

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant Award Offers -- 2023 Q3

Disclaimer: This roster includes the list of tentative grant award offers.

Project Type	Applicant	Project Name	County	Requested Funds	Project Description
Biomass Transportation Subsidy	Hat Creek Bioenergy LLC	Hat Creek Bioenergy Biomass Transportation	Shasta Sonoma Yolo	\$ 2,000,000	Hat Creek Bioenergy LLC, in partnership with West Biofuels and Peterson Timber, seeks funding to subsidize the transportation of woody biomass from forest restoration operations in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and other public and private timberlands to their community bioenergy facility in Burney, California. The project will show how transportation subsidies can support restoration efforts and incentivize the creation of new bioenergy facilities in areas where feedstock supply exceeds demand. In alignment with the program goals, the project will increase the annual acreage of forest treatment by helping create a new long-term user of 35,000 BDT/yr of residual biomass. The result is transforming material that would otherwise be burned in the forest into useful renewable energy for the community.
Biomass Transportation Subsidy	Woodland Biomass Power, LLC	Woodland Biomass Power Transportation Subsidy Program	Yolo	\$ 3,000,000	Woodland Biomass Power, LLC, a 28 MW wood fired power plant located in Woodland, CA, is applying for the biomass transportation subsidy to support the movement of 90,900 BDT from tier 1 and tier 2 priority landscape areas and Sustainable National Forest areas to the power plant. WBPL has identified eight suppliers who have high hazard material available, but for which the transportation charges to move the material to the power plant are cost prohibitive. Much of this material would otherwise be disposed of by open-air burning in the forest. WBPL offers a more controlled, lower emission alternative to this disposal method.
Business Development	Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions	CHIPS Expansion	Amador Calaveras El Dorado Mariposa Stanislaus Tuolumne	\$ 317,116	This project contemplates an expansion of Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS). CHIPS' mission is wildfire prevention via fuels reduction and to give any jobs we can create to the disadvantaged community, particularly Native Americans. We currently have 46 crew members configured into five crews working in the LTBMU, Hope Valley, Yosemite National Park and Sequoia Crest. CHIPS desires to add two more 12-person crews to work projects included in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority's Forest Projects Plan (FPP) and also Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions' Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project in the central west slope region of the Sierras. This grant request is to finance the outreach, recruiting, training and equipping of two fuels reduction crews.

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Business Development	Caribou Biofuels	Deployment and Optimization of the CARIBOU Mobile Biorefinery Platform	Alameda San Francisco San Joaquin Stanislaus	\$ 500,000	We will deploy and optimize the mobile Inclined Rotary Gasifier (IRG) technology under real world deployment conditions at targeted CA sites. This will demonstrate that this mobile IRG conversion platform is a viable technology ready for deployment in CA and validate that the biofuels generated by the unit are drop-in biofuels suitable for use in diesel engines. We will work with CLERE Inc. to obtain all necessary permits and CEQA approvals at all three sites. This project will enable future sales of the CARIBOU platform and will increase both its marketplace impact and environmental benefit to CA. We have identified a manufacturing partner, Flory Industries, as well as industry partners that form the core of our initial business development plan.
Business Development	Mariposa Bioenergy LLC	Developing the Foundation Phase for the Mariposa Bioenergy Facility	Mariposa	\$ 2,000,000	Mariposa Bioenergy, LLC, in collaboration with West Biofuels, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, Mariposa Biomass Project, and others, seeks funding to complete site grading, preparation of a feedstock area, installation of a fire prevention system, and the fabrication of bioenergy equipment. These activities will be the foundational pieces for deploying a 3 MW forest bioenergy production facility. When fully operational, it will validate economic operation of forest biomass to bioenergy conversion, while providing revenues to support needed biomass capture and transport. Thus, the project will kickstart local and regional forest management practices and jobs markets, and help the region develop a thriving and sustainable forest management industry that minimizes future catastrophic wildfire hazards, provides local jobs, and benefits underserved communities.
Business Development	Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC	Feasibility Analysis of Biomass-to-Power/Hydrogen Plant	Mendocino	\$ 500,000	Mendocino Forest Products proposes to execute the second stage of an engineering study to provide a profitable and environmentally beneficial use of sawmill residuals and expand biomass opportunities. The first stage of the study, funded by CALFIRE in 2022, graded six technology approaches for site suitability, economic potential, and risk profile. Results of the study showed that a combined hydrogen and power plant is the preferred pathway. The next stage, an FEL-2 study, will produce engineering documents for the new plant. Among other deliverables, it will result in a financial model, site assessment, equipment quotations, and permit application preparation. This plant has the potential to de-risk and develop the hydrogen marketplace for biomass and increase local biomass utilization capacity.

