

NORTHWEST

# Environmental Forum

School of Forest Resources

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Where people, science, and technology come together to resolve complex environmental and natural resource issues

## ***Eastside Forest Health Challenges and Solutions***

**October 28-29, 2009**

**Brian Boyle**

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## Basics of the Environmental Forum 2004-09

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- ❑ It's a market economy – working forests on the landscape require market drivers and public policy incentives.
- ❑ Need broad sector collaboration.
- ❑ Ecosystem services have values but no market.
- ❑ Workable policy solution outcomes.

# Why Collaborate?

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- Status quo is not acceptable.
- Facts are basis for action.
- Actions follow agreements made on the basis of facts.
- Impediments can be recognized and dealt with.
- Organizations empowered to take action.

# Threats to Washington's Working Forests

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- Climate, fire, insects and disease to forest health
- Manufacturing declines, especially Eastside
- Land conversion and urban sprawl
- Lack of infrastructure investment
- Public attitudes
- Altered markets
- Forest ecosystem services (carbon, water, biodiversity) have no value in the marketplace



# Legislative response to Forum ideas, since 2005

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Funding for studies regarding:

- Future of Washington Forests and Forest Industries
- Forest biofuels
- Biomass conversion
- Boiler study for pulp and paper industry renewable power
- Log trucking
- Strategic land retention

Total legislative funding commitment \$1.9M

# 2008 Forum – need action for critical working forests

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- ❑ Forest Health Danger – 2007 UW Forest Futures study found declining condition of Eastside forests
  - ❑ Critical to the state’s environmental health
  - ❑ Overstocked, dangerous forests need consistent policies
  - ❑ Infrastructure lost, recreation in conflict and conversion risk high
  - ❑ Bio-fuels and other infrastructure opportunities need investment and research
  
- ❑ Urban fringe forests
  - ❑ Conversion causes total loss of riparian biodiversity
  - ❑ Incentives could improve forest conditions and help landowners
  
- ❑ Proposed legislative task force is needed to:
  - ❑ Integrate regulatory and incentive structures
  - ❑ Stabilize the working forestland base
  - ❑ Consider payments for desired ecosystem services
  - ❑ Restore forest health and eastside forest economy


# Possible Investment Actions


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- ❑ Fully price the cost of fires and forest health losses and pay for removals as an offset
- ❑ Incentives to tribes and others for national forest restoration
- ❑ Saw mill siting and modernization incentives
- ❑ Wood cellulose bio-fuels production facilities and research
- ❑ Payments or credits for protecting water and biodiversity and other ecosystem services markets
- ❑ Data investments to continuously assess forests and agriculture


# 2009 Forum Decision Arena


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- Consider the factual basis for large-scale dry forest restoration and management and the needs identified today for Forum recommendations

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- Use the knowledge assembled here to address strategic actions
  - Consider how current collaborations can be applied better and elsewhere

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- Forests areas most in need of action
  - Forest areas prioritized depending on achievability of the action

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- What are Anchor Forests? Can Anchor Forest creation be the Desired Future Direction?

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- Actions needed for durable outcomes – breakout groups
  - Proposals from actions needed
  - Who will take action? Who will be part of the next steps?

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- Synthesis and Forum agreements for recommendations
  - What has to happen next? What are the steps beyond these two days?

# Don't Get Buried in Data

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Oceans of Data

Rivers of Information

Streams of Knowledge

Droplets of Wisdom