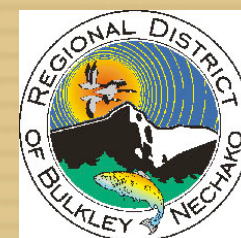


Highway 16 (Burns Lake - Terrace) Woody Debris Inventory

September 2009



Introduction

- ~ The Highway 16 Woody Debris Inventory was developed in response to the annual BVLD Airshed Management Society (AMS) Burn Operators Forum (2003-present) and the 2008 Skeena Wood Residue conference where it was suggested that significant challenges exist for accessing woody debris, referred to as waste wood from this point forward.
- ~ A literature search, interviews with select professionals in the field, and a market research survey were conducted to address this issue. In total ,35 participants representing Woodlots, Sawmills, Treefarm Licenses and Forest Licensees filled out the survey.

Project outcomes

- ~ summary of recent studies for fibre supply and use, together with tools for market development and understanding air quality issue
- ~ summary of sources and distribution of woody debris
- ~ summary of barriers to adopting alternatives to burning grouped by small and large generators
- ~ overview of end-user markets (industrial and local)
- ~ eight (8) recommendations for reducing/removing barriers
- ~ woody debris inventory project marketing plan
- ~ appendices: survey questions and responses, database of generators

Bottom Line

Data collected through this process indicates that approximately 800,000 cubic metres of logging slash and 250,000 cubic metres of mill waste is generated each year in the BVLD Airshed, most of which is burned and therefore, unavailable to end-market users. Considering this, successfully developing access to end-market users could effectively divert up to 1 million cubic metres of waste wood from being burned each year.



Recommendations

1 & 2

1. AMS and stakeholders to itemize infrastructure improvements needed for moving woody debris from the cutblock to an end market and submit to provincial government as a partnership opportunity.
2. AMS and stakeholders to facilitate discussions between MOE and MoFR Revenues Branch to assess liability responsibility of Prime Contractor when a residue recovery contractor comes on to the site.

Recommendation 3

3.AMS and stakeholders, such as MoFR, BC Hydro, Forest Licensees and alternative energy companies, should participate in the development of a regional economic development strategy that favours efficient and wise use of woody debris such that a reasonably reliable feedstock is available with minimal long-haul transportation.

Incentives for participation should be developed as this is essential to attract and retain markets.

Working with well-resourced economic development and resource management focused agencies such as OBAC, Community Futures, and the Provincial Government will be essential as these agencies should be taking the lead to consult with industry in the development of appropriate fees and regulations in support of the move to alternative economic uses of wood residue. This includes reducing barriers to the alternative use of wood residue by ensuring that all policies in all government ministries are reinforcing use of residue. For example, new and renewed woodlot licenses to secure new fibre could require checking a central database that is geographically based for available residue. Similar to the powers available to Regional Districts for licensing waste management facilities, powers could be assigned to an appropriate agency to ensure that fees and regulations support the clean and efficient movement of primary and secondary wood fibre based on social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Recommendations

4 & 5

4. The Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako and Kitimat-Stikine should evaluate the benefits of harmonizing material handling fees at transfer stations and landfills that encourage separation of materials for recovery. Harmonized fees will reduce materials crossing borders and send a consistent message to generators that all local governments in the BVLD Airshed are committed to improving recovery rates and supporting new markets.
5. The use of Landfill Diversion Credits as a stimulus for recycling-based business should be further evaluated to assess the level of funding needed and criteria for assessing priority projects. As it stands, RDKS is prioritizing the diversion of organic material and the next round of diversion credits will reflect this need.

Recommendation 6

6. Urban woody debris should be segregated to meet quality control guidelines for multiple end markets such as firewood, mulch (consider separating into colours as well), compost, fibreboard, and biomass energy. At least three sorting grades should be considered: green wood, painted or treated wood, clean wood. Additionally, woody debris should be stockpiled as brush, chips and logs. For safety: Stockpile wood in piles 12 feet high or less. Keep woody debris loose - do not compress the piles. Water down the ground up wood before putting it in piles.

Recommendations

7 & 8

7. AMS or alliances should pursue a Phase 2 of the Hwy 16 Woody Debris Inventory to keep up momentum, explore market feasibility for local uses, focus on urban woody debris, and produce a organic wood products brochure for public distribution similar to 2008 Bulkley Valley Local Food Directory.
8. A special air quality monitoring project should be considered for forestry open burning operations to evaluate the impact of Custom Venting Forecasting, best practices, and removal of barriers for alternatives to burning.

Next steps?

- ~ refine recommendations based on input from industry and other stakeholders
- ~ implement project marketing plan

Project marketing plan

1. Provide one hard copy to CFDC 16/37 (based in Terrace) and one hard copy to AMS/MOE (based in Smithers).
2. Provide free electronic copy of report on AMS website.
3. Prepare cover letter/press release highlighting key findings and recommendations for circulation to audience.
4. E-mail cover letter/press release with link to report on AMS website and request to post report or link on other suitable websites.
5. Provide a 20 minutes presentation of report at the 2009 Burn Operators Forum and one other presentation based on requests from target audience.
6. Ask AMS Directors and other key stakeholders to circulate report and champion appropriate recommendations in their circles of influence.
7. Ask Omineca Beetle Action Coalition to promote report on their website and newsletter.
8. Invite generators of woody debris to submit listing to Recycling Council of BC's Industrial Materials Exchange Program and work with Regional Districts and MOE to promote this website <http://rcbc.bc.ca/services/materials-exchange>.



Thank-you!