

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant Award Offers -- 2024 Q1					Disclaimer: This roster includes the list of tentative grant award offers.
Project Type	Applicant	Project Name	County	Award Offer	Project Description
Business Development	Loamist	Biomass Validator	Statewide	\$ 500,000	Loamist is a software company on a mission to increase utilization of waste biomass. Loamist is seeking a CAL FIRE grant to support the development of a track and trace software called Biomass Validator's purpose built for the biomass market and specifically built to simplify compliance with CAL FIRE's transportation subsidy program (as well as Federal Renewable Fuels Standard, California Low Carbon Fuels Standard, BioRAM and BioMAT).
Business Development	Absolute Tree Service	Business Development Equipment Purchase	Madera	\$ 329,000	Absolute Tree Services proposes to acquire a Mecalac 10MCR excavator with a FAE mulching head, a FAE PT-175 forestry mulching machine, and an equipment trailer. This will double their current fuels reduction capacity to ~840 acres and lead to the hiring of two full-time equipment operators.
Business Development	North Fork Lumber Company	California Sawmill Mass Timber Production R&D	Humboldt	\$ 492,500	Despite California's leading role in mass timber demand, the state lacks its own production, hindering wildfire mitigation efforts and rural economic growth. North Fork Lumber Company (NFLC) proposes research and development into dowel laminated timber (DLT) production, seeking the most efficient way to add value to their current product mix. Partnering with Holmes Engineering, UC Berkeley, and Flame Security International, NFLC will explore DLT applications, produce novel DLT panels for material testing, and refine production strategies. This R&D project will provide market, material and logistical data to inform NFLC's decision to establish the first California-based mass timber production facility alongside their sawmill. This research will target the utilization of low-value and low-grade lumber products from California forests in order to mitigate wildfire risks and build a more resilient future. By leveraging local expertise and public-private collaboration, NFLC strives to unlock California's full potential in sustainable mass timber production.
Business Development	Lepage Company, Inc.	Carbonizer Mobile Pyrolysis to Advance Fuel Reduction & Biochar Utilization in Northern California	Tehama	\$ 403,376	Lepage Company Inc. is requesting \$403,376.25 to procure a Tigercat 6040 Carbonizer, which is a mobile wood debris conversion system that produces biochar through pyrolysis. Employing the Carbonizer to reduce fuels and create biochar is a multi-solution biomass utilization approach. The Carbonizer will support forest-sector business development, in-woods fuel reduction operations, post-fire forest recovery efforts, employment opportunities, low-income communities, and restoring priority landscapes. Additionally, the biochar generated from the Carbonizer will support the local economy and promote healthy soils in forests and on agricultural lands. Lepage Company will use the Carbonizer to improve operational efficiency while reducing treatment costs, which will help advance the pace and scale of forest resilience efforts in Northern California.

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Business Development	Falk Forestry, Inc.	Challenging Terrain & Adverse Weather Solution - Tigercat 180 Swing Yarder	Lake Sonoma Yuba	\$ 1,101,475	<p>Falk Forestry proposes the acquisition of a Tigercat 180 Swing Yarder, a masticator head, and a CAT527 Grapple Skidder to improve operational efficiency, safety, and environmental impacts of our logging, forest health and Carbonizer biomass processing operations.</p> <p>Increased Efficiency: The yarder has a higher production compared to ground-based methods, especially in adverse weather and across difficult terrain, resulting in reduced downtime of our felling and carbonizer crews, faster project completion and reduced costs.</p> <p>Enhanced Safety: The cable system eliminates the need for heavy machinery to operate on wet/muddy slopes, minimizing the risk of accidents and injuries to our crew.</p> <p>Environmental Impact: The yarder's minimal soil disturbance and maneuverability in challenging terrain protect sensitive ecological areas and minimize environmental damage.</p> <p>This yarder, masticator and Caterpillar, represent a significant investment in Falk's future and will enable us to contribute even more effectively to CalFire's mission to promote responsible and efficient forest management.</p>
Business Development	BurnBot, Inc.	Expanding Prescribed Fire Treatment with Low Emissions and Reduced Escape Risk	Contra Costa Los Angeles Monterey Orange Riverside San Benito San Bernadino San Diego Santa Cruz Statewide	\$ 499,724	<p>BurnBot will undertake R&D testing with the goal of expanding prescribed burn conditions around fire safety and air quality permitting. The air quality testing will include working with California Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs) and source testing companies to apply current Air District, CARB and EPA methods to a new protocol to test our mobile equipment in order to demonstrate emissions data. The fire safety testing will include field experiments with local CAL FIRE units and Fire Department's participation to test BurnBot's RX operations in high fire risk conditions. The testing will demonstrate to parties involved in burn approvals the data needed to allow BurnBot to operate beyond traditional conditions for which the regulations were written with open burning as the main method. The testing will not only expand BurnBot's business development, but will enable 10-40x more acreage for prescribed treatments, dramatically improving California's forests.</p>

