Colorado General website under the Wildfire Matters Review Committee webpage. 	Decisions/Action Items: None.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: New Cross-Laminated Video in Support of Oregon Department of Forestry and CSFS	
<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSFS and Oregon Department of Forestry recently released a new video on cross-laminated timber produced by Timber Age Systems. The video is available at this link. • The USFS Wood Innovations Program provided funding to support Timber Age Systems. If possible, including a mention of the Wood Innovations Program's support of Timber Age Systems would highlight the program's benefits and spread awareness. • The Oregon Department of Forestry has been working on standing up a mass timber industry in its state. The Colorado Mass Timber Coalition is based on the success of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition. The two coalitions have been collaborating. The Oregon Department of Forestry received a multi-million-dollar US Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to codify its efforts to promote mass timber. 	<p>Decisions/Action Items:</p> <p>None.</p>
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Brief Partner Updates on Biomass Utilization	
<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new company called Charm Industrial has launched in Colorado. This company focuses on decarbonization by converting biomass into oil and injecting it into abandoned oil and gas wells. Charm Industrial is currently focused on taking agricultural waste, but they are working on a procurement strategy to take woody biomass from forest treatments. They are only interested in green and dead wood, not wood from urban sources. They are interested in hosting a tour with key partners. Charm Industrial is in Fort Lupton. • In the Upper South Platte, Stewardship West, in partnership with a private business, is operating a sort yard in Fairplay. The sort yard accepts woody biomass from treatments and then sorts it for different end markets. They are taking seven loads of wood/day. • The USFS Region 2 has ranked the applications for the USFS wood utilization grant programs (e.g., Wood Innovation, Community Wood, etc.), and they are sending their priority projects to the Washington Office. The USFS will likely not announce grant awards until April or May due to budgetary challenges at the national level. • Colorado Timber Industry Association is hosting their annual meeting on April 18 and 19. The April 18 session will consist of speakers/presentations, and the April 19 session will consist of a mill tour. • The primary investigators for the statewide biomass assessment continue to draft the report. They plan on releasing the report section by section in the near future. 	<p>Decisions/Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Reader: Organize a tour with Charm Industrial in the middle of March.
NEXT STEPS	
Samuel will send a Doodle Poll to schedule the next Biomass Utilization Subcommittee meeting.	
RESOURCES AND LINKS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado General Assembly Wildfire Matters Review Committee Webpage • Video on Cross-Laminated Timber Produced by Timber Age Systems 	