

# Forest Policy Outlook



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# The Policy Context



- ❖ The *Forestry Program for Oregon* is the strategic plan established by the Oregon Board of Forestry. It sets forth the board's mission and vision for Oregon's forests and the values and strategies that will guide the board's decisions over the next eight years.

# Forestry Program for Oregon – Mission and Vision



- ❖ “...environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 28 million acres of public and private forests.”
  - “**Healthy forests** providing a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.
  - **Public and private landowners** willingly making investments to create healthy forests.
  - **Citizens** who understand, accept, and support sustainable forestry and who make informed decisions that contribute to achievement of the vision of the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. “

# Sustainable Forestry



The suite of policies, plans and practices that seek to protect, produce, and perpetuate forest ecosystems for the values, uses, products, and services desired by communities and landowners for this and future generations

# Three Sectors



- ❖ The Board of Forestry believes, to be truly sustainable, forest management must be:
  - economically viable,
  - environmentally robust, and
  - socially acceptable.

# Three Principles



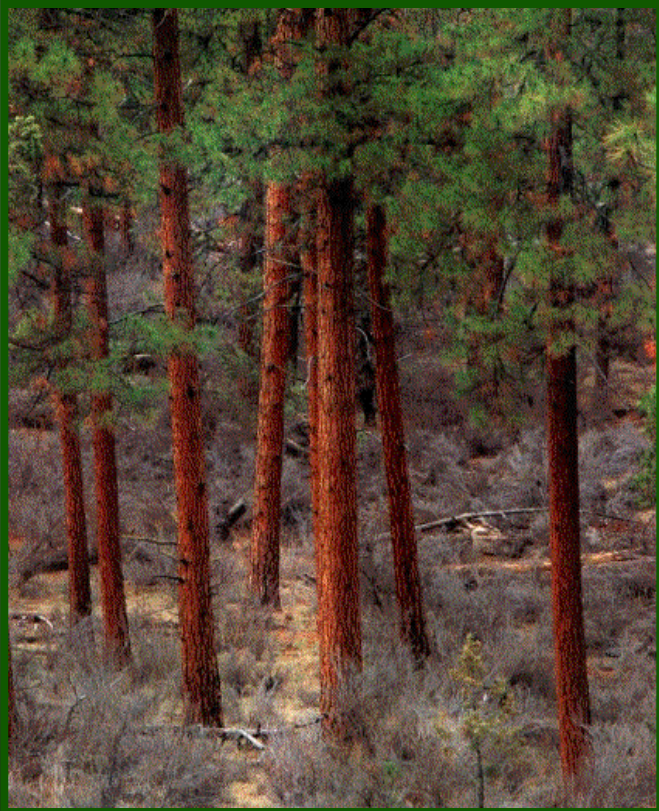
1. Widely recognized international criteria and indicators serve as a useful framework for discovering, discussing, and assessing the sustainability of Oregon's forests.
2. Sustainability requires maintaining a diversity of forestland ownerships and management objectives across the landscape and through time.
3. Cooperative, non-regulatory methods are strongly preferred in achieving public benefits on private lands.

# The Board of Forestry values:



1. A global context.
2. The dynamic nature of Oregon's forests.
3. Active management.
4. Landowners and the public sharing responsibility for sustainable forests.
5. Forests that contribute to quality of life.
6. Meeting current and future needs.
7. Different landowners playing different roles.
8. Informed public participation.
9. Continuous learning.
10. Healthy rural Oregon.

