

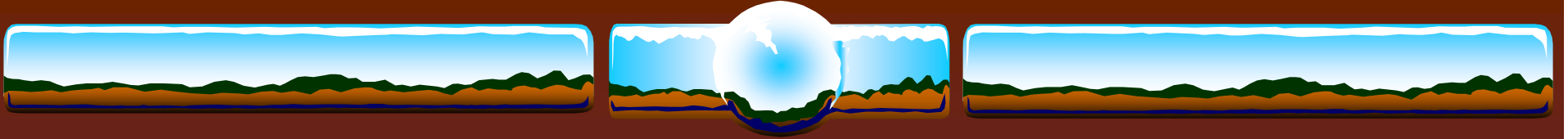
Wood Products

Coos Economic Action Plan
Draft of Recommendations
of the
Wood Products TRC



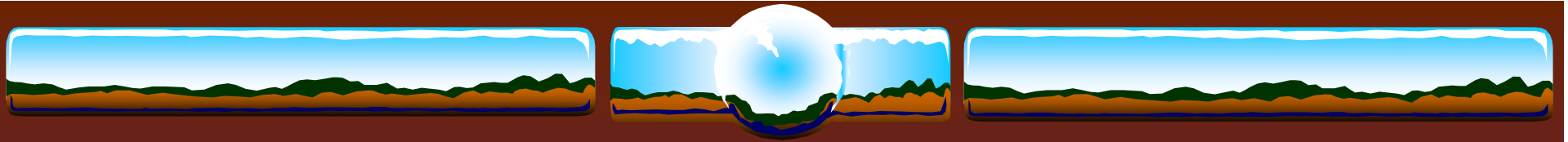
Process

- ❖ Three meetings
- ❖ Brainstorm & determine priorities
- ❖ Focus group breakouts
- ❖ Draft reports
- ❖ Reiterate
- ❖ <http://extension.unh.edu/blogs/woodtrc/>



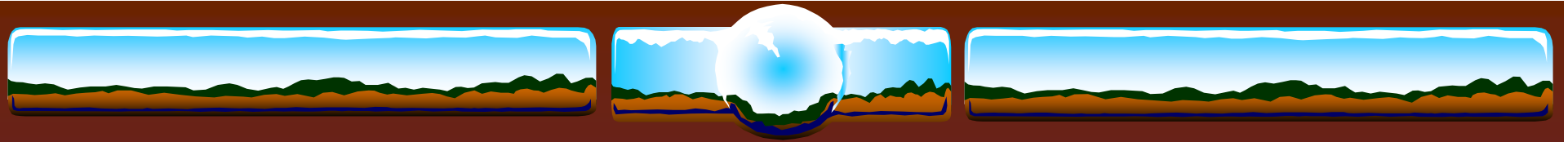
Four Key Items

- ❖ Determine sustainable wood/fiber supply
- ❖ Develop a market diversity center
- ❖ Support & enlist existing business & labor
- ❖ Address high cost of energy in forest products industry



Fiber Sustainability

Inform and fund a study that will evaluate wood 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.



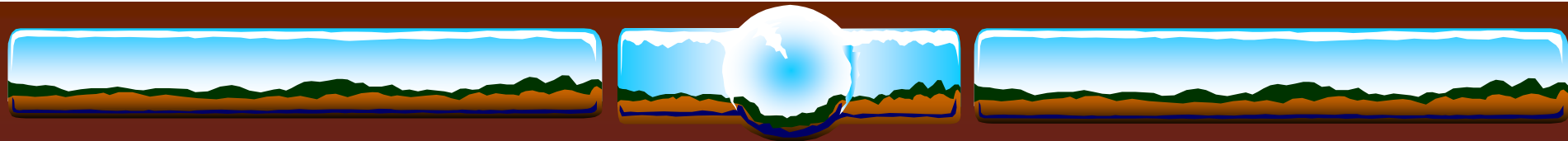
Justification

- ❖ Existing studies address growth/removal but not availability.
- ❖ Need to include “wood basket” independent of political boundaries.
- ❖ Focus on long-term fiber availability only, independent of prices, logging infrastructure and impacts on non-timber forest benefits.



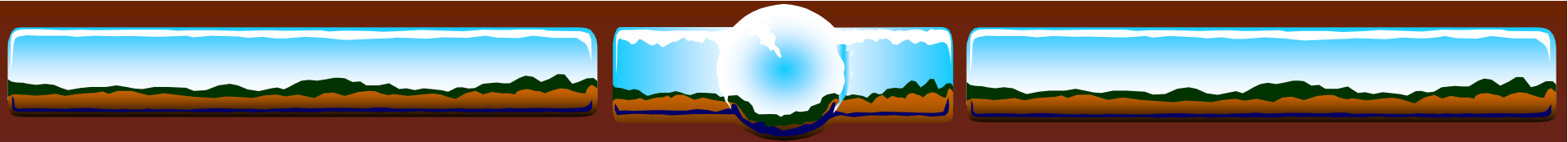
Who?

