



Newsletter

May 2009

Intermountain
Society of American Foresters



Editors Comments and Disclaimers

This newsletter is our first sent by e-mail to members with e-mail addresses. For those without e-mail addresses you'll receive by surface mail. This conserves resources and IMSAF operating budgets. Our next **IMSAF Newsletter deadline for submitting articles is June 30!** I will edit for brevity and clarity and take responsibilities for them. Contact me with your concerns, corrections and (better yet) news you wish us to cover. My contact information is:

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Kenops

Thank You, Darrel L.

Remaining CY 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE		
Friday May 29 & Saturday May 30	Bryce Canyon / Dixie National Forest Follow-up to May 2007 meeting (revisit landscape fire use across administrative boundaries, post treatment)	Bryce, Utah
June 19-20	Snake River Chapter Annual Meeting and Field Trip	McCall, Idaho
June 22-26	7th North American Forest Ecology Workshop	Logan, Utah
TBA: early July	Field Tour of the Henry Mountains Discussion of ARRA Project: "McMillan Springs Stewardship"	Hanksville or Torrey, Utah
Friday, August 28 - Saturday, August 29	Great Basin Fire History / Site visit to Juniper Pellet	Baker and Ely, Nevada
TBA: September	Evening meeting in association with USFS Regional Leadership Team Meetings	Ogden, Utah
Wednesday, September 30 - Sunday, October 4	2009 SAF National Convention Opportunities in a Forested World	Orlando, Florida

See the Meetings page on our webpage for additional details: <http://www.usu.edu/saf>



IDAHO'S 2009 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION A SUCCESS!

With the Idaho Forest Products Commission in the lead and Snake River Chapter SAF members in a support role; colleagues, students, elected leaders, urban forestry staff, State Forester and interested citizens celebrated the beauty and utility of Idaho's trees and forests.

From 5:00 am TV interviews to Taft Elementary Student Arbor Day poetry presentations and honoring of this year's 1st place Poster Contest winner, Jillian Orr, Gate City Elementary, Pocatello, Idaho the importance of trees and forests to our quality of life and communities was celebrated.

From Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and student helpers planting of a kwanzan cherry tree, to Idaho Land Board Members, Governor Otter, Donna Jones, State Controller, Ben Ysursa, Secretary of State, and Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction check presentation of Endowment Funds from forest management proceeds to Idaho Schools, to seven cities receiving "Tree City USA" recognition it was a fun learning opportunity for all.

To top it off Betty J. Munis, Director of Idaho's Forest Products Commission's Idaho Statesman newspaper "Readers View Arbor Day" editorial put into perspective why Arbor Day is meaningful as a time to reflect on trees and forests as renewable resources which touch and enrich our lives in many ways.

---contributed by IMSAF Editor---

LYNN SPRAGUE NATIONAL SAF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The winter SAF National Council February, 2009 meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota focused on improvement of internal operations and status of our Wild Acres Property.

With the current economic downturn sale of the Wild Acres Property will not happen in the short term. There are additional zoning and Historic Preservation issues brought forward by the local County Government to work on. Recently arrived SAF Headquarter staff; Christopher Whited, Membership & Marketing; Corey Hughley, Membership; Rita Perchikova, Finance; Steve Wilent, Forestry Source and Erica Rhoad, Policy and operational improvements were discussed.

From a new, accounting based, fully web linked, state of art system for membership purposes to an upgraded, new technology and data base system which links State Societies, Chapters and SAF national website; we are in transition instituting 21st Century approaches for cost effective integrated communication and data base systems to serve our members and leaders.

A "Forest Highgrading" policy issue is under consideration and an updated position statement on International Trade was approved. New thinking on SAF Leadership Development which features on-going training carried out hierarchically by all SAF levels and units is under discussion and development. **Lynn welcomes your thoughts and recommendations on SAF Leadership Development.**



Plan to attend our SAF 2009 Orlando National Convention. Keynote Speaker is best selling author Charles Mann, "1491: New Revelations of the America's Before Columbus". A very family friendly convention with many Disney amenities plus outstanding golf, fishing, history, Cape Canaveral and many natural areas nearby coupled with an outstanding program and field trips await you.