# Breadth of Sustainable Forest Management



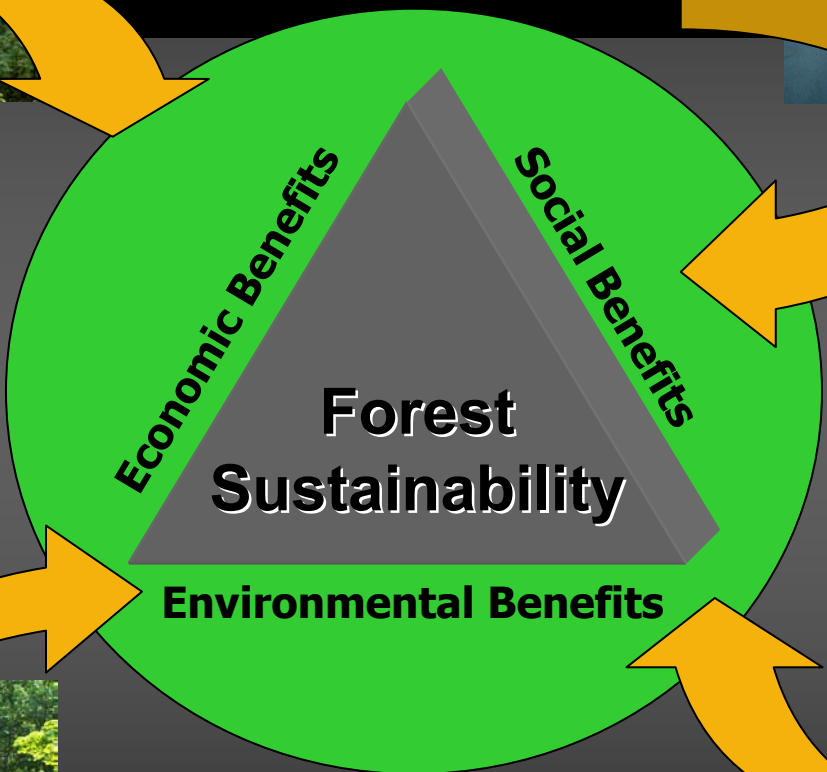
- **Varies by forest type, ownership, primary purpose**
- **Forest purposes:**
  - **Wood and fiber production**
  - **Multiple resource values/uses**
  - **Reserves, nature preservation**
  - **Urban and community forests**



