

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

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### **Equipment Demonstration Investigates Fast Pyrolysis As Another Tool to Help Reduce Hazardous Fuels**

The Umatilla National Forest, in cooperation with Morrow County, Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Idaho and the University of Montana, is sponsoring a free public demonstration of fast pyrolysis equipment on August 31 at the Kinzua Mill Site north of Heppner, OR. This demonstration investigates whether portable fast pyrolysis is economically feasible to decrease wildfire risk by reducing hazardous fuels.

“Fast pyrolysis is a thermal process that rapidly heats woody biomass to high temperatures and then quickly cooled to yield bio-oil, bio-char, and syngas,” said David Powell, Forest Silviculturist. Syngas can be collected or recycled into the combustion chamber to run the fast pyrolysis operation. The bio-oil and bio-char are collected and trucked off-site for later use. Bio-oil can be refined into #2 diesel fuel or used for industrial heating while the bio-char can be used as a valued soil amendment.

“Transporting biomass from the forest floor to the mill site can be costly and often the value of the product does cover the transportation costs,” said Powell. The fast Pyrolysis equipment is portable and can be moved from treatment site to treatment site or set up at a convenient central location.

The equipment will be set up and operating the morning of August 31 at the Kinzua Mill Site, two miles north of Heppner, OR on State Highway 207. Presentations by Renewable Oil International will begin at 1:00 p.m.

For more information about the fast pyrolysis demonstration or requests for special accommodations, please contact Dave Powell, Forest Silviculturist at (541) 278-3852 or Carrie Spradlin, Heppner RD Supervisory Forester at (541) 676-9187.