



## MOSAIC SILVICULTURE

### ABSTRACT

What is proposed is the creation of a practical, financial, technical and intellectual "toolkit" for growers/investors interested in raising fuelwood crops in California. The toolkit would be produced in book form, as a web site, as a teaching syllabus for workshop courses, as a 160 acre demonstration plantation and as a media campaign to publicize all of the above. The project proceeds from the assumption that natural forests or land already in pulp or timber production should not be used for biofuel production and therefore distributed "mosaic" siting offers the greatest opportunity for aggregating the large amount of land required.

Phase One would identify and map the primary biofuel sites throughout California. Existing research would be distilled and established test plantings, some as old as 30+ years, would be primary sources.

Phase Two would specify a potential fuelwood crop and match its requirements with climate, rainfall, topographic and soil profiles. Promising sites would be selected for closer study with remote satellite data, stereo aerial photography and on-site evaluation to identify the most promising areas for immediate development.

Phase Three would invite potential growers (landowners) to workshops offering practical information on biofuel cropping such as development templates, crop requirements, cost analysis, profit potential, etc. The expertise of City/County officials, farmers, ranchers and agricultural advisors in selected areas would be solicited to obtain local insight including zoning/land use policy, micro-climates, availability of equipment i.e. harvest contractors, road and rail access, skilled and unskilled labor, willingness of banks and agricultural lenders to finance projects, etc. Meetings would be interactive and local data collected from local people would be integrated in the toolkit. Property owners would be evaluated for their willingness and ability to participate in plantation establishment. Meetings would also educate localities for the eventual initiation of fuel cropping in their area hopefully enhancing the permit process, and minimizing other procedural hurdles.

Concurrent with the study would be the creation of a 160 acre demonstration plantation which would remain available for 7-10 years after completion of the project. At the conclusion, and using the above as a basis, we would seek public/private funds to subsidize a modest but on-going research and teaching center at the plantation site.