**Reserve Forests:** *Mostly federal, some state, tribal, private*



**Wood Production Forests:** *Mostly industry, family, some state, tribal*



**Multi-resource Forests:** *Mostly state, tribal, some family, some federal*



**Urban, Community Forests:** *Forests where people live*



# Ownership Matters



Wood Production

Multi-resource

Reserve

← **Industry, TIMO** →



← **Private, large** →



← **Family, ENGO** →

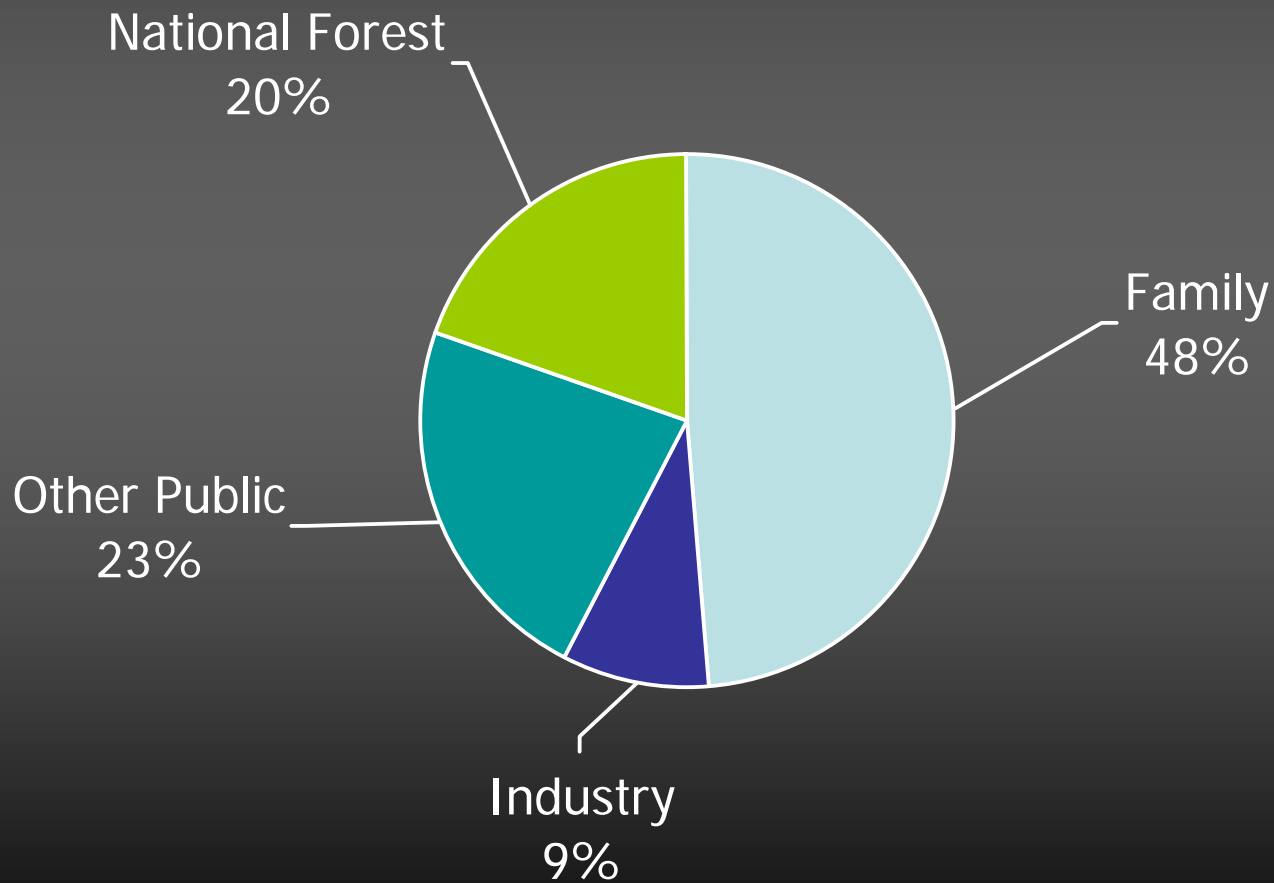
← **Tribes** →

