

THE FUTURE OF PNW FORESTRY: SOME CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN
FORESTERS 2014 CONFERENCE

JOHN GORDON

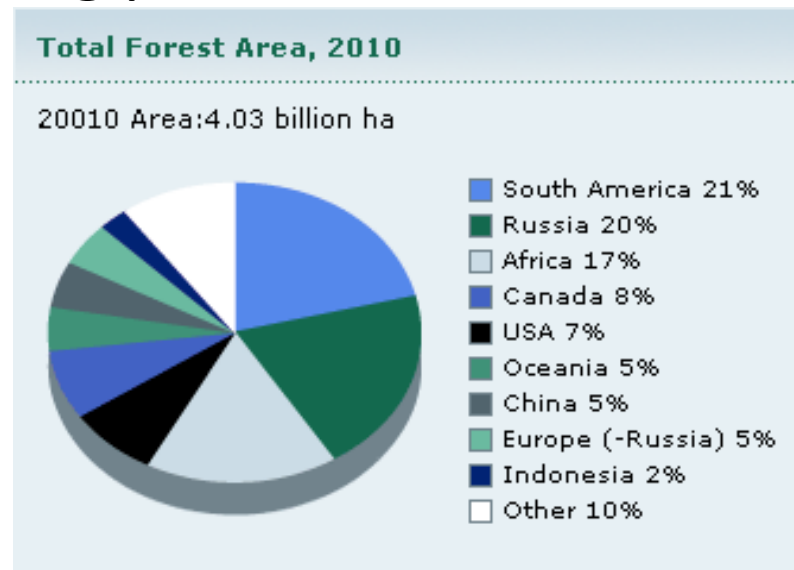
OREGON'S DYNAMIC FORESTS SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT A PROBLEM

- Oregon has world-class working forests and forestry expertise.
- The base for thinking about forestry is forest productivity and its allocation.
- Many valid approaches to forestry exist across ownerships and these should be studied and augmented with new ones.
- Cooperation across the landscape can provide great aggregate benefits but only if broadly supported and practiced.
- Renewed leadership is the key to progress.



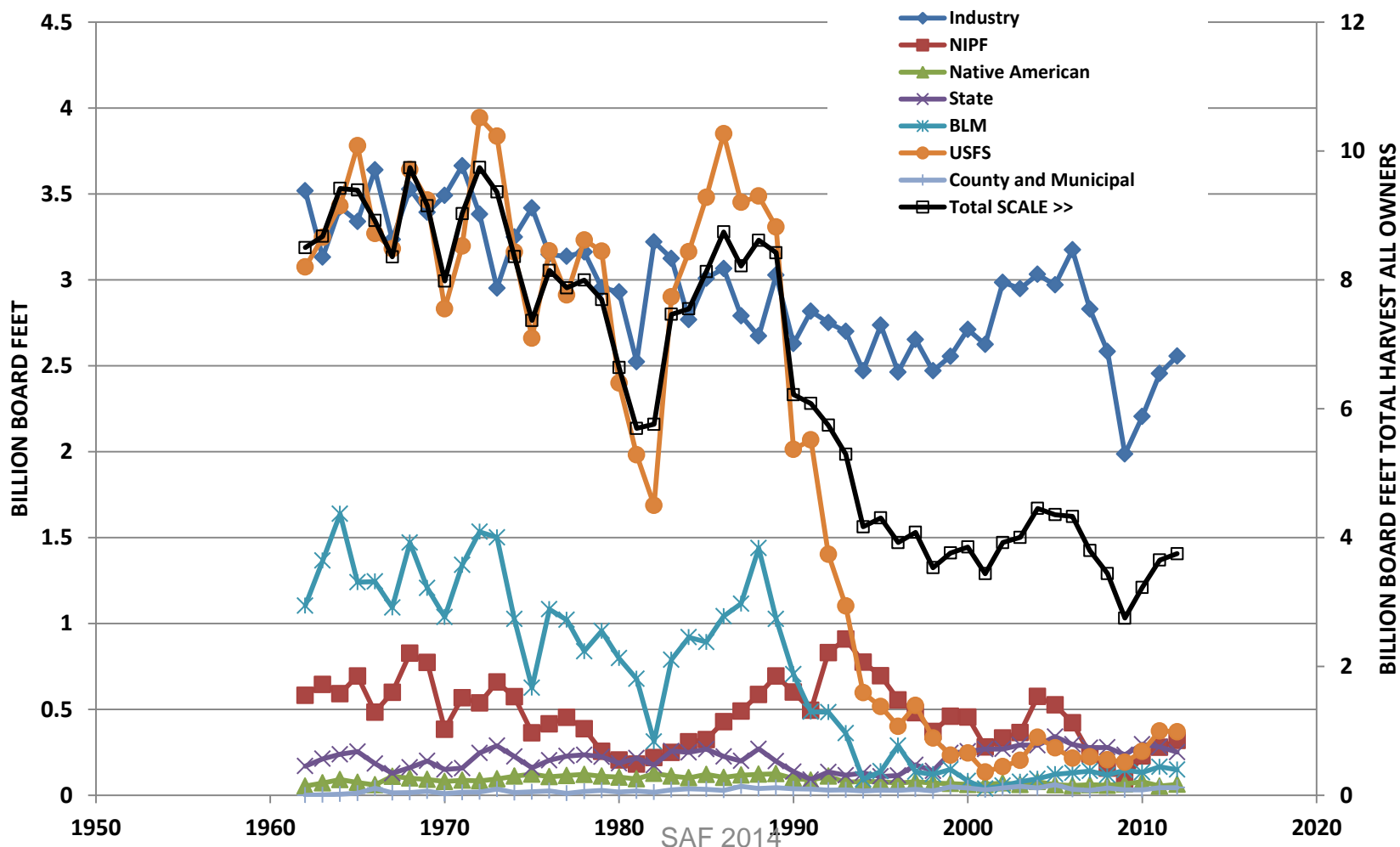
US GLOBAL FOREST ROLE: HIGH COMMERCIAL VALUE, HIGH ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

