

NEWS

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Gifford Pinchot National Forest Awards First Biomass Sale

VANCOUVER, WASH. – The Gifford Pinchot National Forest awarded two forest product sales on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011. One was the first biomass sale on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Upper Cispus Thin Timber Sale

The 512-acre Upper Cispus Thin was sold to Pulley Corporation for \$688,359.70. Total sale volume is 6.77 million board feet (MMBF). The sale consists of Douglas-fir and other conifer species. The sale is located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest within the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District about 20 miles southeast of Randle, Wash.

This thinning project sold for more than the minimum bid price. “This is probably an indicator of the quality of the wood and/or the timber market is higher than it's been in a while,” said Cowlitz District Ranger Kristi Miller. “Either way the citizens of the United States benefit from the extra funds going into the national piggy bank.”

Gotchen AA-L Biomass Sale

The Gotchen AA-L Biomass sale was sold to Saw Mill Services, Inc. for \$1,684.80. The total volume is approximately 1.5 million board feet (MMBF). The sale is located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest within the Mt. Adams Ranger District about six miles north of Trout Lake, Wash.

This sale consists of various conifer species that are not of sufficient quality for saw timber. Where saw timber sales were no longer feasible because of wood decay, dead trees were piled and burned at costs up to \$700 per acre. Instead, the cut and removed material is now sold as biomass.

In recent years, the demand for biomass has increased for the production of energy, wood pellets and other products. Biomass is defined as trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves and other woody parts, grown in a forest, woodland or rangeland environment that are the by-products of forest management.

This biomass sale is part of the 19,700-acre Gotchen Planning Area located south of Mt. Adams. A spruce budworm outbreak in the 1990s weakened Douglas- and grand fir trees. Large numbers of these trees later died from bark beetles and root diseases.

“Marketing biomass will greatly enhance our ability to manage fuels and restore these forests to a healthy and resilient condition,” said Jon Nakae, silviculturist, Mt. Adams Ranger District. “We also seek to reduce wildfire threats in an area bordered by state, private and Yakama Indian Nation forests, as well as the wildland-urban interface of Trout Lake.”

The Forest Service provides additional information regarding biomass at its website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodybiomass/>