← **State** →

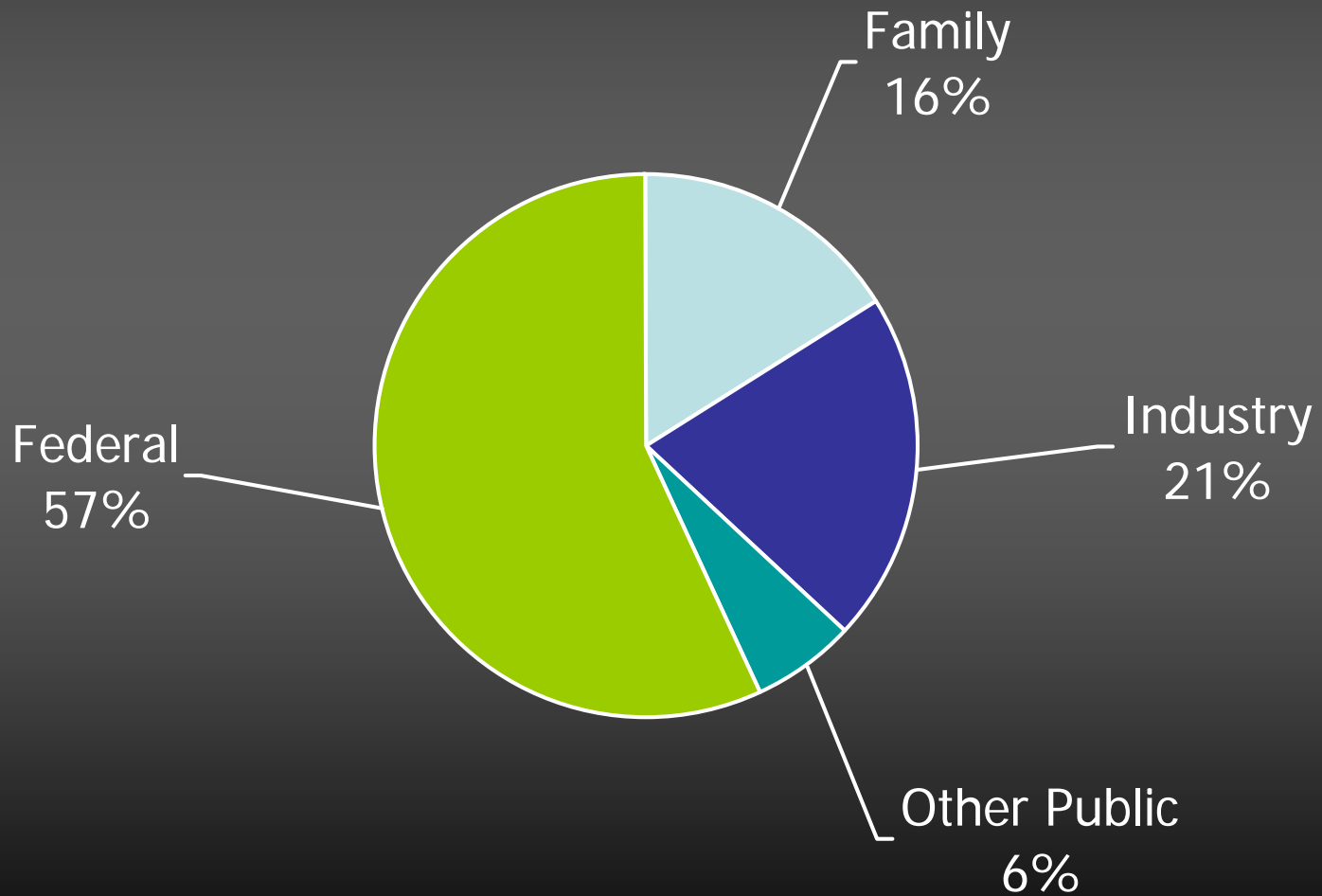
← **Federal** →

 Streamside zones, leave trees, habitats as mini or micro reserves

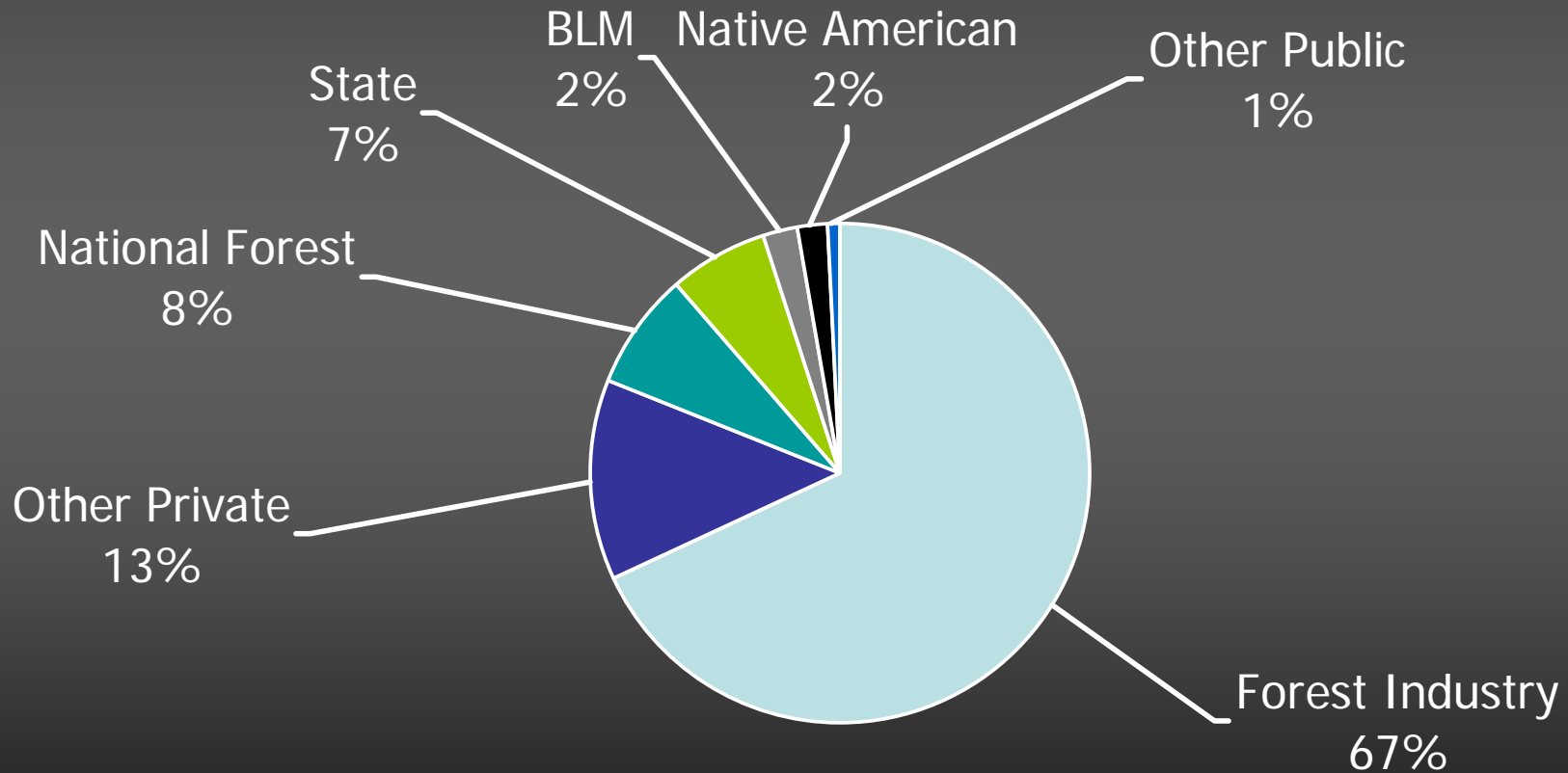
# U.S. Forest Owners



# Oregon Forest Owners

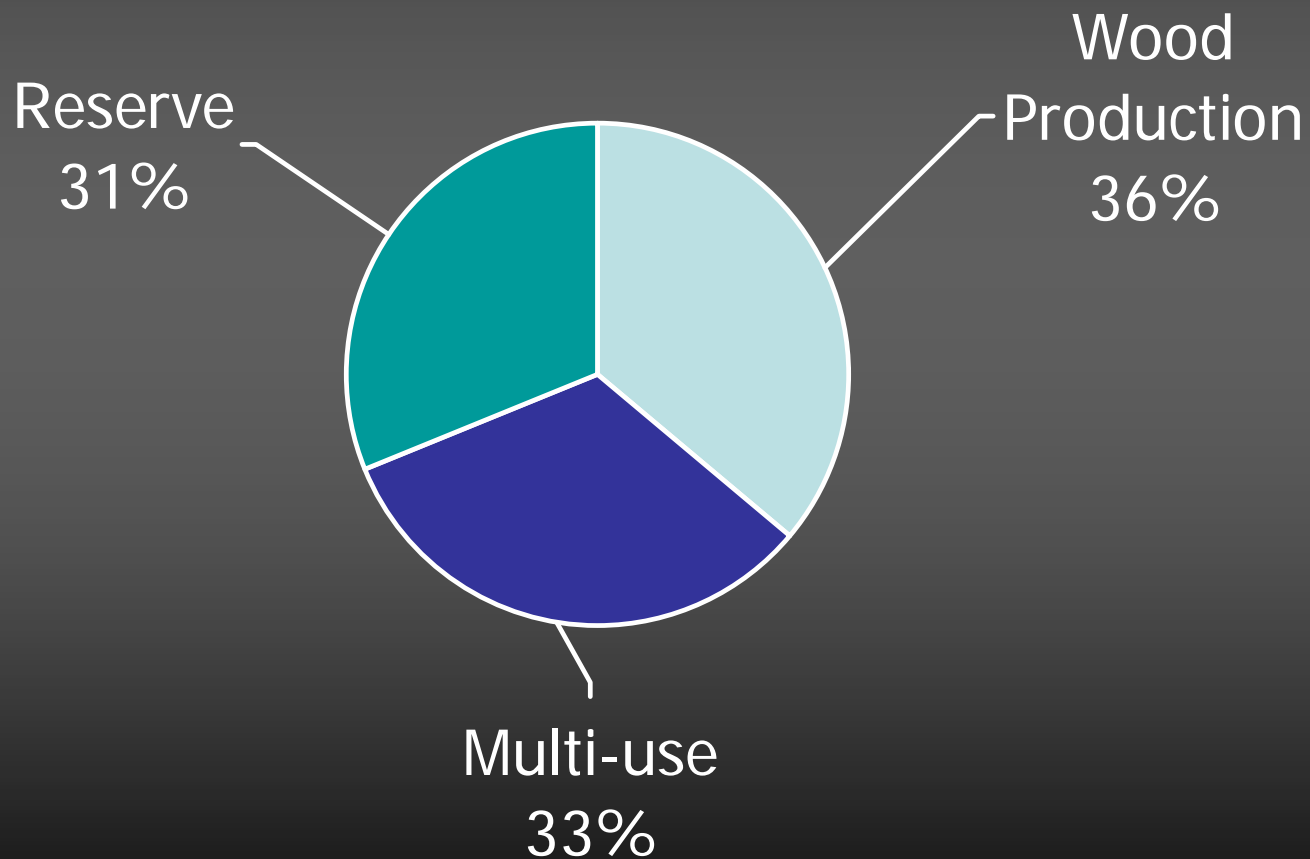


# Oregon 2004 Harvest



**4.45 BBF**

# Oregon's Balance



# Global Forces = Change



- ❖ Population growth: 6.3 Bil. in 2003 to ~ 8 Bil. in 2050
- ❖ Technology: steady advances + breakthroughs
- ❖ Political instability: local to global, ballot measures to wars
- ❖ Trade: barriers/subsidies, free vs. fair
- ❖ Industry restructuring: global integration, dynamics in timberland ownership, global capital
- ❖ Rich-poor gap: growing
- ❖ Raising of “green” consciousness: more than air/water
- ❖ Consumption growth: space, water, fossil fuels, food, wood, minerals
- ❖ Climate change: yes but variable, uncertain regional effects
- ❖ Non-native invasive species + explosive natives