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Co-sponsors - NCC, CEDC and TRC



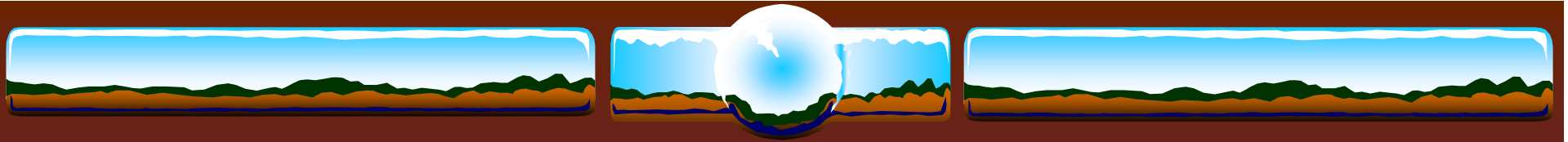
Resources

- ❖ Timber tax reports of cut
- ❖ Northeast state association of state foresters forest-model
- ❖ Timber supply outlook for Maine: 1995-2045
- ❖ The NHTOA timber availability study
- ❖ The society for the protection of NH forests analysis of forest conditions in northern 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



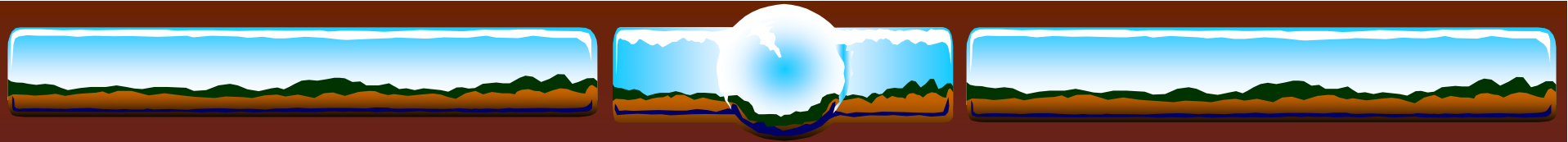
Fiber Sustainability Conference

- ❖ White Mt. Regional high school
- ❖ Friday, march 7, 10:00 to 3:00
- ❖ Audience
 - ❖ Forest industry community
 - ❖ Local, state, county and congressional representation
- ❖ AM – panel of wood supply experts
- ❖ PM – panel of forest user stakeholders
- ❖ Audience discussion



Forest Products Diversity Center

Forest products development center where research and development information would be collected and made available to entrepreneurs and investors who are interested in utilizing the resources available in coos county and surrounding areas.



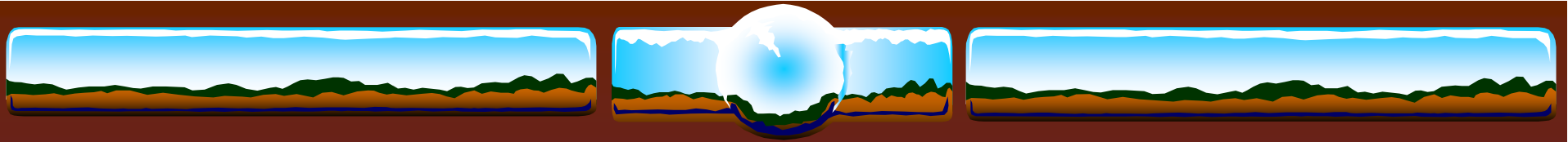
Justification

- ❖ Aid expansion & diversification of existing local businesses, investors, entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Maximize resource utilization and add as much value locally as possible.
- ❖ Bring the R&D folks together with the entrepreneurs and the investors.
- ❖ Assist the entrepreneur to expedite the development of a business venture.



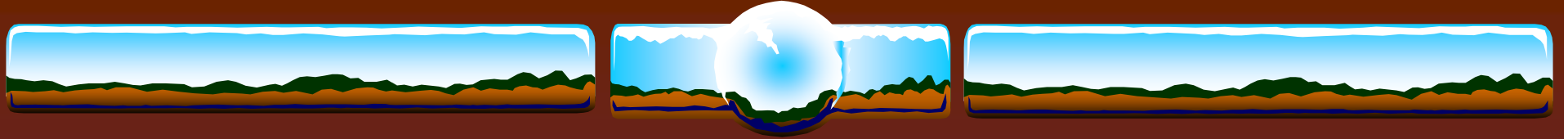
Who? Resources?

