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## Ensuring Forest Sustainability in the Development of Wood Biofuels and Bioenergy in the Pacific Coast Region<sup>1</sup>

*Convened by*  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment  
California Biomass Collaborative

Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) Ballroom  
University of California, Davis

**February 24-25, 2010**

### *Agenda*

**Forum purpose and goals:** Identify common goals and objectives for environmentally sustainable development of a wood bioenergy/biofuels industry in the Pacific Coast region; 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, February 24**

7:30 Coffee available

8:00 **Introductions and Meeting Goals and Objectives**  
*David Refkin*, Heinz Center; *Al Sample*, Pinchot Institute

8:30 **Panel 1: Providing reliable estimates of sustainable and available biomass supply.** What are the best methodologies for estimating available and *sustainable* woody biomass supplies (near-term, long-term) as a basis for bioenergy/biofuels facilities siting (beyond FIA—ecological, economic, social considerations)? What is the expected supply response from private forests? What are the mechanisms for making woody biomass available from ecosystem restoration/stewardship activities on federal lands? How to factor in current/expected demand from existing wood-using industries?

- Speaker: *Ken Skog*, USDA Forest Service - *Revisions of the Billion Ton Study national woody biomass availability. Economic availability in the Pacific Coast.*

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<sup>1</sup> Defined for this purpose as California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and southeast Alaska.

Discussants:

- *Catherine Mater*, Mater Engineering - *Biomass availability in predominantly federal mixed ownership landscapes.*
- *Jeremy Fried*, USFS PNW Research Station - *Modeling biomass availability at the regional and local scales.*
- *Tad Mason*, TSS Consultants - *Project level analyses on biomass supply due diligence by energy investors. Survey of various biomass projects.*

10:15 Break

10:30 Facilitated discussion

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Panel 2. Sustainability considerations.** What is the risk for significant disturbances and loss of future forest resource products and ecosystem services? What safeguards are in place to ensure that biomass harvesting is done sustainably, and consistent with the management of other resource values and services? Potential role of biomass energy in achieving ecosystem restoration goals and reducing wildfire risk? What is the potential role for certification and other nongovernmental sustainability programs?

- Speaker: *Jocelyn Tutak*, Conservation Biology Institute - *Biomass availability in California considering ecological and administrative constraints.*

Discussants:

- *Debbie Hammel*, Natural Resources Defense Council
- *Anton Chiono*, Pacific Forest Trust
- *David Saah*, Spatial Infomatics Group

2:30 Break

2:45 Facilitated discussion

4:30 USDA Priorities for sustainable wood bioenergy development. *Jay Jensen*, Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources, US Department of Agriculture.

5:00 Reception

### **Thursday, February 25**

7:30 Coffee available

8:00 **Panel 3: Options for build-out of a sustainable wood bioenergy industry in the Pacific Coast region.** 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?

- Speakers: *Wade Mosby*, Collins Pine; *Diana Scholtes*, Iberdrola Renewables; *Jim Walls*, Lake Country Resources Initiative - *Overview of the Lakeview, Oregon biomass project.*

Discussants:

- *Steve Mueller*, International WoodFuels, LLC - *Flexibility in energy systems, perspectives from the wood pellet industry.*
- *Bill Carlson*, California Biomass Alliance - *The role of the Pacific region's existing biomass capacity.*
- *Ron Wolfe*, Sealaska - *Wood biomass energy for southeast Alaska communities.*
- *Thomas Maness*, Oregon State University - *The future of liquid biofuels in the Pacific Coast region.*

10:15 Break

10:30 Facilitated discussion

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Panel 4: 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: *Jim Peña*, USDA Forest Service R5/*Gilbert Zepeda*, USDA Forest Service R3 - *Facilitating forest health restoration/resiliency in Eastside and Westside forests through active forest management on federal public lands. Establishment of long-term biomass supply agreements from federal public lands through the use of stewardship contracts/agreements.*

Discussants:

- *Jim Boyd*, California Energy Commission - *Optimum strategy for California to utilize woody biomass for energy.*
- *Dave Sjoding*, Washington State University - *Working within the existing energy policy framework and identifying areas of potential policy reform.*
- *Marvin Brown*, Oregon Department of Forestry

2:30 Facilitated discussion

3:30 **Adjourn**

**Major funding** provided by the Energy Foundation, USDA Forest Service, California Energy Commission, and the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.