# Mechanisms for Public Investment in Tree Planting in the United States

Steverson O. Moffat
Policy Analyst
USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station

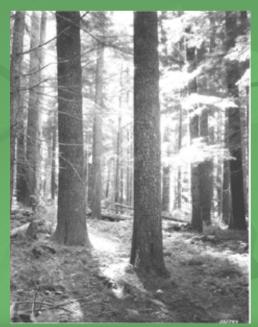
## Road Map

- Organizational and Historical Background
- Direct Public Investment in Tree Planting in the U.S.
  - USDA Programs
  - EPA Programs
  - Tax Considerations
  - State Programs
- Effectiveness of Programs
- Considerations and Issues



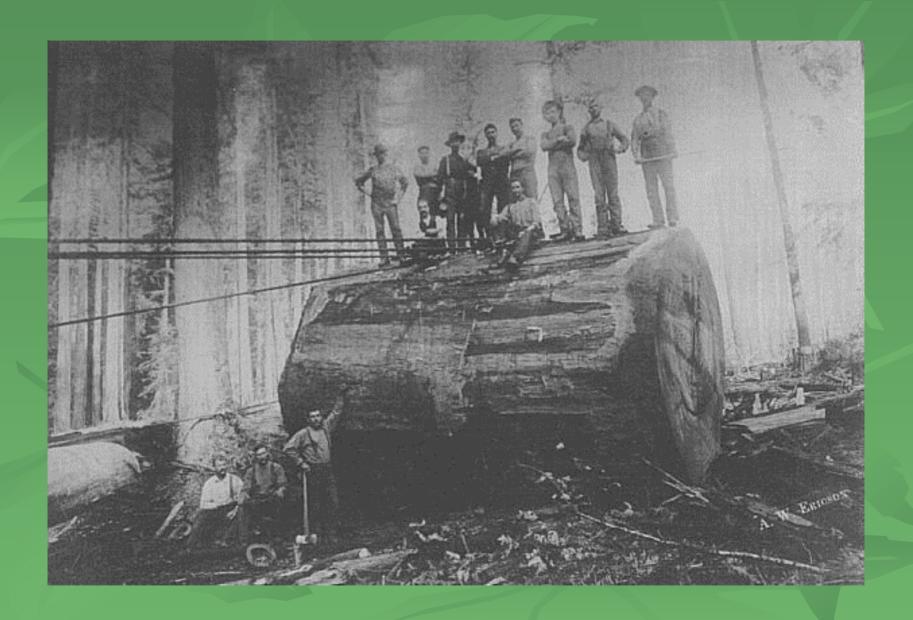






















## Organizational History

- 1870s Concerns raised about deforestation
- 1880s Division of Forestry within USDA
- 1890s
  - Scientific forestry methods introduced
  - Forest Reserves established
  - Gifford Pinchot's leadership
- 1905 Forest Reserves to USDA, Forest Service
- 1911 Eastern National Forests purchased
- 1924 Clarke-McNary Act

