

PURPOSE

5132

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The FPU program is a combination of cooperative direct technical assistance activities and short-term projects with specific identifiable outputs involving the U.S. Forest Service and participating states. The goal of the FPU program is to extend the supply of the timber resource through more efficient and complete use of forest products and to improve the economic stability and living standards of the nation's population, with emphasis on rural communities. Full regard is given to protection and enhancement of the environment through more complete utilization of all wood fibers.

The program involves the harvesting, processing, and marketing of wood from the stump to the finished product. Direct beneficiaries of the FPU program are landowners, loggers, wood processors, and consumers. Entire communities and areas share in the benefits through increased business, higher employment, and a more stable tax base.

Technical assistance and technology transfer activities by state personnel, provide additional employment in forested rural areas, improve efficiency of wood-based operations, and enhance the quality and increase the availability of wood products for consumer use. In addition, these activities extend the nation's timber supply through closer utilization of all wood fibers, including energy uses, and by increased efficiency in harvesting and processing.

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