# Global Forest Trends



- ❖ **Forest area:** ~ 9.6 Billion ac; 50-66% loss since 1600 ce
- ❖ **Forest loss:** ~ 23 Million ac/yr in 1990s
- ❖ **Population + Economic Growth = Forest Loss**
  - ❖ But not always: - 30 mil ac/yr in tropics, + 7 mil ac/yr in non-tropics
- ❖ **Demands** for forest benefits ever growing
  - ❖ Water quality, quantity: biggest future forest issue
  - ❖ Wood use: range = flat near term to < 0.5%/yr long term
  - ❖ Biodiversity conservation: yes but public still bewildered after 20 years
  - ❖ Carbon storage: how much, trees + products, market uncertainty
  - ❖ Recreation, subsistence, cultural uses: highly variable by ownership

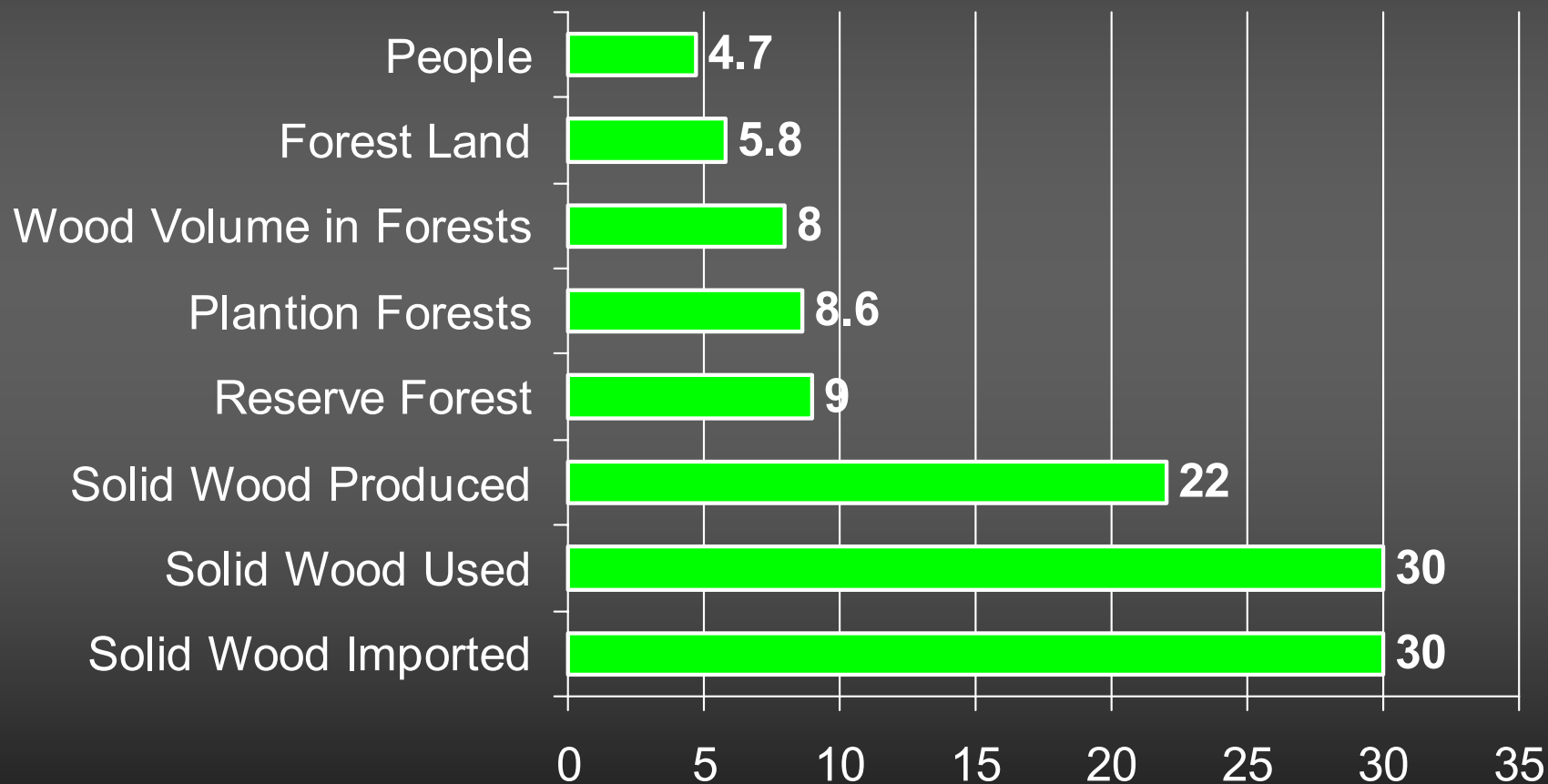
# Global & U.S. Wood Use



- ❖ Ind. wood use rose 40% since 1960: ~ 1.6 BM<sup>3</sup> but flat over last 20
