



Urban Wood Utilization: CAL FIRE's Role
California Urban Wood Conference, April 3, 2015
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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Urban & Community Forestry Program



About Me

- **B.S. in Forestry, Humboldt State University – 1999**
-emphasis in forest management.
-minors in business and environmental ethics
- **ISA Certified Arborist (WE-5889A) – 2001**
- **CaUFC Cert. Urban Forester (#101) – 2003**
- **California Registered Professional Forester #2817 – 2006**
- **Wildland and structural fire training. Fire apparatus operation training.**
- **Work experience in forestry, urban forestry, arboriculture, wildland fire, medical first response, GIS, and commissioned sales.**

CAL FIRE Offerings and Services

- **Equipment Loan Program & Grants**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Networking (making connections)**
- **Education of urban forestry professionals and stakeholders**
- **Promotion of urban wood products in general**
- **Policy development and advocacy**



Equipment Loan Program

- **2 Woodmizers, 1 Lucas Mill, 2 kilns in inventory.
(1 woodmizer, 1 Lucas Mill, 2 kilns at Palomar College).**
- **This program will be advertised as equipment is available.**
- **Term of equipment loan is 12-24 months. Can be extended.**
- **Applications are scored and ranked. Top ranking applications will be issued equipment.**
- **We can hold onto numerous additional applications for the two year period in case any equipment comes available early.**
- **No plans to advertise this year.**

The Requirements

- **The Application Form.** Must be fully filled out.
- **Proof of adequate liability insurance.** Evidence of insurance must be provided. Certificate of insurance stating that Contractor has general liability insurance, including bodily injury and property damage coverage presently in effect, with a combined single limit (CSL) of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. State of California, its officers, agents, employees, and servants are included as additional insured's for the purpose of this contract.
- **Location map.** The map should be of a scale that is able to show site(s) clearly and with adequate reference points.
- **Pictures of proposed processing site(s).** Include pictures of all sites to be utilized if possible.
- **Budget support overview:** Provide a description of the financial support you have to make this project successful; e.g., program budget dollars, support equipment, labor, etc. Be sure to denote if funds being cited are already on hand or if they are in development or have been applied for.
- **Business plan:** A plan for how operations will continue once equipment loan is concluded.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization Grant Program

- **Development and implementation of an Urban Wood or Urban Biomass Utilization project or program.**
- **The focus of this program is to utilize the tree for its highest and best use(s) that lead to reductions in GHG emissions.**
- **The wood to be utilized must come from an urban area.**
- **Projects may not remove trees solely for the purpose to utilize them. This must be determined by an ISA Certified Arborist, ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist, SAF Certified Urban Forester, or other qualified professional as determined by CAL FIRE.**
- **Projects must show that the removed trees will be replaced with a tree of similar or increased long term benefits within the grant period. Such trees must meet the Green Trees For The Golden State grant criteria.**
- **Projects must show how they will continue to operate after the grant period.**
- **Anticipated to be advertised again in 2015/2016.**

What CAL FIRE Is Looking For

- The objective of the loan or grant is to allow communities to investigate, demonstrate, and/or research the feasibility of urban wood milling as a business venture. **Partnerships are required.**
- Promote urban wood utilization and to educate the public on the urban forest as a “resource” rather than as “waste.”
- Producing end products with high public visibility and that offer enhanced availability of a host of exotic urban hardwoods to a woodworking public.
- Projects that create training opportunities for others to enter this emerging urban wood industry.
- Projects that create jobs and/or small businesses.
- Projects that can demonstrate the added value of utilizing urban trees for reducing GHG emissions and providing numerous other benefits.



