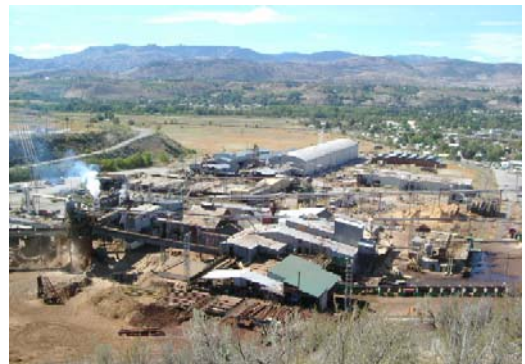


**Colville Reservation Undertakes Pilot Biomass Project**

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry Program have embarked on a pilot biomass project to chip small diameter wood for energy needs.

Due to limited opportunities to use logging slash, most of this small diameter wood has been lopped and scattered, or piled and burned onsite. The Tribes were looking for another use for this material and decided to pursue biomass energy at a local cogeneration plant. The plant currently purchases hog fuel from outside sources and also produces some from its mill operations, but welcomed another source of fuel. So, with a grant from the BIA's Division of Energy and Mineral Resources Management, the Tribes aimed to obtain a healthier forest and produce energy on a sustainable basis in conjunction with the Healthy Forest Initiative to reduce fuels on Federal lands.



*Cogeneration Plant, Omak, WA*

The Tribes partnered with a chipping operation to test the feasibility of the biomass energy market on the Colville Reservation. It was found that in order to make the venture truly cost-



*Chipping Operation*

effective, the project needs a more efficient chipper and more dollars per ton from the cogeneration plant. There is substantial reason to make the biomass project cost-effective, as potential benefits include: the production of renewable energy on a sustainable basis, keeping an additional \$80,000-\$200,000 in the local economy, the creation of jobs for chipping contractors, and a reduction in both hazardous fuels and the threat of catastrophic fire.