

Connecting Local Mass Timber to Regional Housing and Building Needs



Lead Organization: Mad River Mass Timber (MRMT)

Key Collaborators: Forest WRX, atelierjones, TEAM Projects, WRNS Studio, and Forell Elsesser

More Information: bit.ly/ConnectingMRMT

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The Redwood Region produces some of the world's finest timber — yet it faces acute housing shortages, high construction costs, and limited markets for small or fire-damaged wood. As a subcontractor of Forest WRX, Mad River Mass Timber (MRMT) bridges this gap, positioning itself to become California's first mass timber manufacturer by turning locally sourced, sustainably managed forest materials into low-carbon building materials for affordable, workforce, and rural housing. They are focusing on working with TEAM Projects to develop a timber structural system for multifamily housing and developing the design of a dowel-laminated timber (DLT) playbook project.

Intended Outcomes

- Design and build an affordable, multi-family housing structure.
- Create a DLT playbook for housing in California.
- Create high-value markets for small-diameter and fire-damaged wood to support forest health and wildfire risk reduction.
- Lower construction costs and time-to-permit for Tribal and priority communities through pre-approved master permitting strategies.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

MRMT kicked off a new phase of the project, focused on a pilot project and a DLT playbook for housing in California. The pilot project is designing, engineering, and building an 84-unit affordable housing project in Oakland, CA. The site is owned, controlled, and fully entitled by the team. They are working with TEAM Projects, in partnership with WRNS Studio and Forell Elsesser, to advance engineering and detailing of the structure. Additionally, content and diagrams have been started for the DLT playbook and sales deck, which is being developed to narrate the benefits of mass timber for usage in common housing types.



Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Visit MRMT's website: bit.ly/ConnectingMRMT
- Reach out at info@madrivermt.com
- Follow their LinkedIn: bit.ly/MRMTlinkedin