- 7% of total forest area but 20% of industrial log production.
- High proportion of conifer (softwood) production
- Large area of timberland that is privately owned
- High C loading per unit area

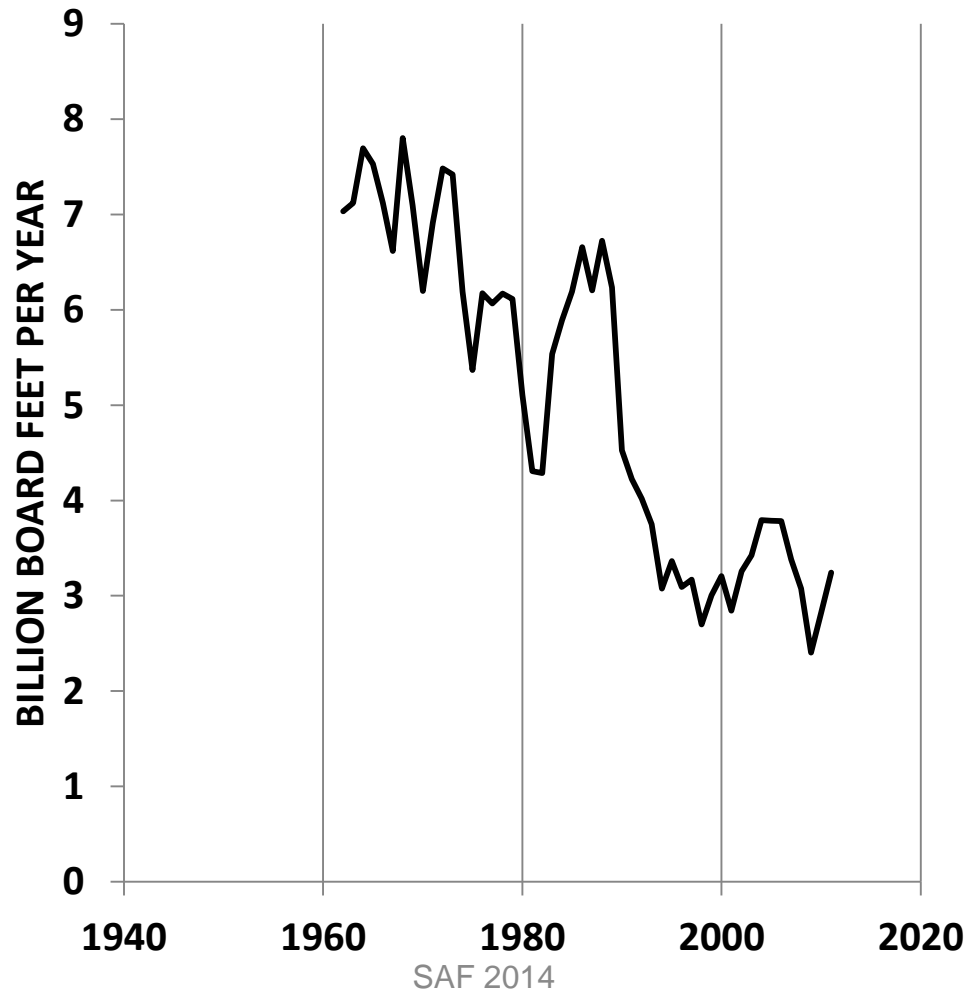


Oregon Harvest by Ownership

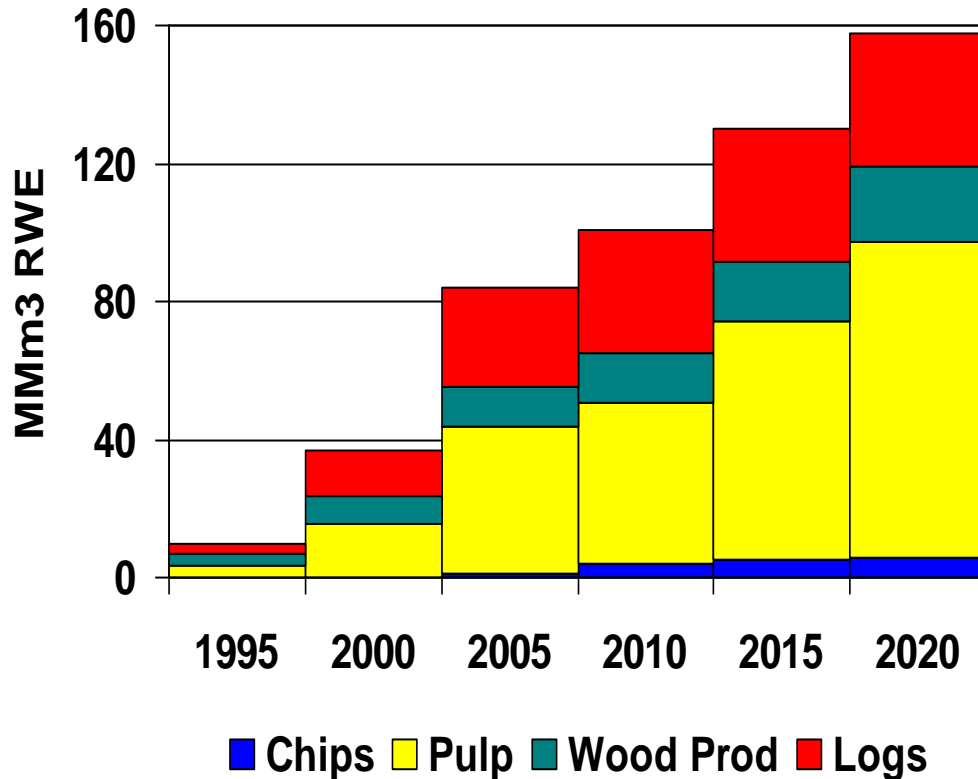
(Adams 2014)



Western Oregon Total Harvest (Adams 2014)



China's Estimated Deficit



- At the same time, RISI is forecasting that China will double its imports of wood products.

