

## Attachment B

### Resolution on Japan Reconstruction Aid to Include Manufactured Wood Products Generated from Federal Forests in Accordance with the Northwest Forest Plan

#### Issue

Including manufactured wood products from the federal forests of the Northwest in any aid package offered to the Japanese government, or as a result of action taken by the United Nations, will assist in rebuilding domestic communities while assisting a key ally of the United States.

#### Proposed Policy

As the United States and Japan determine what the course of re-construction activities will look like in order to rebuild those areas of Japan most affected by the March, 2011 tsunami and subsequent nuclear disaster, it is well understood that wood products will be a key building material.

Rather than simply sending aid in the form of cash, the government of the United States could instead purchase timber from federal forests in accordance with sales already scheduled under the NW Forest Plan. That timber could be milled in the NW to Japanese specifications, and delivered to Japan as a finished product. In effect, the government would purchase timber from itself instead of the alternative of sending cash to the government of Japan, which may or may not turn around and purchase timber from the United States. In doing so, they would ensure a benefit to private firms in the Northwest, along with communities that benefit whenever federal timber is sold.

NaCo should ensure that this policy discussion is initiated within the Office U.S Foreign Disaster Assistance or within the auspices of its membership in the United Nations.

#### Background

Under today's law, the NW Forest Plan is the guiding document for bringing timber to the marketplace. The Plan calls for 1.2 billion board feet to be made available annually, and due to the time and budget it takes to attempt a litigation-proof timber sale, the annual volume produced is just 300 million board feet. So-called "consult and confer" rules are especially time consuming and targeted by those wishing to derail the sale of federal timber.

Elimination of these rules could be part of a one time emergency aid package to assist in the reconstruction of Japan.

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is the office within USAID responsible for facilitating and coordinating U.S. Government emergency assistance overseas. As part of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), OFDA provides humanitarian assistance to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies worldwide.

Japan has a wood-first policy for government-funded or sponsored buildings, with wood considered an environmentally friendly product, more capable of withstanding earthquakes than other building materials. About 70,000 buildings were damaged (the equivalent of 8.6% of Japanese housing starts, totaling 813,000 units in 2010). Canada is already reporting that Japanese orders for J-grade lumber and OSB are picking up for West Coast mills.

Immediately after the Indian Ocean tsunami, United Nations Environment Programme established a Task Force to respond to urgent requests for technical assistance from affected countries, including from Indonesia. Ministry of Environment and UNEP initiated environmental assessments in the tsunami-affected areas and mobilized assistance to strengthen environmental planning and guidance to the response and reconstruction process, including the development of procurement strategies for wood products from around the globe. It is uncertain at this point if a similar effort will be the approach for Japan, or if the United Nations will even intervene.

### **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact**

In 1908 when the National Forest system replaced the Forest Reserve system, it was stipulated that counties would receive 25% of the revenue from harvested timbers, with each state having the authority to distribute those dollars to schools and roads as they deem appropriate. In Oregon, 75% goes to county roads and 25% goes to county schools. Thus any improvement in timber harvest from this change would benefit county revenue.

It may be important to note that as counties work on the reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools, timber harvest dollars are considered new dollars, and may be used to offset expenses related to the reauthorization of SRS.