- ❖ DRED
- ❖ North Country Council
- ❖ Universities (UNH, UMO, PSU, WMCC)
- ❖ Non-profits (BEDCO, CDEC, NCIC)
- ❖ USDA
- ❖ DRED
- ❖ Department of Labor
- ❖ EDA
- ❖ CDFA/CDBG
- ❖ Tillotson Fund
- ❖ Private sector
- ❖ Education community
- ❖ US Forest Service



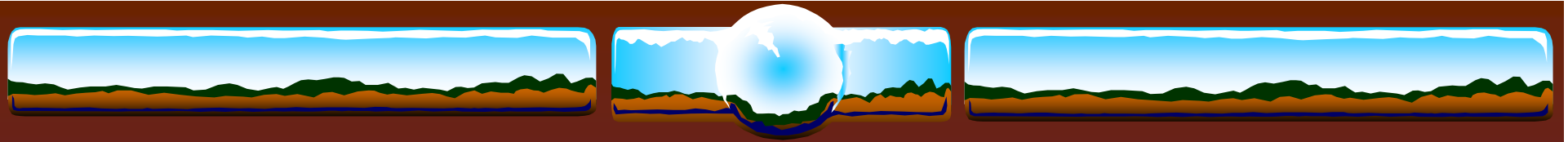
Existing Business and Labor

Economic growth is often the result of expansion by existing industry. These businesses are already invested in the region, have developed strong networks and often have ideas for business expansion and/or augmenting services. The infrastructure that has developed to support existing business is in itself an important economic engine.



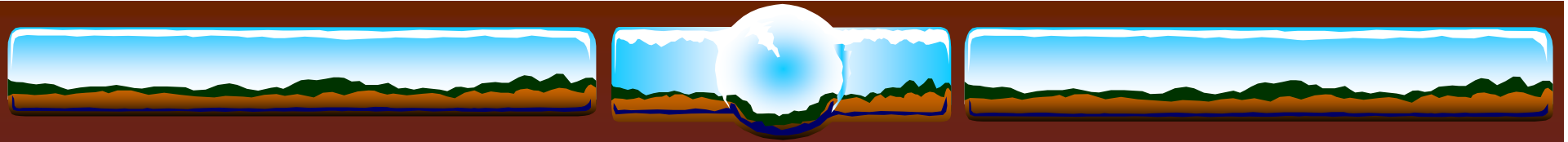
Action Steps

- ❖ Advocate for existing forest-based industries
- ❖ Gather needed data:
 - ❖ Labor
 - ❖ Demographics
 - ❖ Products
 - ❖ Compensation



Action Steps

- ❖ Attack dumb rules
- ❖ School to career program
- ❖ Enhance business partnership with labor, government & education



Justification

- ❖ Trained workers are critical to the future of all businesses.
- ❖ Businesses depend on the regional educational institutions to graduate qualified workers.
- ❖ Businesses depend upon lifelong learning for their workers to maintain and improve skills.
- ❖ WMCC, PSU, GSC, and the high schools strive to meet the needs of the north country's businesses.



Who?

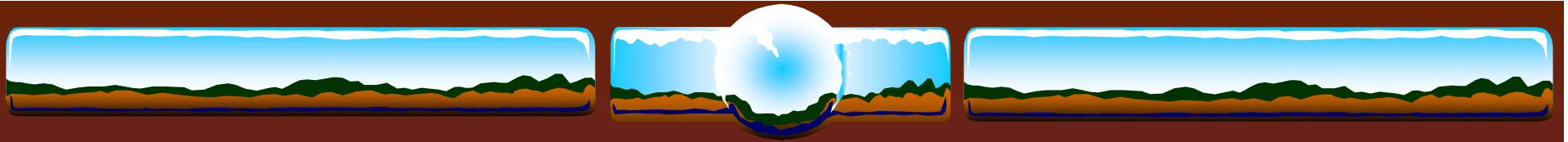
A public-private partnership among DRED, economic development agencies, municipal governments, and Department of Labor RIG.

White Mountains Community College, Tillotson Foundation grant to create a plan to identify resources that could assist training and workforce development needs of businesses in Coos County.



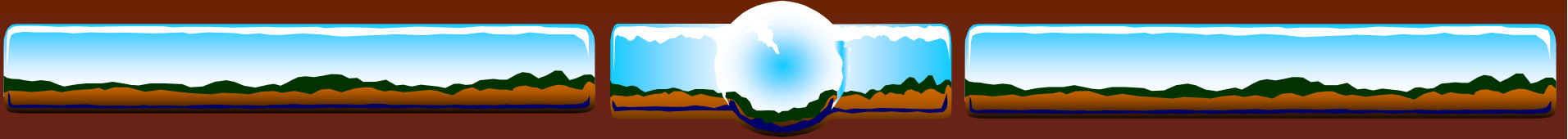
Resources

- ❖ DRED
- ❖ Educational institutions
- ❖ SBDC
- ❖ SCORE
- ❖ Micro-credit
- ❖ CEDC
- ❖ BEDCO
- ❖ NCIC
- ❖ Department of Labor
- ❖ Government's Job Training Fund (incentives)



Cost of Energy

The high cost of energy required for the production and transportation of forest products is a major constraint for our local businesses. Finding efficiencies and alternatives to current energy sources would give us a regional advantage in the global markets.



Identified Opportunities

- ❖ Bio-diesel plant sited in coos county
- ❖ Fuel purchasing cooperative
- ❖ Forest products transportation cooperative
- ❖ Legislate creation of a “trade zone” environment for the timber industry
- ❖ Best management practices (BMPs) for fuel conservation in timber harvesting