

Anchor Forests:

Pathway to Collaborative Landscape Forestry?

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“On the eastside, the combination of over-stressed, bug-killed forests, loss of processing infrastructure and ham-strung national forest managers has ground the forest industry to a halt.... It’s time for Washington to step up and create a system of anchor forests again...”

Brian Boyle

UW Study

Infrastructure Consequences of Lost Forest Production from Forest Land Conversion

- Over next 3 decades, reduction in WA forest lands. Compared to 2008 Baseline,
(153MMBF by 2045)
(1038 MMBF by 2080)



**~75% of projected 2080 mill
supply (1402 MMBF)**

Consequences

Higher costs of production



Mills less competitive



More forests converted to other uses

Retention of Forest Lands
Focus of NW Environmental Forums

Concept: Use Anchor Forests to Help

- Retain healthy, working forests on the landscape
- Develop and implement strategies to support manufacturing, processing, transportation, and work force infrastructure;
- Restore, maintain, and enhance forest health, ecosystem functions and services; and
- Preserve options to contend with future uncertainties in forest land tenure and climate change.

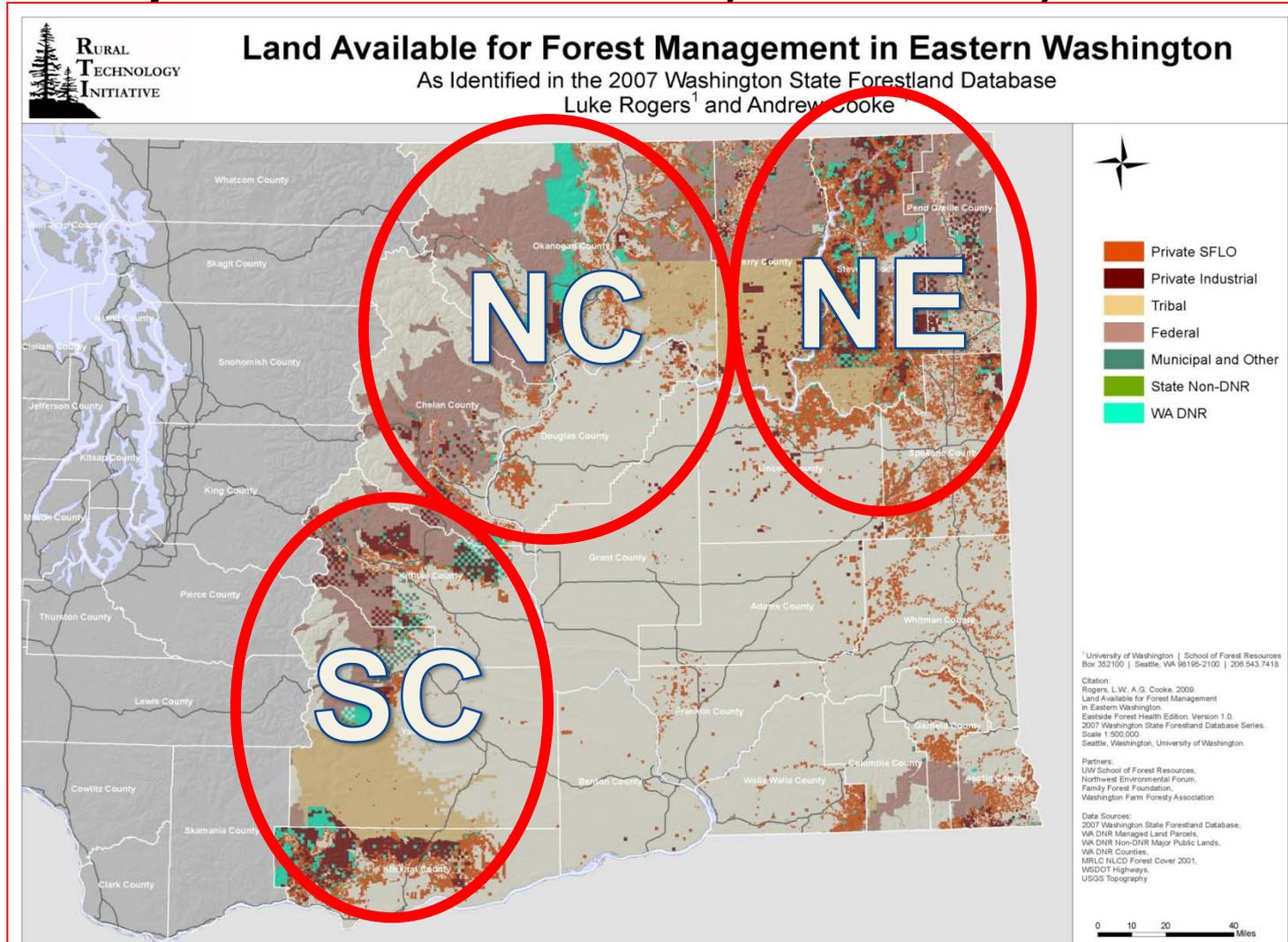
Anchor Forests

Large areas of land, expected to remain in forest production

- A reasonable expectation for sustained wood commodity production as a major management objective; and
- Production levels sufficient to support economically viable manufacturing, processing, and work force infrastructure within accessible transportation range; and
