

Federal Lands Interim Committee



October 28, 2013
Capitol Building, Boise Idaho

Federal Forest Management A Case For Change

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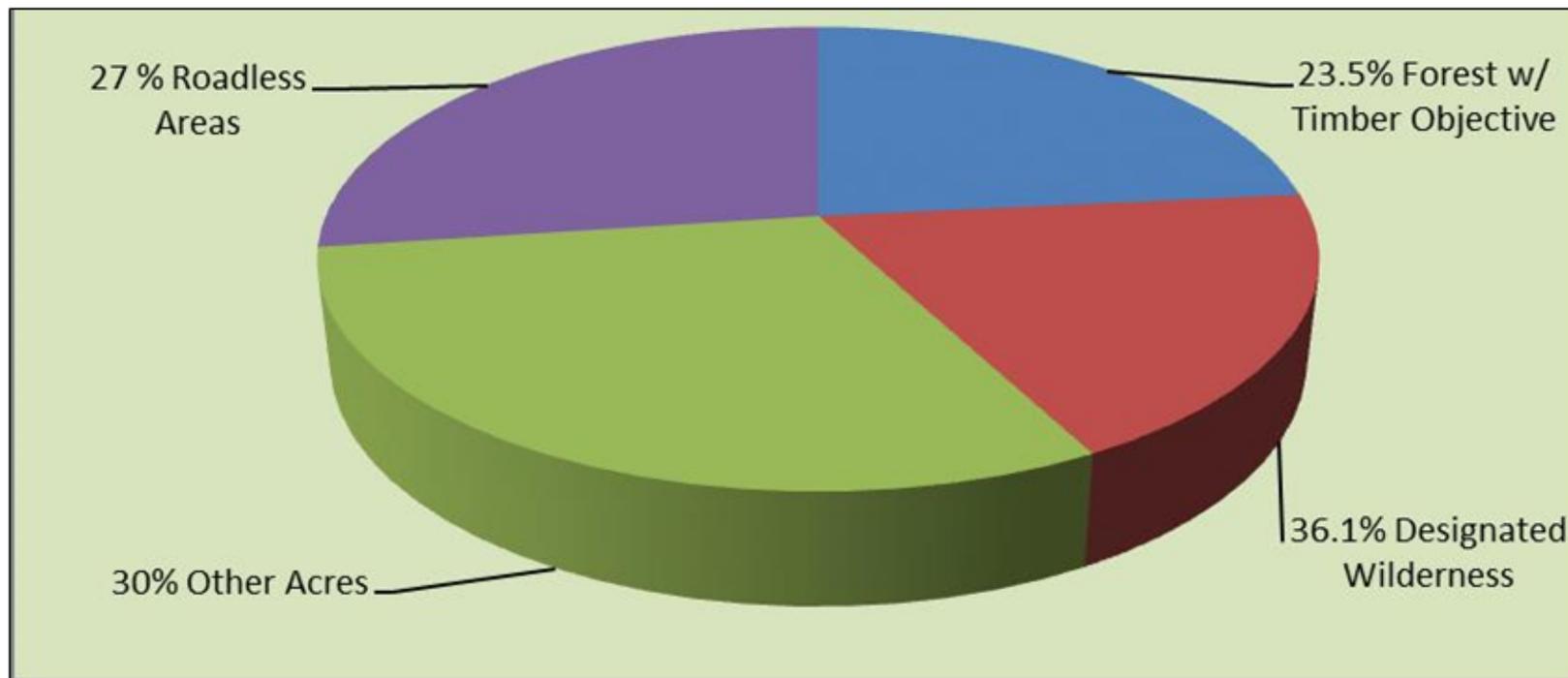
Outline



1. Lack of active management leads to increase in fire costs and damage
2. Forests should sequester carbon not be part of emission problem
3. Impacts on Idaho
4. Principles of Reform
5. Outline of legislation needed
6. How can State of Idaho participate