- Between the Canadian drop in production and China increasing demand, there should be significant upward pressures on prices – at least for a few years especially after 2014.

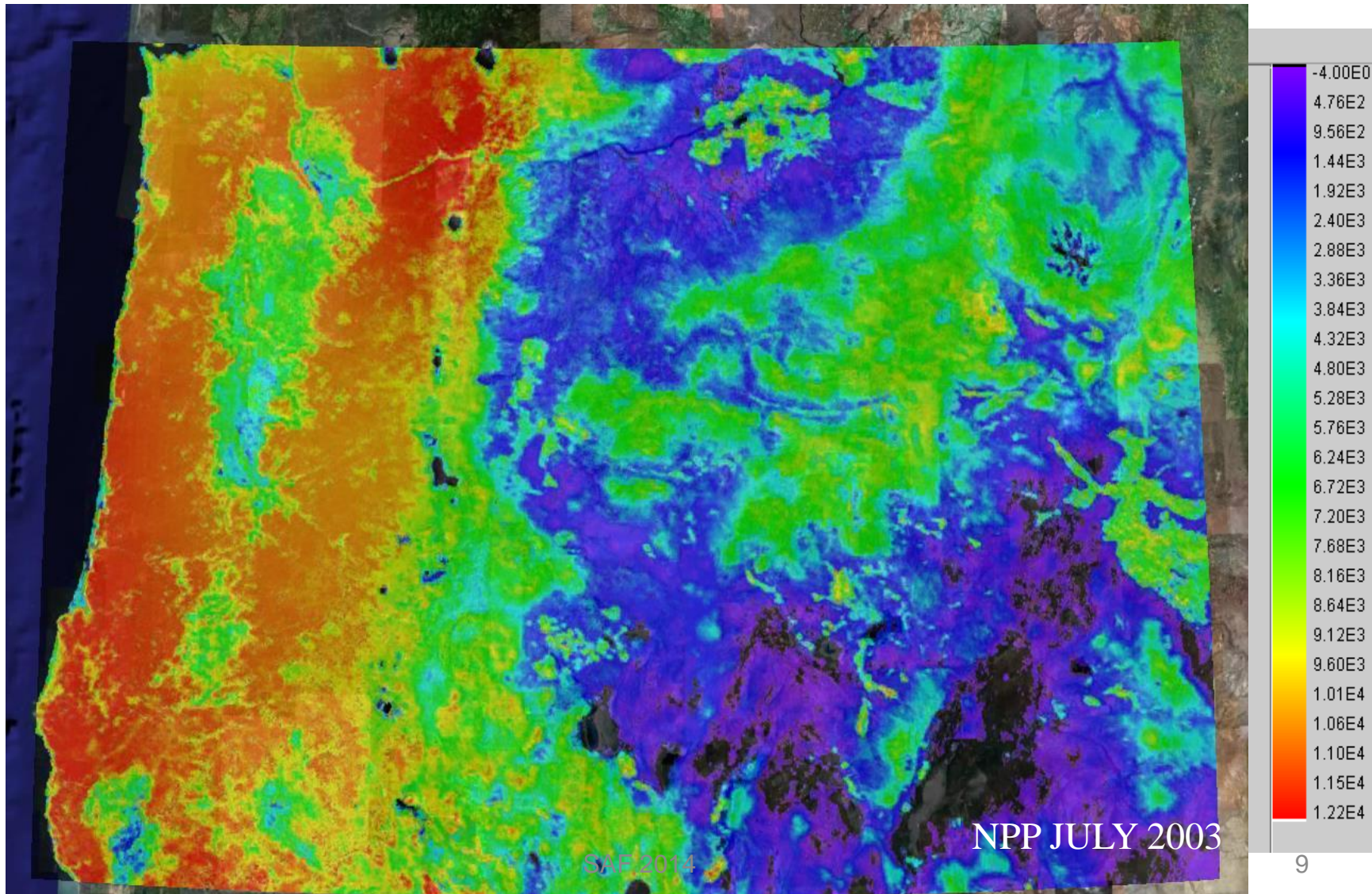
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN



Lessons of the NWFP

- WE CAN AND HAVE CHANGED FORESTS AND FORESTRY ON A LARGE SCALE IN A SHORT TIME
- BROAD BUT RIGID (“STALINIST”) LARGE SCALE TOP DOWN PLANS RARELY WORK SMOOTHLY OR WELL ON DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE FORESTS
- WE HAVE RELEARNED THAT FORESTRY IS A SCIENCE OF PLACE

PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY AND ITS ALLOCATION DETERMINES FOREST POTENTIAL



NPP IS THE EXCESS OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS OVER RESPIRATION

