

Ecosystem Service Policy Options to Conserve Forestlands

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Defenders of Wildlife



Defenders of Wildlife...

Working to protect native plants and animals in functioning ecosystems



Private lands are essential to the conservation of biodiversity



First goal is to prevent conversion to other uses



Second goal is to improve management to support ecosystem services



Ecosystem services

A new way to frame land use and management decisions to address a broader spectrum of values and diversify revenue for landowners




Ecosystem services

- Water quality, quantity
- Carbon sequestration
- Biodiversity/habitat

Traditional markets for timber and forest products provide revenue to landowners





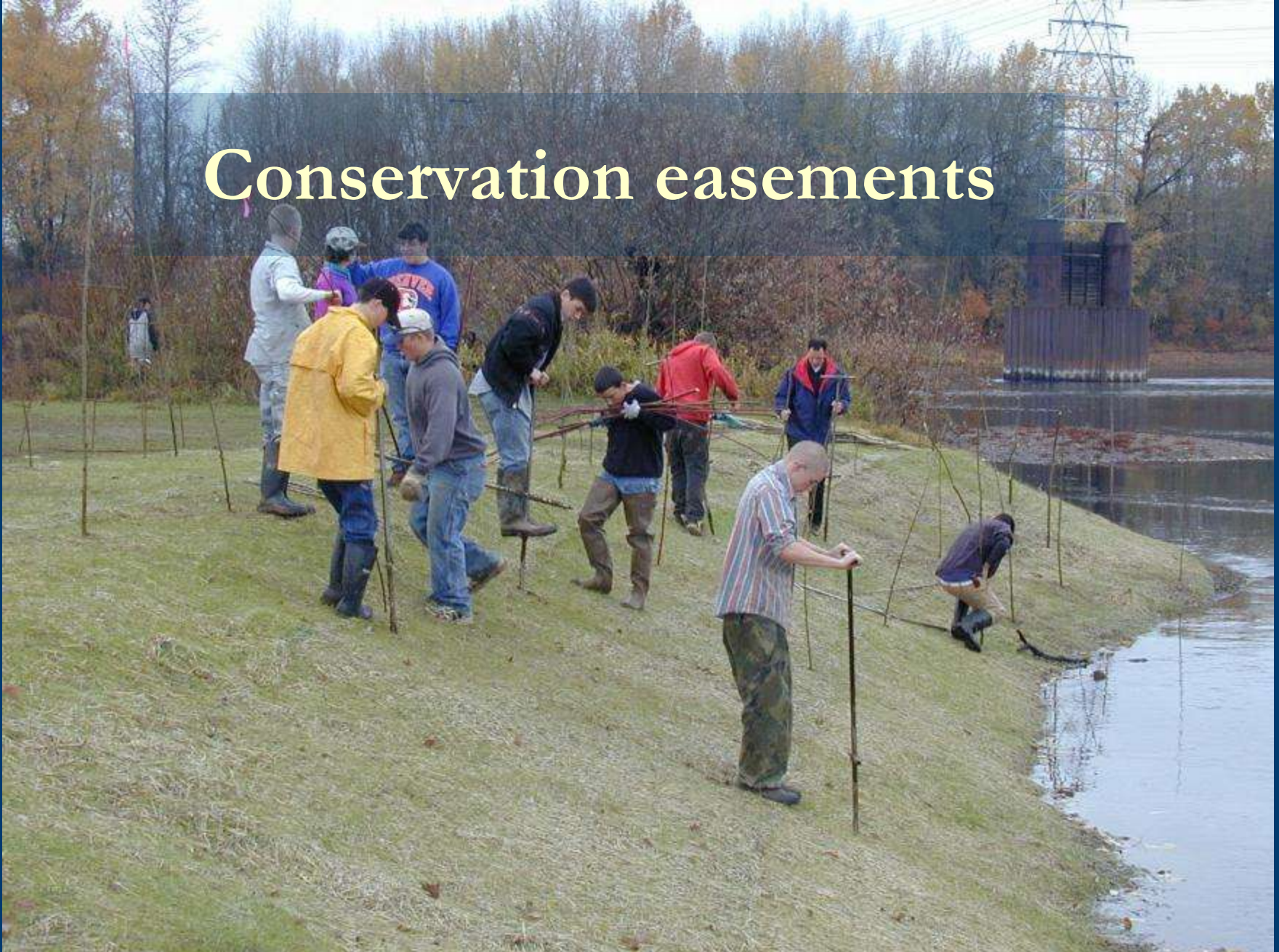
Challenge is to find new revenue
sources to encourage management
for other benefits

