

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH INCENTIVES

Robert Bonnie

Center for Conservation
Incentives



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE





I cannot afford to let those woodpeckers take over the rest of the property. I'm going to start massive clearcutting.



Safe Harbor

- 500,000 acres,
- 25-30% RCWs on private lands



SUSTAINABILITY ISN'T FREE

“We must first examine briefly the time-honored supposition that conservation is profitable and that the profit incentive is sufficient to motivate its practice.”

Aldo Leopold, 1934

Incentives for wood or woodpeckers?

- SFRA: “The [South] now produces more timber than any other country.”
- Public incentives for non-market, public goods.

Incentive Opportunities



Restoring longleaf on
marginal cropland

Restoring forest
wetlands on
500,000 acres



The thing to be encouraged is the use of private land in such a way as to combine the public and private interest to the greatest possible degree... Why not use [public money] to subsidize desirable combinations in land use, instead of to cure, by purchase, prohibition or repair, the headaches arising from bad ones.”

Aldo Leopold