

## **Forest Biomass Working Group January 18, 2006 Meeting**

### **Agenda**

- Welcome, introductions
- Review last meeting, announcements & updates
- Working Group charter
- Focus areas – critical path development
- Working Lunch
- Discuss and refine outcomes & timelines, ID relationships & dependencies
- Organize to move work forward
- Next steps & assignments

### **Announcements**

#### **OFRI-**

New study: economics of producing biomass energy, supply, barriers by Mason Bruce and Girard , Pacific Energy Systems, OSU College of Forestry, and University of Minnesota.

- Study completed end of June
- Public conference in the fall

#### **Energy Trust of Oregon**

- Received 25 proposals, 17 counties
- 5 finalists: Portland Water Treatment & 4 forest products companies

Feb. 11 –Workshop to develop county energy action plan in Astoria - Elks Club

Feb. 17 – Harney County Energy plan workshop – Elks Club

March 14-16 – Bioenergy and Wood Products Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 14-16, interest in sending a member to represent the FBWG.

<http://www.nationalbiomassconference.org/>

March 20–22 - West Coast Biocycle Conference, Portland, OR

- Energy Trust is co-sponsor
- <http://www.jgpress.com/conferences1/conferences1.html>

April 6 & 7 – Klamath Falls, Making Biomass Work Conference

<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/biomass/biomassindex.php>

Western Governors Association: Biomass Task Force

- Report published in January

(Emailed to working group members in a previous communication)



Biomass-summary[1]  
.pdf

**Potential Working Group Additions:**

- Staff from congressional delegations
- Utility companies
- Public utility interests

**Lunch discussion;**

- At lunch, Dave Van't Hof of the Governor's Office mentioned how efforts similar to FBWG were ongoing in agriculture biomass and urban wood waste. The governor's office was working on moving these issues forward in the legislature. The time is now since a critical mass is interested in this issue. The State Department of Energy is establishing a renewable energy group. He is working on how to create markets for renewables. Tad Mason asked Van't Hof about a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) and Van't Hof said the Governor wants Oregon to be a national leader on biomass but hadn't reached a decision regarding a REPS. A REPS was on the Governor's horizon but it would have to be a strong coalition of both rural and urban interests. Must look at the effects of a REPS on Oregon's economy. This issue needs a stakeholders coalition and a state-wide discussion. Van't Hof wondered if a smaller group peopled by higher level individuals should be formed to be the voice for forest biomass.
- State Sen. Dave Nelson suggested everyone read "The World Is Flat." He said money is tight for public funding in Oregon, and that a biomass industry can help the State fund public service programs.

**FBWG's "Critical Path Draft"** was developed at the meeting.

- - -