



Oregon Solutions:

Lakeview Biomass

Co-Conveners: Hal Salwasser, OSU College of Forestry and Lake County Commissioner JR Stewart

Harney Co Restoration Collaborative

Co-Conveners: Judge Steve Grasty, Russ Hoeflich, TNC and Jack Southworth, High Desert Partnership

"Collaboration driven by local input is the Oregon way. It is through this approach that common ground is found," Governor Kulongoski said. "Healthy forests and the jobs they can sustain and create are important to rural and urban Oregon. I strongly support efforts at the local, state, and federal level to ensure that Oregon has healthy and productive forests for future generations."

The Federal Forest Restoration Initiative proposal for the Oregon Business Plan states, *"An estimated 13 million acres of federally managed forests in southwestern and eastern Oregon are at increasing risk from drought, uncharacteristically severe fires and insect outbreaks impacting wildlife habitat, water quality, economic value and human health and safety. Current rates of restoration, and infrastructure to support it, are insufficient to address the problem."*

The Lake County Biomass project is widely known and celebrated throughout the state of Oregon and beyond. The project serves as an excellent model of innovation and cooperation among the private sector, non-profit sector, and civic sector, along with multiple levels of government. The community has been working on this project since 2002 and has gained considerable support from the forest product industry, local leaders, and major environmental groups such as The Wilderness Society, Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Sustainable Northwest, and The Nature Conservancy.

In November 2007, the \$6.6 million small diameter saw mill was completed. It will process small logs from the 80,000 acre Collins Lakeview Forest, as well as logs from private timber owners, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The \$20-million Lakeview Biomass Plant is being constructed at the sawmill and is expected to annually produce about 13 megawatts of renewable energy, enough to power over 10,000 single-family homes. This is the first new biomass facility in Oregon since 1992 and will help the state meet its renewable energy goals, improve forest health, and cut greenhouse gasses released in high-severity forest fires.

The Harney County Restoration Collaborative is expected to generate agreements that will offer multiple benefits for the citizens of Harney County, including wildfire risk reduction, increased forest health, local jobs, as well as improving water resources and fish and wildlife habitat.

Both Harney County Restoration Collaborative and Lakeview Biomass demonstrate:

- * The importance of reducing the vulnerability of forests to high-severity fires that put large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and place private property at risk.
- * Public/private/non-profit partnerships to reduce fuel loads and create economic opportunities in rural communities.
- * The power of the Governor convening geographic teams to engage in landscape-scale, science-based solutions.

