

# The Watershed Research & Training Center: Struggling to Develop “Green Jobs” as Stewards of Forest and Community



April 09

# Organization Background

- WRTC started in 1993 as a response to the Northwest Forest Plan and its anticipated impacts on public lands communities – reductions in logging & sawmilling, unemployment, poverty, forest health
- Our mission is to promote healthy forests and healthy communities through research, education, training and economic development
- We have programs in worker training and contractor assistance, research and development, business incubation, forest stewardship, private landowner assistance, youth conservation and education and employment
- We work extensively in the national policy arena in the areas of National Forest Management and rural development
- We strive to be a leading innovator in community-based forestry in the United States

# Presentation Overview

- Challenges we are confronting
- Strategies we have employed
- Summary of Outcomes and lessons



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# Critical Challenges

- Land Tenure & Access to Resources
- Geographic Isolation & Distance to Markets
- Workforce Capacity and Training
- Contractor Capacity
- Infrastructure



# Ecosystem Management and Smallwood/Biomass Utilization as Foundations of our Green Economy



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# Building Capacity....

- *CONSISTENT PROGRAM OF WORK MUST COINCIDE....*
- We started with the workforce and contractors training....
- Fits and starts due to lack of alignment with agency direction and capacity
- Meeting with more success as POW aligns and partnerships mature

# ...Capacity Continued

- Contractors and workforce will adapt, and adopt, given consistent work opportunities
- Technologies are available
- Business development is extremely complex...so work in partnership to bring resources to bare
- Workforce training will still be essential



# Value-added Products



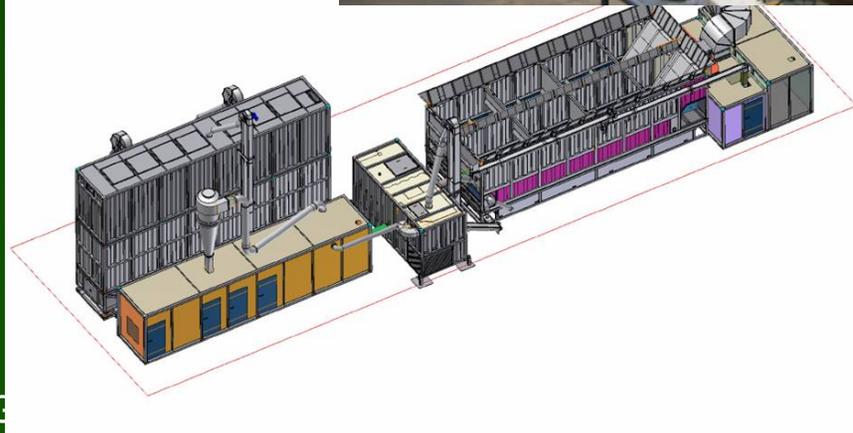
- Rural Business Incubator
- Jefferson State Forest Products
- Continued grants for innovation



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# Community Wood Energy – Going green while overcoming access, infrastructure and isolation

- Developing thermal applications
- Cogeneration
- Densification
- Liquid fuels



# Partnership is Critical -

- USDA – Forest Service and NRCS
- USDI – Bureau of Land Management
- Shasta College, Humboldt State University, UC Berkeley
- State of CA – Superior CA Economic Development District
- Smart – Business Resource Center
- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC & Ds)
- Ford Foundation
- James Irvine Foundation
- Surdna, Weyerhauser Family, and Compton Foundations
- Social Enterprise Alliance
- Local businesses and contractors



Thanks for  
your time!



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