

Southern Utah Woody Biomass Field Day

The Southern Utah Woody Biomass Field Day held on October 18, south of Beaver, was a big hit by several measures. Where else could you find 200 people from across the country and China getting together in the field on a day with a chance of rain to talk about biomass utilization? With five large grinders, chippers, several biomass transport vehicles, a firewood processor, bunches of support equipment and tables of sandwiches for lunch, people were enjoying the opportunity to talk to others about biomass utilization.



The CBI Magnum Force 6400 demonstrates how quickly it can fill a trailer with chips as participants observe the equipment in action.

Attendees watched as powerful equipment shredded and chipped trees that had been previously cut to improve deer winter range, reduce predation by mountain lions, improve forest/woodland health, and reduce dangerous and destructive wildfires on BLM land along the I-15 corridor. Piles of pinyon and juniper, removed from the nearby forests, were reduced to chips and semi-vans were filled before their eyes in a matter of minutes.

The event was organized from conception to implementation in just six weeks by Lance and Michelle Lindbloom of Bloomin Ranch Service with help from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Utah Biomass Resources Group, the Utah Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, and many others. USU Beaver County Extension Agent Mark Nelson was a huge help with the little details.

Equipment was trucked at the manufacturers' own expense from Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Salt Lake City and Wisconsin.

Lindbloom, a private contractor operating out of Beaver, Utah, has an active pinyon-juniper harvest going just south of town. He realized that the location of the site along I-15 would make a great place to demonstrate to people what biomass harvesting is all about and show them the state-of-the-art equipment for just such a purpose.

Lindbloom said that his goals for this field day evolved from the original concept, which was to see exactly what these machines could do with this type of product. After talking with many different people with diverse backgrounds, the goals shifted from not only viewing products that could be created, but also to bringing together all segments of the biomass industry to mingle and discuss the machinery they were seeing.

Lindbloom and his wife Michelle saw that their Nev-ershire Hollow Stewardship project would be a good location with good access, multiple landings, many types of land management treatments surrounding it; many positives for a field day location.

One of the things that really encouraged him to pursue the project was meeting a particular gentleman

whose political views are the opposite of his own, yet when it came to the topic of biomass utilization, they were in complete agreement. Lindbloom said he realized when people from different backgrounds and very different political views can come together and agree on an issue, it has a promising future.

As the federal agencies are increasingly using mechanical means to manage forest and woodland vegetation for multiple purposes, including wildfire hazard reduction, especially around communities and infrastructure, there is a corresponding increase in opportunity to create markets for the material being removed. Discussion of market possibilities was an important part

of the day. Some of the end products include firewood and wood pellets, cattle bedding, landscaping mulch, and fuel for 1 to 1.3 Megawatt Electric Power Plants that each can serve about 800 typical homes.

Area Forester Patrick Moore said that while many companies brought their biggest and best, some brought their more affordable models for people to see.

Lindbloom said that he received a tremendous amount of support from companies and individuals and is planning the Second Annual Southern Utah Woody Bio-

mass Field Day for 2011.
by Darren McAvoy



Lance Lindbloom, owner of Bloomin Ranch Services, and organizer of the Southern Utah Woody Biomass Field Day.

For more information regarding any of the information presented in this newsletter, please call Darren McAvoy at Utah State University, 435-797-0560, write to him at 5230 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5230, or email darren.mcavoy@usu.edu.

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The Utah State University Forestry Extension website, found at <http://extension.usu.edu/forestry>, is an excellent source of technical forestry information for woodland owners. Check the "What's New" section periodically for new postings.

State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFF&SL) service foresters for your area can be contacted by calling 801-538-5555.

Ideas and written contributions to this newsletter are encouraged. Send your contributions or comments to the return address above or call 435-797-0560, or email darren.mcavoy@usu.edu.