

Southwest Region

Breakout Team #3

Build Regional Strategies

What strategies have worked for us so far?

What is preventing our strategies from working?

How can we mitigate those barriers?

Do we need a followup regional meeting?

What would be the purpose of this meeting?

What needs to be accomplished at this meeting?

Goal:

How can we most effectively utilize woody biomass products in our Region?

Regional group to reach out to communities – local level

Smaller scale groups – state level

SW strategy is working on communication

Quantify best uses of biomass

Define collateral benefits

Biosum analysis

What's been learned from:

4-Corners

Coop restoration

Fire work with riparian to meet common goals

Use economic measures

Focus on immediate and successful projects

Clear policies for utilization i.d. ed for all agencies

State/fed agencies use biomass for own facilities

Transition from subsidy to viable economic based industry

Engage Western Governor Association for support

Barrier: Expertise needed beyond Forest management

Need economic expertise

Utilize the departmental MOU – put support behind it

Involve international partners (Mexico) in process.

Action

Establish Policy – Interdependent (Agriculture and Interior)

Provide clear and measurable expectations for consideration and use of woody material within the government

Examples

Biomass heat in government facilities

Fencing material

Erosion control structure

Signs

Barriers:

Failure to pass energy bill with biomass provisions

Funding for economic action programs lacking

Lack of funding support for already developing strategies

Not having consistent supply of material – affected by law suits on Federal lands

Lack of public understanding about forest products.

Need for environmental education to promote community understanding

Clarify policies; get funding

Sector of public that doesn't believe public lands be used for economic purposes

Public unaware of biomass alternatives

Recognize needs at different geographic scales

Utilize organization already in place to get at issues at different geographic scales

i.d. local community needs for biomass development

Design new construction for biomass use as well as retrofit

Followup on case studies to use as education and training tools

What tool(s) can be utilized to take to tribes and communities to engage and educate?

Show solutions:

Promoting jobs

Resource management and environmental protection

Economic development

Land grant communities

NM – list of all landowners and potential supply

SW strategy – pull together with material tribes have

Federal lands – still working on what's available

Pull all together and get information out

National Support

MOU –utilize

National policies for use in Fed/state

Energy bill passage facilities including biomass

Healthy Forests

Value chair assessment to determine highest best use

Market

Strategies

We need help at the national level to create an environment of success on the ground.

Pass an energy bill with provisions that promote biomass utilization e.g. aggressive goals for % of energy production through bioenergy

Ensure USDA Agriculture rule making for preferred procurement of biobase product included

Put muscle behind USDA/DOE/DOI MOU

Has right components

Need national action plan to promote visibility and application at regional and local levels

Engage WGA to help i.d. and champion actions that will most significantly contribute to biomass utilization

Funding assistance for EAP

Lead by example

Clear policies for utilization of bio in Federal agencies.

Healthy Forest Initiative continue to address process requirements that affect supply.

Administration budget request for HFRA = authorization level

Need a framework to promote utilization at:

Regional SW Strategy

State - e.g. NM Biomass Industry Development Working Group

Local – Community driven (Riosodo)

Use existing mechanisms /organizational structure

For:

Communication/Education/Training

Assessments: Available supply and best use

With good economic analysis
For both short and long term
Capture lessons learned
Apply as move forward
Expand to include business

Group 2

Barriers

Action Items

- Develop local (Region, state) biomass clearinghouse to go to for information on
 - \$ sources
 - Success stories
- Get organized!! (who, when, where, what) Draft implementation plan for product development to present at April
- NM meeting to develop biomass product implantation plan. Short-term planning, long-term planning.
- Develop thermal Renewable Portfolio Standard in conjunction with powerside. Mandate portion of portfolio require biomass %.
- Develop lessons from collaborative restoration process success and failures.

What has worked already for us?

What have we accomplished?

What is going to prevent us from going further?

How can we mitigate concerns we have in our region?

Are these concerns barriers we need to breakdown to move forward?

What should be the first thing we do when we return home collectively or individually?

