



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2004

Three Western Land Managers Discuss Strategies to Improve Forest Health and Diversify Economic Opportunities

DATE: Wednesday, October 12, 2005

TIME: 8:30am – 10:00am; Panel Session including:

- Robert Harrington, State Forester, Montana
- Abigail Kimbell, Northern Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service
- Elaine Marquis-Brong, Oregon/Washington State Director, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

10:00 – 10:30; Press Conference with Speakers

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula
Conference Center, Mohave Rooms
20 South Pattee Street, (406) 721-8550

WHAT: Western Forestry State and Federal Leaders are meeting to discuss *Solutions to Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Woody Biomass Utilization and Forest Health Issues*. To kick off the conference, three leaders from different land management agencies will discuss how hazardous fuels reduction is a critical component of improving forest health and reducing the risk of wildfire. Each speaker will highlight the different issues, roles, responsibilities and programs of federal, state and local governments in promoting the use of these small trees and shrub, or woody biomass.

The State Director for the Oregon BLM will discuss the authority they have to include an “Option for Woody Biomass Utilization” in contracts. The State Forester for Montana will present the scale of Montana’s wildfire and forest health problems and how removing woody biomass must go hand-in-hand with creating markets for that wood. US Forest Service Northern Regional Forester will highlight federal programs promoting fuel reduction and forest health.

The conference is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, National Association of Conservation Agencies, National Association of Counties, National Network of Forest Practitioners, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, Western Governors Association, Bitter Root RC&D, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, Bureau of Land Management and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Conference information is available at <http://nacdnet.org/meetings/WestBiomass/>.

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