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Business Development	Plumas Wood Fiber	Feasibility Study for Processing Forest Biomass into Horticultural Potting Substrate	Plumas	\$ 59,705	This project requests partial funding for a Feasibility Study to be conducted by consultants to quantify all aspects of operation for a proposed facility in Plumas County that would process forest biomass into horticultural wood fiber potting substrate as a replacement for peat moss in potting mixtures. The project intent is to commercialize forest biomass by providing commercial greenhouse/nursery businesses with material they need for potting mixes, thus partly financing removal of the excess biomass from the forest. For this to be successful, three areas of operation must be carefully analyzed- feedstock supply and cost in the given geographic area, cost of facility development and operation, and market ability and willingness to accept the volumes of material produced. The Feasibility Study will attain these goals, providing a financial model basis for the operation, and provide for the next step of development- building a factory facility. Match funding provided.
Business Development	Sierra Resource Management, Inc.	Feller Buncher for Expanding Forest-Thinning Operations	Tuolumne	\$ 443,325	Sierra Resource Management (SRM) is a logging operator based in Sonora, CA with more than three decades of experience thinning forested lands in the Central Sierra. SRM is requesting \$443,325.00 in assistance to purchase a new TL745D TimberPro feller buncher with a modern Tier 4 Final engine. This new machine will dramatically improve the crew's productivity, reduce emissions, and increase annual treatment area by approximately 300 acres per year. Furthermore, the new machine will enable SRM to harvest an additional 5,000 tons of biomass per operational season. The combined impact of a cleaner engine, improved fuel efficiency, and increased acres treated translates to a reduction of 15,835 tons of CO2e over the life of the machine. If awarded this grant, SRM's second feller buncher will be used to train one additional employee on the team and participate in heavy equipment operation training in Columbia College's Greater Sierra Forestry Corps program.
Business Development	Crook Logging, Inc.	Forestry Equipment Purchase	Calaveras Tuolumne	\$ 463,544	We know that California forests are over grown and that we must increase the acres treated. Awarding Crook Logging, Inc. this grant for new equipment purchases is away to work towards these goals. The watersheds that we are operating in are in crucial need for protection for both the watershed's health, and that of the communities that rely on healthy forests. In a normal season, our current operation can remove 540 loads of logs, 540 loads of chips, and treat 540 acres. The equipment that this grant would provide would increase our production to 900 loads of logs, 900 loads of chips, and 900 acres treated.

