

# Workshop Summary

**Monday, December 8, 2008, 1:00pm-4:00pm**

***Providing Multiple Resource Benefits and Economic Opportunities through Biomass Utilization***

## Workshop Organizers:

***Edmund Gee***, National Woody Biomass Utilization Team Leader & National Partnership Coordinator, Forest Management, USDA Forest Service, Forest and Rangelands

***Marcia Patton-Mallory***, Biomass & Bioenergy Coordinator, USDA Forest Service

## Workshop Presenters:

***Diana Jerkins***, CSREES, USDA

***Marcia Patton-Mallory***, Biomass & Bioenergy Coordinator, USDA Forest Service

***John Stewart***, DOI - National Fire Plan

The woody biomass utilization pre-conference workshop will be sponsored by the interagency woody biomass utilization group (WBUG). The WBUG membership is made up from six main Departments involving Interior, Energy, Agriculture, Defense, Commerce, and Environmental Protection Agency. These federal partners will focus on “National Policies and Legislation for Woody Biomass Utilization” with a brief overview of the policies affecting woody biomass. There will be a presentation on “Why Woody Biomass” is important to the health of our forest ecosystems, livelihood of rural communities, and effects on climate change. “Managing on a Landscape Level for Woody Biomass” will be of special interest to those practitioners who manage large parcels of land. An emphasis will be placed on “Managing Woody Biomass” as a resource rather than a waste material. Lastly, there will be a presentation to look at “Funding Opportunities for Woody Biomass Projects and Development.”

## Agenda Topics:

1. National Policies and Legislation for Woody Biomass Utilization
2. Why Woody Biomass?
3. Managing on a Landscape Level for Woody Biomass
4. Funding Opportunities for Woody Biomass Projects and Development

## Discussion:

Exciting opportunities are arising at an astonishing rate to meet domestic energy needs and environmental opportunities through woody biomass combined heat and power (CHP) and thermal applications. Several indicators are showing that the global supply of known fossil fuel reserves are on the decline and the rapid and volatile increase in the price per barrel of oil has opened the door for woody biomass to be one of the most competitive CHP and thermal applications in our country. Woody biomass utilization can also address several environmental and social concerns and benefits; such as, mitigating climate change by offsetting fossil fuel use since biomass is considered green house gas neutral, hazard fuels reduction, improvement of wildlife habitat, mitigate for insect and disease outbreaks, watershed restoration and job creation and diversification for state, county and tribal communities. This workshop will provide an overview of biomass resource applications, biomass technology pathways, steps to biomass project development, environmental, social political and economic benefits, and market opportunities.