- ❖ Fuel wood use > industrial wood use: ~ 1.8 BM<sup>3</sup> and growing
- ❖ Ind. wood use could increase < 33% by 2050: from 1.6 - 2.1 BM<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ ~ 75% of global wood and fiber will come from planted forests by mid century or earlier (Sedjo and others)
- ❖ ~ 31% of global solid wood consumption crosses an international boundary from tree to product; most likely to increase
- ❖ US imports 31% of solid wood products consumed; exports associated jobs & impacts (81% growth since 1991)
- ❖ US uses 30% of world's solid wood products; largest per capita
- ❖ US forest and wood choices drive global wood market

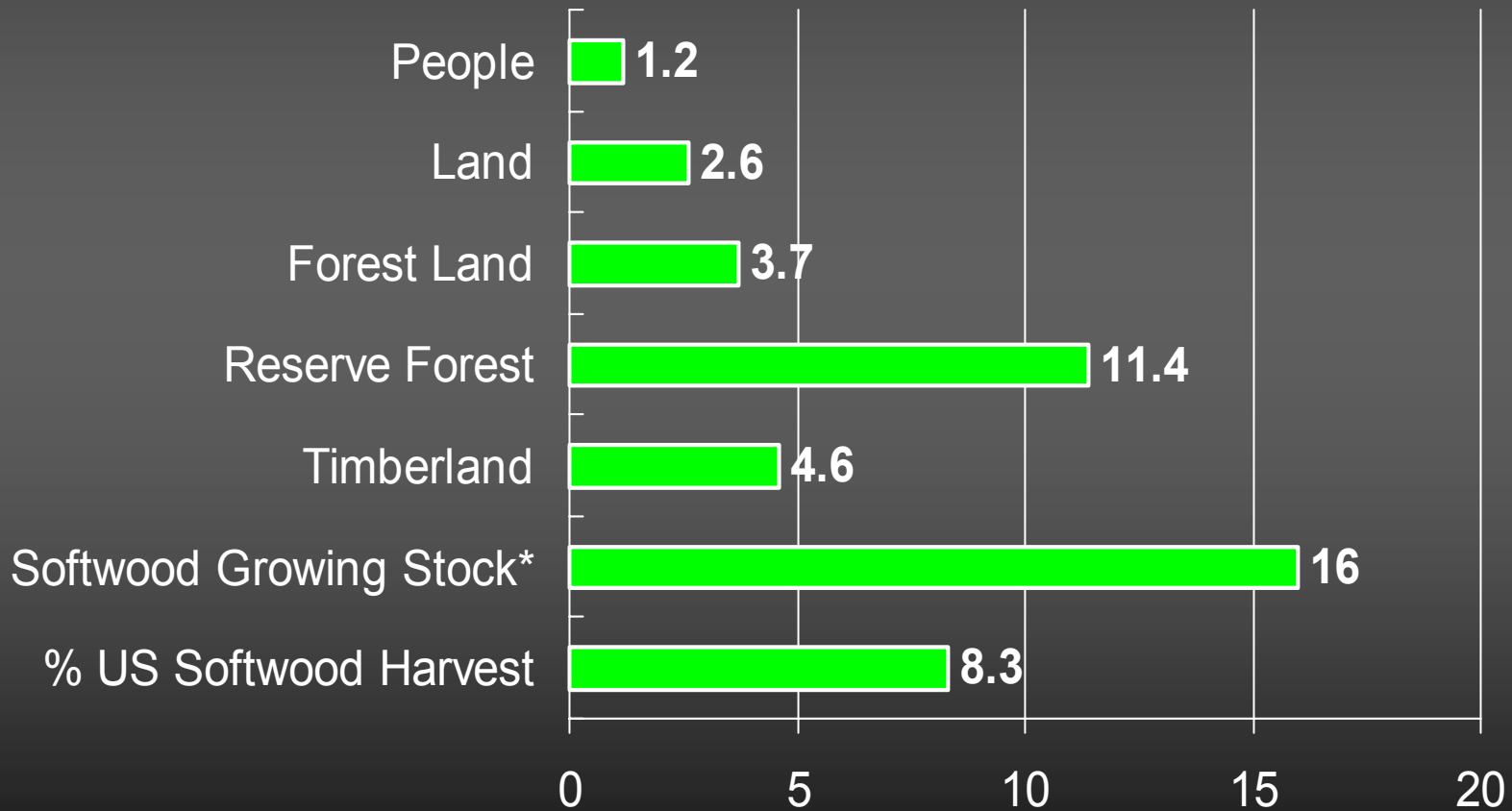
UN FAO 2005: 2002 data + Perez-Garcia on future demand