Continue to encourage members to stay in SAF and participate in important efforts to bring on new members as there are many SAF activities to engage and enjoy. Our new and improved SAF Strategic Plan 2009-2015 sets in motion our collective efforts for promoting and delivering quality forestry and the forestry professionals in service to our society and the world.

---contributed by Lynn Sprague, our National SAF Council Representative---

SAF SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER SEEKS IDAHO GOVERNOR OTTER'S INVOLVEMENT IN WOODY BIOMASS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

There are plentiful woody biomass supplies on public and private forest lands which is not being recognized as the U.S. House of Representatives begins its mark up of the draft " American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES).

"Using wood from our forests and rangelands to produce renewable energy would serve to strengthen our economy and rural communities and improve watershed conditions, forest health and environment in general" stated Snake River Chapter Chair Dennis L. Mengel, CF. "He added "This draft legislation through its definition of woody biomass, excludes biomass from public and many private lands from inclusion in the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), thus creating a major disincentive for investment in woody biomass energy production when compared to wind and solar energy."

He cited findings from 10 U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management biomass availability studies over 30 million acres. If the estimated 5 million green tons of biomass planned to be treated on these landscapes were removed for energy purposes, we could eliminate the potential for 1.32 billion tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere from wildfires if the those areas would burn.

The Snake River Chapter offered Governor Otter their and our National SAF staff assistance and enclosed our SAF National Position Statement, "Utilization of Forest Biomass to Restore Forest Health and Improve U.S. Energy Security"

In a related development Chairman Terry Day, Woody Biomass Partnership wrote an April 10th letter to U.S. Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID) on the ACES bill calling the draft bill too restrictive on the biomass definition and recommending improvements to the current ACES draft language.

---contributed by SAF Snake River Chapter----



IDAHO SMALL WOOD BIOMASS WORKSHOP A SUCCESS!

Over 100 participants crowded into the Cascade, Idaho American Legion Hall on April 16, 2009 to learn about latest woody biomass developments.

Thanks to workshop sponsors, West Central Highlands Resource and Conservation District, Idaho Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership and Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group and top notch speakers, attendees sharpened their understanding of the local opportunities to market and use effectively woody biomass for energy feedstock purposes.

It was announced that an interactive "Woody Biomass" website will be available in July, 2009 to further educate and supply key information and economic opportunities. Speaker Catherine Mater, Mater, LTD said the State of Utah is the first in the nation to have complete public land data thru the Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) for investment purposes. AND the State of Idaho will soon be the second state to have this strategic CROP information.

Potlatch Corp managers of the 180,000 acre Resource Management Unit are waiting for markets to develop so they can reduce their slash treatment costs, reduce fire threats and hazards and when a wildfire hits the post fire damage and remedial costs.

Dick Vincent, Yellowstone Power is looking to acquire sustainable supply of 50,000 bone dry tons of woody biomass annually for a business to be sited in Ontario, Oregon. If he can line up this supply the woody biomass fuels will be stocked pile in 2010 with the business firing a few months later.

The Payette National Forest shared their plans to market some 30 to 50 thousand tons of biomass annually from pine plantation thinning and stewardship contracts. They are planning to let a 10 year stewardship contract in the next 12 to 18 months. Local U.S. Forest Service Ranger Districts were recognized for their outstanding work with local school districts on "Fuels to Schools" projects.

Innovative and hard working owner Mike Sterling, Parma Post and Pole shared how he is adapting to the new realities of the wood market thru manufacturing and other operational improvements. He pulls wood out of five National Forests with 80% from the John Day, Oregon area where they require removal of forest slash in forest operations.