Technical Assistance, Networking, Education, and Promotion of Urban Wood Utilization

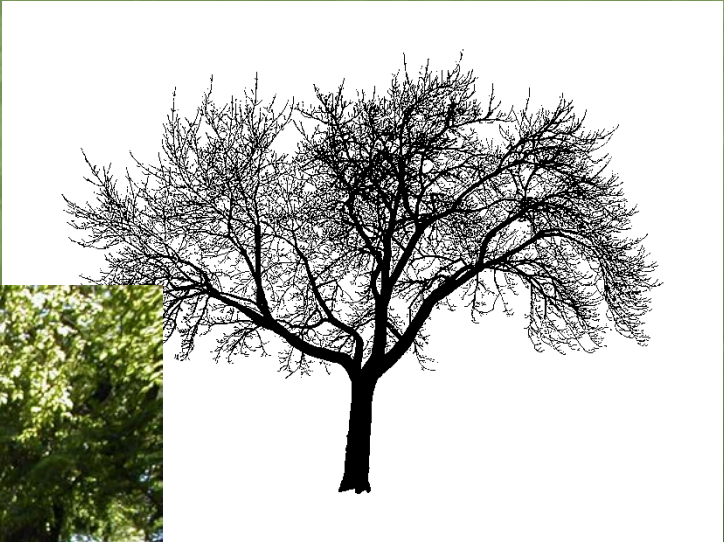
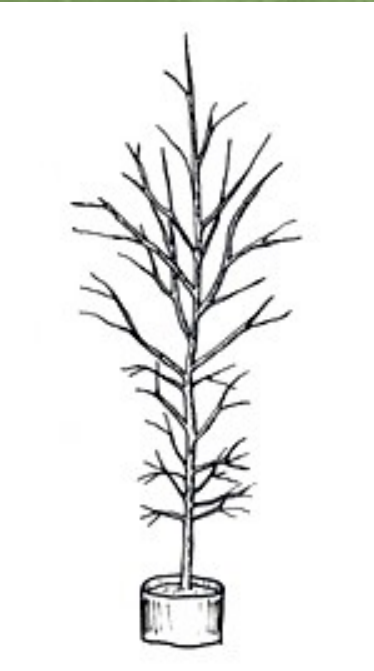
- We advocate for expansion and better management of urban forests.
- We work to increase capacity in local urban forestry efforts.
- We uphold best management practices.
- We work to demonstrate the full cycle of sustainability in urban forestry. **STEWARDSHIP.**
- We help to connect practitioners to one another and to the best available resources for them as they do work in their communities.
- We provide resources (technical assistance, advocacy, grants, references, research, etc.) to help local efforts improve.
- We foster partnerships to advance urban forestry.



Why Is Urban Wood Important?

- **Natural resource management seeks to provide for society in a sustainable manner.**
- **Natural resource management has little public support due to everyday people not understanding it and to their being disconnected from the land. 95% of Californians live in urban areas, many have never been out of the city.**
- **Urban forestry (and urban wood utilization) is a way to show people resource management (sustainability, stewardship) WHERE THEY LIVE and where they can equate it to their daily lives. If we can do this well, people will understand natural resource management better as a whole and support will increase.**
- **With urban forestry done right, quality of life increases. Benefits are realized (economically, socially, environmentally). Cities are better places to live, work, and play. Open spaces and natural areas are less impacted. People are reconnected to the land.**

The Cycle



Policy

- **Can be your friend, or your enemy.**
- **Urban Forestry is well-placed in the climate change, public health, and air quality policy areas amongst others - and will continue to be.**
- **In 2011 at a similar conference, I said I would like to see urban wood specifically realized in some way in climate change policy. We have done so in our GGRF grant process. Perhaps this could be done via the Urban Forestry protocols in the future. CAL FIRE will be working on this, with others.**
- **A collaborative effort from urban wood utilization proponents would be very helpful in continuing to advance this policy area.**
- **Local policies are of the highest importance to urban wood efforts (zoning, tree ordinances, management plans, etc.**
- **One can essentially double the GHG benefit of an urban tree by utilizing it (avoided emission) to it's highest and best use.**



Thank You !

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