NW Tribe's Issues and Challenges with Biomass Energy Development

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Since time immemorial

- Native Americans have been tied to the land, being stewards and trying to balance their societal needs.
- We struggle with using our lands for the benefit of our current societies, with consideration to future generations, while recognizing our past.
People & Forest, Purpose & Disconnect

- Forest provide services, goods, and products
  (clean air & water)
  (food, shelter, heat, medicine, and tools)
  (lumber, pulp, biomass, and food)
- Forest wood to energy? (biomass, logging slash, fuels reduction, and product residuals)
Complexity of Wood Energy

- Wood Energy is one of the oldest technologies known to man.
- Today you can use wood for heat, processing heat, transportation fuel, and electricity.
- Tribal people better understand heat for homes and buildings better than the other wood energy uses.
Challenges

- Infrastructure
- Transportation fuel risks
- Long-term feedstock agreements
Challenges

- Inexpensive electricity in the NW
- Subsidies for Renewables, Nuclear, & Fossil Fuels
- I-937
- Cost of biomass
- Access to Subsidies (Tribes tax exempt status)
- Partnerships?
Challenges

• Tribes duel and triple processes (BIA, BPA, DOE, FERC, ect.)
• Tribal energy resource agreements
• Environmental standards
• Monetizing intrinsic values
Avoided Cost

- Fire suppression costs
- Fire restoration costs
- Environmental costs
- Fossil fuel cost
- Forest health & timber stand improvement costs
Values

- Clean air & water
- Creating Rural Economies
- Energy independence
- Ecosystem Services
Values

• Paying our local economies for wood to energy products.
• 55% of power plant cost is obtaining biomass
Bridging the Gap

- Cultural and science education
- UW Bioenergy
  IGERT
Bridging the Gap

- Sizing and technology
- Access to incentives.
- Streamline processes
- Regional collaboration
- Societal commitment
- Domestic investments
Thank You