

PROPOSED COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

"Information Needs."

Some proposed, but not yet final, issues to be addressed in the Response Plan are:

Discussions and Highlights of Formal Presentations

- Public assistance (vs individual assistance of FEMA) and engineering to State/local govts on cost share basis of 75/25% (generally)
- Direct federal assistance (USACE); on public property (private owners could bring debris to public property); to go onto to private property needs written permission from each owner
- Need to communicate to public about segregating the woody debris from demolition debris if we intend to utilize (phasing the operation)
- Market issues on flooding market with certain sectors (mulch example); need to set up transportation corridors?
- Haul materials to disposal or utilization sites within 15 mile transportation zones
- Communication: “segregate and don’t contaminate” sawtimber and potential value-added feedstocks (don’t pile soil on logs or mix with other debris such as demolition or material that otherwise reduce the value or utilization potential); “don’t buck and lose your luck” (decrease the value by bucking into short logs lengths); USDA programs under “disaster assistance”; information needs and communication tools are in stages and are parsed out as anticipated problems or timing is appropriate (deterioration, fire threats, road system development, etc); ???????
- Connect federal assistance programs in a seamless way; pre-plan to optimize program efficiencies and the capability to demonstrate the long-term recovery potential (ESF14 and more)
- NIMO debris team (Deneke); regional team organized by the States, but needs a Mission Assignment under FEMA (ESF3, ESF11, ESF14); maybe under the ESF4 technical advisor role on the Federal side, but needs State and local technical experts; State must request the assistance (must know of, and support the “strategy”); example of WBUG strategy for Katrina presented to the POTUS by DOI and USDA
- Include EPA GHG emissions and offsets (not just afforestation)
- Local contractors given preference or easier access to contracts?
- Equipment and trained/certified contractors in a pre-disaster network (such as Equipment Rental Agreements under the firefighting program and the Resource Ordering and Status System)?
- Identify areas where we CAN’T store wood, as well as potential storage areas where we can store material; probably should GPS locations or use GIS

based tool; sites need to be pre-approved by the LOCAL government (State doesn't have primary role here, but assists in permitting)

- Liability considerations for storage yards, mulch piles, staging areas; include public health issues (water quality, aerial borne diseases or contaminants and particulate matter). Examine logistical considerations (location to markets, water resource availability, access to rail/barge/long-distance transport)
- Debris vs. salvage (two phases with different needs, priorities, and issues)
- Include some of the historical disasters (Hugo, Katrina) and economic losses in the justification and communications strategy [Lupold on Hugo]
- Public land managers need to prepare, not just private or State land owners
- Expedited or streamlined timber sale contracting and timber title procedures
- SC Salvage Coordination Center is good model [Hugo]
- Need logging capacity and flexibility to deal with huge increase in demand (coordination with ALC and others)
- Small land owner assistance: IRS tax exemption for loss timber value (JB Jett); could be done with GIS and LIDAR verification (Velde: pre-damage assessments are available under ESF11)
- Free market system works: ranks by value, markets, landowner interest and size (industry, feds vs small owners), ease of logging and access, when timber titles are clear
- Late season events present a challenge with wood yards already full for winter inventory
- Recognize the value of engaging the political and economic leadership (Alt)
- Remember that someone's ox is getting gored and someone will be benefitting at the cost of someone else; must have working relationship before the disaster hits if you plan to work together after the disaster.
- Preparedness is a State and/or Federal role, response is a local government and/or landowner role (usually due to attention span and lack of funding); goals of State/federal governments are primarily to encourage local governments to prepare, and then shift from preparedness to response, and finally, to assist them in recovery.

Group Discussion on Plan

1. Preparedness
 - pre-planning
 - integration of services
 - help encourage development of markets for non-traditional products common resulting from disasters (bioenergy, engineered lumber, composting, etc that can optimize the use of disaster wood) especially markets where large volumes of debris are created in a short time (market elasticity)
2. Response:
 - How to do that
 - Assessment of damage
3. Debris removal and debris recovery (utilization)
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4. Long-term Recovery:
 - Land (protection from insect, disease, fire): habitat and watershed restoration
 - Economic recovery
4. Communications
 - Public
 - Among agencies and partners

Process

- Take today's technology and information and plan for the future
- Provide services to land owners, loggers, mills, public and community leaders
- Connect people and contractors to facilitate recovery
- Provide training and workshop materials to assist responders
- Provide decision tools and advice for managers and landowners
- Provide expert system for FAQ and BLOG for "ask a forester" on the WBUG website (probably limit this to a specific event, rather than a continuing BLOG); provide links to ALC, California's RPF, Association of Consulting Foresters, SAF, State Professional Forestry Associations, etc (similar system for debris contractors, energy experts, etc.)

The Plan
“What is needed?”

- A one-page document that does not say “uh” or “d’uh”
- Bryce will write the plan
- Include preparation/mitigation
 1. Look at mutual agreements within states (in place), DOT/State DOT on weight policy, EPA/States Reg Program on storage yards (water quality issues and permitting),
 2. Identify where storage facilities are/will be (locals)
 3. Databases of agency officials, contractors, state/county/local gov’t, associations, mills, energy facilities,
 4. GPS mapping systems for coordination/end-use location
 5. Incident command/chain of command system
 6. Available outside funding resources (TMU grants and such)
 7. Federal Highway Program-Counties MOU
 8. Trained and qualified operators/responders/suppliers/logistical people
- Examine logistical considerations (location to markets/end users, water resource availability, access to barge/long-distance transport)
- Process for expanding markets/managing potential organic materials eg. GreenScapes
- Share already established models/templates/checklists for state regulatory programs for lessons learned
- Farming/ag connection in regard to bedding markets/mixing with animals/manures for composting
- How to assess water quality/bmp and wildlife habitat/quality, APHIS/Invasives
- Establish partnership procedures with Land-grants/Extension/CSREES