### Forest Land Area in the U.S.

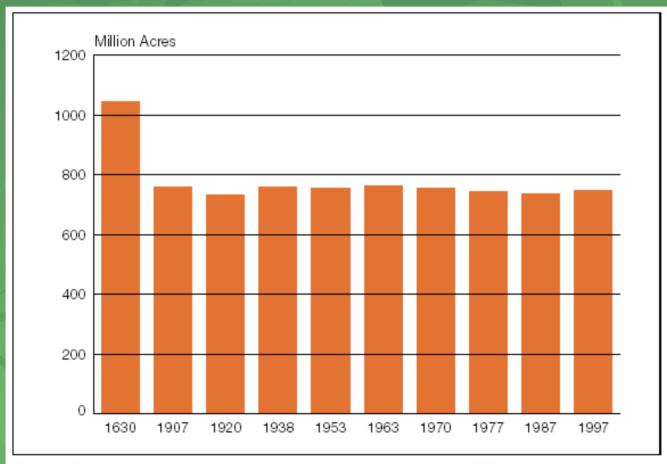
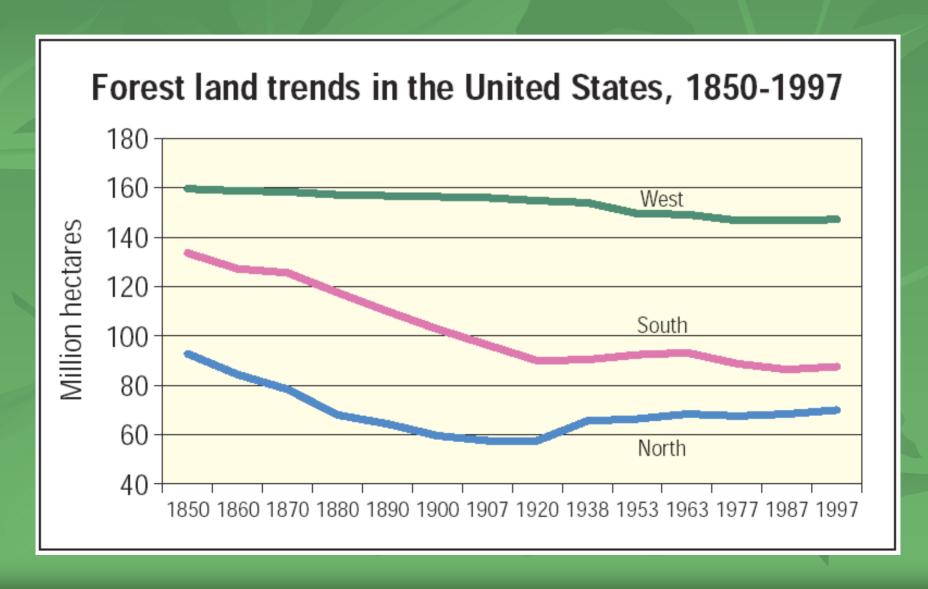


