Distributed Bioenergy: Achieving Forestry and Community Goals

February 4, 2010

Ed Gee, Woody Biomass Utilization Team Leader,
USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC
Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group

- Vision Statement:
  The Federal Working Group promotes and supports the utilization of woody biomass products and residues from forest and woodland health, management and restoration treatments wherever environmentally, economically and legally appropriate.
Forest growth greatly exceeds removals on NFS lands in the Interior West.

When net forest growth exceeds removals, live biomass is increasing.

The Size and Intensity of Wildfire Has Increased In Recent Years

Fire Year

Acres burned in millions

When dense forests combine with extended drought, the ecological stress sets the stage for increased insect epidemics and wildfire.
For most of human history, renewables were predominant energy sources.

- Biomass, Water, Wind, Solar, Geothermal
Today, there is a resurgence of interest in renewables.

- Oil Prices
- National Security
- Climate Change
- Agriculture Policy
Wood is an obvious feedstock choice for biomass energy in some regions.

Total = 101.545 Quadrillion Btu

- Petroleum: 39%
- Natural Gas: 23%
- Coal: 22%
- Nuclear Electric Power: 8%
- Renewable: 7%

Total = 6.813 Quadrillion Btu

- Solar: 1%
- Hydroelectric: 36%
- Geothermal: 5%
- Biomass: 53%
- Wind: 5%
Distributed Bioenergy: Achieving Forestry and Community Goals – Panel Members

- Moderator—Ed Gee, FS
- 1. Why are we doing these bioenergy facilities: Marcia Patton-Mallory, WFLC-FS
- 2. The process to get to the 113 proposed bioenergy facilities: Faline Haven- FS
- 3. The next steps to secure future bioenergy facilities -challenges and opportunities: Donna Perla- EPA
- 4. Sustainability considerations for bioenergy from forests: Henry Bastian - DOI
Accomplishment’s with Bioenergy Facilities

- Meeting Executive Order 13423
- Decreasing fossil fuel dependency
- Decreasing wildfires through hazardous fuel reduction
- Decreasing thermal and CHP costs
- Decreasing GHG through wood substitution
- Decreasing our CO2 emissions - climate change
- Increasing Forest Health Restoration
- Increasing National Security
Thank You

Q&A’s
We can decrease the effect of drought, pests, and wildfires

- Strategically placing these bioenergy facilities in areas close to the raw material
- Decrease the many large fires that are in diseased and drought-stressed forests.