

Pellet Fuels Institute  
2013 Annual Conference

USDA Forest Service  
Policy and Regulation Outlook

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Southern Region

# USDA Forest Service

## Branches -

- National Forest System – National Forests
- State and Private Forestry – Coop Forestry
- Research – Research Stations

## How Programs Delivered-

- Manage National Forests
- Support State & Private Forest Land Owners

# Forest Management

## Goals / Results –

- Forest Restoration
- Forest Health
- Fuels Treatment
- Forest Products
- Renewable Energy
- Economic Health
- Carbon
- Sustainability

# USFS Wood to Energy

## Benefits of Facilitating Adoption W2E Systems -

- **Restoration** of the Nation's Forests
- **Improve Forest Condition** due to fire exclusion, historic logging practices & limits on forest management & overstocked forest stands
- **Resilience** to climate change, insects, diseases
- **Prevention** of future catastrophic fires

# USFS Wood to Energy

**Wood energy** is an important part of an integrated wood products industry....

- **Strong wood markets**, including **wood energy**, helps keep forests as forests.
- **Wood energy** is a market for small diameter trees as pulp market declines

# USFS Wood to Energy

**Residues from forest management activities to wood energy enable -**

- Better Forest Management
- Diverse & Better Forest Products Markets
- Renewable Energy by replacing fossil fuels with domestic feedstock
- Economic Gains by creating local jobs
- Expanding America's Renewable Energy Portfolio

# USFS Wood to Energy

- **Forest Health Conditions** associated with insects & diseases
  - native species ( mountain pine beetle)
  - introduced species (Asian long-horned beetle & emerald ash borer)
- **Forest Health Conditions** result in large quantities of unplanned wood

# USDA Wood to Energy Initiative

- The **goal** of the **USDA Wood to Energy Initiative** - implement the Secretary's vision of building a forest restoration economy through wood to energy from management across all lands, while expanding the nation's use of renewable energy.
- The **Wood to Energy Initiative** has brought together USDA Rural Development, Forest Service, and Farm Services to overcome barriers to wood energy within USDA.
- **Results** - Over \$1.1 billion will be invested in wood energy projects that USDA was involved in FY12, if all projects are developed.



# Memorandum of Understanding

## **MOU with Wood Energy Trade Associations –**

- USDA is partnering with 4 wood energy trade associations (Pellet Fuels Institute, Biomass Power Association, Biomass Thermal Energy Council & Alliance for Green Heat)**
- Partnership seeks to work together to overcome barriers to wood energy and expand the use of wood energy systems.**

# Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

- In 2012 Forest Service was funded for **11 Woody Biomass Utilization Grants** totaling about \$2.3 million (engineering studies for wood energy systems in 8 states)
- **Matched by \$6.5 million in non-federal dollars** (projects range from a pellet plant in Haines, AK to a school in MA)

# Statewide Wood Energy Teams

- Forest Service piloted the concept of statewide wood energy teams (OR, NH & AK)
- Teams bring together people with forestry, financial, technical & community outreach expertise to support feasibility studies & community outreach for wood energy projects
- Work to identify opportunities for project clusters & work with communities through decision making processes to understand wood energy
- Working at this scale can be really helpful to make projects happen

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