Existing incentives



Property tax deferrals

Conservation easements



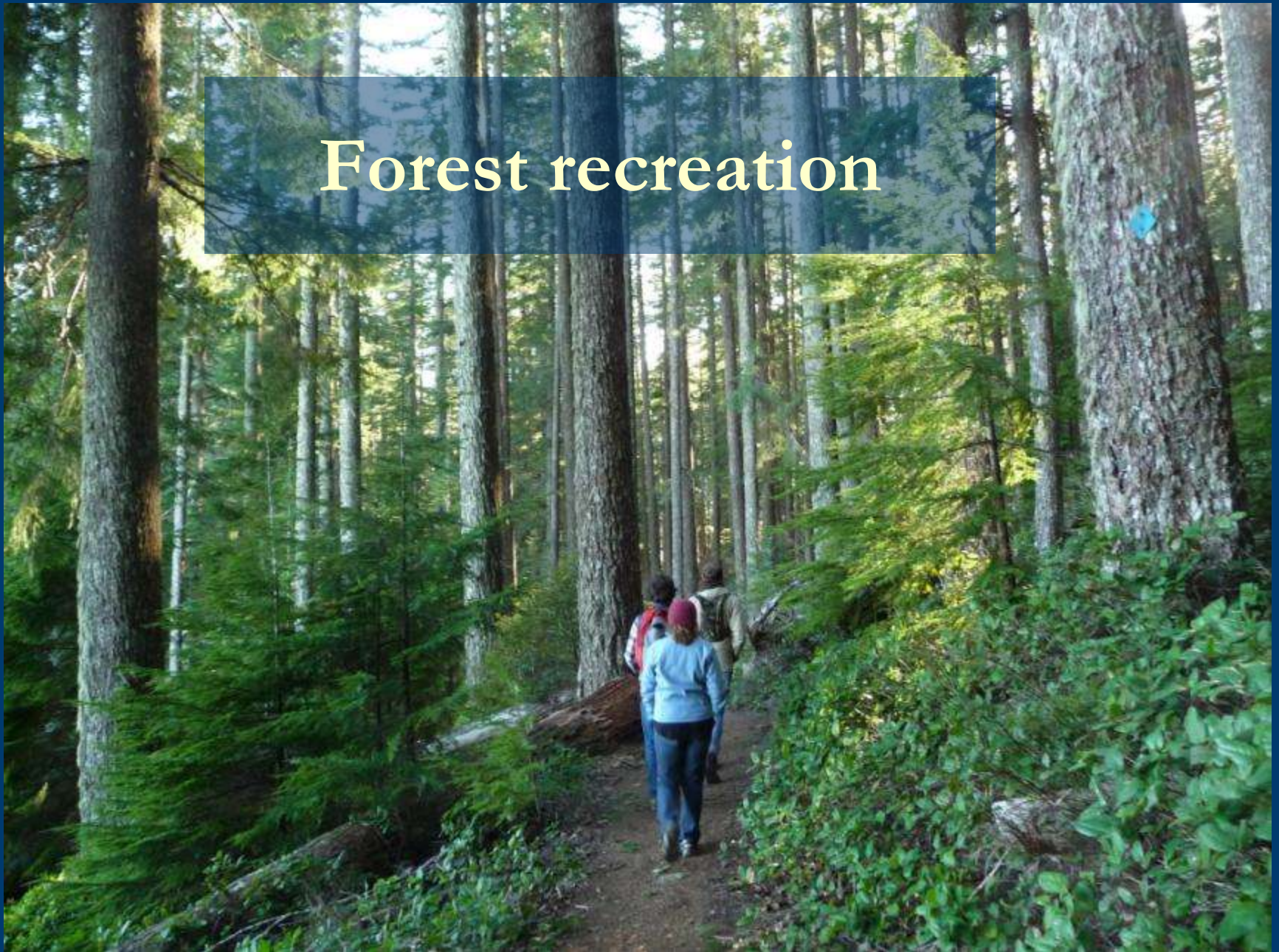
Incentive payments through Farm Bill



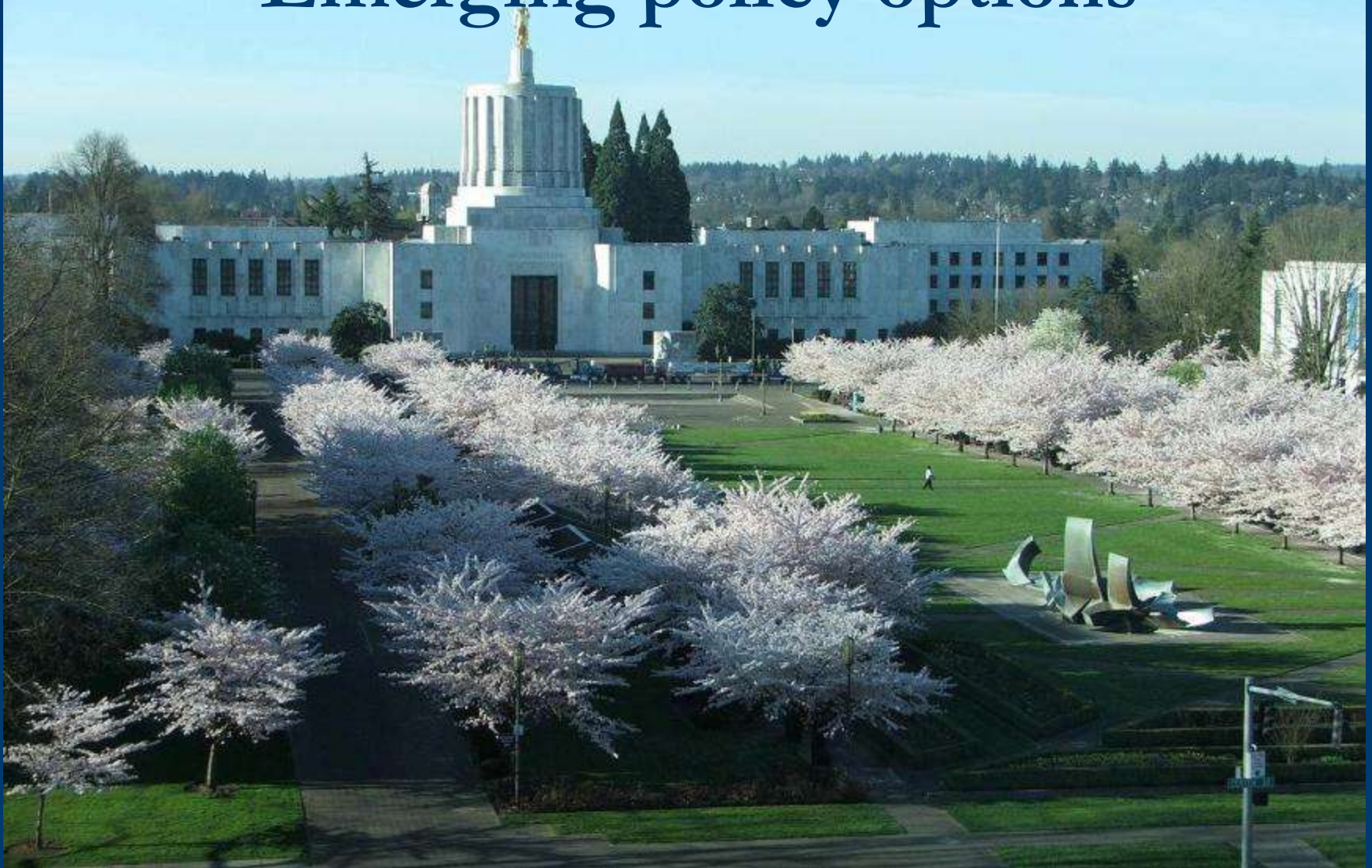
Conservation banks for endangered species



Forest recreation



Emerging policy options





No net loss or net gain goal for forests

- De-forestation creates markets
- Federal, state, or local
- Unintended consequences



Payments for watershed services

- Downstream users pay forest landowners for sustainable management
- Permanent or temporary?
- Private and/or public lands?
- Regulated or voluntary?



Pre-compliance markets

- Habitat credit trading
- Anticipates regulation
- Provides assurances in advance of regulation



Carbon payments

- Cap and trade?
- Carbon tax?
- Voluntary or regulated?
- Public \$\$ for climate adaptation



Oregon SB 513

- Encourages market-based approaches
- Improved integration across agencies
- Establishes policies to protect ecosystem services across all land uses



December 2010

Senate Bill 513 Ecosystem Services and Markets

Report from the Oregon Sustainability Board to the 2011 Legislative Assembly



SB 513 Report



HB 3109

- Natural infrastructure
- Land use plans
- Synthesizing planning
- Updating mitigation
- Encourages innovation
- Consistent measurements



Remaining issues

- Maximize one service at the expense of another
- Pay landowners for new actions or business as usual
- Payment for multiple services



More issues

- Targeted investment
- Scale
- Priorities
- Role of regulation



More issues

- Balance precision /practicality
- Minimize transaction costs
- Context – conservation plans



Best path forward

- Payments to landowners for watershed benefits to communities
 - Natural infrastructure
 - Water quality \$ for source water protection
- Targeted investment

Advantages

- Demand exists
- Cost-effective
- Multiple ecological benefits
- Avoids additionality/baseline

Improved monitoring

- Third party- watershed or ecoregional scale
- Synthesized measure of eco-outcomes (water, carbon, biodiversity)
- Document ecosystem services

Next steps

- Develop, refine eco-metric
- Pilot projects to test





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