- Long-term management plans, supported by inventory systems, professional staff, and geographic information systems; and
- Institutional and operational capacity for implementation.

Applied Regionally

Capable of sustaining combined annual harvest of ~100 MMBF.
Most likely a combination of Tribal, WDNR Trust, and NFS Lands



Key Questions

- **WHY** do we want healthy forests on the landscape?
- **WHAT** do we need?
- **HOW** can we attain the benefits we desire?

WHAT do we want?

- Low risk of catastrophic loss
- Vibrant, thriving rural communities
- Contributions to energy independence and security
- *Biological diversity and adaptability*
- *Water & watershed protection*
- *Habitat for fish, wildlife and flora.*
- *Viewsheds, access and other amenities for recreation & life style preferences*

ECONOMIC

ENVIRONMENTAL

NEEDS

- 1) Viable harvesting, transportation, processing, and workforce infrastructure**
 - **Healthy forests**
 - **Timber economics**
- 2) Coordinated management across the landscape to support desired ecosystem functions**

ECONOMIC: Role of Anchor Forests

Landscape view of anchor forests provides regional expectations of reliable supply

- Needs and opportunities for private investment
 - Modernization
 - New, e.g., Bioenergy

Potential efficiencies

- Sharing information & expertise

ENVIRONMENTAL: Role of Anchor Forests

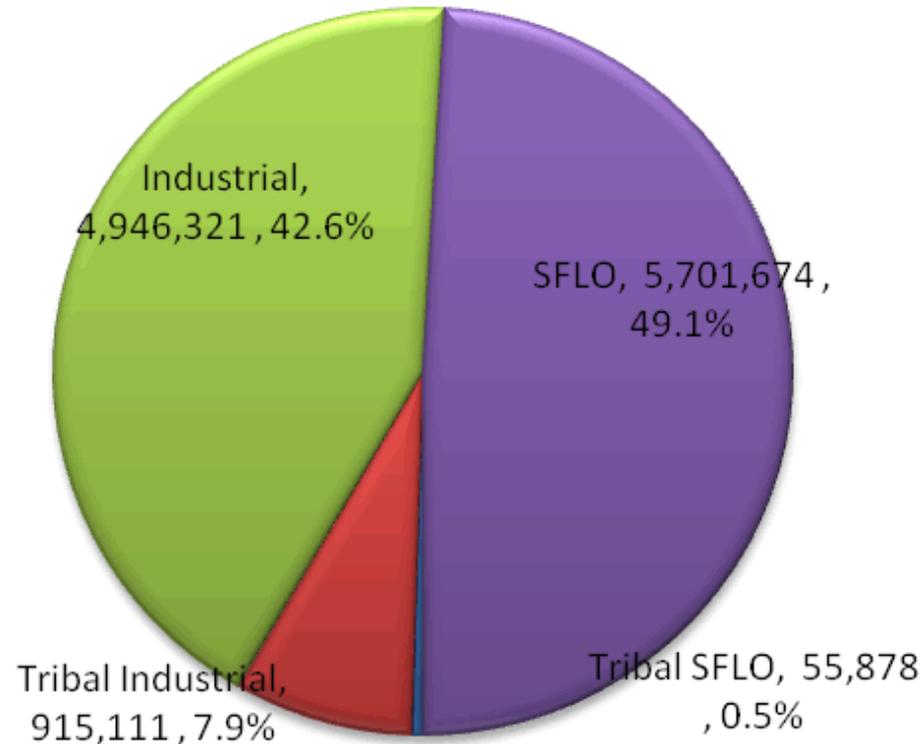
- **What environmental services can we expect from anchor forests?**
 - **Scientific analysis**
- **Evaluate what other forests could contribute within the context of the landscape**
 - **Outcome-driven assessment of potential contributions to support desired ecosystem functions**