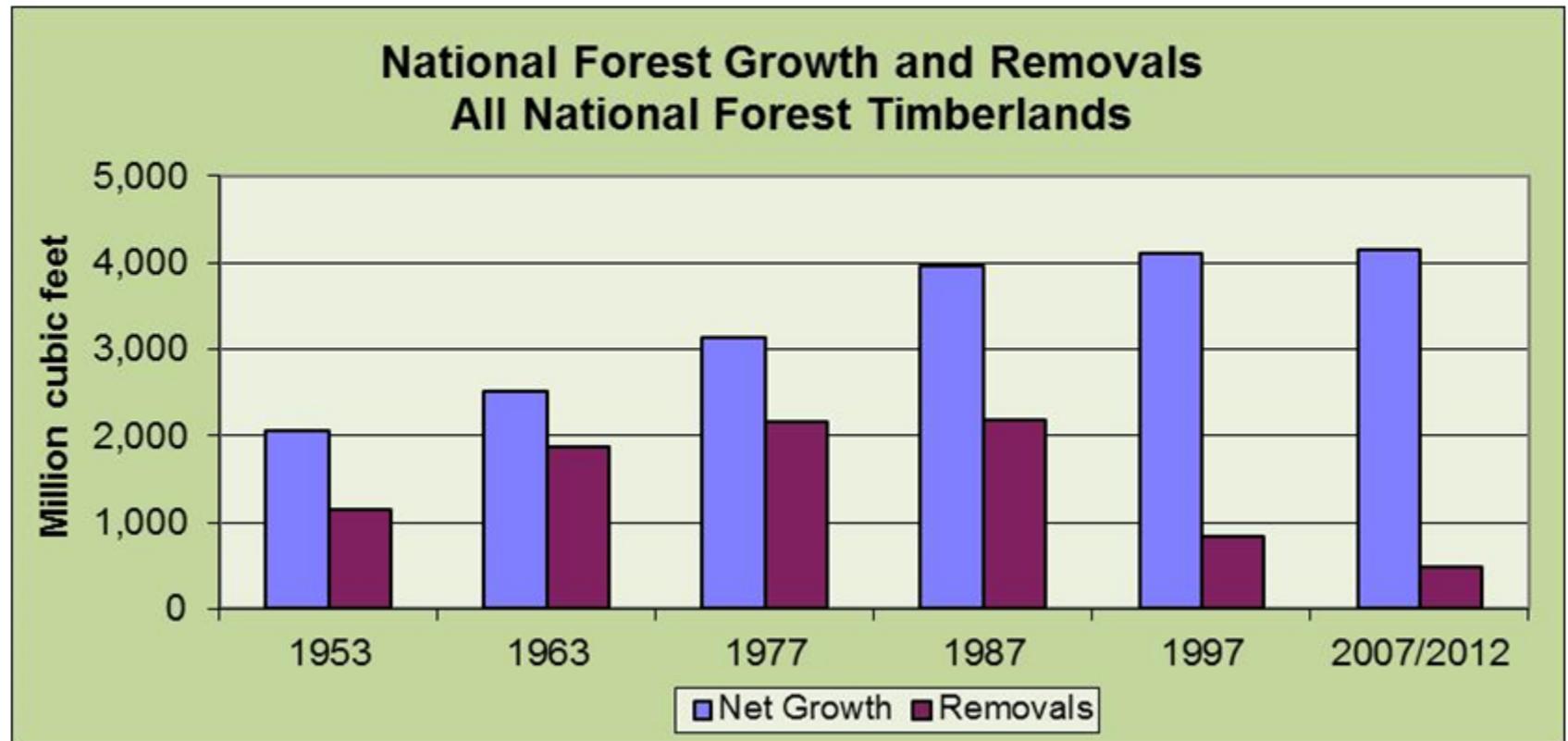
Forest Service Management in Crisis

Only 23.5% of the National Forest System is Designated for Timber Production:



Two Thirds of the National Forest System is set aside from nearly all active management.

