

Annual Work Plan of the Federal Woody Biomass Working Group (WBUG) - 2008

The Federal Woody Biomass Working Group -- an interagency effort to promote the ecological and economically sustainable use of woody biomass -- is working on a number of contracting, coordination, policy and regulatory issues. The following Work Plan was developed by the WBUG at our annual strategic planning meeting in Washington, DC on January 23, 2008. The Plan has been modified based on input from our internal partners. Exhibit One shows the specific activities the WBUG will undertake in 2008. Added to the plan this year is a calendar of events at which the WBUG exhibit will be displayed (Exhibit Two), as well as a list of the interagency and external working groups in which WBUG members are participating (Exhibit Three).

Acronyms Referenced in this Document:

DOI = Department of the Interior
EPA = Environmental protection Agency
USDA = Department of Agriculture
USDA FS, or FS = US Forest Service (within USDA)
BLM = Bureau of Land Management (within DOI)
BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs (within DOI)
FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service (within DOI)
NPS = National Park Service (within DOI)
DOE = Department of Energy
NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service (within USDA)
NWOA = National Woodlands Owners Association
SAF = Society of American Foresters
NASF = National Association of State Foresters
NACD = National Association of Conservation Districts
WGA = Western Governor's Association

Exhibit One: 2008 WBUG Activities

Action	Agencies	Timeframe
<p>1. Align Work Plans: Continue to coordinate Agency plans to improve coordination and efficiency</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Share Programs Of Work among agencies – email</p> <p>Meeting(s) to achieve better coordination among <i>all</i> agencies</p>	<p><i>Done</i></p> <p><i>On-going</i></p> <p><i>ID timeline (i.e. quarterly meetings, monthly meetings?)</i></p>
<p>2. Contracting Guide/Issues: (1) Identify and resolve contracting barriers in emergency operations. (2) Consider counterpart regulations for USDA Forest Service and DOI acquisition regulations (3) Stewardship contracts/agreements technical training, assistance and capacity building (ongoing; refer to Nat'l Fire Plan strategy for timeline)</p>	<p>DOI (lead), EPA, USDA FS</p> <p>Need to keep this as an important task: highlight and identify the accomplishments/incentives across bureaus/agencies. <i>(1) move to Work Plan Task #9</i></p> <p><i>(2) & (3): Work with partners on supply issues; engage in dialogue with them: look into methods to provide a sustainable supply.</i></p> <p>NOTE: #3 is also a task in the revised 10-Year Strategy Implementation Plan of the National Fire Plan (Goal 4-1).</p>	<p><i>Amended & broadened—proposing new timeframe</i></p> <p><i>Ties to desk guide (#3); DDT plan development will address with FEMA and State emergency management; barriers to woody biomass as a feedstock (reliable, predictable supply); include entities beyond BLM, DOI; technical assistance training modules developed – needs to go further; stewardship contracting being reviewed at departmental level (FS) – keep this item</i></p>
<p>3. Desk Guide on Land Mgmt Project Design: Develop field desk guide on Federal biomass project design and implementation (Phase 1 & 2: Federal)</p> <p><i>Community and landowner assistance; cooperative field desk guide on biomass project design and implementation (Phase 3: non-federal)</i></p>	<p>Phase 1: USDA Forest Service (lead), BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS Ed Gee (USFS) to lead interaction with agencies to get their agency components/policies/authorizations</p> <p>Phase 2: USDA FS with other agencies (including DOE)</p> <p>Phase 3: <i>USDA FS and NRCS with partners (NWOA, SAF, NASF, NACD, etc)</i></p> <p><i>Daniel Cassidy, Ed Gee, Steve Yaddof, NRCS</i></p> <p><i>Andy Mason present to NACD by 8/08</i></p>	<p>Phase 1: Complete; on website for USDA FS</p> <p>Phase 2: Other agencies: 7/08</p> <p>Phase 3: <i>Proposing new timeframe with partners</i></p> <p><i>USDA FS complete; Finalize input from all agencies</i></p>
<p>4. Interagency Web Site: Increase biomass focus in National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Initiative and DOE websites; one-stop clearinghouse for technical information and assistance; link to other appropriate websites; links to partner organizations addressing sustainability issues</p>	<p>USDA FS (lead), DOI, DOE, Departments, Bureaus, agencies and appropriate associated members</p> <p>Stacy Adams (Leader), Brenda Aird (DOI lead), John Stewart, Kim VanHemelryck, Ed Gee, Steve Yaddof, Gregg Nelson: Still need a content master to manage interagency clearance process; committee will work through processes and bring things back to WBUG as necessary; long term maintenance and budget; coordinated program summary of planned work & accomplishments</p>	<p><i>Done – site public 8/31/07 at www.forestsandangelands.gov</i></p>
<p>5. FY 2009 Budget: coordinate biomass initiatives consistent with President's Advanced Energy Initiative, National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Initiative, Biomass Roadmap and Vision, and</p>	<p>USDA (lead), DOE, DOI, EPA</p> <p>Summary page on website List agency programs authorized and appropriated \$, as well as contacts.</p> <p>Agenda item for next WBUG – how to coordinate budget</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p> <p><i>Agencies send to Marcia Patton Mallory</i></p>