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Business Development	High Desert Lumber LLC	High Desert Lumber and Dowel Mill	Modoc	\$ 999,750	High Desert Lumber (HDL) will make improvements to its sawmill in Alturas CA which was purchased out of bankruptcy in 2022 and began limited operation in late 2023. The mill is focused on using damaged and otherwise wasted wood from overstocked forests in Modoc County. The project includes the purchase and installation of a drying kiln; purchase and installation of 3 sizes of dowel machines which will utilize currently wasted or burned tops and small trees; and an upgraded sprinkler system which is required before the mill can expand operations. The project will result in the treatment of 2,600 acres; processing of 16,500 BDT biomass; and 10 new well paid mill jobs.
Business Development	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	Mosaic Timber: Launching Mass Timber Manufacturing in California	Plumas	\$ 2,000,000	Sierra Institute is building Mosaic Mass Timber at its wood utilization campus to help rebuild the local wood utilization industry, put locals back to work, and build homes following the devastating Dixie Fire. The project leverages diverse funding support and contributes to post-Dixie Fire restoration in the high risk, northern Sierra/southern Cascades forests and responds to the challenge of rebuilding a local wood utilization industry and local economy in an impoverished area. The operation will improve local forests, create 22 permanent, family wage positions and be the first cross laminated timber manufacturing operation in California. The \$11-million community scale facility will use 237,000 cu/ft of forest biomass to produce 4.9 million board feet and support the local sawmill that received a recent CalFire grant. The wood utilization area includes the Plumas and Lassen National Forests and nearby land that ranges from 3 to 5 on the Priority Landscape scale.
Business Development	CalPortland	Pyrolysis of wood-based materials for production of low GHG emission fuel for cement manufacturing	San Bernadino	\$ 500,000	This R&D based project intends to install a pyrolysis system at Oro Grande plant for processing wood biomass product to convert it into value-added products, to be used in Manufacturing of clinker. Pyrolysis work at small R&D scale will be implemented within operations. The product of pyrolysis will be used at a low-carbon fuel.
Business Development	Sierra Forest Products	Sierra Forest Products Planer Mill Upgrade	Tulare	\$ 1,500,000	Sierra Forest Products ("SFP") intends to use the Business and Workforce Development Grant ("BWD Grant") to upgrade its planer. SFP plans to add five additional trays to its sorter, install an inline trimmer, and add a transverse grading system to improve its manufacturing efficiency. The planer upgrades would also reduce manufacturing costs and provide long-term workforce stability to on-site employees and forest-sector vendors. The planer upgrades entail industry-leading technology, and the upgrades would help SFP remain competitive with out-of-state businesses in the wood products industry. SFP plays an integral role in California and the Southern Sierras; therefore, BWD Grant funds would help SFP withstand market volatility and rising external and internal labor costs.

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Business Development	Left Coast Land Clearing	Tigercat Feller-Buncher	Tuolumne	\$ 463,448	This application is for funding assistance in the purchase of a new Tigercat LX830E feller-buncher and associated masticating and cutting heads. This machine will have acres to treat as soon as delivery can take place, as Left Coast Land Clearing has approximately 1,000 acres of fuel reduction currently under contract. This funding request is meant to help the company increase its productive capacity and has the additional benefit of providing one additional living-wage operator job. Please note: This is a duplicate application due to the budget overstating total project cost on the initial application.
Business Development	Warner Enterprises, Inc.	Warner Enterprises, Inc. Biomass Project	Shasta	\$ 1,319,162	Warner Enterprises, Inc. (WEI) is an existing forest management company in Redding, Shasta County, with over 45 years of experience. WEI is establishing a wood sorting and storage yard in Anderson, Shasta County, to provide a reliable supply of feedstock to existing and emerging bioenergy and biofuels facilities in the region. WEI is requesting a tracked horizontal grinder in support of expanding its forestry operations and to increase the volume of trees and biomass processed on National Forest System, State, and private lands. The grinder will also process whole cull logs stored at the Anderson yard when in-woods operations pause due to winter weather or other reasons (e.g., fire, limited operating periods), maximizing grinder operating days and feedstock production. Operational efficiencies of the equipment and additional grinder operating days will achieve 108,000BDT/yr processed into feedstock (7 times more than existing), and facilitate forest restoration on 5,000 acres/yr.
Workforce Development	Cal Poly Humboldt SPONSORED Programs Foundation	A New Masters Program for a Workforce Skilled in Contemporary Forest Challenges	Statewide	\$ 716,628	Our project expedites the training of skilled forestry professionals by establishing in perpetuity a new Cal Poly Humboldt forestry master's program. The program will recruit students from a new and diverse pool of California State University (CSU) science majors, and graduate 15-20 forestry professionals each year (258 over the next 15 years). Project activities and deliverables will include: (1) a recruitment program that targets CSU graduates from a variety of science majors and provides early knowledge and skills training for transition to the forestry master's program, (2) job program for economically disadvantaged students, (3) professional experience working on contemporary forestry challenges, and (4) mentorship, job placement support, and progress towards becoming a registered professional forester.