The BIG question

HOW can forests be retained and management coordinated across the landscape?

From Rural Technology Initiative

Washington State Private Forestland Ownership Acres by Management Type



Failure of Existing Market Systems

“\$45 billion in protected areas across the world could yield services like carbon sequestration, protection of water sources and protection against flooding worth \$5 trillion annually.”

“We cannot continue our stewardship of this planet if we keep looking at public benefits and public wealth as somehow subordinate to private wealth”

Pavan Sukhdev, United Nations Environment Program

“The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity”

Approaches For Retaining Forests

- **Lots of agencies & programs**
 - Information & Assistance
 - Improve economics (timber & non-timber)
 - Incentivize forest retention & stewardship
 - Easements, covenants, PES
 - Reform counterproductive policies & subsidies
 - Regulation & pricing
 - **Adequate authorities for industrial forests?**
- **Resources are limited**

Role of Anchor Forests

Evaluate utility of linking private forest land with Anchor Forests – Not all forest lands are equal

- Infrastructure
- Restore, maintain, and enhance forest health, ecosystem functions and services; and
- Preserve options to contend with future uncertainties in forest land tenure and climate change.

Landscape-scale analysis - monitor outcomes

Anchor Forests

Structure & discipline - evaluate against desired outcomes on the landscape

- Use the right tools, in the right places, at the right times
- Efficiency & Effectiveness

**Stove-piped thinking,
lack integration**



Anchor Forests Can Also Help

Identify needs for public investments (added value)

- Avoid or reduce costs (water, air, soils, energy)
- Support rural communities & maintain infrastructure
- Provide amenities & ecosystem services

