



National Fire Plan

Warm Springs Reservation Works to Create Green Energy Using Hazardous Fuels

The Warm Springs Indian Reservation, covering 650,000 acres in north central Oregon, has begun to explore the potential benefits of a large biomass power plant. The existing power plant was originally erected in Fairbanks, AK in 1927 and then purchased in the 1970's by Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI). It was reassembled on the Warm Springs Reservation in 1976, and during rebuilding, the two power boilers were converted from coal-fired units to Dutch-oven hogged fuel-fired units.

Currently WSFPI powers its sawmill by using hogged fuel from various lumber production processes as well as “urban wood sources” (i.e. construction debris, wood pallets, and wood waste from orchards—material that would otherwise be burned in an open field or dumped in the landfill). There is a growth possibility for the biomass project—the surrounding lands are full of small diameter hazardous fuels and funding is available for its removal. It may be feasible to create a net of 15.5 mW of energy, with surplus power theoretically being sold to Pacific Power. WSFPI has already begun building a new boiler, which will make the sawmill more efficient, and also provide steam for the potential power plant upgrade.



**Hogged Fuel from
Lumber Production
Processes**

For now, the project is in the beginning stages, but the prospect of a partnership between the hazardous fuels program, the mill, and the power plant, combined with the removal of local hazardous fuels and the creation of new mill and power plant positions would provide benefits on multiple levels.