Idaho Forest Biomass Workshop

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www.potlatchcorp.com
ABOUT POTLATCH

- Established in 1903
- We operate a sawmill and plywood plant in St Maries, Idaho
- We own 615,000 acres of timberland in North Idaho
- We harvest 300 MMBF of saw timber and plant 7 million seedlings on our Idaho Property annually
HARVEST RESIDUALS

- This is probably the easiest piece of biomass to capture with grinding or chipping operations.
- Potlatch harvests 15,000 acres of its land annually in Idaho.
- About half of the residuals end up at roadside landings.
- Landing piles are generally burnt to reduce the fire hazard.
FOREST THINNING

- Over-stocked forests are not uncommon
- Multiple benefits can be achieved through thinning
- Commercial thinning projects we have done to date have removed 20 – 40 tons of small round wood/acre
- From a private landowners perspective profit needs to be realized at the time of thinning – not from anticipated growth response
CHALLENGES

- Strong market demand to support and encourage investments in facilities and equipment
- Operationally and economically feasible means to remove biomass from the land and transport to a processing plant
- Excessive handling of low-value material adds unnecessary cost and difficulty
- Woods roads can be limiting factor to transport trucks designed for highway use
- Distance from the land base to a processing facility can also be a limiting factor

*To date we have made do with the equipment that is available – not necessarily what would be the most efficient to accomplish the job*
SUMMARY

- North Idaho is not resource constrained
- Long-term stable markets are a necessity to enable investments to be made in processing facilities
- Biomass producers need a long-term commitment to reduce their risk of purchasing specialized equipment
- There needs to be a reasonable expectation of profit and return on investment to generate the necessary interest at all levels of production (landowners, producers, and processing plants)

Potlatch has plenty of biomass material available that could be converted into a useful product