

A photograph showing a fire burning over a pile of logs, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from the charred wood. The background is dark, suggesting a forest or outdoor setting.

Biochar Opportunities in the Southwest: Extension Workshop

An interactive virtual workshop about ecosystem services and entrepreneurial opportunities using forest biochar in the Four Corner States.

Keynote Presentation Agenda

April 7, 2021 4:00-5:30pm MDT

Registration Link:

<https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctde6vqi4oG9UBBWlhZZgxn5915AoQIE50>

For log-in issues, contact Michael Seronde: seronde@arizona.edu; 928-607-1159

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 4:00 p.m. MDT/3:00 p.m. AZ

4:00pm	WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chris Jones, UA Extension Agent (Moderator)- Welcome and Introduction
4:05	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thomas R Miles, USBI Executive Director- Title: Overview on Biochar in US and Southwest
4:35	Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tom Miles will respond to questions from the participants.
4:45	HOUSEKEEPING <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chris Jones, UA Extension Agent (Moderator)
4:50	BREAKOUT: NETWORKING SESSION <p>Affinity exercise: "Briefly introduce yourself; Pick a hat (or one not pictured; or not) to describe your interest or journey in biochar." Please note some key themes or highlights from the discussion. Session time: 30-40 minutes.</p>
5:30	END SESSION <p>See you tomorrow!</p>

Presentation Title: Biochar in United States and Southwest - Overview

Special "Pre-Note" Speaker: Thomas R. Miles, Executive Director, United States Biochar Initiative

Biography: Thomas R. Miles is the president of T.R. Miles, Technical Consultants, Portland, Oregon, a biomass energy consulting firm, which designs, develops, installs, and commissions systems for processing wood, agricultural, and urban residues. Innovative biomass systems include pyrolysis, gasification, and combustion, sizing, drying, densification, handling, modification of boilers and gasifiers to improve efficiency and emissions, and systems to recycle nutrients. He has developed heat and power systems in developing countries. His knowledge of ash transformations in biomass led to recycling nutrients using pyrolysis of residues to biochar which can improve soil health and sequester carbon. He has sponsored and hosted online discussions of biomass energy and biochar since 1994. He is past chairman of the International Biochar Initiative and Executive Director of the US Biochar Initiative.



Presentation Description: Biochar markets continue to grow in North America creating new opportunities to convert wood and agricultural residues to sustainable carbon while restoring soil health and improving water quality. More than 135 US companies supply an estimated 50,000 tons of biochar per year. Suppliers source biochars from the wood industry, bioenergy plants, and biochar producers. New product development is supported by increased research. New uses such as wallboard, cement, packaging, and electronics have increased the potential to sequester carbon by converting residues to biochar and renewable energy. The Southwest offers unique opportunities to produce biochars from hazardous forest fuels, urban and agricultural residues. This presentation will describe new efforts to use biochar to improve soil health; restore degraded urban soils and abandoned mine lands; reduce water pollution from pharmaceuticals and fertilizers; remove nutrients, metals and bacteria from stormwater; and develop market platforms which value biochar for sequestering carbon.