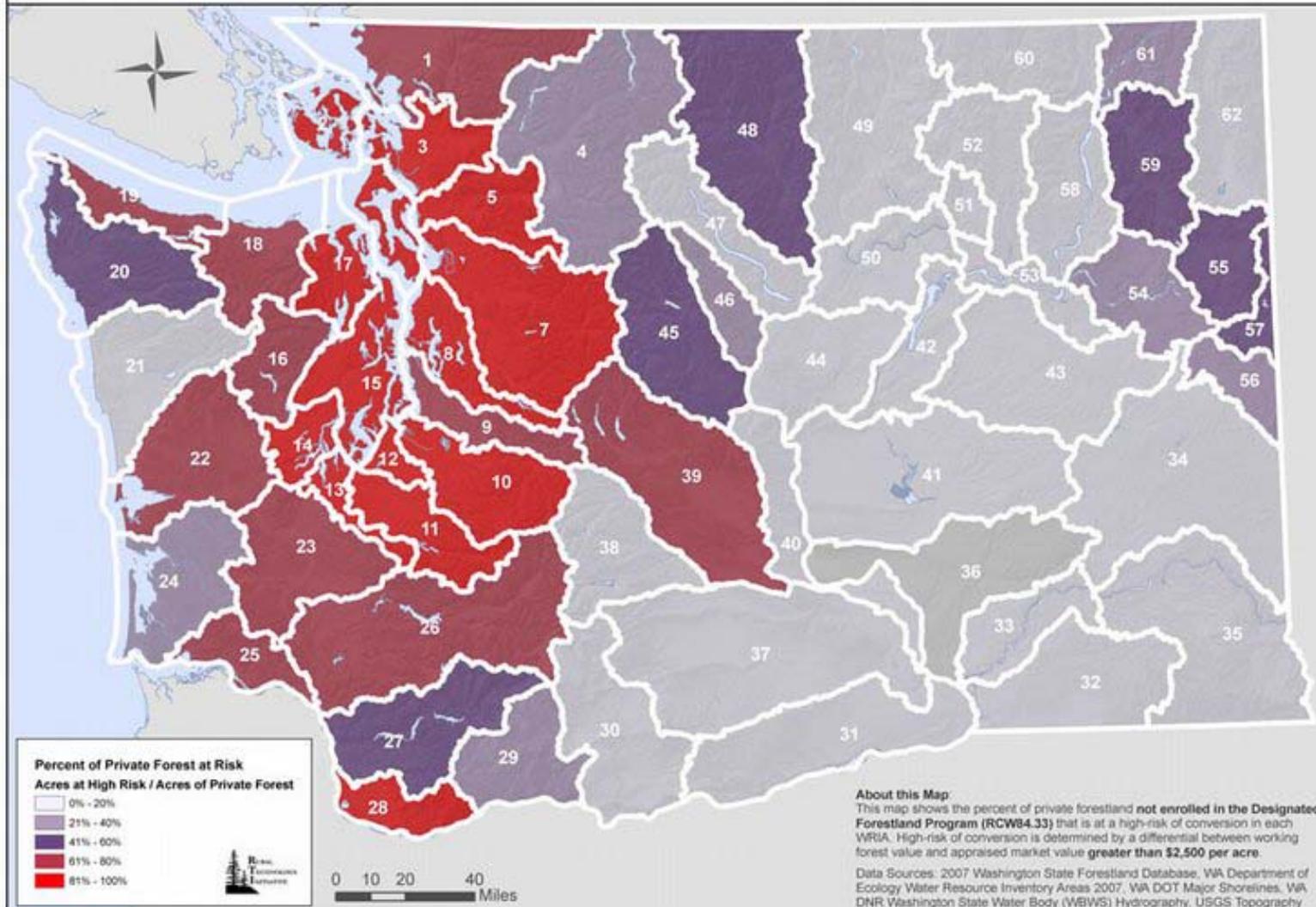
Evaluate opportunities for acquisition of forest lands

