

Economics of Biomass

August 25, 2014

SEDCorp Biomass Study

- Conducted in 2013, partnership between SEDCorp and Chico State
- Initial focus: Sierra County - Nevada County
- GIS analytical tool to identify optimal sites for biomass processing facilities
- Identified six (6) optimal sites
- Applicable to El Dorado County

Study Methodology

- Geospatial Ground Cover Datasets
- Compute Bone Dry Tons (BDT) per Acre
- Factor Landscape, Harvest, Transportation
- Location Modeling
 - Economic Industrial Process
 - Feedstock Yard

Biomass Benefits

- Fire Risk Reduction
- Economic Impacts
 - Sustainable Job Creation
 - Economic Diversification
 - Revitalize Idle or Under-utilized Facilities
- Reduced Carbon Footprint
 - Compared to Coal, other Fossil Fuels

Potential Uses

- Renewable Energy Generation
- Bio-Fuels
 - Ethanol, Butanol, Bio-Diesel
- Bio-Products
 - Synthetic Wood
 - Mulch

Biomass Issues

- Cost-Effectiveness
 - Harvest and Transportation
- Sustainable Supply Chain
 - Annual Sustainable Yield in Bone Dry Tons
 - ASYBDT
- Biofuel Conversion Technology
 - Lignocellulosic Biomass into Ethanol, Butanol
 - Only Viable on Small Scale So Far

County Efforts

- Pursuing Grant Funding for Feasibility Study
 - U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Economic Development Administration
- Study Possible Re-Use of Camino Mill
- Include Biomass as Possible Use