

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

July 17, 2002

In Reply Refer To:  
9210 (FA-630) P

EMS Transmission 07/19/02  
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2002-032  
Expires: 09/30/2003

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Utilization of By-Products Produced by Hazard Fuels Reduction Activities

DD: Sept. 30, 2002

**Program Area:** Fire Management/Hazard Fuels Reduction

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) requests each State Director to report any hazard fuels treatment with by-products utilized. It also requests each State to identify any potential by-product utilization methods being used, or with potential for use, within their state.

**Policy/Action:** Adding a performance measure to the Workplan for the Fire Management Program.

**Timeframe:** Due date is September 30, 2002.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Background:** Most of our mechanical fuels reduction treatments leave vegetative material on the ground in the form of slash, small diameter wood or chips. In many instances, this residual material can be made available for other uses. This is by-product utilization. The following performance measure is identified in the Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan under Goal 4 (Promote Community Assistance):

*e.) Percent of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels by mechanical means with by-products utilized.*

We have been asked to report any hazard fuels treatment with by-products utilized as outlined by this performance measure. The output for this performance measure will be captured in the BLM Workplan for the Fire Management Program as Workload Activity 1.c.:

*l.c. - % of total acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels by mechanical means with by-product utilization. Acres treated in this workload activity need to be captured and reported by September 30, 2002.*

This workload measure is also being added as a reportable field in NFPORS.

Also, states are encouraged to look for additional opportunities to increase the utilization of by-products produced as a result of hazard fuels reduction activities. There may be many opportunities to make these by-products available for other uses which could provide additional benefits to local communities.

Typically, by-product utilization has consisted of allowing the public to gather firewood, harvest cedar fence posts or cut Christmas trees in treatment areas. Work has been done to explore value-added opportunities in forested areas, however, there may be opportunities to develop value-added opportunities from treatments we conduct in woodlands and shrub lands. Some examples include:

Co-generation - burning biomass waste with coal to produce electricity.

Make small diameter woodland products available to the public for the manufacturing of furniture (either rustic wood furniture or some form of laminate product).

Promote the use of woodland/shrubland by-products for the production of ethanol.

Recover and provide woodland/shrubland chips as mulch or decorative bark.

Make by-products available for heat generation purposes (this is currently occurring in Alaska).

Attached is a list of projects that are occurring in various states (Attachment 1).

I would like a listing of any potential by-product utilization opportunities within your state that, with further research and development, could increase our ability to make biomass available for the benefit of local communities. This information should be provided to Carl Gossard by September 30, 2002. A list of websites that discuss biomass utilization and may give you ideas for potential uses of biomass is attached (Attachment 2).

The information you provide will be shared across the Bureau and with our land management partners. It will certainly generate new methods in which we can provide opportunities for communities to derive benefits in conjunction with making their communities more fire resistant.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None

**Coordination:** RP 220 Rangeland, Soils, Water and Air Group.

**Contact:** If you have any technical questions concerning this IM contact Carl Gossard at (208) 387-5419.

Signed by:  
Wilhemina Sorensen  
Acting Director  
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.  
Office Services

2 Attachments

- 1 - Examples of Biomass Utilization and Sustainable Livestock Grazing Practices Involving BLM Lands
- 2 - Biomass Websites

Distribution:

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**Examples of Biomass Utilization and  
Sustainable Livestock Grazing Practices  
Involving BLM Lands**

<b>BLM Field Office</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Acres (if known)</b>
Arizona Strip, AZ	Mt. Trumbull	Stand density reduction resulting in biomass utilized for cogeneration plants and firewood utilization	Unknown
Salt Lake, UT	Terra Fuel Break	Fuel break constructed near community of Terra; resulting juniper trees made available to public as firewood.	Unknown
Roswell, NM	Lincoln Village Fuels Reduction	Unwanted, expanding juniper trees were cut and made available for public firewood gathering. Posts were utilized in fence construction.	Unknown
Roswell, NM	Mount Nebo Fuels Reduction	Pinon-juniper stands thinned to improve ecological conditions. Resulting woody material made available to public as firewood.	Unknown
Miles City, MT	Shepherd AH-Nei Fuels Reduction	Ponderosa pine stands thinning to improve ecological conditions. Resulting woody material made available to public as firewood.	Unknown
Surprise Valley, CA	Newland Fuels Reduction	Dense juniper stands mechanically harvested and made available for firewood and posts	250
Alturas, CA	Muck Valley Fuels Reduction	Feller-bunchers used to shear and gather thinned trees. Materials were chipped and sold to a cogeneration plant.	150

<b>BLM Field Office</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Acres (if known)</b>
Alturas, CA	McCabe Fuels Reduction	Juniper removal; downed trees made available to public firewood gathering.	300
Prineville, OR	Upper and Little Deschutes Fuels Treatments	Demonstration site for The Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network, to involve restoration in juniper and conifer forests through mechanical thinning	Future biomass utilization of unmerchantable material
Lakeview, OR	Long Canyon Fuels Reduction	Juniper trees mechanically sheared, and made available for firewood gathering.	100
Klamath Falls, OR	Gerber Fuels Reduction	Juniper trees mechanically sheared, and made available for firewood gathering.	800

## **BIOMASS WEBSITES**

National Renewable Energy Laboratory - [Http://www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

Bioenergy Information Network - <http://bioenergy.ornl.gov>

Renewable Energy Policy Project - [www.repp.org](http://www.repp.org) Click on Biomass -or- click on Job Creation and Renewable energy.

Ethanol - <http://www.ethanol.org>

