

Continued collaboration on developing leadership in the design, manufacture and construction of buildings using innovative wood products.

Sponsor: USDA - Ag Research Service

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\$803,400

The overarching objective of this project is to help companies in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest develop competitive leadership in accessing emerging domestic and global markets for innovative wood products. Success will increase the value of the region's forests, support sustainable management, and grow the number of manufacturing jobs in rural communities. The Pacific Northwest's timber industry is positioned to capitalize by growing its capacity to manufacture mass-timber building components, while also expanding to support entrepreneurial behavior in broadening the spectrum of value-added wood products available for use in buildings. Similarly, the region's building design profession is ideally positioned to expand on its reputation for sustainable design, and establish itself as North America's hub for expertise in innovative wood building design.

The objective of this project is to provide research, education, and workforce development to help the region's business community capitalize on the growing interest around the world in using more wood in tall and modular structures. The goal is to provide information that helps stimulate markets, remove barriers, foster innovation, understand risk, and inform capital and cost analyses.

Our objectives fall into several broad categories. Conduct research to stimulate new wood building design; expand and develop innovative wood products and building components. Address safety and livability in mass timber structures through fire, acoustic, and environmental testing. Facilitate building construction approvals and processes. Understand the environmental impact of wood products through life cycle analysis. Foster markets for wood buildings.

Effectively disseminate and communicate research findings to scientists, manufacturers, designers, and relevant public-sector personnel.