Figure 17 — Area of forest land in the United States, 1630 to 1997

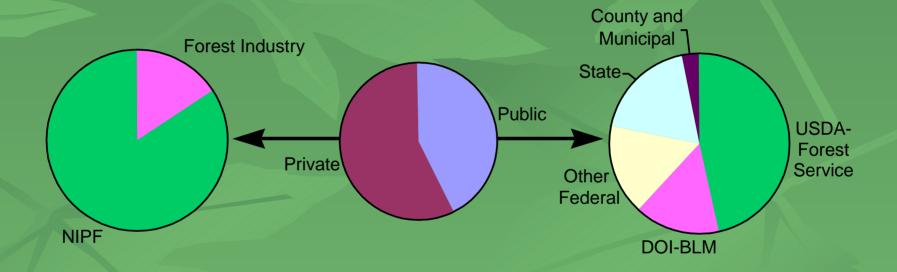
#### Forest Land Trends



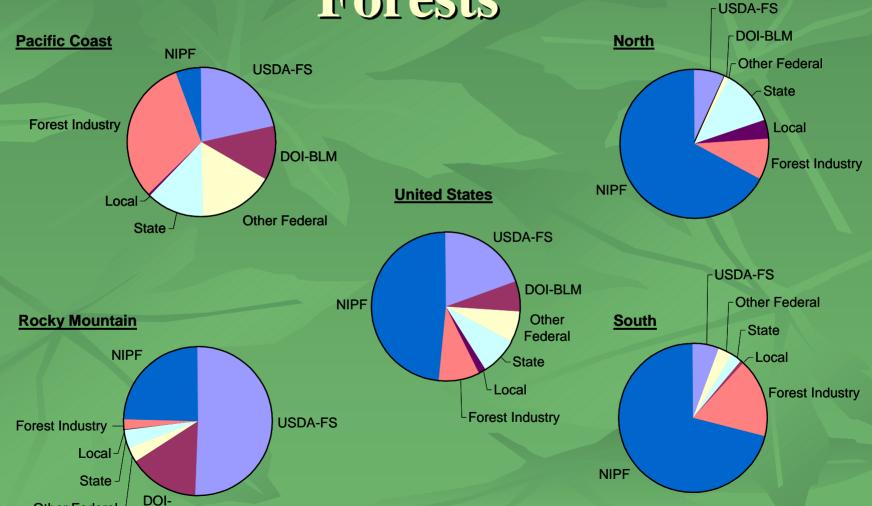
## Forest Service Program Areas

- National Forest System
  - 154 Units; 77 Million Hectares
- State and Private Forestry
- Research
- International Programs

