



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Awarded to Kalispell Recipient

USDA Forest Service recently awarded John Jump Trucking of Kalispell, Montana, a Woody Biomass Utilization Grant for the company to organize, equip and implement a woody biomass collection and transfer system in Northwest and Western Montana.

The \$249,000 grant will be used to purchase equipment, develop a central collection yard, and create awareness about the benefits of using woody biomass. Kevin Jump, co-owner and manager, said, "We plan to create an economical alternative to both burning and current mechanical methods of handling slash on forested lands." Ultimately, Jump hopes to process forest residues as well as urban wood waste including trimmings, pallets and clean construction debris.

Woody biomass is waste-wood materials, such as culls from forest thinning, tops from logging or thinning operations, and/or sawmill residues, that can be used as fuel. The materials are burned or converted in systems that produce heat, electricity, or both heat and power. Many times the materials are also used for mulch or ground cover for landscaping and erosion-control. Removing the materials from the ground contribute to forest health and sustainability.

Jump Trucking was one of 26 small businesses and community groups nationwide that received grants totaling \$6.2 million to develop innovative uses for woody biomass, including renewable energy and new products from national forests. The woody biomass utilization grant program is intended to help improve forest restoration activities by using and creating markets for small-diameter material and low-valued trees removed from forest restoration activities, such as reducing hazardous fuels, handling insect and diseased conditions, or treating forestlands impacted by catastrophic weather events.

John Jump Trucking Inc. is a local Flathead Valley family business and has been operating for 50 years. Historically, the company has been in the log hauling, equipment hauling and log loading business. In the last year the company has purchased equipment to diversify their operation. This equipment includes over-the-road chip vans, blower truck for yard bark/mulch and erosion control material distribution, and a large capacity grinder/recycler. The company employs 25 people and plans for additional employees with the grant opportunity.

The US Forest Service's State and Private Forestry, Technology Marketing Unit at the agency's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin will administer the grant program. Northwest Regional Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will oversee the completion of the project. Only two grants were awarded in Montana. North Slope Sustainable Wood of Missoula, Montana was the other grant recipient.

For more information about the national grant, and a list of all the grantees, please visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/03/0069.xml.

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