



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0069.07

Contact:
Keith Williams (202) 720-4623
Jennifer Plyler (202) 205-1134

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY JOHANNNS ANNOUNCES \$6.2 MILLION FOR WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION PROJECTS

Grants Support Administration's Renewable Energy Goals and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2007 -- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced the award of \$6.2 million in grants to more than two dozen small businesses and community groups to develop innovative uses for woody biomass, including renewable energy and new products, from national forests.

"These grants help communities, entrepreneurs and others turn residues from forest restoration activities into marketable forest and energy products," said Johanns. "Not only will these projects reduce the risk of wildfire, they will help us to achieve the President's energy goals. Our farm bill proposals would take this effort to the next level by providing funding for research and new woody biomass projects."

The Administration's farm bill proposals would accelerate the development of new technologies to better utilize low-value woody biomass by authorizing \$150 million in 10 year mandatory funding for Forest Service research.

The grants will help create 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.

The Forest Service, a USDA agency, selected 26 small businesses and community groups as grant recipients. Awarded grants ranged from nearly \$125,000 to \$250,000. According to requirements, all 26 recipients provided at least 20 percent of the total project cost. Non-federal matching funds ranged from \$62,500 to more than \$2 million per project, for a total of almost \$12 million.

The Forest Service's State and Private Forestry, Technology Marketing Unit at the agency's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis. will administer the grant program.

Grantees, chosen from 93 applications requesting more than \$20 million in funding

support, proposed a wide array of innovative uses for woody biomass. The following are the 2007 woody biomass utilization grantees:

2007 Woody Biomass Utilization Grantees

Baker Timber Products Rapid City, SD \$250,000	Mescalero Forest Products Mescalero, NM \$250,000
Barela Timber Management Co. Inc. Las Vegas, NM \$225,000	Mountain Valley Lumber Saguache, CO \$179,260
Bearlodge Forest Products Inc. Hulett, WY \$250,000	Mountain Parks Electric, Inc Granby, CO \$242,500
Dept. Forestry N.C. State University Raleigh, NC \$247,802	Mt. Adams Resource Stewards Glenwood, WA \$178,746
Elk Regional Health System St. Marys, PA \$250,000	Mt. Taylor Millwork, Inc Milan, NM \$250,000
Forest Fuels Solutions Salmon, ID \$250,000	North Slope Sustainable Wood LLC Missoula, MT \$248,950
High Country Green Waste LLC Lakeside, AZ \$249,400	Olguin's Sawmill, Inc. El Prado, NM \$250,000
Intrinergy LLC Wiggins, MS \$250,000	Parma Post & Pole, Inc. Parma, ID \$245,180
John Jump Trucking Kalispell, MT \$249,000	Piute County Economic Development Junction, UT \$250,000
JTS Animal Bedding Redmond, OR \$250,000	Southwest Forest Products Phoenix, AZ \$250,000
Kane Area School District Kane, PA \$250,000	Ranch Creek Limited Granby, CO \$144,000
Kuykendall and Sons Tres Piedras, NM \$250,000	St. Maries Joint School District St. Maries, ID \$250,000
Malheur Lumber Company John Day, OR \$250,000	Sustainable Northwest Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Portland, OR \$249,560

#