Inspiring and informative David Naccarato, McKinstry Co, with offices in 11 western states, walked participants thru key information and approaches for taking a concept-using woody biomass for energy purposes-to making it an operational reality. The key question as his firm works with clients is "how do we design, install at a cost that makes sense to those who need this technology?"

Key data for this question are: lowest possible cost to owner e.g. cost of fuel, cost of money, cost for capital equipment and cost to operate. The 1997 federal energy deregulation effort change our world. The "era of cheap power" is over.

----contributed by IMSAF Editor-----



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN BAIRD (D-WA) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APRIL 20, 2009 HEARING SHARES KEY BIOMASS INFORMATION

Recently at U.S. Representative Brian Baird's April 20, 2009 hearing in Vancouver, Washington important insights on the breath of interest and innovation underway on the topic of "The Role of Forest Products in Solving the Nation's Energy and Climate Challenges" was shared. Representative Baird is Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and the Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House Representatives

Representative Baird reported that a recent *Science* magazine said, "American forests were recently estimated to be able to produce 368 million dry tons of wood for energy generation per year." And this is considered an underestimate. "From biomass resources, such as wood, we can derive products as diverse as fuels, lubricants, heat and electricity, chemicals, food, feed, building materials, paper, fiber and much more." He added, "all of these products may have the benefits of adding financial value to the forest and supporting restoration and improvement in the form of timber stand thinning."

He stated that "a mix of policies and incentives supportive to biomass fuels, power and products could be pursued in combination with education of both decision makers and the public on their benefits." He added, "Wood or forest biomass as a renewable and domestic resource can substantially improve our economy, national security and environment."

From David Sjoding, Washington State University, who leads the six state Pacific Regional Biomass Energy Partnership-which includes Idaho- to the discussion of the Weyerhaeuser / Chevron Joint venture titled "Catchlight Energy LCC" to Tom Partin, President, American Forest Resources Council; the reader is enlightened on the rate of innovation as well as specific recommendations made which can improve the woody biomass situation.

From U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Mary Wagner, who outlines in clear terms how the agency is thinking and working to bring forth energy supplies from the forest which will improve forest watershed and habitat conditions, to James K. Walls, Executive Director for the Lake County Resources Initiative, who shares a practical examples of how mutual community interests can come together to create great value, and testimony by Dr's Kristina and Daniel Vogt discloses a very innovative partnership: a collaborative effort to strengthen rural communities and improve forest health. In hand is the technology to produce bio-methanol to become suppliers to multiple traditional industries and to the newly emerging small appliances industries (e.g. replacing batteries with methanol-fuel cells). Thru mobile biomass conversion facilities located near the forest and rural communities. The potential for job creation is significant. Soon pilot projects can be underway to further test before over 100 such mobile conversion facilities can be deployed in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere.

----contributed by IMSAF Editor & U.S. Rep Baird's Website-----



“THE TRUE COST OF WILDFIRE IN THE WESTERN U.S.” NOW AVAILABLE

An April 13, 2009 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition report titled "The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S." more fully discusses and discloses the range of costs which can be far greater than the suppression cost usually reported. This important report can help elected leaders, the fire and forest management community and emergency and restoration services continue to dialogue on the "whole brain" costs and impacts of wildfires.

--- contributed by Western Forestry Leadership Coalition---

U.S. ENDOWMENT FOR FORESTRY AND COMMUNITIES REPORTS ON FOREST BUSINESS CLUSTERS STATUS AND OPPORTUNITIES

An industry cluster in any and all business sectors can lead to a leveraging of resources and partners from research and development, to policy development and operational effectiveness and efficiency. This report provides a comprehensive look specifically at the forestry business cluster situation. It provides important case studies and data which is valuable to those seeking a competitive edge in today's operating environment. You can access this report at www.usendowment.org.

---contributed by Diane Snyder, V-P Community Development, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities



Intermountain Society Officers for 2009

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Chair Elect (Chair in 2011-12)	vacant
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