



Biomass Utilization & Slash Sites (BUSS) Team

Meeting #9

March 18, 2010—1:00 to 4:00 PM

U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms St Golden, CO 80401 -- Fernow Room,
2nd floor (if cannot attend in person, call 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343)



BUSS Meeting #9 Agenda

1. Introductions / ice breaker
2. Recap team goals
3. **Work stream 2: Advocacy**
 1. Letter re: WRR WBUG
 2. OEO team: progress on 2006 recommendations
4. **Work stream 3: Information sharing**
 1. Proposed long-term stewardship contract monitoring group
 2. Proposed HB17X? – no property taxes on silvicultural equipment starting in 2013 + biomass as a PUC renewable resource
5. **Workstream 1: Communication**
 1. Slash sites map
 2. SM team: results of “defining terms workshop”
 3. Review database of CO biomass users
 4. Brainstorm talking points for communication work stream: “state of biomass utilization in the Front Range”
6. Calendar and next steps



Biomass Utilization and Slash Sites (BUSS) Team

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1. Two Front Range Forest Collaborative Groups: the Northern Front Range Mountain Pine Beetle Work Group, and the Front Range Roundtable



BUSS Team Outline

<p>Team Biomass Utilization and Slash Sites (BUSS)</p>	<p>Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications: Create a written communication that summarizes the “State of Biomass Utilization in the Front Range;” evaluate findings to develop recommendations on ways to increase biomass utilization 2. Advocacy: Conduct targeted outreach to agencies, private contractors, biomass utilizers, and possibly elected officials (in coordination with the OEO team) 3. Exchange information and form relationships between biomass suppliers, utilizers, supporters, and other biomass utilization and slash sites experts
<p>Work streams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Gather existing data on supply, demand, and other market factors B. Inventory slash sites C. Compile list of all known facilities using Front Range biomass 2. Advocacy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Letter re: forest planning B. Letter re: WRR WBUG C. Collect other biomass data for communications piece 3. Information sharing at bi-monthly meetings / calls 	<p>Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map of slash sites 2. Map of biomass users 3. Written communications in support of advocacy as needed 4. Letters of support; workshops, events, and outreach meetings 5. Announcements at meetings



OEO Team's Evaluation of Progress Against 2006 Recommendations

- Significant progress made
- Some progress made
- Initial progress made
- Needs attention
- No action taken

Initiative	Audience	2006 Recommended Action	Progress	Notes
5. Increase commercial utilization of woody biomass, especially as bioheating fuel for institutional buildings	Colorado Congressional delegation	Seek funding for the Biomass Commercial Use Grants in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to subsidize a facility's cost of purchasing biomass		
	Colorado General Assembly	Seek funding for the Improved Biomass Use Grants in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support development of woody biomass utilization opportunities		
		Require the feasibility of bioheating to be explored for new public buildings on the Front Range.		
		Provide subsidies for the conversion of heating units to bioheating in existing state buildings.		
		Revise the state's renewable energy bill (Amendment 37) to include bioheating (for example, electric power made from biomass is currently included).		
		Enact tax-credits to encourage businesses to serve bioheating consumers (for example, wood-chip suppliers and distributors)		
	Colorado Wood (Colorado State University)	Act as a marketplace to bring together potential bioheating suppliers (such as private landowners and technology service providers) and consumers (such as public building planners)		
	Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation	Explore the development of bioenergy tax districts		
	County Commissioners			
	Local Governments			



Proposed LTSC Monitoring Group's Goals

Team Long-Term Stewardship Contract Monitoring Group (LTSC Monitoring Group)

Goals

1. Support the USFS and WRR in conducting monitoring as required by any grants WRR may receive or as desired by the USFS for the Arapaho-Roosevelt and Pike-San Isabel National Forests
2. Evaluate and report to the Front Range Roundtable on how well the LTSC meets the Roundtable goals and strategy.

Background

- The USFS is not required to have a monitoring group for the LTSC and does not have any current budget for such a group, but wishes to see some level of collaborative monitoring take place by multiparty volunteers. If the USFS receives the FLRA grant, then it will need a monitoring system.
- West Range Reclamation may be required to implement a monitoring system if awarded certain woody biomass utilization grants, but even if not required, the contractor would like to participate in monitoring in order to ensure the best work possible to meet the contract's desired ecological, economic, and social goals, and "be able to look in the mirror while shaving."
- One of the Roundtable's four main goals set in 2006 was to "set clear priorities and ensure progress against common goals." Forming this monitoring group and staffing it with Roundtable volunteers would serve this Roundtable goal.

Scope:

1. This team will initially focus on implementation monitoring and effectiveness monitoring; if funding is raised from other sources (e.g., CFRI and WRR offered to consider) then limited response monitoring will also be included.¹
2. Regional scope: All of Front Range for Deliverable 1, AR and PSI LTSC only for Deliverables 2, 3 (see next page for deliverables)
3. Out of scope: Monitoring for success use of "Finney blocks" or how the treatments lay across the landscape to mitigate fire risk

1. Implementation monitoring type: assess whether a planned management action such as mechanical thinning was done when, where, and how the plan/contract specified.
Effectiveness monitoring: assess whether the effects of a planned and implemented management action such as mechanical thinning actually met the stated objectives of the action (e.g. "to reduce fire hazard by increasing spacing between tree crowns"). Response monitoring: Collection of data over a period of time to evaluate a broad suite of direct and indirect effects, intended or unintended, of a management action on an ecosystem (e.g impacts of thinning on wildlife use of habitat or rate of soil erosion into riparian zone).



