

## **Value-added for small diameter material: Implementing new technologies**

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In the 2000 fire season, 7 million acres burned. Two important elements contributing to these fires are weather-related and long-term build up of brush and small trees in our forests and rangelands. In response to these fires, the Administration approved an intense National Fire Plan aimed at: 1) improving firefighting management and preparedness, 2) reducing hazardous fuel accumulations; and 3) involving local communities for implementing.

Much of the hazardous fuels in forests are excessive levels of forest-based biomass and small diameter trees. There are several benefits for finding economical uses for this material, including helping offset forest restoration costs; providing economic opportunities for rural, forest-dependent communities; reducing the risks from catastrophic wildfires; protecting watersheds; helping restore forest resiliency, and protecting the environment.

USDA Forest Service Research Teams are working to develop new uses for small trees and ways to process them. This information is transferred to forest industries and local communities to develop and expand local markets. Therefore, working with local communities is a critical element in restoring damaged landscapes and reducing fire hazards near homes and communities. The local communities provide the work force for reducing wildland fuels while increasing their economic opportunities.

The Technology Marketing Unit at the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory is responsible for transferring this technology. This presentation will highlight some of the success stories about implementing new technologies, adapting existing technologies and developing markets for value-added uses for small diameter material.