

Forest slash gathering on Olympic Peninsula – a contractor’s perspective

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The Olympic Peninsula has supplied forest harvest residues to fuel boilers for the pulp and paper industry for many years. The primary source of forest harvest residues are from regeneration harvesting of western hemlock, Douglas-fir, and red alder from private, tribal, and state lands. The topography ranges from flat spruce-hemlock lowlands to steep hillsides. This presentation describes (a) what collection, processing, and transport systems are commonly used to gather and deliver biomass on the peninsula, (b) what has led me to develop the collection, grinding, and transport system I use, (c) how I think about bidding for a grinding job, (d) what factors are under the contractor’s control (e) what types of regulatory actions would reduce biomass delivery costs, (f) how harvesting and mill operations and specifications affect residue utilization operations, and (g) what I see is necessary for a sustainable forest harvesting biomass delivery system.