Federal WBUG Strategic Vision	development and reporting Link to Biofuels Action Plan?	
6. Training Package: Compile curricula, field tours, and training handbooks for field practitioners and community leaders; focus on sharing, encouraging training and identifying gaps via the web	USDA FS (lead), DOI Bureaus, and appropriate partners (NASF, NACD, WGA and others) <i>Put information on the web site, in cooperation with some of the regional groups that are actively putting training programs together. Use the web as a mechanism to inform/communicate folks about programs being developed. Focus on "collection"/sharing/directing/linking folks to regional training programs.</i>	<i>Amended & ongoing</i> <i>Need to ID a lead with name</i>
7. Success Stories: Highlight success stories for public outreach venues, training, and program monitoring such as Reports to Congress	All; USDA FS (lead) <i>Format has been developed to share success stories, for sharing/populating the web site. Sue, Barry—team to provide format and encourage use to populate web site. Opportunity to highlight non-federal lessons learned and benefits, as well as accomplishments of WBUG.</i>	<i>Need another call for success stories from all agencies with template (via Stacy Adams or Sue LeVan)</i>

Exhibit Two: 2008 Calendar of Events

Event	Date	WBUG Participant	Role	Exhibit (Y & Who is Staffing/N)
NCSE	January 2008	USFS, DOI, DOE		
ESA	February 2008	USFS, EPA?, Nieh, DOE, Buford	Speaker (Buford)	Pull up poster
Fourth Annual National Sustainable Design Expo and Prosperity, Planet, and People (P3) Award competition	April 20-22, 2008		Exhibitor	National Mall in Washington, DC
4th National 25x'25 Summit	March 11-13, 2008		Exhibitor	Omaha, Nebraska. Co-hosted by the 25x'25 National Steering Committee and the Nebraska 25x'25 Alliance
USDA's 84th Outlook Forum	February 21-22, 2008	Yaddof		2008 Theme: "Energizing Rural America in the Global Marketplace" Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia; Pull up poster
Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC)	March 4-6, 2008	Stokes, Patton-Mallory		Washington DC Convention Center; Pull up poster
SmallWood 2008 and the Bioenergy and Wood Products Conference	May 13-15, 2008	John Stewart, Susan Levan, Bryce Stokes, Ed Gee	Exhibitor, co-sponsor	Madison, WI Monona Terrace Convention Center. Sponsored by DOI/FS/DOE; Pull up poster
Thirty-Second Annual InterTribal Timber Symposium	June 2-5, 2008			Hon-Dah, AZ Tribal Indian foresters and land managers
Society of American Foresters Annual Convention	November 5-9, 2008	John Stewart, Bryce Stokes, Ed Gee, Susan Levan, many others		Reno, Nevada Forestry in a Climate of Change
Biomass 2008	April 17 – 18, 2008	Buford, DOE, USDA		

Exhibit Three: WBUG Member Participation in Other Working Groups

WBUG Participant	Working Group	Topic
John Stewart	NACD Forest Resource Committee	Forestry, fire and biomass issues for landowners and managers (all ownerships, but targeted to private lands)
John Stewart, Gregg Nelson	National Fire Plan 10 Year Plan	Hazardous fuel reduction, biomass and small wood utilization
John Stewart, Ed Gee	SAF Climate Change Task Force	Climate change
John Stewart, Marcia Patton-Mallory	WGA Biomass and Biofuels Task Force	Biopower (2004-2005) and biofuels (2007)
John Stewart, Bryce Stokes	25x25 Alliance	Renewable energy development
John Stewart, Bryce Stokes, Donna Perla, John Ferrell	Inter-Agency Working Group on Alternative Fuels	Alternative fuels, Coal and biomass to liquid fuels
John Stewart, Bryce Stokes, Donna Perla	Biofuels Plan Feedstock Development Team	National Biofuels Action Plan
World Nieh, John Stewart	Biomass Conversion Interagency Working Group	National Biofuels Action Plan
	Energy Conversation	Renewable and clean energy policy
John Stewart	Ecosystem Services Task Team	Federal research and development on ecosystem services
Staff support: John Stewart	Wildland Fire Leadership Council	Federal wildland fire executives and elected officials from State or Tribal governments focused on national policy issues