

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

Producing Energy; Protecting Forests

The Case for Wood Biomass Policies and Practices

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finding the ways that work

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A Cautionary Tale

Year	Total, in thousands
1987	2000
1989	2500
1991	3000
1993	4000
1995	5500
1997	7500
1999	9500
2001	9000
2003	10000
2005	9000

Biomass: Issues and Opportunities

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Finding Consensus

3 Questions for Today's Discussion

- How to define wood waste?
- What impacts of increased wood biomass harvests?
- Are new practices and polices needed for biomass harvests?

Biomass: Issues and Opportunities

Forests Don't Waste Wood

- Forests are not a waste product; nor unlimited.
- “The consensus among experts is that the absence of downed woody debris would be detrimental to biodiversity and ecological processes.” (Dr. Hess, NC Chip Mill Study, 2000)
- “*Bark, needles, cones, we use all of it.*” (Mr. Mandich, chief executive of Range Fuels)

“The growth of liquid biofuels has been exponential, but that rapid growth has run ahead of our ability to understand its impacts. To get the best out of biofuels, we need to deal with trade, sustainability, intellectual property, climate change, and financial flows all at the same time. The challenge for our leaders is formidable.”

*-- George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr.,
Weyerhaeuser Company*



Potential Concerns

- Soil Nutrients (McComb and Lindenmayer, 1999)
- Formation of Organic Soils (Fuhrman, 2004)
- Water Quality (Hagan and Grove, 1999)
- Wildlife Habitat
 - Birds (Lohr et al, 2002)
 - Mammals (Loeb, 1999; Mengak et al, 2003)

A Vision for Wood Biomass Markets

- Expand use of locally derived energy sources;
- Maintain and enhance forest productivity, wildlife habitat and soil quality; and
- Create market opportunities for multiple landowner objectives.

Elements of wood energy policy:

- 1) Adequate mechanisms to protect water quality;
- 2) Sufficient safeguards for wildlife;
- 3) Policies to minimize landscape impacts;
- 4) Consideration of water supply constraints;
- 5) Protection of air quality;
- 6) Landowner education and technical assistance;
- 7) An appropriate role for public incentives; and
- 8) A well funded research agenda.
