



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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### **USDA Forest Service to Partner with Wyoming State Forestry for Biomass Conference**

**(LARAMIE, Wyo.) March 29, 2016** – A Forest Biomass Conference will take place starting today in Laramie, Wyo., March 29-31 at the University of Wyoming Conference Center. The event is designed to focus on the business, economic, and political challenges to expanding the forest biomass industry in Wyoming.

Wyoming State Forestry, USDA Forest Service (USFS), Society of American Foresters, and the Office of Wyoming Governor Matt Mead are sponsoring the event. The emphasis of the working conference will be to gather meaningful information and develop an action plan, which will help facilitate the expansion of a sustainable forest biomass industry in Wyoming that can provide benefits at the landscape scale.

National Forests are often the source of biomass product and the Forest Service plays a key role in supporting a successful industry. A healthy industry will help sustain and restore our nation's Forests and Grasslands by fostering resilient, adaptive ecosystems.

Conference participants will include land management agencies, power companies, forest industry representatives, state and local governments, conservation districts, county commissioners, as well as other institutions that could consider using biomass in the future.

Attendees from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service will include Patrick Holmes - Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary, and Jacque Buchanan – Deputy Regional Forester. Additional staff from the USFS Rocky Mountain Region will be participating, as well as local National Forest and National Grassland staff from the Bighorn, Black Hills, Medicine Bow-Routt & Thunder Basin, and Shoshone.

In 2013, Governor Matt Mead created the Task Force on Forests to study the benefits forests provide and analyze and consider new response strategies and recommendations for both active and passive management. As part of the Final Report, the Task Force came up with a number of recommendations which included a focus on expanding a sustainable long-term forest biomass program in Wyoming.

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