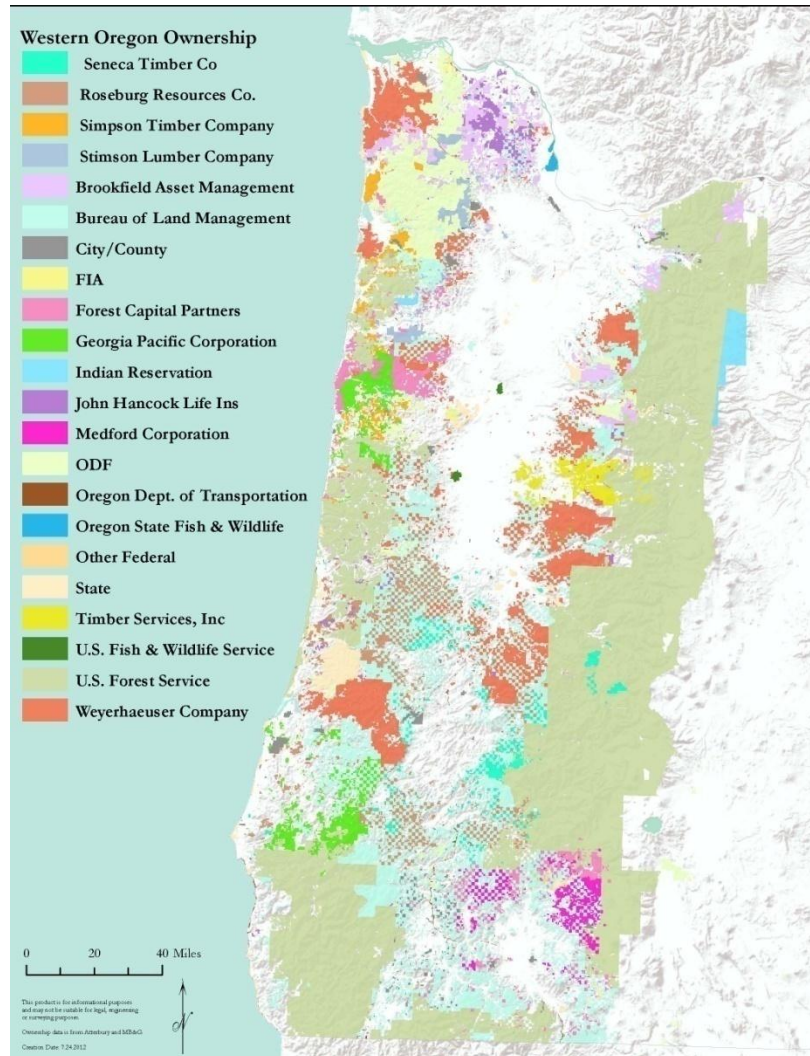
- All the matter and energy subject to human forestry decisions is a result of this difference.
- Actual NPP is very high, on a world scale, in Western Oregon.
- Maximum NPP is probably considerably higher than actual NPP
- For this and other reasons WOR is a felicitous place for forestry.

Defining Working Forests



- All forests work all the time at something (solar energy conversion)
- Often defined by dominant product
- Should include a viable version of a “triple bottom line”: balanced economic, social and environmental benefit.

OWNERSHIP DETERMINES HOW FORESTS ARE MANAGED



SAF 2014

OWNERSHIP EFFECTS

- ROTATION LENGTH: 35 TO 300 YEARS FOR SAME FOREST TYPE
- FUEL MANAGEMENT: INTENSIVE TO NONE
- REVENUE: RELATIVELY HIGH TO NEGATIVE
- PUBLIC ACCESS: RELATIVELY OPEN TO CLOSED
- LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT: LARGE TO SLIGHT

PNW FORESTRY AND THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

- NWFP SHOWS WE CAN DO THE **ENVIRONMENTAL** PART (IMPERFECTLY, SINCE NOT CUTTING TREES IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO ALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS)
- THE **ECONOMIC** PORTION, FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, IS RELATIVELY VIBRANT, BUT PROCESSING CAPACITY (AS WELL AS SUPPLY) IS A WORRY
- THE **SOCIAL** BOTTOM LINE IS BADLY BROKEN, PARTICULARLY IN “RURAL” AREAS.

OREGON INNOVATES AND LEADS IN CREATION OF WORKING FORESTS

- INTENSIVE CONIFER: “clearcut and plant”
- EXTENSIVE CONIFER: “long rotation, variable retention”
- TRIBAL: “seven generation view”
- VERY INTENSIVE HARDWOOD PLANTATIONS: “maximum physical yield per unit area”
- RESTORATION: “cooperative forest protection and use”

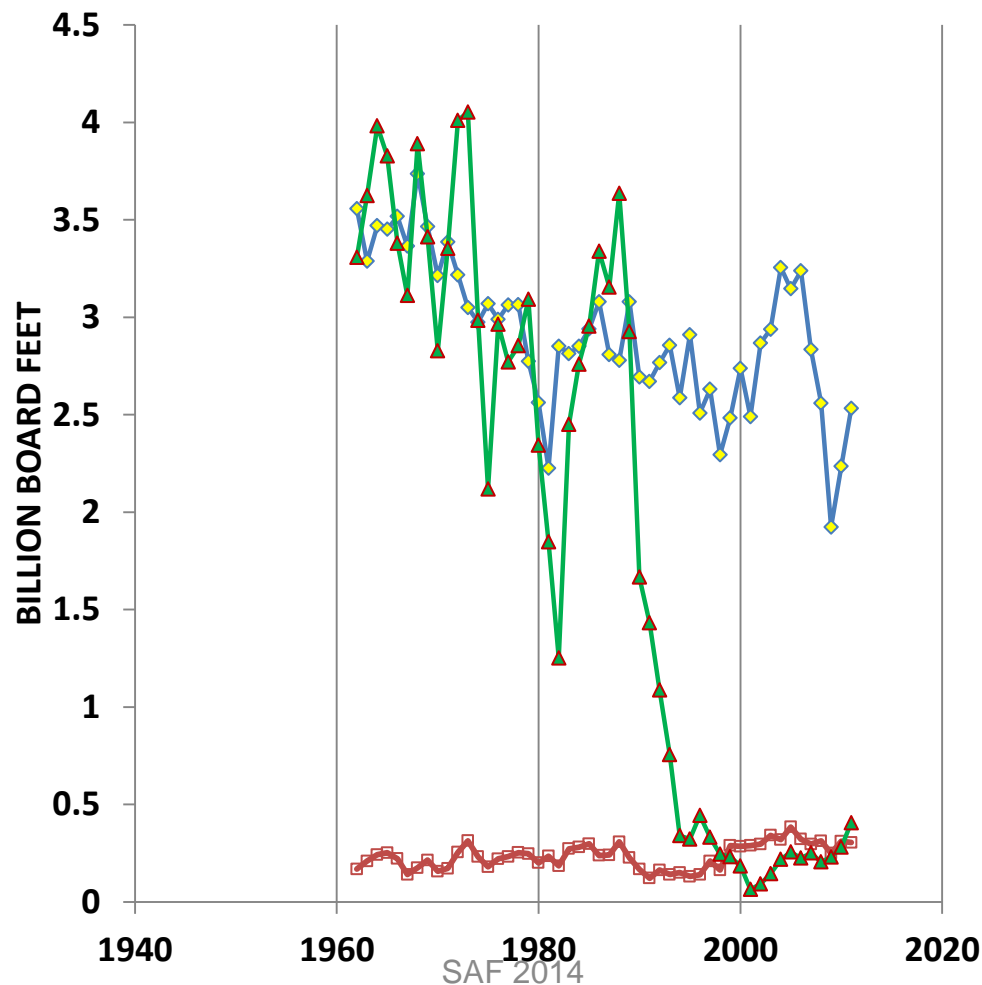
An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest covering a rolling hillside. The trees are a mix of green and brown, suggesting a mix of species or perhaps some dry conditions. In the far distance, more forested hills and mountains are visible under a hazy sky. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Intensive Silviculture of Planted Douglas-fir Forests Opportunities for Increased Productivity

