



PINCHOT
INSTITUTE
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THE
HEINZ
CENTER

Ensuring Forest Sustainability in the Development of Wood Biofuels and Bioenergy in the Interior West

Convened by

Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Colorado State University
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment

Hilton Hotel Ft. Collins, Colorado
October 7-8, 2009

Agenda

Forum purpose and goals: Identify common goals and objectives for environmentally sustainable development of a wood bioenergy/biofuels industry in the interior West; develop the basis for consistent and reliable estimates of sustainable woody biomass supply; review public and private efforts to develop safeguards for sustainable woody biomass production and harvesting; and facilitate the development of a regional wood bioenergy strategy in the context of national policy goals for renewable energy and sustainable forest management.

Wednesday, October 7

8:00 Coffee and pastries available

8:30 **Introductions and Meeting Goals and Objectives**

Robin O'Malley, Heinz Center; Al Sample, Pinchot Institute

9:00 **Panel 1: Providing reliable estimates of sustainable and available biomass supply.** What are the recent developments in methodologies for estimating sustainable woody biomass supplies (near-term, long-term) as a basis for siting new bioenergy/biofuels facilities? What are the mechanisms for making woody biomass available from ecosystem restoration/stewardship activities on federal lands?

- Speaker: *Ken Skog*, USDA Forest Service

Discussants:

- *Todd Morgan*, University of Montana
- *Catherine Mater*, Mater Ltd./ Pinchot Institute
- *Don Gonzalez*, USDA Forest Service, Colville National Forest

10:15 Break

- 10:30 Facilitated discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 **Panel 2. Sustainability safeguards.** What safeguards are in place to ensure that biomass harvesting is done sustainably, and consistent with the management of other resource values and services?
- Speaker: *David Ganz*, The Nature Conservancy
- Discussants:
- *Ethan Aumack*, Grand Canyon Trust
 - *Rob Davis*, Forest Energy
 - *Mark Benson*, Potlatch
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Facilitated discussion
- 5:00 Adjourn for the day
- 6:00 Reception/dinner (Location TBA)

Thursday, October 8

- 8:00 Coffee and pastries available
- 8:30 **Panel 3: Options for build-out of a sustainable wood bioenergy industry in the interior West.** What are the options for developing a wood bioenergy industry that is flexible enough to adapt to differences between near-term and long-term biomass supplies from ecosystem restoration activities? What mechanisms are needed to facilitate financial viability without creating economic dependency or raising risks of future disruptions in local economies? What factors should be considered in matching the type of facility to local circumstances, in terms of community economic development goals and sustainable management of forest resources?
- Speaker: *Jay O’Laughlin*, University of Idaho/Western Governors Association Forest Health Advisory Committee
- Discussants:
- *Reed Wills*, Adage
 - *Mark Mathis*, Confluence Energy
 - *Dan Bihn*, Flexible Energy Communities Initiative
- 9:45 Facilitated discussion
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 **Panel 4: Western regional bioenergy strategy and lessons for renewable energy policy.** What is the continuing role of federal and state renewable energy, economic, and natural resource

policy in guiding development along optimal lines; what are the regional “lessons learned” that need to be reflected in flexible national renewable energy policies?

- Speaker: *Marcia Patton-Mallory*, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition/USDA Forest Service

Discussants:

- *Mike Debonis*, Forest Guild/Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC)
- *Angela Farr*, Montana Department of Natural Resources/USDA Forest Service
- *Tony Cheng*, Colorado State University/Pinchot Institute

11:45 Facilitated discussion

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Facilitated discussion

2:20 Summary and parting thoughts

2:30 **Adjourn**

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