

# Biocycle Farm Harvest

## BACKGROUND

### Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC)



Regional wastewater treatment facility on River Avenue in Eugene

The MWMC is a cooperative partnership that provides regional wastewater services to the Eugene/Springfield community. Lane County and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield function collectively to protect the health and safety of the community and environment by providing high quality management of wastewater conveyance and treatment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The City of Eugene operates and maintains the regional wastewater facilities, including the wastewater treatment facility on River Avenue, the Biosolids Management Facility and Biocycle Farm. The City of Springfield provides administrative services for the MWMC including financial management, capital planning, design and construction management, and public education.

### Biosolids

Biosolids are the solid by-product of the wastewater treatment process. Solids generated from the biological treatment of wastewater are pumped from the treatment plant to lagoons at the biosolids management facility where, over time, natural decomposition processes further stabilize the materials. Once fully treated the biosolids are dried using mechanical dewatering and air-drying processes. The end result of this process is a nutrient rich, organic material that is a beneficial resource as a soil amendment. Biosolids are applied to agricultural land approved by the Department of Environment Quality and MWMC's Biocycle Farm.

### Biocycle Farm

Biocycle Farm is a plantation of poplar trees owned by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC). The farm is located on about 600 acres of agricultural land just west of the Biosolids Management Facility, off of Awbrey Lane in Eugene. Nearly 400 acres of poplars were planted in three phases and are managed as an agricultural crop. The trees are to be harvested every 12 years.

## HARVEST PLAN

MWMC has entered into a contract with Lane Forest Products to harvest a portion of management unit one of Biocycle Farm. This unit was planted in 2003-2004 and must be harvested by the fall of 2015. The unit covers 156 acres and includes approximately 38,000 poplar trees. In order to test the market for the product, the contractor will be harvesting a 52-acre portion of the unit this summer/fall.

The harvest site is located on the southern portion of Biocycle Farm and the contractor will be accessing the site from Awbrey Lane, close to Highway 99. The on-site work hours are 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but harvest work is limited to 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The trees will be removed, including root wad, and either chipped on site, or hauled to a different location.

The site will be prepared for future replanting. Details will be provided at a later date.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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