Conference co-sponsored by

**Center for Intensive Planted Forest
Silviculture (CIPS)
Western Forestry and Conservation
Association (WFCA) 2011**

Private and State Lands are Delivering a Sustained Yield (Adams 2014)



Tribal Forestry Achieves Multiple Objectives

- Spiritual and Aesthetic Values
- Sustenance and Medicine
- Fisheries and Wildlife
- Timber, Forage
- Protection from fire, insects and disease
- Local and regional economic multipliers



Forest Condition

On the whole, the health and productivity of Indian forests are being maintained.

Sustained yield

- AACs are below growth
- Influenced by Tribal values



Threats from Neighboring Forests

Mescalero (left) vs neighboring FS lands (right)



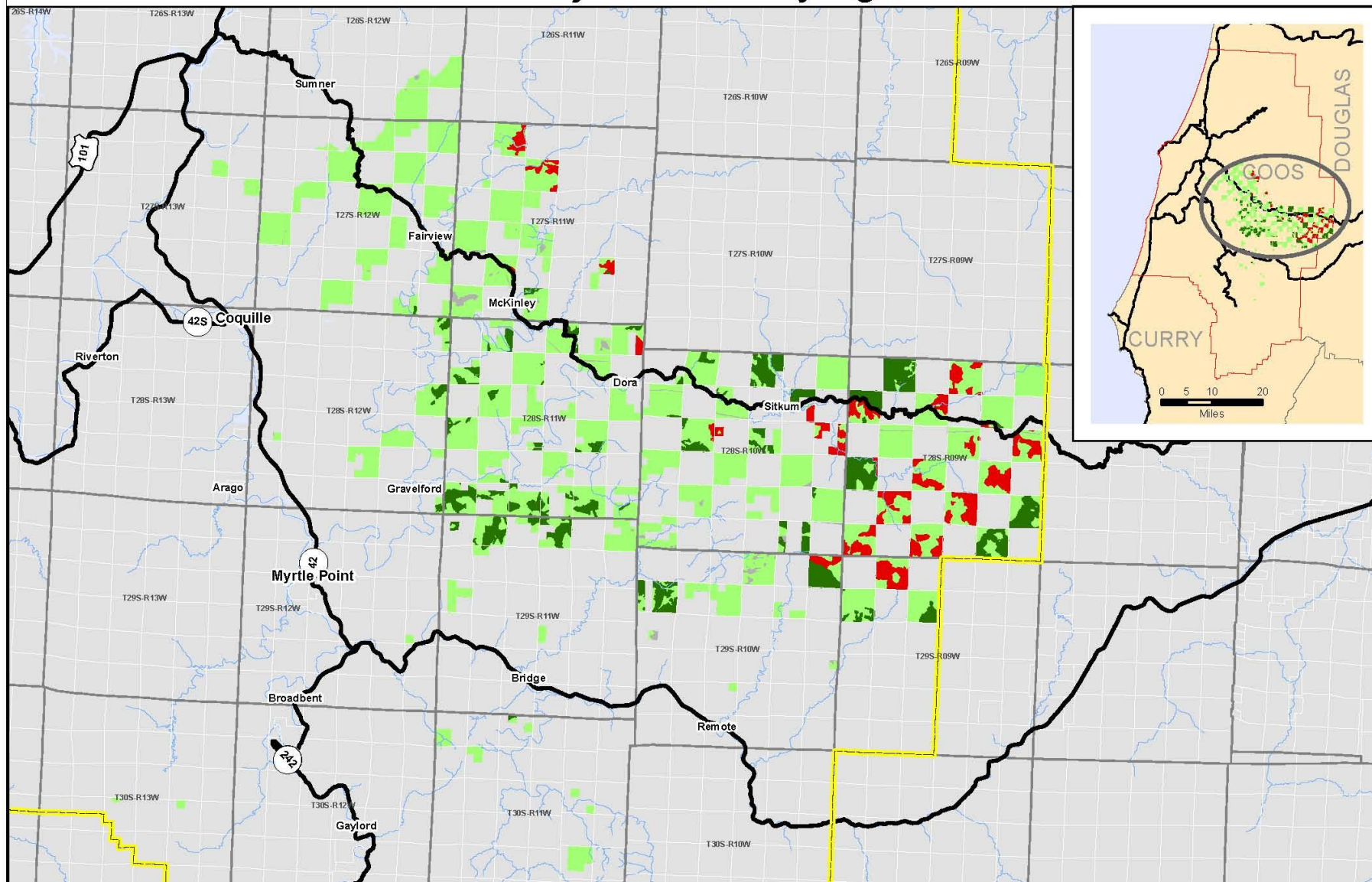
Severe damage to Santa Clara soils and water caused by wildfire on FS land