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Workforce Development	College of the Redwoods	College of the Redwoods Klamath-Trinity (KT) Campus Forestry Field School Pilot	Humboldt	\$ 307,210	College of the Redwoods (CR) Klamath-Trinity (KT) Pilot Forestry Field School will provide a 1-year Forestry and Natural Resourced (FNR) certificate program at the CR KT and Hoopa Valley High School campus on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. The field school will introduce skills and opportunities in FNR to high school youth. This program would serve as an intermediary between exploring an interest in a career and being prepared for entry level field positions. A dual-enrollment Introduction to FNR course will be taught at the high school through a traditional ecological knowledge lens. Students could enter the workforce more prepared after the program and could be motivated to continue their degree at CR or transfer to Cal Poly Humboldt. The grant would also support the existing CR FNR program's ability to award certificates and AS degrees at the college by ensuring equitable and safe transportation for high quality field training.
Workforce Development	California Local Conservation Corps Foundation	Statewide Local Corps Training, Resiliency and Job Placement	Statewide	\$ 3,410,386	This funding would support training and job placement for 12 of the Local Conservation Corps in California from Sacramento to San Diego and several counties in between. The project would include Basic S-212 chainsaw training, wildland fire training sessions (certifications in I-100, S-1 30, L-180, S190) and advanced S-212 training for 12 Corps during the 2 year program. Fire Training will be provided by Working On Fire. Training would be available for Corpsmembers and supervisors (Advanced S-212 train the trainer training). One centralized Training Manager 12 Corps in the state. Deliverables include: training of 340 Corpsmembers, 4 training courses for supervisors (40 supervisors trained), train the trainer models set up at 12 Corps and job placement in fire jobs for 50% trained. Additionally, we have a goal of 20% of Corpsmembers trained being female Corpsmembers, supporting even further underrepresented people in fire jobs.
Workforce Development	Mountain Valley Unified School District	Timberjacks Forest Products Pathway	Trinity	\$ 638,610	MVUSD has a thriving CTE program and is looking to expand it to include Forestry Natural Resources, Equipment Operation and Wood Products and Processing. The first goal of this project is to create a small scale industrial sawmilling operation that will serve as a platform to create and promote career interest in the logging and natural resources industry within our community. Our second goal is to train students in the various aspects of operating a small scale sawmilling business and provide a path direct to the workforce and or community college. Students will be dual enrolled with Shasta College in several courses directly related to the logging and natural resource industry and will be given a direct link to enter their certificate and degree programs. Our final goal is to demonstrate sustainability by producing premium forest products with timber that is unfit for larger operations and or markets.

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Workforce Development	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Western Klamath Prescribed Fire Workforce Development Project	Humboldt Siskiyou	\$ 951,170	This project will build collaborative prescribed fire, fuels, and forestry apprenticeship programs to serve local, Tribal, NGO, state and federal partners' identified workforce needs. Prescribed fire apprentice program members will spend 2-3 months burning with TNC-led crews on private, state and federal lands around the country when they aren't burning here, building skills and qualifications to bring back to California. Tribal partners will provide federally qualified Tribal firefighters to both mentor these apprentices and gain valuable experience burning with them in various vegetation types nationally and locally. Prescribed fire and forestry programs and trainings will be offered to high school and college age students. A part-time fuels workforce development crew will provide pathways for local community members to gain both technical skills and resources to join local, Tribal, state and federal fuels and forestry crews. Required screenings and clearances for staff to work in schools will also increase workforce capacity.
Award Offers Total				\$ 17,099,012	



Funding for this grant solicitation is provided by California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.