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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 8, 2009

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BIOMASS USE FOCUS OF PLUM CREEK CONFERENCE AT UM

MISSOULA —

The Plum Creek Conference on Forests and Energy: The Economic and Ecological Implications of Biomass Utilization from Rocky Mountain Forests will take place at The University of Montana Sept. 22-24.

The conference features lectures by experts in ecology and economics and individuals currently involved in the field of biomass use. All conference lecture events are free and open to the public.

The goal of the conference is to identify the areas of agreement and gaps in knowledge with respect to the sustained use of forests to supply energy needs for people. It also will address the broad impacts of a changing global climate.

Topics that will be discussed are: how forests can be managed to provide a sustainable supply of energy; the ecological implications of using woody biomass; and the economic feasibility of utilizing biomass for energy in the Rocky Mountain region.

Following is the schedule of the conference lecture events, which will take place in the University Center Theater:

- **Lecture: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22** — Speakers: Elaine Oneil, research scientist at the University of Washington and the executive director of the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials, and Robert Rummer, project leader of Forest Operations Research to Achieve Sustainable Management.
- **Lecture: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23** — Speakers: Andrea Colnes, policy and development director, Biomass Energy Resource Center, Montpelier, Vt., and Daniel deB. Richter Jr., professor of soils and forest ecology, University Program in Ecology, Southern Center for Sustainable Forests, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, N.C.

- **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24** — Interactive panel discussion. Panel members are conference speakers Colnes, Oneil, Richter and Rummer.

For more information, go online to <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/plumcreekconf>, call Laurel Aroner at 406-243-5245 or e-mail laurel.aroner@umontana.edu.

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