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Business Development	Johnson Contracting LLC	Forest Product Transportation Business Development Program	Humboldt Lassen Modoc Shasta Siskiyou Trinity	\$ 150,000	Johnson Contracting LLC will purchase a heavy duty class truck tractor (Kenworth T800 or equivalent) which would increase productivity, efficiency, and environmental sustainability of forest health in Northern California. The purchase of this truck tractor will allow for the transportation of biomass products in chip or chip log form for both our current operation, along with partner companies projects. This vehicle will also create efficient transportation of our existing fuel reduction and biomass operation, allowing us to maneuver between different projects during a limited yearly operating period. Finally, this vehicle will allow us to update our existing transportation operation to fully meet state and federal emissions regulations.
Business Development	G.C. Cook Forest Products, Inc.	G.C. Forest Products, Inc. Business Expansion Project	Mono	\$ 164,000	G.C. Forest Products, Inc. is a logging timber operator based in Mammoth Lakes, Mono County with more than 50 years of experience. The company requests grant funds to expand their in-woods fuel reduction operations to include a feller buncher. This equipment will significantly boost GCFP's capacity to harvest material and manufacture their existing wood products, increase the pace and scale of restoration, and support their future pellet mill operations and the region's other emerging wood and biomass utilization facilities. The feller buncher will increase harvest volumes by up to 3,000 ccf per year, improve worker safety, create two new jobs, and advance treatment of an additional 400 acres annually.
Business Development	Cal Forest Nurseries, Inc.	Scaling California Cone Collection & Seed Processing	Statewide	\$ 592,500	The emerging regime of severe and frequent fires threatens California conifer seed supply as mature trees die in fire and thus impacting downstream seedling availability. For this project, Cal Forest Nurseries and Mast Reforestation propose to build a robust seed supply by collecting 5,000 bushels of cones and processing upwards of 30,000 bushels for customers, over the next four years that would yield over 23,000 pounds of seeds. The seeds processed by Cal Forest will made available to other federal, state and tribal entities, and private landowners, and grown into seedlings that will replace the fire-impacted forest stands.
Business Development	Ascent Forestry	Technology Forward Forest Health Management	Mariposa	\$ 500,000	Ascent will purchase a John Deere high through-put harvester with Cut-to-Length capabilities and a Forwarder with grapple. Equipment will be outfitted with integrated mapping software to better document treatments applied to each acre in the project and manage the workflow in real time. Ascent will bring a new remote-controlled masticator to allow for mastication on steeper and more technical slopes. The trio of equipment will compliment Ascent's current forestry operations, expanding capabilities in High Risk, including urban WUI's throughout the State of California.

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Business Development	Woodland Biomass Power, LLC	Woodland Biomass Power Grinder Project	Yolo	\$ 1,001,667	Woodland Biomass Power, LLC is seeking to expand its current onsite grinding capabilities by installing a new electric grinder (including electrical upgrades required to support the grinder and additional mobile equipment to move logs). The expansion of onsite grinding seeks to alleviate the bottleneck created by the existing infrastructure that prevents chip trucks from effectively accessing log sites and will allow the company to process additional cull logs from priority areas. This ground wood will then be used as fuel to generate electricity instead of being disposed by burning in the forest.
Workforce Development	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Building Today's Forestry and Fire Workforce with an Award-Winning CTE Program	El Dorado	\$ 434,050	The Black Oak Mine Unified School District is committed to expanding our current slate of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs with the Building Today's Forestry and Fire Workforce with an Award Winning CTE Program. Our project seeks to create a Forest Product Utilization and Innovation CTE program in two phases: In Phase One, BOMUSD will acquire a small, portable sawmill and loader to support courses in Industrial Arts and Environmental Science. BOMUSD will partner with industry leaders and regional Community Colleges to develop an expanded curriculum for implementation in Phase Two, which will include new course offerings and certifications in arborist training/line clearing, heavy equipment operation, advanced sawmill operations and wood utilization, plus electives in Fire Sciences and Renewable Energy.
Workforce Development	American Forests	Cone Camps: Workforce Training for Future Forests	Statewide	\$ 474,358	The training and education provided by the "Cone Camps: Workforce for Future Forests" (Cone Camps) grant proposal is designed to equip individuals with essential skills in cone monitoring and collection. The curriculum focuses on practical knowledge and hands-on experience, ensuring participants are well-prepared for reforestation efforts. The proposed project builds upon the existing framework of the Cone Camps piloted in 2023 in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the USDA Forest Service Region 5, and the American Forests' Reforestation Pipeline Partnership team.

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Workforce Development	Resilience Force CA, LLC	Indigenous and Immigrant Farmworkers Building a Forest Resilience Workforce in the North Bay	Lake Sonoma	\$ 994,578	This project requests funding to put on a paid Spanish language training series that will equip 45 Spanish-speaking Immigrant and Indigenous farmworker residents with the experience to take on fuels management work in Sonoma County. Over the course of the 18 months, participants will complete 23 trainings covering a variety of forest health management skills, representing 250 hours of education and up to 5 NWCG certificates awarded per worker. Through collaboration with training partners Audubon Canyon Ranch/Fire Forward, the Watershed Center, Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance, and other local and regional entities, these meaningful training opportunities will create a knowledgeable local workforce, expand equitable long-term career opportunities for underserved communities, and serve as a replicable model for workforce development in the area.
Workforce Development	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation	Quartz Valley Surge Capacity Fire and Fuels Project	Siskiyou	\$ 495,404	This \$500,000 project provides fire and fuels training and professional development to 100 people over three years, with 11,400 training hours, about 300 certificates earned, and higher qualifications achieved for five Tribal employees. Three two-week fire academies to be hosted on Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) will meet the needs of rural, underserved communities, increasing local capacity for fuels management, fire suppression, and prescribed burning. These fire academies close to home will make training more accessible for QVIR and surrounding communities, but will also be open to others around the state. This grant will also support travel to and participation in regional prescribed fire training exchanges (TRES events) to help trainees gain hands-on experience in different terrain and fuel types.
Workforce Development	County of Tuolumne	Tuolumne County Heavy Equipment Logging Operations (HELO)	Tuolumne	\$ 1,669,928	This project will create a Heavy Equipment Logging Operations (HELO) and Maintenance training program (through work-based learning and certification) to help with workforce development for HELO. By contracting with Columbia College to provide Contract Training, this will develop an industry recognized certificate. Work-based learning will be held at the worksites of current and ongoing fuel reduction projects through the County. This will be "next level" in the career path for the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps graduates that have initial HELO training provided and decide to advance their careers through continued work-based learning in HELO positions. For workers who didn't go through the corps and already have Forestry experience, they can go straight into HELO, and take the full course.
			Total	\$ 14,793,601	