

**Vision and Goals  
for the  
Implementation Plan of the Woody Biomass MOU<sup>1</sup>**

**Preamble:** *The Secretaries support the utilization of woody biomass by-products from restoration and fuels treatment projects wherever ecologically and economically appropriate and in accordance with the law.*

Ecologically and economically sustainable woody biomass utilization will result in more diverse forest, woodland, and rangeland ecosystems – characterized by native flora and fauna, healthy watersheds, better air quality, improved scenic qualities, resilience to natural disturbances, reduced wildfire threats to communities, and provide an alternative waste management strategy, contributing to rural economic vitality and national energy security.

Goals of woody biomass utilization:

1. Reduce the cost and improve the quality of forest, woodland, and rangeland restoration or hazardous fuel reduction treatments. "Reduce Forest restoration cost and increase the use of woody biomass as a renewable energy resource through environmentally sound actions which also provide economic opportunity in rural communities."
2. Reduce risk of catastrophic fires through adoption of wide-spread woody biomass utilization practices.
3. Provide a sustainable and reliable supply of woody biomass from forests, woodlands and rangelands across a range of ownerships and regions of the nation.
4. Develop and implement consistent and complementary policies and procedures to maximize Federal efficiency and effectiveness of woody biomass utilization.
5. Restore at-risk forest, woodland, and rangeland ecosystems to healthy and resilient conditions.
6. Develop sustainable, living wage jobs and appropriately-scaled industries in communities.
7. Enhance National security through clean, renewable, diversified energy production.
8. Contribute to the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations.
9. Develop and apply appropriate technologies and provide technology transfer to stakeholders.
10. Biomass currently directed to landfills is substantially diverted to higher value use.

THINK ABOUT: regional issues, ecosystem types, forest health management; fragmentation avoidance

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<sup>1</sup> MOU of June 2003