



Forest Utilization Network (FUN)

Report-Out for 2019 Fall Meeting

COMMITTEE / NETWORK LEADERSHIP

The Forest Utilization Network (FUN) leadership team for 2019 includes:

Marcus Kauffman (OR), Chair
Tom Perry (MT), Vice Chair
Adam Smith (NE), Immediate Past Chair
Peter Daugherty (OR), State Forester Advisor

The FUN leadership team for 2020 includes:

Tom Perry (MT), Chair
Tim Reader (CO), Vice Chair
Marcus Kauffman (OR), Immediate Past Chair
Peter Daugherty (OR), State Forester Advisor

LOOK BACK: KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2019

- Hosted 2019 Network meeting in Whitefish, MT with presentations from state members, federal partners, university extension and private industry. The meeting drew excellent attendance from Network members and strengthened the group's sense of cohesion. Attendees identified shared problems and illuminated opportunities for increased partnership.
- Completed a public demonstration in Nebraska of ROI Carbonizer equipment to eliminate woody biomass with minimal emissions while producing biochar. Additional demonstrations are planned in Colorado and Arizona. The completed and planned demonstrations are raising the level of stakeholder awareness and interest in new wood utilization solutions. The demonstrations are supported by a grant from the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI.
- Provided information to Network members on two emerging markets via market analysis reports in mass timber construction and biochar utilization. Colorado used the biochar report in discussions with biochar producers and in a federal grant application. The market analyses were supported by a grant from the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI.
- Several Network members used the mass timber report to educate colleagues, stakeholders and/or to support policy efforts. Colorado shared the results with a CLT start up business and attendees to a mass timber workshop. Montana provided the report to agency leadership and Montana Wood Products Association to inform them about market dynamics and growth potential. Utah used it to inform state legislators during the tall timber code adoption bill in Utah. Idaho educated trust lands and foresters on the market impact of mass timber construction with the report. Lastly, Business Oregon shared the results of the

study with 150 attendees of the Oregon Mass Timber Development Summit.

- Presented to National Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. Built a foundation for cross-network collaboration and information sharing.
 - Collaborated with five Network members on a multi-state submission to FY 2019 USFS Wood Innovation Grant proposal. Twelve states supported proposal to expand Network activities, provide funding for utilization related projects and capacity building across the western wood utilization practitioners. The proposal was not funded.
 - Numerous members interacted on short-term technical assistance requests between members; made possible by the Network's focus on relationship building and information sharing.
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LOOK FORWARD: EMERGING ISSUES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Seek opportunities to connect Network members to landscape-scale restoration projects, community fire protection plans and other allied efforts.
 - Raise awareness of utilization solutions and Network expertise through a series of "utilization success stories."
 - Continue to identify key emerging markets and technologies that could strengthen wood products utilization.
 - Pursue additional funding opportunities to increase the effectiveness of Network activities.
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Approve the Forest Utilization Network's 2020 Work Plan and Budget.