What has worked already

Demand –side:

Business Planning Program

SBA, USFS, UNM, NMSU

NM Portfolio Standards

Double credit for biomass energy production

EPS – Arizona

Biomass heating systems can be more effective

Economics and environmental benefits central heating systems

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program – For Baird Project

Tribal Projects – Zuni Biomass Project

Jomez Pueblo thinning in Pueblo lands

Mitigate Concerns – Breaking Barriers

- Small projects may have more local support urban interface issues.
- Including environmental groups, along with government, local groups, etc, in planning process.
- Organize “organically” with Feds, State, County, Tribes and industry on three demo projects in NM rural, tribe, federal
- Communication between supply side and demand side to share needs, barriers.
- \$ to ground- flexible assistance – resource assessments
- Develop financeable projects, loan guarantee program, capitol construction – tax shelter.

Barriers

High risk: Availability of product long-term, capitol investment costs, developing workforce (trust) ability of USFS/BLM to provide product into future.

- States (NM) require % of energy from renewable sources –but no penalty if non compliance.
- Title V – Clean Air Act – Review existing system.
- Limited industry to utilize material
- Proximity of resource to utilization
- Capitalization costs higher for wood biomass
- Match demand with supply – large power plants and 30 year supply need
- Trust with environmental community to trust land managers to supply product.
- Incomplete view of economic picture
 - \$ of natural gas
 - Incorporating community benefits
- Shortage of machinery and labor force to do ground work – Forest Products Infrastructure. Costs for workforce: OSHA hiring local workforce vs importing cheap labor.
- NEPA prepared acreage
- Perception of unreliable energy source and pollution
- Willingness of federal government to support program \$
- Limited infrastructure to move product
- HFRA does not provide \$. Tribes cannot access \$ - excluded

- Partnership

Build new partnerships

Who is missing here that could add to our success?

How can we get more involved within our spheres of influence collectively and individually?

What specific actions can we take

Financial Institutions

Department of Energy Staffers (not upper echelon) need both other openers as well

Consumers unaware, unwilling to try new products. Need marketing/utilization folks to pass out the word.

Technical transfer

Public Relations for information transfer

Marketing products (new) people

Contracting officers (do the buying, contracting)

Rangeland managers (woody products ther to)

More information on existing partnerships – clearinghouse function

Private landowners

Schools – fuels for schools

Other clients

Potential

Example: Jefferson County, Co

Environmental/community conservation

Who's here – we need groups here – list

Tribal representatives

Consulting firms

Equipment manufacturers

Non-profits – 2 for boarding/marketing products

Ex – Az Forest Products Association

Resource conservation and development council (link to industry)

* list needed of who's here

Congress Federal/State

Utility companies

Policy makers (NASF, American Forests, S&F)

Actions

Develop better information sharing/procedures

Develop a database(s) of

- Agency contacts

- Contractors

- Partnerships (existing)

- Grants (currently very fragmented)

- Current projects

(Title 201, 202, 203 HFRA may be funding source)

Get HFRA funding

Top private investment \$

Info available tools

More information to land managers on energy saving performance contracting (ESPC)

Federal Renewable Energy portfolios standard (minimum capacity generation from renewable sources)

Emphasize biomass

Set missing partners to WGA energy summit in Albrq in April 14-15.

Agencies need to pick some good projects and become successes (ex. Ft. Boyord) Darby Montana

Coalition includes agencies to support biomass policy:

Energy bill and funding for HFRA and preferred procurement act

Agencies

Communities

State Foresters CWSF

Environ and Conservation groups/local

WGA selected other missing partners

Next opportunity – WGA Energy Summit in Albuq. in April

Three Top Actions Recommended by Southwest Group

1. Improve Information Sharing such as: database development for the following information: agency contacts, contractors, partnerships, grants, projects, successes, lessons learned, available tools (energy savings performance contracting) (Stewardship contracting information), etc.
 2. Multi-agency effort to identify strategic biomass utilization projects to complete and promote (publicize) in the short-term to advance national biomass agenda
 - geographically diverse by region, diverse stakeholders, visibility high, etc..
 3. Develop coalition to support biomass policy such as: the energy bill, HFRA (funding), and preferred procurement act. This coalition would include stakeholders such as:
 - a. Agencies
 - b. Communities
 - c. National Association of State Forester (CWSP)
 - d. Tribes
 - e. Conservation and Environmental groups
 - f. Western Governors' Association
 - g. Congressional members (staffers)
- SOON opportunity to participate in the WGA's Energy Summit – April 14-15 Albuquerque
 - See list of missing partners