LEADERSHIP IN OREGON: THE COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

- The Coquilles' forest-management plan calls for the tribe to manage “*intensively* for spiritual, cultural, biological, recreation, aesthetic, and economic values” (italics mine). This requires balancing modern land-management tools and techniques—rooted in the scientific tradition that brought us the industrial social contract and all its blessings and shortcomings—with the traditional ethic of tending, harvesting from, living within, and caring for the land over many generations. [Gail Wells](#). Solutions Magazine Volume 2 | Issue 6 | Page 107-114 | Nov 2011

CBWR Project Lands by Age Class



Map produced by the Coquille Indian Tribe's GIS Program, October, 2011.
 Map Projection: Oregon State Plane South NAD 83 HARN
 Map Scale: 1:250,000 Map Size: letter
 Data Sources: Coquille Indian Tribe, BLM, Coos County

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



0 2.5 5 10 Miles
 SAF 2014



LEGEND

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| County | 1-159 |
| Stand Age (yrs) | 160-249 |
| 0 or Unknown | 250+ |

LEADERSHIP IN OREGON: ECOTRUST FOREST MANAGEMENT

“OUR MISSION IS TO TRANSFORM FORESTRY
IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST”



The mark of
responsible forestry

Certified

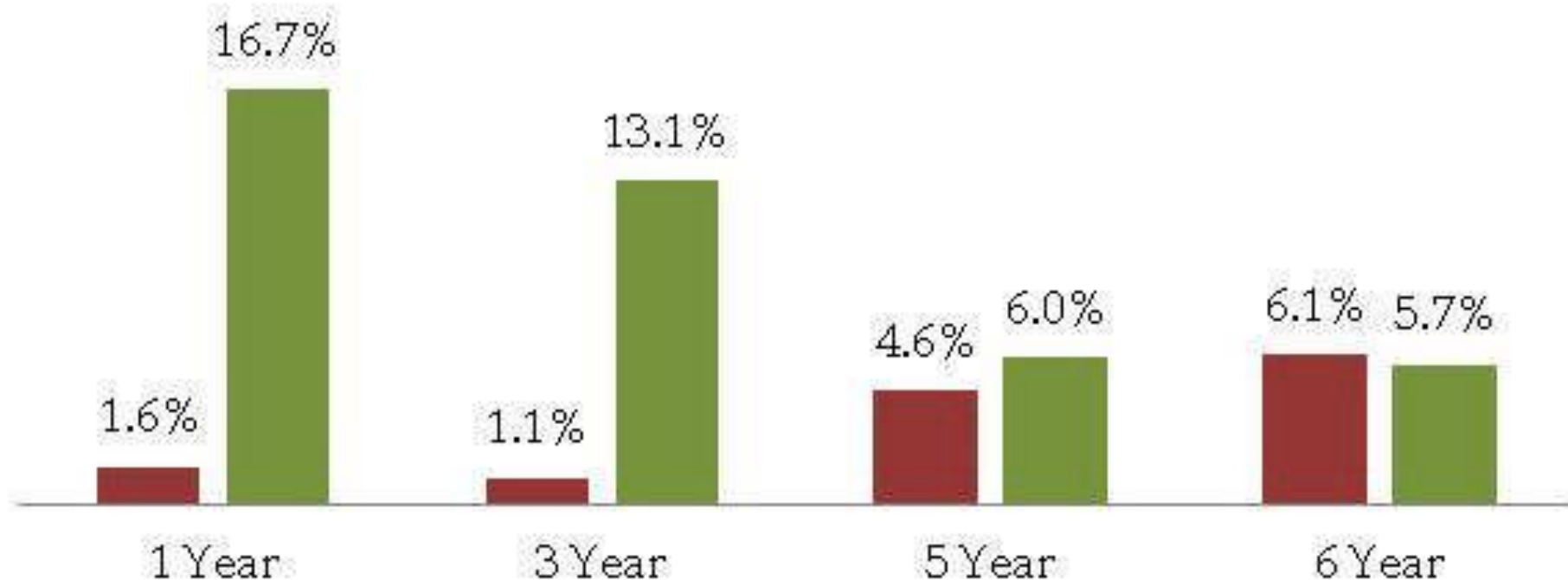


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Ecotrust Forests, LLC vs. NCREIF Timberland Index (as of December 2011)

(nominal, before fees)

