

Wallowa County Vitality Summit – Presenter Questionnaire

Organization: Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Inc

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Mission and purpose in Wallowa County:

WR Community Solutions INC is to create and support businesses that generate benefits to the community and the environment.

WRCSI implements a variety of projects intended to evolve the relationship between rural communities and natural resources in a way that provides multifaceted benefits to the communities, the working lands, and the world at large.

Key metrics/outcomes/impact for the past year:

- Conversion of the Wallowa Resources Stewardship Center from oil heat to biomass heat.
- Completion of the energy component of the Integrated Biomass Energy Campus, anticipated completion of sort yard in Summer of 2013
- Over 2 million acres of forest land certified through our FSC program
- Maintenance of over 100 campground sites in Wallowa County.

Current top 3 priorities/focus areas:

- 1) Hydropower development: Working with individual irrigators, and also irrigation districts to develop hydropower projects across the county and farther afield.
- 2) Biomass Thermal: Working with the City of Enterprise and the Enterprise Fairgrounds to develop biomass thermal projects to displace fossil fuel heat sources with a locally and sustainably produced fuel source.
- 3) Integrated Biomass Energy Campus: Continuing to focus on development of the Biomass Energy Campus, ensuring its ongoing success. Disseminating the concept to other rural communities through feasibility studies and potential future partnerships.

Challenges that you most need help with, either from another organization or the community at large:

- Education of the resource agencies on the conservation benefits that can be catalyzed by small scale hydropower
- Raising awareness on the opportunity in Bio-Thermal for commercial, industrial, and municipal buildings

Top 3 opportunities you see for the coming year:

- Continue Renewable Energy work, including small hydro and Bio-thermal development, as well as exporting the biomass campus concept to other rural communities.
- Creation of new partnership with the Farmers Conservation Alliance
- Enhance Relationship with The Freshwater Trust

of current active/serious collaborators:

The Freshwater Trust

Energy Trust of Oregon

Integrated Biomass Resources

Oregon BEST (Built Environment and Sustainable Technology)

Wallowa County

City of Enterprise

Enterprise Fairgrounds

Eastern Oregon Economic Development District

Who would you like to collaborate with more?

Regional governmental agencies, including NRCS, SWCD, and BOR.