

AGROFORESTRY AND CELLULOSIC ETHANOL FROM SUSTAINABLE POPLAR TREE FARMS

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GreenWood Resources (GWR) manages 14,000 hectares of poplar farms in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States and is developing nurseries and short-rotation high-yield poplar plantations in Chile and China. The U.S. farms are managed on 12- to 15-year rotations for multiple products, including sawlogs, chips, and residuals for bioenergy. GWR intends to certify all the tree farms to the Forest Stewardship Council standard. In addition to the sawlog production business, GreenWood Resources is fully committed to the goal of developing renewable sources of energy. To this end, GreenWood is refining agronomic technologies that will optimize the production systems for poplar energy farms. Poplar feedstock will be used for cogeneration and pellet production, and it will become a feedstock of choice for cellulosic ethanol. Over the next 3 to 5 years it is GWR's goal to lead the development of sustainable poplar energy plantations in North America, South America, and China. GreenWood is well positioned to play a valuable role in bringing all of the essential elements together for successful commercialization of poplar tree farms for renewable energy. GWR is a global leader in the development of elite poplar germplasm as well as the production systems to optimize poplar energy farm operation. GWR has relationships with technology partners who will build pilot-scale cellulosic ethanol facilities that use poplar feedstock. Additionally the company has the ability to develop sound financial structures to access the capital that is required for large-scale project financing. The time is right for biomass energy to become a significant part of our future energy security. However, unprecedented investment will be required for biomass energy to become a reality. Questions related to sustainability and land use also will need to be addressed.

KEY WORDS: poplar, tree improvement, production systems, cellulosic ethanol, sustainability

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*** INVITED SPEAKER ***