# National Distribution of Forests



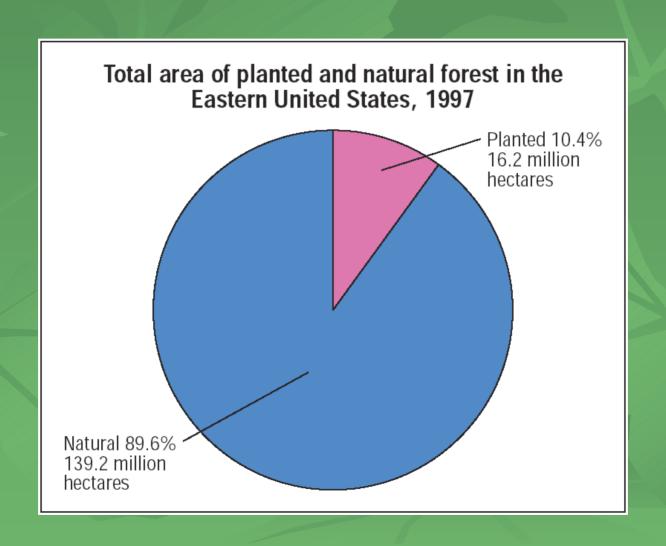
# Regional Distribution of Forests



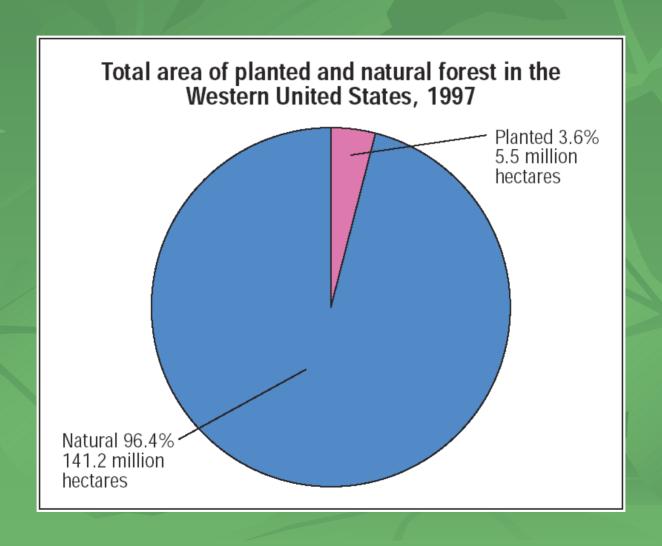
Other Federal

**BLM** 

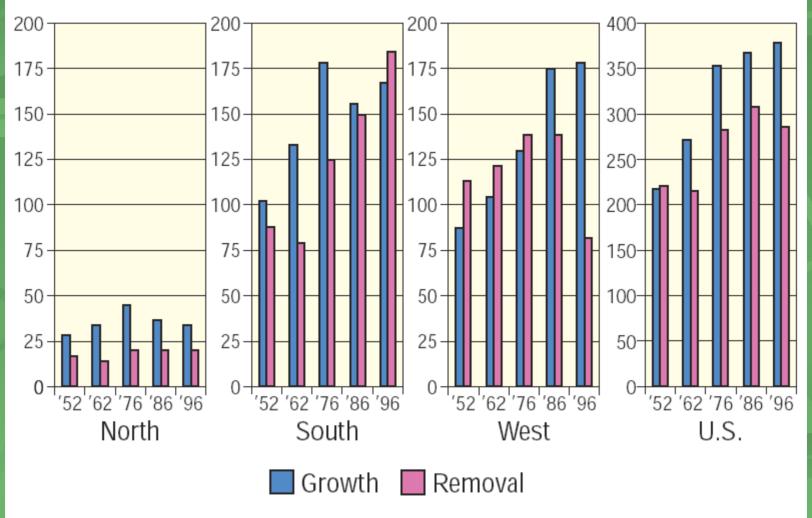
## Planted and Natural Forest, East

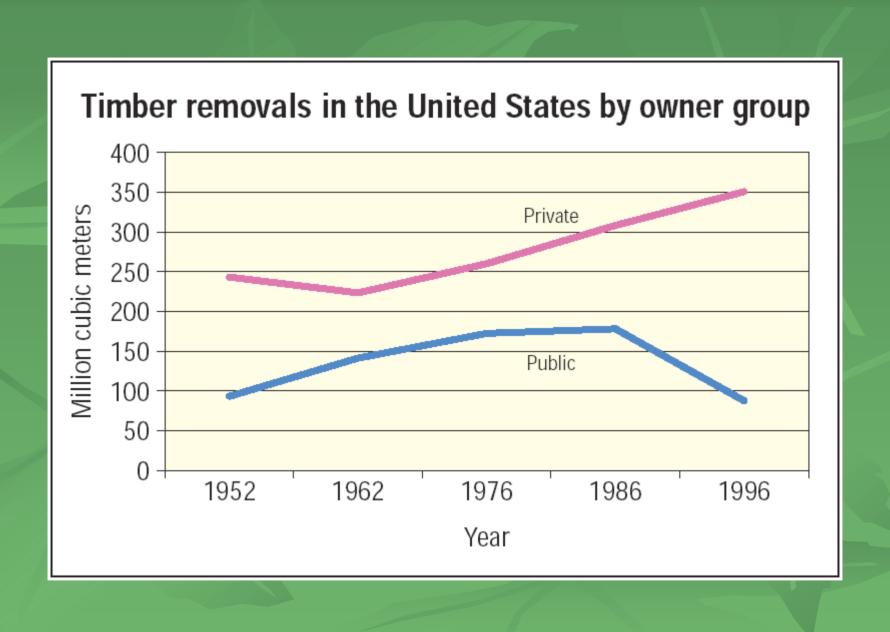


## Planted and Natural Forest, West



## Softwood growing stock growth and removals by region (million cubic meters)





# Public Investment in Tree Planting in the U.S.

- USDA Programs
  - Forest Service State and Private Forestry
    - Forest Land Enhancement Program
    - Forest Stewardship Program
  - FS Regeneration, Nursery and Genetic Resources

# Public Investment in Tree Planting in the U.S.

- USDA Programs
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service / Farm Service Agency
    - Conservation Reserve Program
    - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
    - The Environmental Quality Incentives Program
    - Wetlands Reserve Program
    - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

# Public Investment in Tree Planting in the U.S.

- EPA Programs
  - Clean Water Act
    - Section 319 Grants
    - Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loans
- Tax Considerations
- State Programs

