

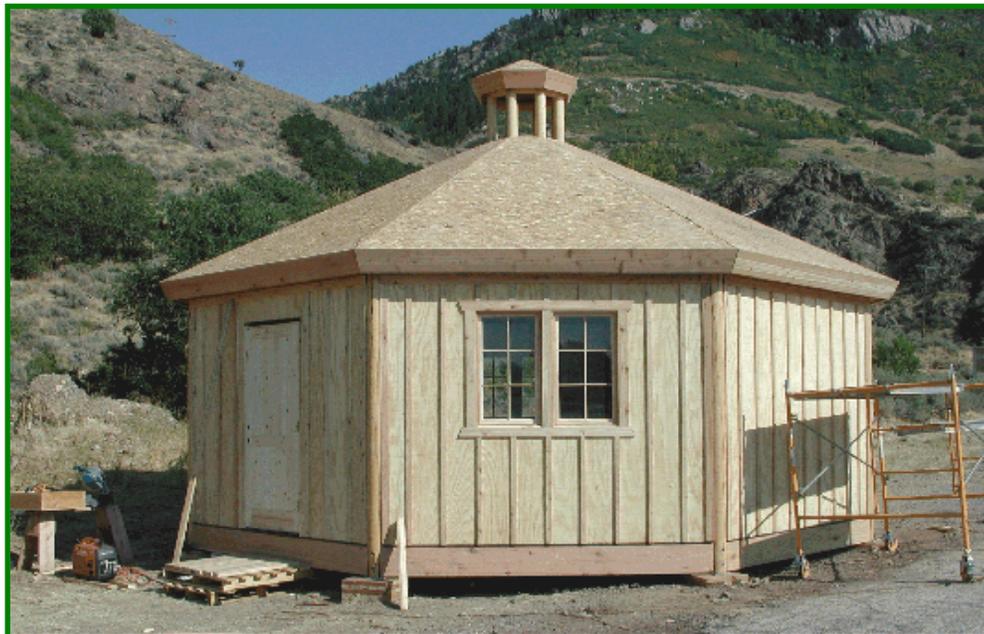
Devastating Wildfires ♦ Helping Communities Respond

USDA Forest Service ♦ Northern & Intermountain Regions
State & Private Forestry



USDA Forest Service helps small businesses develop uses for hazardous fuels

- ❖ Economic action programs assist with assessing and developing markets for small diameter wood.
- ❖ Traditionally these waste materials are burned, adding to air quality problems and the cost of fuels reduction projects.
- ❖ We use existing efficient programs to accomplish joint goals of fire protection/rehabilitation and community development.
- ❖ Grass roots, community-driven programs will increase local employment levels while reducing fire danger.
- ❖ Communities with recent mill closures receive priority assistance.
- ❖ Over \$4 million was distributed throughout 5 western states in Regions 1 and 4.



Using a design developed by the Forest Products Laboratory and funds from the Economic Action Pilot Program, Ron Porter's company built two kiosks for use in the 2002 Olympics. The unique small structures have trusses and I-beams of small diameter logs, donated by Porter. His business has always used small roundwood, first to make posts and poles and then log homes. This new product will help him diversify his customer base even more, and will likely add jobs to the small community of Hamilton, Montana.

"I'm very optimistic about it...I'm sure we will add some employees if we start getting any amount of orders for these." ~Ron Porter