

# **Biomass-related R&D and Non-R&D Activities**

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Biomass R&D Board  
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# Overview

**The Department of the Interior has an active forest and woodland management program which provides feedstock for bio-energy plants, as well as bio-products and wood fiber industries. The residues of ecological restoration and hazardous fuel reduction programs currently have the potential to provide in excess of five million tons of woody biomass fuel per year, which represents only 10% of the potential annual supply.**

# Biomass and Wood Fiber Utilization



# **Programs and Initiatives supporting Biomass-related activities**

- **There are no Bureaus in the Department of the Interior that conduct R&D relevant to the development of biomass resources, technologies, or markets**

## **The Following Programs Provide Biomass Feedstock Opportunities:**

- **The National Fire Plan**
- **The President's Healthy Forests Initiative**
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry Management Program**
- **Bureau of Land Management Forestry Management Programs**

# Activities related to Feedstock Handling

## “Woody Biomass Program”

- **Summary** - The Bureau of Land Management is working with John Deere Corporation and TimberJack Forestry Operations to demonstrate the TimberJack Bundler which would allow forest harvesting residues to be stored on site or at a disposal yard for later use in biomass power plants. The demonstration project will take place in Medford, Oregon in the summer of 2003.
- **Funding** – FY03 funding from the BLM’s Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund, in cooperation with the timber Purchaser (the funding level is proprietary information).
- **Program Contact** – Kenny McDaniel, BLM, (202) 452-5097

February 24, 2003

# Activities related to Feedstock Handling

John Deere's  
TimberJack  
Bundler



February 24, 2003

# Activities related to Public Policy Measures to Support Biomass R&D Development

## “President’s Healthy Forests Initiative and National Fire Plan”

- **Summary** - The Department of the Interior is working with the Departments of Agriculture and Energy on a woody biomass and wood fiber utilization policy  
*Actions:*
  - OWFC will lead development of GPRA target and accomplishment performance and workload measures for biomass utilization
  - OWFC will provide oversight to Bureau biomass programs and implementation of a Departmental Biomass and Wood Fiber Utilization Program in support of the Healthy Forests Initiative and the National Fire Plan
- **Funding** – There is no specified funding for biomass utilization or biomass research and development in FY03 and FY04
- **Program Contact** – John Stewart, DOI Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, (202) 606-0504

# Activities related to End-Products and Distribution Systems

## “BIA Forestry Program”

- **Summary** - The Bureau of Indian Affairs is working with Tribal Governments to develop a strategy to utilize woody biomass for energy and stimulate development of small wood markets from residues of forest and woodland health or restoration and hazardous fuel reduction projects under the National Fire Plan.

### ***Actions:***

- BIA Central Office is coordinating with DOI regarding private sector investment near Albuquerque to develop the largest non-chemical paper plant in the US. Future potential for a biomass energy plant and a paper plant using pinion and juniper wastes.

### Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation:

- *Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI)* – BIA Central Office is providing technical assistance to WSFPI in developing a business plan for 10 megawatt facility (\$ 21.7 million). WSFPI currently utilizes a 2 megawatt production facility. Forecast for annual consumption would be roughly 4,500 acres of small diameter material.
- *Warm Springs Forest Products Industries* — WSFPI is working with the BIA Central Office to develop a marketing plan for the Warm Springs Essential Oil Company. While WSFPI does dispose of some biomass through cogeneration, other residual biomass off timber sales is disposed of through distillation creating oil from biomass extraction (steam generated from the kiln to volatilize and capture pure oil).

# Activities related to End-Products and Distribution Systems

## “BIA Forestry Program”

Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT):

- Providing technical assistance to the “*Indian Energy Development*” Conference April 15-16, 2003 at the Santa Ana Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico. The intent of the conference is to introduce tribes to energy development with an overview and familiarization with the biomass industry focusing on State and federal programs and funding opportunities.

BIA Southwest Regional Office (SRO):

- The BIA Central Office is working with the SRO and New Mexico Tribes in developing a Bio-energy strategy to integrate validation of cutting edge bio-energy technology. This technology would include forest management practices, commercialization and manufacturing of new technologies and technical and policy training and education of tribal workforce. Partners include DOE, Sandia National Laboratories, State of New Mexico and private sector groups.

Waucoma Group:

- The BIA is a partner in a collaborative effort between representatives from the States of Oregon and Washington, two National Forests (Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood) and two tribal groups (Warm Springs and Yakama) to develop and test ways to remove waste wood from forest lands and use the waste for alternative energy to serve communities in the Northwest.
- **Funding** – There is no specified funding for biomass utilization or biomass research and development in FY03 and FY04
- **Program Contact** – Bill Downes, BIA, (202) 208-4837

February 24, 2003

# Activities related to End-Products and Distribution Systems

## “BLM Forestry Programs”

- **Summary** - The Bureau of Land Management is developing a strategy to utilize woody biomass from forest and woodland health or restoration and hazardous fuel reduction projects under the National Fire Plan.

### ***Actions:***

- BLM has held two meetings with field experts to develop an Interim Biomass and Wood Fiber Utilization Policy (Draft).
- BLM has three pilot projects in southern Oregon which demonstrate hazardous fuel reduction and forest health treatments using biomass thinning. One of the projects, in Medford, is testing pilot merchantable material contracting program authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (PL 106-393).
- **Funding** – There is no specified funding for biomass utilization or biomass research and development in FY03 and FY04
- **Program Contact** – Michael J. Haske, BLM, (202) 452-0312

February 24, 2003