

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant Awards -- 2022 Q3					
Project Type	Applicant	Project Name	County	Requested Funds	Project Description
Business Development	County of Placer	Cabin Creek Biomass Facility	Placer	\$ 2,000,000	<p>Cabin Creek is a shovel-ready project with a completed and approved EIR and 60% design plans. The facility will be comprised of a 2-megawatt biomass-to-energy facility located on Eastern Regional Landfill (ERL) green waste processing site in North Tahoe. This project will increase local biomass outlet capacity by 18,000 BDT per year and provide renewable energy to local areas and county facilities. The project will reduce catastrophic wildfire risk by utilizing existing green waste produced at ERL supplied from forest service land and residential defensible space clearing to produce energy.</p> <p>Additional benefits span from offsetting rising electricity costs with green renewable energy, powering the County's public transportation vehicles as they transition to zero emission electric buses, reducing the overall SB 1383 Calrecycle procurement requirements, and providing resiliency and an additional 24/7 energy input into the local power grid allowing for adaptability during power outages.</p>
Business Development	American Wood Fibers, Inc.	Innovative Wood Product Expansion into Western US Market	Yuba	\$ 1,700,000	<p>The project will install a wood flour system that will increase consumption of mill residuals from this facility and other area wood products mills, providing needed markets for waste fiber. Wood flour is made from sawdust, shavings, and chips that are processed into a variety of finely screened wood particles. It is used as a binder and extender in wood plastic composites thereby reducing the need for raw plastic and increasing sequestration of carbon that would likely have been burned for energy purposes. Wood flour is also used in paper manufacturing, chemical formulations, and multiple other industrial applications.</p>
Business Development	J&C Lumber Inc	Expanding a Community-Run Sawmill for Wildfire Recovery	Plumas	\$ 449,485	<p>J&C Lumber will purchase a new, automated band sawmill for producing large specialty timbers. The new equipment will expand existing operations of a sawmill that launched in response to the 2021 Dixie Fire and ensure its long-term viability. The expanded facility will generate 2.9 MMBF of lumber annually. This outlet for sawlogs will enable important post-fire recovery work and other forest health activities in the region. Large timbers manufactured by J&C Lumber will be incorporated into fire-resilient post-and-beam timber frame construction currently planned for rebuilding businesses and homes that were lost in Greenville, CA from the Dixie Fire. CAL FIRE grant funding will ensure the long-term viability of the operation so that it can continue to directly benefit the community through job creation, economic stimulation, keeping post-fire rebuilding dollars local, and creating an outlet for byproducts of post-fire recovery and forest restoration.</p>
Business Development	Northstar Community Services District	NCSD Biomass Heat Energy Project - September 2022 Application	Placer	\$ 2,000,000	<p>NCSD requests \$2,000,000 to help fund a boiler system and building for a biomass district energy system. In 2008, NCSD implemented a forest fuels management program and has treated over 2,000 acres. Approximately 850 BDT of biomass is extracted annually, most of which is diverted to compost/landfill. The project entails construction of a biomass energy system utilizing regional forest biomass to generate heat for fourteen large buildings, reducing methane gas dependence. The project will accelerate NCSD's fuels management program while improving its environmental footprint by creating a local use for otherwise non-merchantable material. The project could serve as a catalyst for other biomass energy systems in the region, helping to promote landscape-level forest management. The project will also help to develop a sustainable regional biomass industry to achieve hazard reduction, improved ecosystem health, and lowered greenhouse gas emissions, which support the goals outlined by CALFIRE and U.S. Forest Service.</p>

