

Agenda Item No.:	9
Work Plan Title & #:	Strategic Planning and Monitoring
Presentation Title:	Results of Eastern Oregon Small Diameter Wood Study
Date of Presentation:	January 6, 2016
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to brief the Board of Forestry on results from the report “Eastern Oregon Small Diameter Wood Study” conducted by The Beck Group with assistance from Mason, Bruce & Girard. This project was/is a piece of the “Develop Options to Help Maintain Forest Landowner Viability” Issue in the Emerging and Overarching Issues workplan.

CONTEXT

There is a need to identify additional market based options to allow for private forest landowners to diversify their revenue streams. In rural areas of Oregon, notably in eastern Oregon, there has been a substantial decline in the forest product processing complex making it difficult for private landowners to market their timber. On the East side a significant portion of the restoration work and harvest involves small diameter wood also termed “biomass”. These logs can be utilized in a variety of outlets, fuel, chips, posts/poles, and even sawn (using modern equipment) and either sold as lumber or utilized in value-added processes depending on diameter and species. Despite these opportunities small diameter markets pose a challenge as the value of materials is relatively low and processing, labor, equipment, and transportation costs can quickly limit the capacity to generate positive revenue.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Beck Group along with Mason, Bruce & Girard were asked to prepare a report that gave detailed summaries of different technologies that would utilize small diameter wood, market possibilities for this material, and how much of this small diameter material is available. The latter work focused on sale prospectus forms from collaborative restoration work. Specifically, the contractors were asked to:

- 1) Quantify the small diameter supply and its characteristics;
- 2) Identify market opportunities for small diameter material in Eastern Oregon Department of Forestry;
- 3) Analyze the concept of developing an integrated small diameter processing facility (i.e., a facility designed to utilize small diameter materials in a variety of ways as opposed to a facility designed for only one conversion technology).

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information and discussion purposes. No action is required.

NEXT STEPS

Disseminate report to appropriate parties that are interested in or would benefit from its results.

ATTACHMENTS

(1) Eastern Oregon Small Diameter Wood Study