

Fiber Sustainability Recommendations

Action Step Recommendation Statement:

To inform and fund a study that would evaluate forest resource availability for potential and existing markets that incorporates an evaluation of the short and long-term availability of timber species, products and volumes in and around Coos County, New Hampshire.

Justification of Recommendation:

While wood availability studies have been done for Coos County, none have incorporated information that has potential to dramatically impact actual forest resource availability, such as inoperable areas and political/legal restrictions. A new study incorporating this type of information will be important in identifying the actual potential of NH and surrounding states/provinces in supporting different wood products and markets. The study would cover all products with a focus on wood availability for a facility to replace lost markets such as the pulp mill in Berlin as well as Groveton Paper Board and Wausau. The study would focus on long-term fiber availability and not include prices, will not evaluate logging infrastructure nor identify specific impacts on non-timber related forest benefits. The study will aid in spurring long-term sustainable economic development around Coos County's largest asset-it's forests.

Who:

NH Division of Forest and Lands, DRED will initiate the study through an RFP that will be put out to bid by private contractors to complete the study.

Timeline for Implementation:

Completion date will be June 1, 2008.

Major Measures of Success:

Metrics:

Economic Impact:

DRED economic analysis

Tax revenue

Quality of Life:

Census data

Sustainability of action:

Likelihood of success:

New projects built

Attraction of private capital

Degree of innovation:

What new technologies are attracted

Base of support:

Interview local officials

Decision tree: (From Jasen)

1. Adequate wood supply to attract new businesses
 - a. Assist existing businesses in adding value and capturing more value from their existing wood consumption
 - b. Promote the expansion of new wood consumption through new projects (e.g. wood pellets, biomass, papermaking expansions)
2. Inadequate wood supply to attract new businesses
 - a. Focus on adding value to existing wood consumption where the value captured occurs

Resources:

Information:

The Division of forests and Lands Timber Tax Reports of Cut (statewide?)
Northeast State Association of State Foresters forest-modeling project
Timber Supply Outlook for Maine: 1995-2045
The NH Timberland Owners Association timber availability study
The Society for the Protection of NH forests remote sensing analysis of forest conditions in the northern portions of NH
Vermont Wood Fuel Supply Study (BERC)
USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis
USDA Forest Service Timber Products Output reports
NEFA Wood Flow reports
State Sawmill Reports
Publicly available management plans and conservation easements
Area conservation initiatives such as the Mahoosucs Initiative
Other NGO's such as The Nature Conservancy

Financial:

USDA rural development grants and energy grants
State
Human resources

Deliverables From The Study:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction

-Include statement regarding markets and reasonable compensation here?

3. Determination of the Timber resources Within the Study Area
 - a. Composition of the forest including species, volume, structure and accounting for economically merchantable stands
 - b. Productivity of the forest including growth, species and products (hardwood softwood, saw logs, pallet logs, pulpwood, chips)
 - c. Ownership categories (federal, state, easement, TIMO, NGO...)
 - d. Existing harvest levels by products and species
 - e. Land ownership trends and projections
 - f. Limitation on productivity and harvest based upon physical characteristics, access, social limitations (regulation, legal and institutional restrictions, landowner attitude and management direction)

-Include information on certification status of ownerships (i.e. FSC, SFI)

4. Competition for the resource
 - a. Existing consumers within and affecting study area
 - b. Long term wood supply contracts
5. Determination of net available volume of species and products based upon all the above

-The volumes should be reported in cords/acre/year as well as tons/acre/year
-The FIA product specs should be examined for applicability in the study

6. General statements of impact or issues regarding non timber forest benefits (wildlife habitat recreation, water quality, aesthetics)

-Should there be any discussion here promote/ensure sustainability for non-timber forest benefits??

7. Variables modeled
8. Assumptions used
9. Model Analysis Results
10. Interpretation of Results
11. References

Sustainability Conference

Date: March 3, 4, or 7

Place: White Mountains Regional High School

Time: 10-3

Panel discussion of Wood Products information needs and sustainability issues??

Note

My thoughts in orange

Group thoughts in blue