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Business Development	Mt. Lassen Power Inc.	Mt. Lassen Power Restart	Lassen	\$ 1,500,000	Mt. Lassen Power Inc. is restarting the 10 MW biomass to energy facility located in Westwood, Lassen County. Requested grant funds will be used for a feedstock drying shed that will protect wood chips and maintain a consistent moisture content, thereby supporting boiler efficiency, decreased fuel costs, and air permit compliance. Grant funds will also be used to purchase an articulated rubber-tracked loader to transport chips from the stockpile to the infeed more quickly and efficiently than otherwise possible. Plant restart will accelerate wildfire recovery, advance resilient forests and support the region's wood industry and forestry workforce. The plant will facilitate forest treatments on 8,000 acres annually, and create 20 jobs including two specific to the proposed equipment. Without this facility, recovery from the State's second largest fire may not be possible.
Business Development - Tree Nursery	Ojai Valley Land Conservancy	Rewild Ojai: Native Plant Nursery Expansion and Capacity Building	Ventura	\$ 152,331	Rewild Ojai is OVLC's initiative to upgrade its native plant nursery at the Ojai Meadows Preserve in Ventura County (contract unit) and build staff capacity to accomplish four outcomes: increase the quantity and diversity of native plants grown; initiate seed conservation program; assist private landowners with oak woodland, chaparral, and riparian habitat restoration; and expand leadership in native plant propagation and restoration. OVLC's expanded nursery will have the capacity to produce over 10,000 native seedlings/year and is projected to generate more than \$75,000 net revenue annually from sales across three target markets: Plant Sales, Contract Orders, and Private Lands Restoration. Increase in production will focus on long-living hardwoods like oaks (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> , <i>Q.lobata</i>), black walnut (<i>Juglans californica</i>), and western sycamore (<i>Platanus racemosa</i>) and chaparral shrubs like bigpod ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i>), bigberry manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>), and hollyleaf cherry (<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>) that contribute to local biodiversity, wildfire adaptation, and climate resilience.
Business Development - Tree Nursery	Sierra Pacific Industries	Gazelle Conifer Nursery- Phase 1	Siskiyou	\$ 3,000,000	Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) recognizes the need for a nursery that specializes in production of native conifer seedlings for restoration, research, and conservation projects. Current nursery capacity in the Western U.S is not nearly sufficient to fill the current need for seedlings for reforestation projects. SPI proposes to construct a nursery in Gazelle, CA, at the company's seed orchard that will help alleviate this deficit of production facilities. A local conifer nursery that is similar in size employs as many as 110 seasonal employees. This influx of jobs will benefit a small town in northern California. It is anticipated the annual production of seedlings at full capacity will be 25 million. However, full capacity is not expected to be met until the spring of 2026. The nursery will require a "ramping-up. The project anticipates the first crop sow will be approximately 6 million seedlings, and the second crop sow will be 12 million seedlings.

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Business Development - Tree Nursery	The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	Northern Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades Native Plant Propagation Capacity Development	Lassen Plumas	\$ 70,530	Support for this proposal will allow development of critical infrastructure in the Northern Sierra-Nevada and Southern Cascades bioregion of California that will create capacity to propagate native plant material for nearby restoration work. The proposed additionality as a result of funding will be a 20 foot by 20 foot wooden lath shade house built on the Sierra Institute owned Wood Products Campus in Crescent Mills, CA to facilitate the propagation of 3,000 native plants annually for restoration work at Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO). While the scale of this project is small, it will pilot a novel business model to the region that is in demand: producing rare and often endemic plant species that are difficult to find elsewhere for restoration work in the region.
Workforce Development	Chico State Enterprises	Higher Education Prescribe Fire Training	Butte Plumas	\$ 1,210,615	Catastrophic wildfires have devastated Northern California in recent years. Prescribed and cultural fire is a critical tool to mitigate the impact these fires have on our communities and ecosystems. In order to utilize prescribed fire at the required scale, a motivated and experienced prescribed fire workforce must be developed. Chico State Enterprises and Feather River College will build upon an already established strong prescribed fire training partnership to formally design and implement the Higher Education Prescribed Fire Training (HEFT) program which will result in a trained, professional, and accessible workforce for private and public land managers pursuing prescribed fire projects throughout Northern California. The HEFT program will provide over 200 federally recognized certifications through National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards to over 60 participants over three years. For a minimal investment of \$20,177 per participant, these 60 practitioners will provide an immediate impact on prescribed fire project capacity across California.
Workforce Development	Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board/Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation	Central Valley Forestry Corps - Reedley & Mother Lode	Amador Calaveras Fresno Madera Mariposa Tuolumne	\$ 1,973,615	The Central Valley Forestry Corps (CVFC), developed by the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), is a best-practice model to recruit, train, provide work experience, and link local residents to quality entry-level jobs in the forestry sector. CVFC's activities center on outreach to underserved and underrepresented populations, vocational classroom and hands-on training, industry-based curricula and certifications, work-based learning, paid work experience, needs-related stipends, educational support services, and wraparound services. With our partners at the Mother Lode Workforce Development Board (MLWDB), Reedley College, the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission's Local Conservation Corps (Fresno EOC LCC), ValleyROP, Yosemite Adult School, Columbia College, Sierra Resource Management, and Associated California Loggers (ACL), the CVFC will expand this best-practice model to provide valuable forestry training to 85 residents in Fresno County and the Mother Lode region, including but not limited to Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties.

Total Award Amount = \$ 14,056,576