Provide expertise and assistance to private land owners

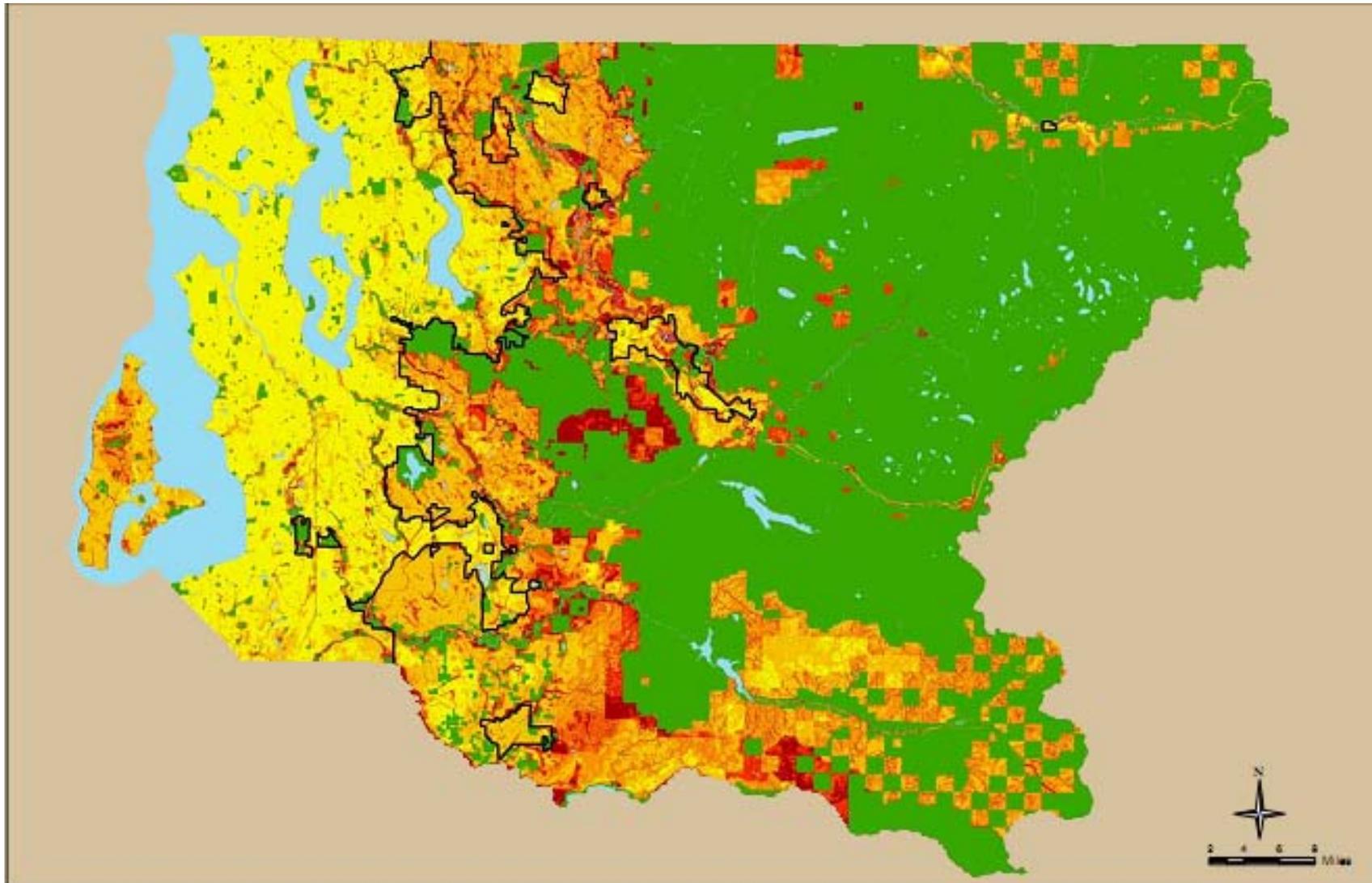
We Have Some Tools

Forest Land Database: Watersheds

Watersheds where Private Forest is at the Greatest Risk of Conversion



King County Greenprinting: Ecological Values

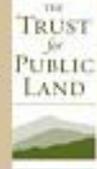


**Figure 3 - Ecoland Lands
GIS Modeling Results
(Existing Conditions, January 2005)**

The Trust for Public Land
Greenprinting King County
March 3, 2005
Source: King County DNRP
Map Created in ESRI ArcGIS 9.0 using ArcMap



King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks



Application of Anchor Forests is a Social Process of Collaboration

C⁴ = **C**ommunication, **C**onnectivity, **C**oordination, **C**ontinuity

Examples:

- Tapash Sustainable Forests Collaborative (SC WA)
- Colville Collaborative (NE WA)
- Lake County Resources Initiative (OR)
- Conservation Transactions
 - Plum Creek-TNC-TPL (MT)
 - Finch Paper (NY)

Lessons Learned – Collaborative, “Community-Based Forestry”

- Established economic infrastructure
- Candid, constructive, and respectful dialogue among stakeholders
- Focus on strategies, visions, and objectives
- Minimize temptations for micro management

Institutional Considerations

Improve Potential For Success

- **Stakeholder involvement (ground up)**
- **Multi-disciplinary science support**
- **Independent facilitation**
- **Communication**
 - Articulate needs & visions
 - Share experience, practical know-how, & lessons
 - Effect changes in policy & law

Anchor Forests



Effectuate natural resource management
across the landscape

Potential strategy to implement Secretary
Vilsack's "All Lands, All Hands" Vision



Transform vision and concepts
into actionable strategies

What Do Anchor Forests Anchor?



Development & maintenance of infrastructure

Ecosystem functions



**Evaluation of potential contributions of other
lands**



Infrastructure

Ecosystem benefits dependent on landscape-scale
processes & functions

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a thick layer of green undergrowth. The scene is misty, with soft light filtering through the trees. The text "Anchor Forests: More Than a Bunch of Trees" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Anchor Forests: More Than a Bunch of Trees

They Involve Places



And Communities



And Values Held Dear



Anchor Forests

Useful concept for advancing the development and implementation of an actionable strategy for retaining healthy, working forests on the landscape?

What do you think?