# US in Global Context



Percent of World Share (UN FAO 2005: 2000, 2003 data)

# Oregon in US Context



\*Timberland Only

Percent of National Share (ODF, USFS data 1999, 2002)

# Historical Context



- ❖ Forest cluster's economic role has changed
  - ❖ Forest products major factors in Oregon economy and community life from late 1800s to early 1980s
  - ❖ Employment in forest cluster fell during 1980s to early 1990s, stable since mid 1990s
    - ❖ Recession early 80s, retooling 80s-90s, supply loss early 90s
    - ❖ Economic challenges most severe in rural communities
  - ❖ Land available for harvest reduced dramatically 1990s
    - ❖ Federal policies (environment > economy), values conflicts
  - ❖ Timber harvest on private lands ~ stable since 1990
    - ❖ Most forest cluster jobs now derive from private lands

# Historical Context ...



- ❖ Public perceptions on economic and community roles of forest cluster changing
  - ❖ 1980s-1990s: conflict over forests, environmental concerns produced:
    - ❖ Old-growth protection in federal forests (5.3 million ac)
    - ❖ Economic hardship for rural communities, economies
    - ❖ Increased regulatory and legal costs for wood producers
    - ❖ Gridlock and excessive costs on federal forestlands
    - ❖ False perceptions of forest resources in Oregon's future
  - ❖ 2004: Oregonians want balance, end to conflict strategy, forests managed for economic, social, and environmental benefits, i.e., sustainability's "triple bottom line"

# Policy Challenges



1. Forestland conversion
  - Sustain US forests in face of global forces, urban sprawl
  - Ballot Measure 37
2. Static policy and management in the face of dynamic ecosystems
3. Ongoing conflict about the values our forests should provide and how those values should be produced.
4. Disinvestment in forest management and infrastructure
5. Poor production and conservation efficiency
6. Unhealthy/ at-risk forests
7. Invasive species
8. Lack of science, disagreement about how science should be used.
  - Systematic Evidence Review
9. Different perspectives about how to proceed with uncertainty

# Policy Challenges



1. 35% of Oregon's federal forests are at high risk of drought stress, disease, fire; Federal forest plans not working for all goals, due for revisions
2. Federal forest management costs are very high for the public benefits delivered
3. Private forests need science-based protection rules and incentives, not precautionary overkill
4. State forests offer options to federal & private plans, warrant testing
5. Rural Communities are at risk.

# Board has adopted 7 priority work plans to address key issues



- ❖ FPFO Implementation
- ❖ State Forest Management
- ❖ Forest Vitality
- ❖ Urban Forestry Outreach
- ❖ Dynamic Forest Ecosystems
- ❖ Forest Regulation
- ❖ Wildfire Risk Management

# But What about Forest Practices?



***Strategy A. Promote a sound legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research, and sound economic policies.***

The Board of Forestry believes the actions listed below will be needed for the board's strategies to be successful and to achieve the board's mission and vision, reflecting the board's values. Key actions are highlighted.

**ACTIONS:**

***A.1. The board will continue to support an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act and a strong but flexible Land Use Planning Program as the cornerstones of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon. (KEY ACTION)***

***A.3. The board will promote active, adaptive forest management and the outreach monitoring, assessments, research, and evaluations that support it as a continuous learning and improving process for all seven strategies. (KEY ACTION)***

***A.5. When forest practice regulations are necessary, the board, consistent with state statutes, will work to minimize the adverse financial effects of regulations that may require private landowners to contribute forest resources to provide increased public benefits.***

***A.7. The board will encourage the use of nonregulatory methods, such as landowner incentives, to achieve public-policy goals on private forestlands.***

# WRC/Paired watershed studies will help address some key Board policy issues



- ❖ Help meet the big objectives of the FPFO.
- ❖ Help promote the role of wood production forests through environmentally sensitive management and “economically efficient forest practices.”
- ❖ Help address lack of confidence with regard to WQS.
- ❖ Help address lack of confidence with regard to adequacy of BMPs.
- ❖ Identify the extent and role of cumulative impacts.
- ❖ Systematic evidence review
- ❖ Address different views of protection; e.g.; static vs. dynamic, temporal and spatial scope, protection means prevent change.
- ❖ Address disagreements about actual impacts to beneficial uses. Cause and effect assumptions (change = damage).