■ NCREIF Timberland Index ■ Ecotrust Forests LLC



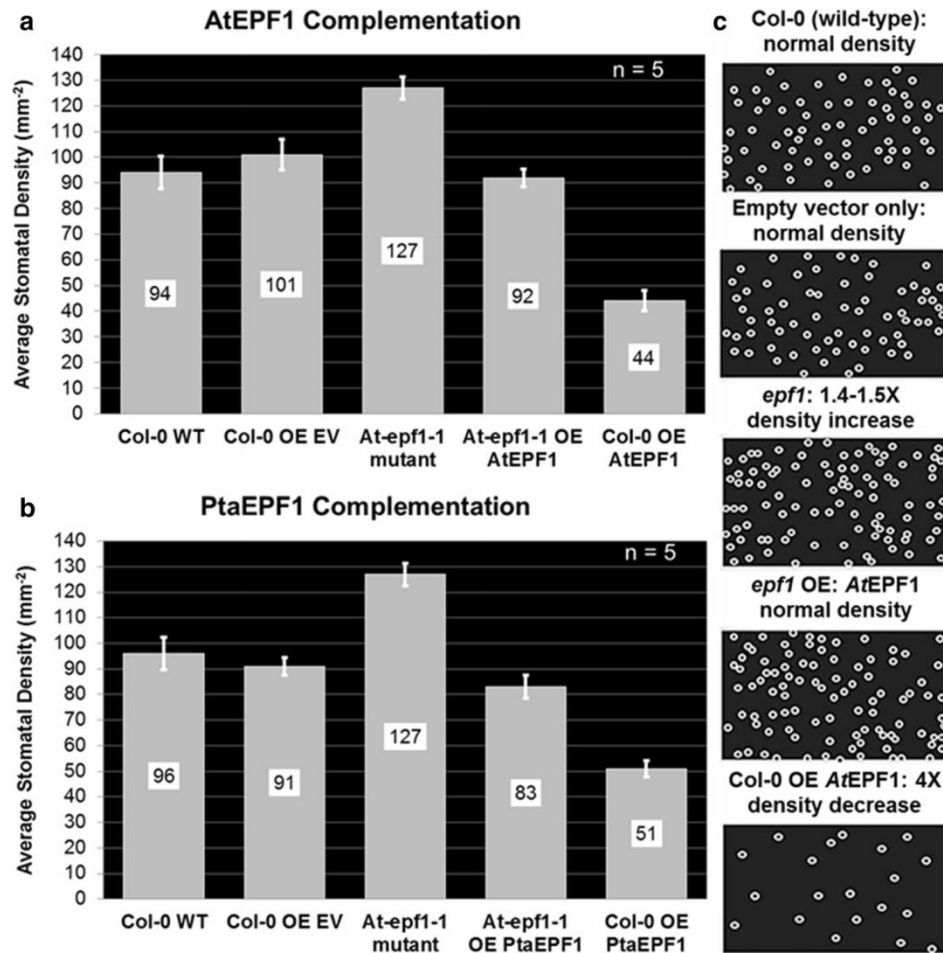
LEADERSHIP IN OREGON: GREENWOOD RESOURCES

“A Resource That Lasts Forever

Meeting the needs of investors,
communities and the environment with one
of the earth's most renewable resources –
trees.”

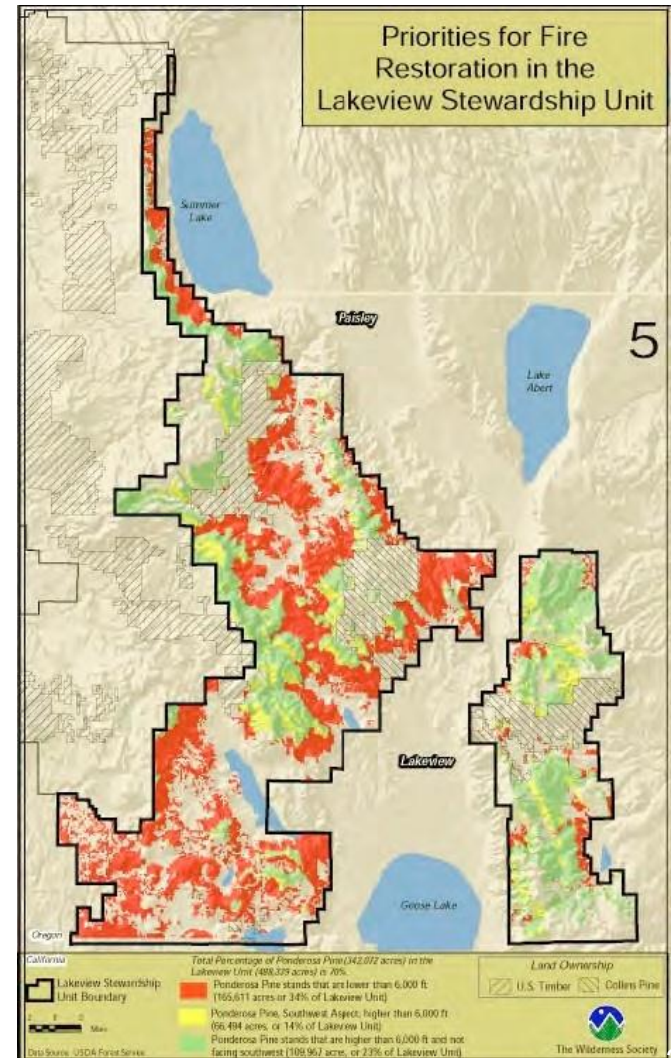


The cloning and characterization of a poplar stomatal density gene (Lawson et al 2014)



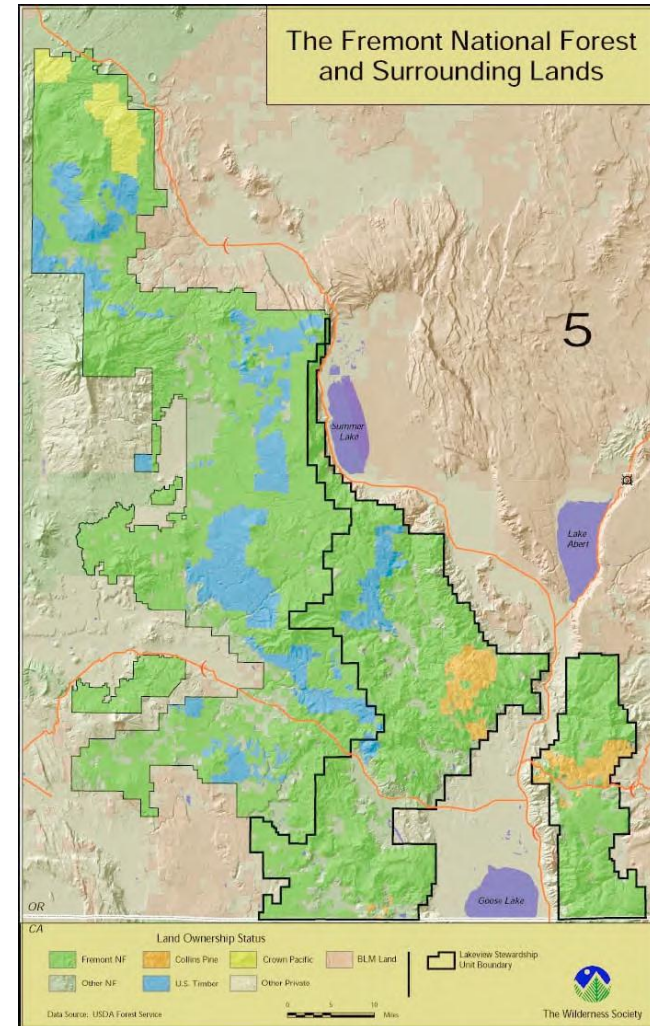
LEADERSHIP IN OREGON: LAKEVIEW STEWARDSHIP