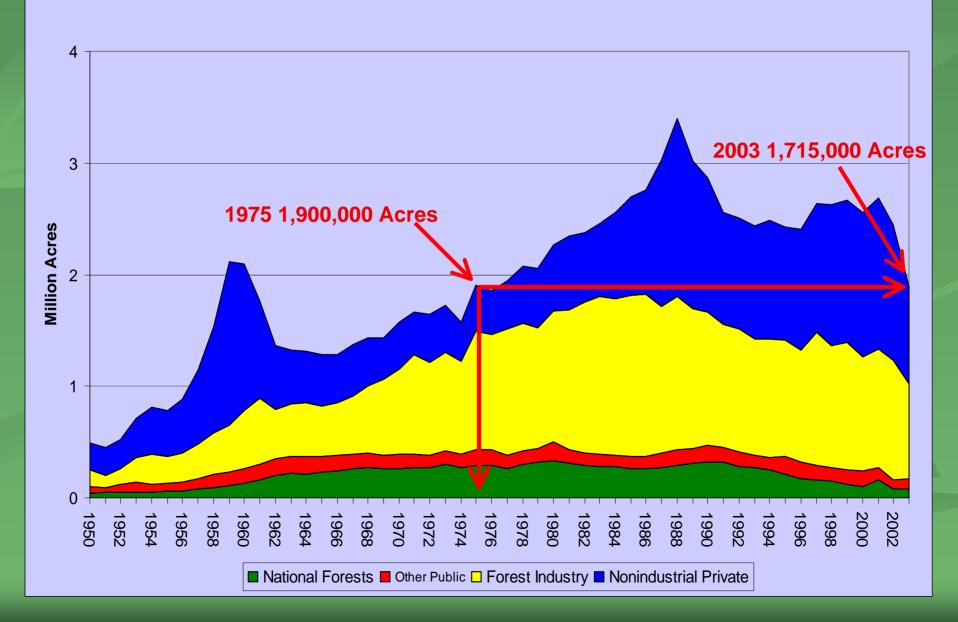
## Common Elements

- Transition from timber objectives to conservation objectives.
- Longer-term conservation projects as opposed to individual events.
- Minimal consideration given to profit, commodity outputs.

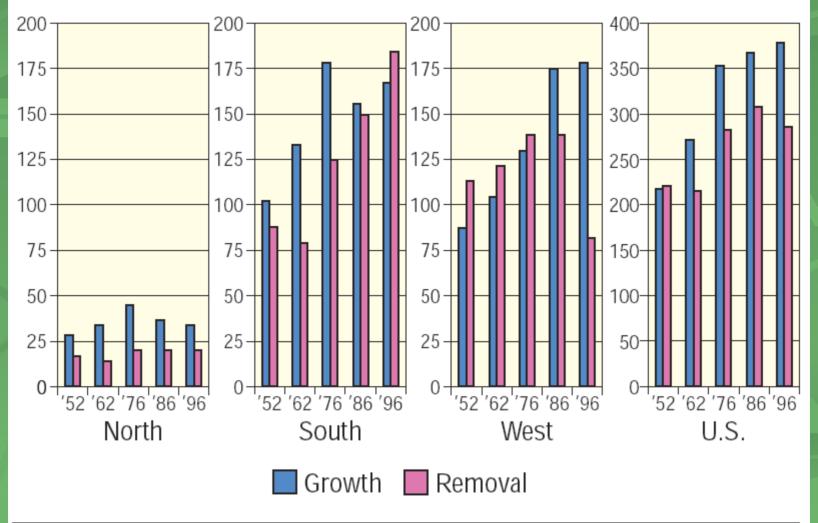
### **Effectiveness of Programs**

- Funding for cost-share programs, tree planting on NIPF lands closely linked.
- Landowner willingness tied to:
  - Financial benefit
  - Added value of professional assistance
  - Administration by non-regulatory agencies
- Funding tied to conservation value, not timber

#### Tree Planting in the U.S. by Ownership FY 1950 to 2003



## Softwood growing stock growth and removals by region (million cubic meters)



## Considerations and Issues

- Barriers, Challenges
  - Stability of federal funding
  - Reaching new & underserved landowners
  - Payments must exceed other land uses
  - Allocation of funding through state committees
  - Domestic production to meet domestic needs
- Policy Needs
  - Coordination of efforts
  - Consistency of objectives, funding
  - Incorporation of secondary benefits, ecological service values