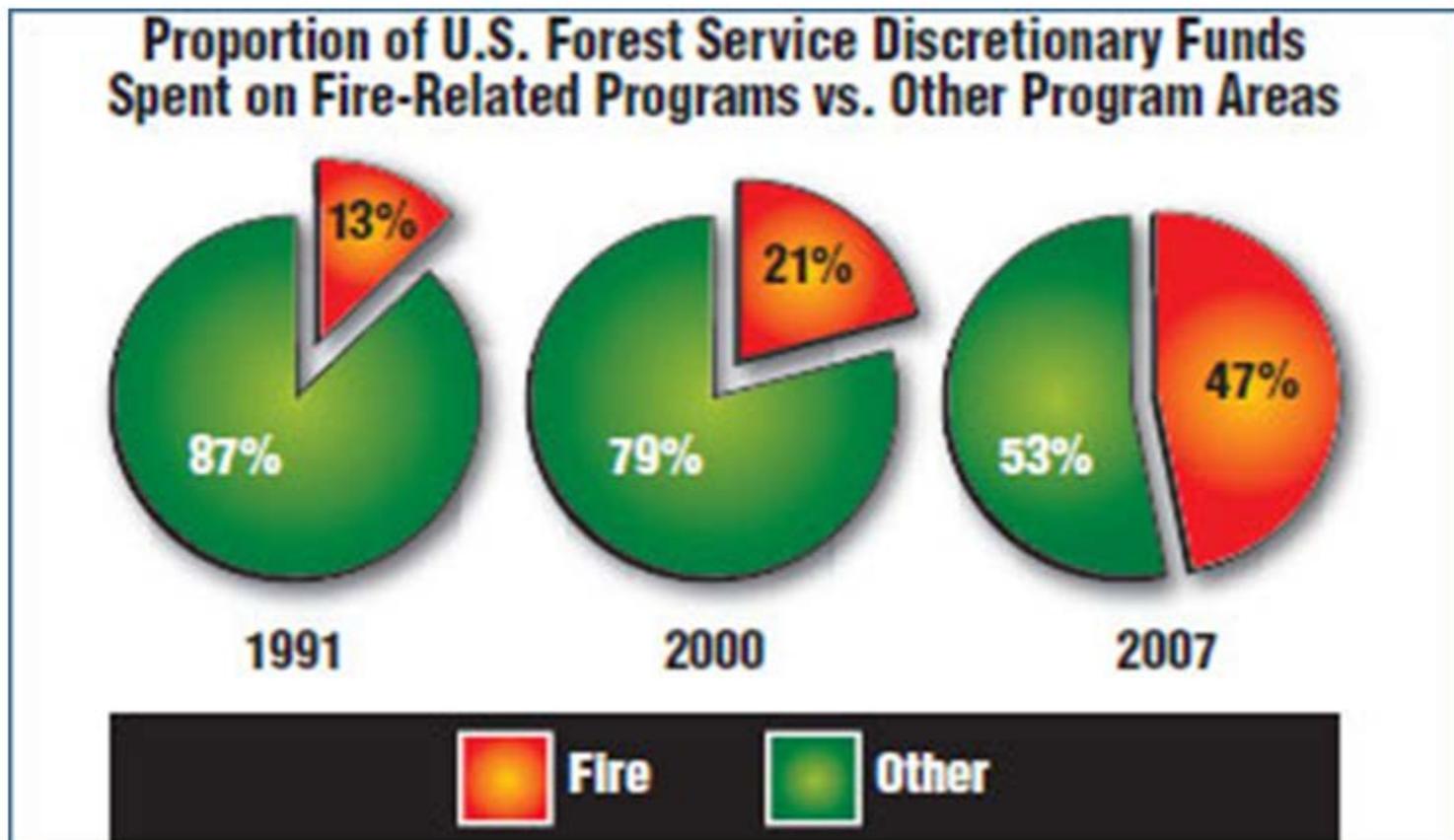
Growth has drastically exceeded removals for the last 3 decades:



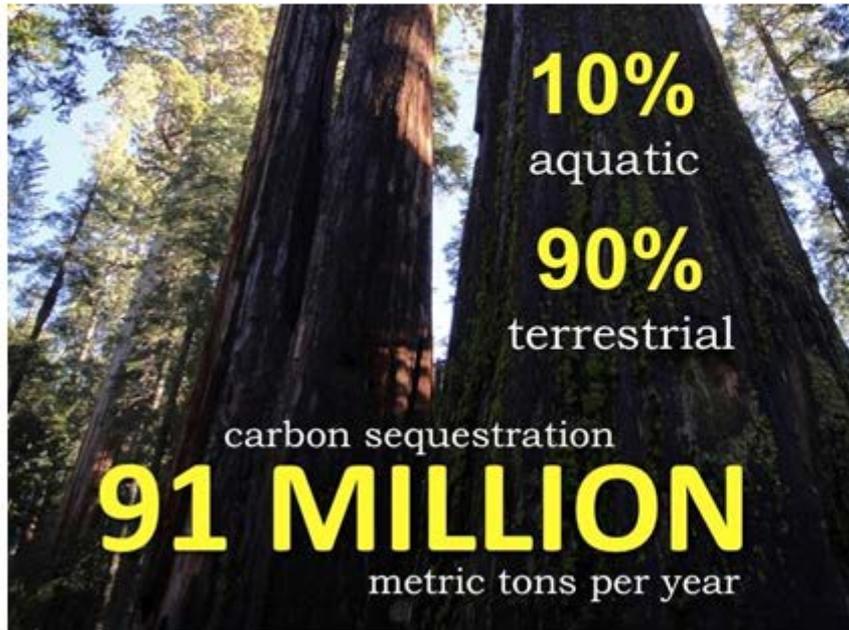
Forest Service Timber Sales vs. Total Acres of Wildfire, Since 1990:



Increased fire suppression costs, lack of management are mutually reinforcing negative trends.



Forests and Wood Products Sequester CO2

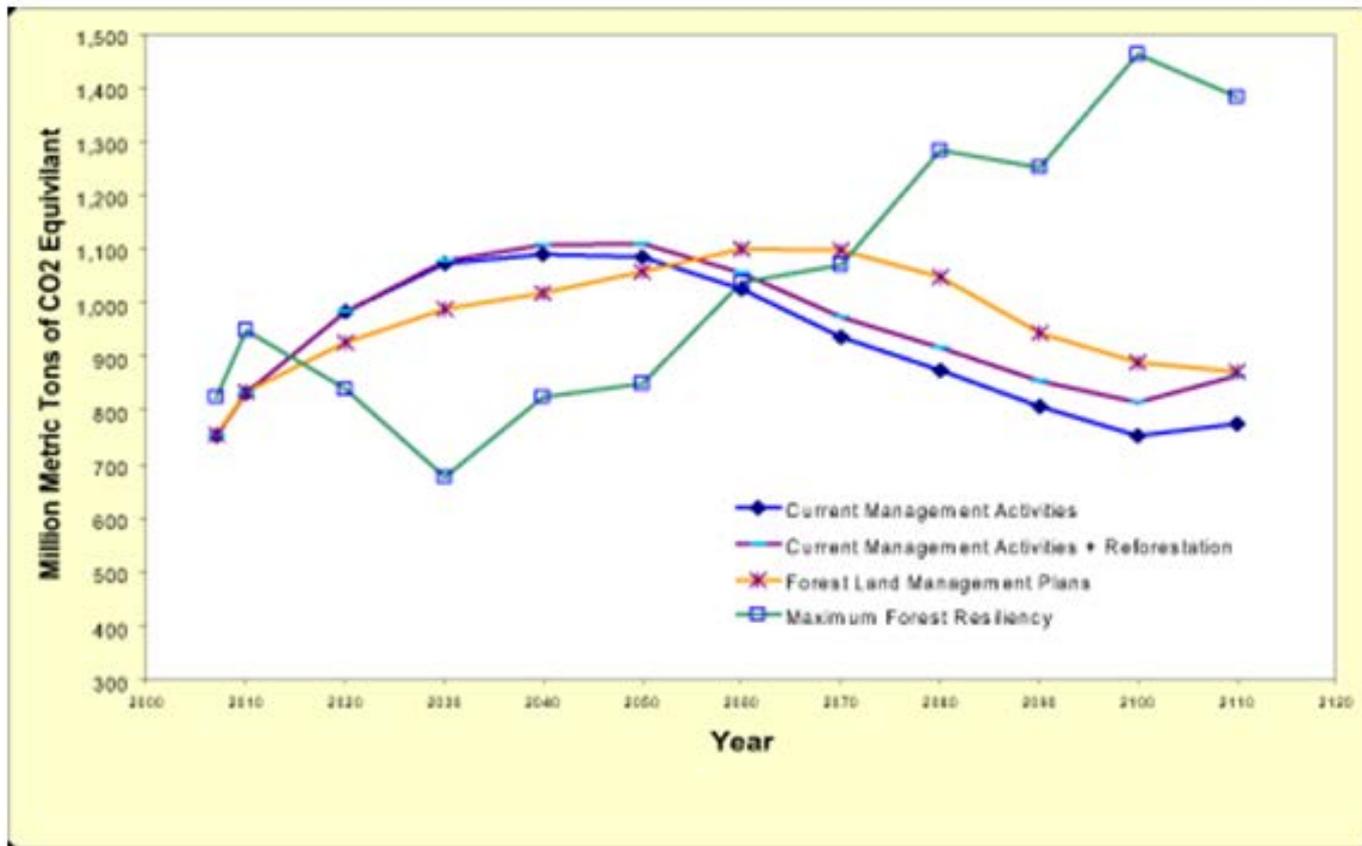


Wildland Fires Release CO2



Carbon and Fire

Left unmanaged, the National Forest System is likely to become a Carbon Source



What Does This Mean For Idaho?

National Forests in Idaho



Fiscal Year

MBF Sold

2012	145.315
2011	137.460
2010	154.801
2009	146.144
2008	159.570

National Forests counties in Idaho have poverty rates above the state average (16.5%)

County

Poverty %

Madison	38.5
Shoshone	19.7
Lemhi	18.9
Washington	18.8
Bannock	18.7

Principles of Reform



- Active management certainty must equate to the permanent nature of wilderness designation.
- Payments to forest counties should be linked to fundamental reforms which streamline the process of proposing, analyzing, executing and resolving conflicts over forest management projects on Federal forest lands.
- With due recognition of the need for a transition period, payments to counties must be linked to revenues produced by viable economic activity on Federal forests, including substantial, sustainable increases in timber outputs.
- All revenues generated on Federal forests, including a portion of revenues from Stewardship contracts, should be used to develop additional sustainable forest management projects as well as to provide revenue sharing to counties.
- A long term management approach, focusing on the 23% of National Forest acres already identified as suited for timber production, can provide stable funding on a long term sustainable basis, while restoring and strengthening the overall multiple use framework on Federal forests.

Federal Legislation Needed



Legislation is needed which streamlines compliance with several environmental statutes on the small portion of the National Forest System already identified as having a timber management objective, which can serve as the basis of a Federal forest trust. With the Forest Service currently spending \$356 million annually on NEPA compliance, reform legislation must:

- Streamline NEPA analysis, ESA consultation, and judicial review for projects conducted on lands designated for timber production. Institute “Baseball Arbitration” to resolve disputes and provide conflict resolution without litigation.
- Set clear volume and acreage treatment targets to ensure accountability.
- Clarify to the courts that timber production is the primary objective on this small portion of the National Forest System and not one use among many.
- Focuses on ecology and economics in the design, operation and management of projects on lands designated for timber production.

Role of State of Idaho



- Idaho Department of Lands could contract with USFS to lay out and administer timber sale contracts
- Idaho Department of Lands could look for ways to utilize “Good Neighbor Authority” to manage some USFS lands (especially adjacent and intermingled land).
- In summary, state management of Federal lands offers much promise for getting approximately 3 million acres of USFS suitable timber base under active management and contributing to local/state economies and communities. A minimum of 300 mmbdft of additional harvest could be achieved creating an additional 5,100 jobs as well as increasing Idaho’s GDP to over \$55 billion as well as significant returns to counties and local communities for schools, roads and infrastructures.