

Forest Practices Biomass Work Group

Draft Organizational Framework

March 8, 2012

Purpose: To simplify and organize the list of topics in the wrap-up document for communicating the results of our group process (report to FPB).

FP Rules and Board Manual Guidance should fit into at least one of the following categories:

1. What is biomass?
 - a. Definition
 - b. Harvesting forest biomass is a forest practice

2. Where is biomass collection prohibited?
 - a. Site scale: RMZ, WMZ, CMZ, sensitive sites (Np streams), steep slopes/landforms, erodible soils, poor quality soils, critical habitat, cultural resource sites,
 - b. Landscape scale: SOSEAs,
 - c. Biomass harvesting may be appropriate in sensitive sites to control invasive species, enhance critical habitat, or reduce wildfire risk. However, restoration activity should be guided by ecological goals and not designed solely to supply biomass (Forest Guild 2010).

3. How much biomass retention is needed?
 - a. Soil productivity
 - b. Soil erosion
 - c. Wildlife/biodiversity
 - d. Carbon storage
 - e. "Ecological sustainability"

4. Operating procedures for biomass removal
 - a. How to estimate percent retention both pre and post harvest.
 - b. How distinct is biomass removal from timber removal except at the roadside?

5. DNR Consulting and Enforcement Provisions (see 10/24/11 soil operational guidelines)
 - a. DNR Biomass harvest officers
 - i. Review proposed biomass harvest FPA sites, making assessments of biomass harvest limitations and restrictions on site, and enforcing those limitations during biomass harvest
 - b. Biomass harvest operator certification
 - i. To ensure familiarity and compliance with biomass harvest rules and restrictions, make biomass harvest operators accountable, and vastly improve the uniform application of the regulations/BMPs
 - c. Biomass Harvest Penalties
 - i. DNR to develop, or consider the suitability of the existing penalty system, to discourage over-harvesting of forest biomass contrary to the regulations/BMPs