- BASED ON OLD FS SYU
- REVIVED BY INDUSTRY, CONSERVATION, LOCAL GROUPS
- LONG TERM FOREST HEALTH IS THE GOAL
- WORKS BECAUSE OF INTENSE COOPERATION



MANAGEMENT ACROSS OWNERSHIPS DOES HAPPEN

- COLLINS, US TIMBER, USFS, OTHER PRIVATE ALL WITHIN LAKEVIEW STEWARDSHIP BOUNDARY
- ACTIVE ENGO PRESENCE AND ACTION



FIXING THE SOCIAL BOTTOM LINE

- How will Oregon make its living in the future, and where?
- Forests can make a large contribution to the social fabric by producing economic and social value in many localities.
- We need landscape level goals and a great variety of local approaches (“forestry diversity”) to make this happen.

*Table Teams at Work -- Seventh American
Forest Congress
February 22, 1996 -- Washington, D.C.*



Seventh American Forest Congress

Process

- Landscape level goals and local flexibility created by a continuing policy process
- Ongoing local forums of concerned individuals structured to make participation easy
- Initial focus on areas of agreement (“keeping forests as forests”?)
- Application of general principles to many local variations of working forests and forestry
- Some method of central data collection

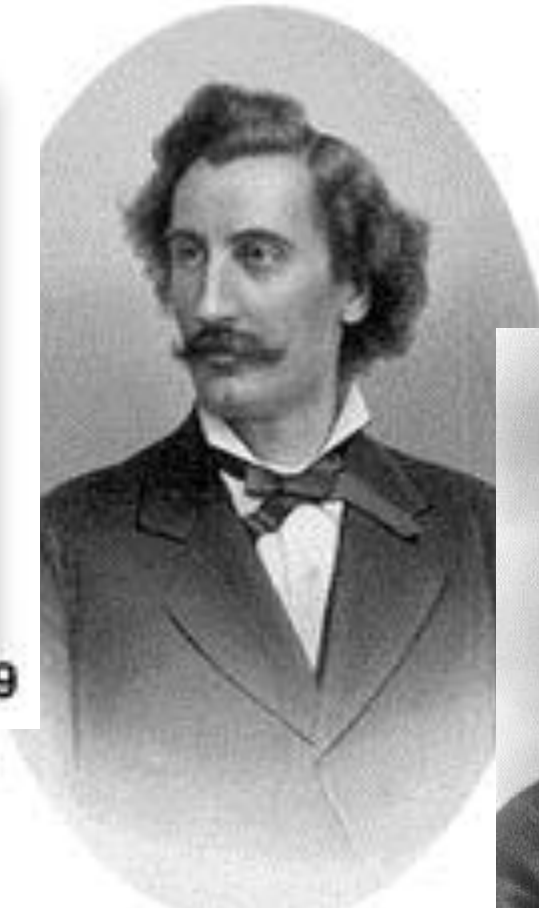
THE GREATEST CHALLENGE: LEADERSHIP

- Widely accepted, workable landscape level goals (Seventh American Forest Congress process)
- Regulatory sensitivity to many diverse approaches (less overarching, more locally crafted)
- Urban/rural understanding and cooperation (effective political boundary crossing)
- A special role for Universities

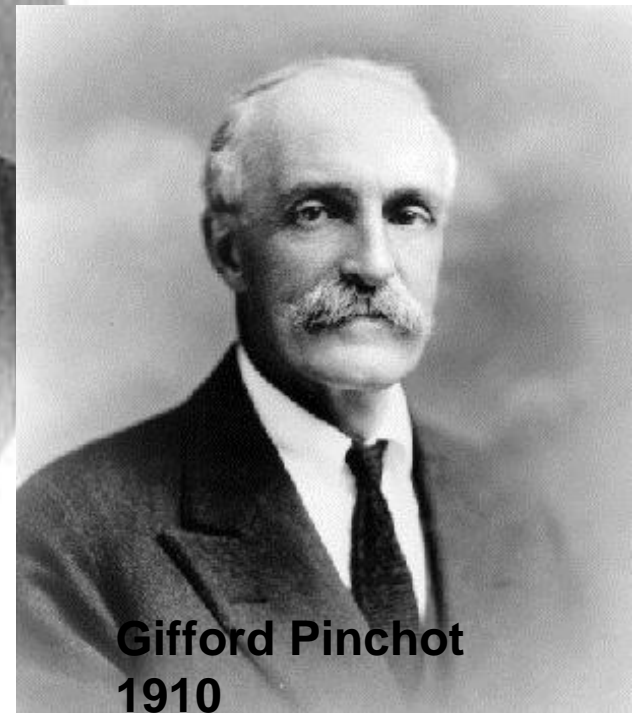
SIGNATURE LEADERS



John Wesley Powell 1869



**Charles Valentine
Riley 1883**



**Gifford Pinchot
1910**

WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT (SHOULD) HOLD

- Changed and integrated riparian protection.
- Increasing state interest in and influence on federal land.
- More effective attempts at coordinated and integrated management across boundaries.
- More visible and expanded tribal forestry (restored lands, anchor forests)
- Forestry viewed as a mainstream asset and not a sunset industry.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS