

# Roundtable on Sustainable Forestry

**Bob Fledderman, MWV (MeadWestvaco)**  
**June 29, 2011**

# Findings - Driving Forces

## Globalization

- Biomass Energy Demand (shift from fossil to renewable fuels)
- Invasives

## Climate Change (Forest Health issue – nothing new)

- Disturbance Patterns – not altered, just intensified

## Loss of Working Forests

- Urbanization
- Forest Fragmentation
- Forest Retirement (semi-retired)

**Congratulations USDA for improving the report, stating findings and overarching issues of concern.**

# Are Our Forests Currently Sustainable?

## Old News

- Certification programs and state BMP monitoring programs have greatly enhanced sustainable forestry on many private forests. **Congratulations SFI/FSC/Tree Farm and State Forestry Agencies. Keep up the good work.**

## On the Horizon

- Bioenergy demands are not being appropriately analyzed at management level resolution by the responsible agencies.

## Falling Behind(er)

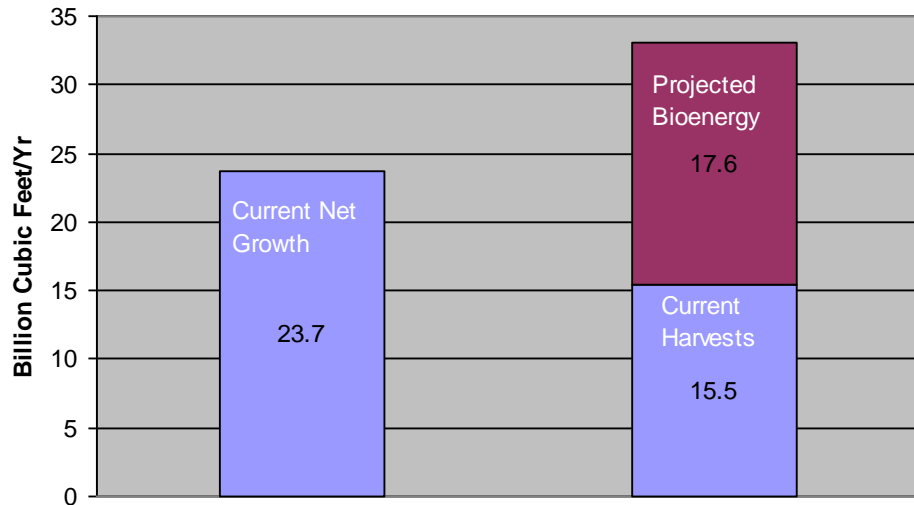
- Many forests are still at high risk of catastrophic disturbance – ongoing.
- Invasive species are still escaping too frequently – ongoing.

## Not There Yet

- Sustainability is not being monitored at the scale necessary to make meaningful judgments. **Congratulations New England states, Maryland & Oregon.**
- Many communities are not planning expansion into forested areas to maintain environmental services very well. **Congratulations, Baltimore County.**

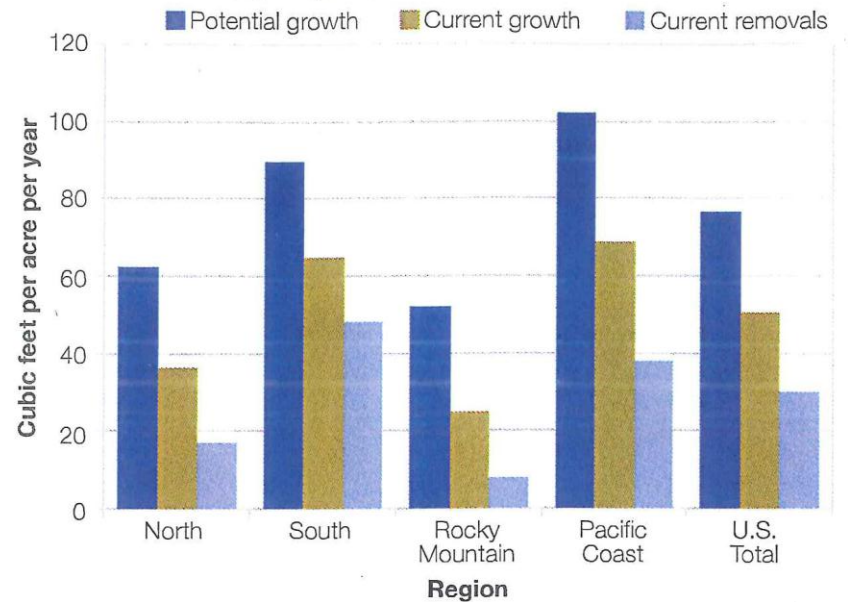
# Bioenergy Development Policy Issue

**Current Growth vs Current Harvest + Bioenergy**



Source: Forest Sustainability and Development of Wood Bioenergy in the U.S. - Pinchot Institute for Conservation and The Heinz Center

**Figure 13-4.** Potential and current growth and removals on timber land by region, 2006.



Source: USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis

# Recommendations

## Data Management Recommendations

- Monitor forest sustainability at higher resolutions (state level or finer)
- Provide sustainability information separately for production forests and recreation/conservation forests.
- Provide timely and accurate projections of available wood fiber at higher resolutions (woodbasket) (excludes “semi-retired” timberland, inoperable areas and high value/high cost products (sawtimber)).

## Forest Management Recommendations

- Use bioenergy opportunity to help maintain healthy forests (active management) (especially where no other markets exist)
- Get more “work” out of urban, fragmented, and “semi-retired” timberland (public lands, recreation forests, urban forests) – *better planning, more from current use tax benefit and other ecosystem services payments.*