



United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Research Station

Sierra Nevada Research Center



Biomass to Energy: Modeling the production of energy using biomass from hazardous fuels treatments

Purpose

This project models the environmental, economic, and social benefits and costs of using biomass from forest thinning projects to generate electricity. The model is a policy decision-support tool, enabling policy makers to “game out” policy scenarios.

Objectives

- Model a range of options for altering fire behavior at the landscape scale while making biomass utilization economically feasible.
- Value the public benefits and costs associated with fuels treatments and using the waste stream for biomass energy production.

Status

The project team is currently completing an initial test version of the model, using land use and operations data from a 1.2 million acre study area near Westwood, California.

Partners

- Future Resources Associates
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Oregon State University
- TCW Economics
- TSS Consultants
- University of California Davis
- University of Washington
- USFS Region 5 Stewardship and Fireshed Assessment Team



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