Example Preliminary Communication: “Slash Sites In Colorado Using Front Range Supply”

CSFS District	County	No.	Name/Location	Operational Info
Collins Dist.	Larimer	7	4 Community Sites 2 Stove Prairie* 1 Stove Prairie*	Run by HOA's/FPD's Run by Larimer /Peak to Peak Wood Run by Estes Pk./Peak to Peak Wood
Boulder Dist.	Boulder	3* 2*	Meeker Park*	Run by Bo. Co./Peak to Peak Wood
	Gilpin	1*	*	Run by Bo. Co./Peak to peak Wood Run by Gilpin /Peak to Peak Wood
Golden Dist.	Park (North)	7 (5+2***)		
	Clear Creek	0	1 Idaho Springs Transfer Station***	Run by CC County; Grant assist – CSFS
	Jefferson	6	5 remote sites 1 Rooney Landfill	Run by FPD's Run by multi-jurisdictional authority; Closing in 2010
Woodland Park	Teller	3		
	Park (South)	TBD	CUSP/Devy (sp?)	Run by Slash site is at devy not deckers, county-owned facility, \$5/truck-tipping fee, manned Friday, Saturday, Sunday from April to November 1st. (as per Carol)
	El Paso	TBD		Run by County Run by CUSP/FPD
Franktown Dist.	Douglas	2		Run by County Run by FPD/HOA
Granby Dist.	Grand	1**	Ranch Creek Ltd.	Private
TOTAL		23		

Need addresses or general locations in order to map

* = Indicates Peak to Peak Wood Collection Site
 ** = Private Business
 *** = Landfill Sites
 NOTE: There are other places where people take slash but they are not advertised as slash sites or are drop-off sites for other material, etc.



Results of SM Team’s Defining Terms Workshop — Biomass Terms

Term/Phrase to define	Proposed definition	Source of proposed definition
Standing available biomass (SAB)	Total vegetative biomass that exists in a forest with no implication about its accessibility or availability or desirability for harvest	3/9/10 workshop
Recommended available biomass (RAB)	Biomass that is still standing in the forest but has been recommended for treatment / harvest through a collaborative analysis and prioritization process	After 3/9/10 workshop (Gali Beh)
Prioritized available biomass (PAB)	Biomass that is still standing in the forest but has been made available for treatment / harvest through an analysis and decision-process by the landowner	3/9/10 workshop
Cut available biomass (CAB)	Biomass that has been harvested and removed from the forest and is available for secondary use. It may be stacked in the forest, by the road, in transit on trucks, or in sort or storage yards.	
Biomass utilization	To make beneficial use of woody biomass by removing it from the forest and using it to generate a secondary product	
Small-diameter utilization (SDU)	The harvest, sale, offer, trade, and/or use of a more specific size class of woody biomass that includes small-diameter trees that do not meet minimum specifications for sawlogs, but are large enough to be used as posts, poles, tree stakes, small pulplogs, or other similar forest products.	WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION DESK GUIDE, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service National Technology & Development Program 2400—
Woody biomass	The by-product of management, restoration, and hazardous fuel reduction treatments, including trees and woody plants (i.e., limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in a forest, woodland, or rangeland environment).	Forest Management, September 2007 (http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/Woody_Biomass/documents/biomass_deskguide.pdf)
Woody biomass utilization (WBU)	The harvest, sale, offer, trade, and/or use of woody biomass. This utilization results in the production of a full range of wood products, including timber, engineered lumber, paper and pulp, furniture, and value-added commodities, as well as bioenergy and/or biobased products such as plastics, ethanol, and diesel.	



Talking Points: State of Biomass Utilization in the Front Range

- **Issues**
 - Supply
 - Demand
 - Economics
 - What is “available”
- **Challenges**
 - Infrastructure
 - Cost of removal/Low-value nature of material
 - Transportation
- **Ongoing Efforts**
 - CO Wood Utilization and Marketing Program
 - Technical Assistance
 - Supply Study
 - Education/Outreach
 - USDA – FS Biomass Program
 - Woody BUG
 - Forest Products Lab
 - Peak to Peak Wood
 - Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative
 - Long-term Forest Stewardship Contract
 - Colorado Biomass Working Group



Team Calendar Through 2010

Red = change

Event	Location	Date	Time
BUSS call 10		Thursday, April 01, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 11		Thursday, April 15, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS meeting 12	USFS RO - Fernow	Thursday, May 06, 2010	1-4pm
BUSS call 13		Thursday, May 20, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS call 14		Thursday, June 03, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 15		Thursday, June 17, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS call 16		Thursday, July 01, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 17		Thursday, July 15, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS call 18		Thursday, August 05, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 19		Thursday, August 19, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS meeting 20	USFS RO - Fernow	Thursday, September 02, 2010	1-4pm
BUSS call 21		Thursday, September 16, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS call 22		Thursday, October 07, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 23		Thursday, October 21, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS call 24		Thursday, November 04, 2010	3-5pm
BUSS call 25		Thursday, November 18, 2010	4-5pm
BUSS meeting 26	USFS RO - Fernow	Thursday, December 02, 2010	1-4pm
BUSS call 27		Thursday, December 16, 2010	4-5pm



Proposed Team Logistics

This team typically meets by phone on the 1st and 3rd THURSDAY afternoon of each month, with a

- longer call (3-5pm) on the 1st THURSDAY and
- shorter call (4-5pm) on the 3rd THURSDAY.

Some calls will be replaced by a longer (1-4pm) in person meeting in March, May, September, and December. **Location:** The four in person meetings will be in person at the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms St Golden, CO 80401 -- Fernow Room, 2nd floor

Always use the following conference call information: call 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343.

1st Thursday online meeting login:
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/539941266>; Meeting Password: BUSS

3rd Thursday online meeting login:
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/592064290>; Meeting Password: BUSS

Private online document management :
www.onlinefilefolder.com
Login: Roundtable; Password (ask Gali)