

Forest Biomass Working Group Report
Key Federal and State Actions
Supported by Renewable Energy Working Group
March 13, 2007

Key Federal Actions In Forest Biomass Working Group Report:

1. Call for Congress to fully fund and support development of the US Forest Service (USFS) Biomass Strategic Plan and the commensurate Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plan.
2. Request that the US Department of Energy (USDOE) offer solicitations for funding research focusing on the conversion of biomass, such as poplars and grass straw, to cellulosic ethanol.
3. Build a cellulosic ethanol commercial demonstration facility in Oregon within the next two and a half years using public/private funds. Public funds could come from USDA Rural Development Agency's 9006 or 9008 programs.
4. Expedite forest stewardship contracting on federal lands through increased appropriations to staff federal lands management agencies.
5. Address the cost of forest biomass by encouraging funding of the existing federal transportation credit for biomass that was authorized by Congress.
6. Address inequity in the federal production tax credit. Currently the credit for energy generated from biomass is less than for other renewable sources, and the credit is renewed for too short a time period to send the right signal to investors.

Key State Actions In Forest Biomass Working Group Report:

1. Provide funding for a coordinator to facilitate community forums to increase understanding of benefits and consequences of biomass utilization (2 FTE currently in Governor's budget for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to further forest biomass development).
2. Build on harvesting and research projects that have already been completed and fund new studies to fill in the information gaps (Oregon State University budget).
3. Support action that will help coordinate research and development advances in forest biomass utilization with commercial technology development (Renewable Energy Signature Research Center. (SB580 currently being considered.)
4. Continue to develop administrative collaboration under Enrolled Senate Bill 1072 - 2005 session. Points to funding needs for ODF and other state agencies as articulated in the Governor's budget.
5. Consider developing/expanding Oregon incentives to offset capital cost of biomass energy facilities. (HB 2210, HB 2211 being considered in 2007 session.)