

I support the proposed state energy plan to increase utilization of woody biomass across the state. Biomass utilization will help improve forest health, reduce forest fuels, improve air quality, help reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels and it just plain makes sense to use woody biomass for energy rather than waste it. I encourage the state to do whatever it can to help make woody biomass competitive with other renewable energy sources and fossil fuels. Tax breaks or low-interest loans to biomass harvesters and facility owners would be a help. Also mandating power companies to use a certain percentage of renewable energy within the state may help. The State Dept of Lands should also start requiring their logging slash to be chipped and removed from timber sale areas, with the intention of providing a source of biomass to be used for our schools (Fuels for Schools).

Barry Wynsma

Barry Wynsma
U.S. Forest Service, Retired
391 Day Break Rd
Bonners Ferry, Id 83805