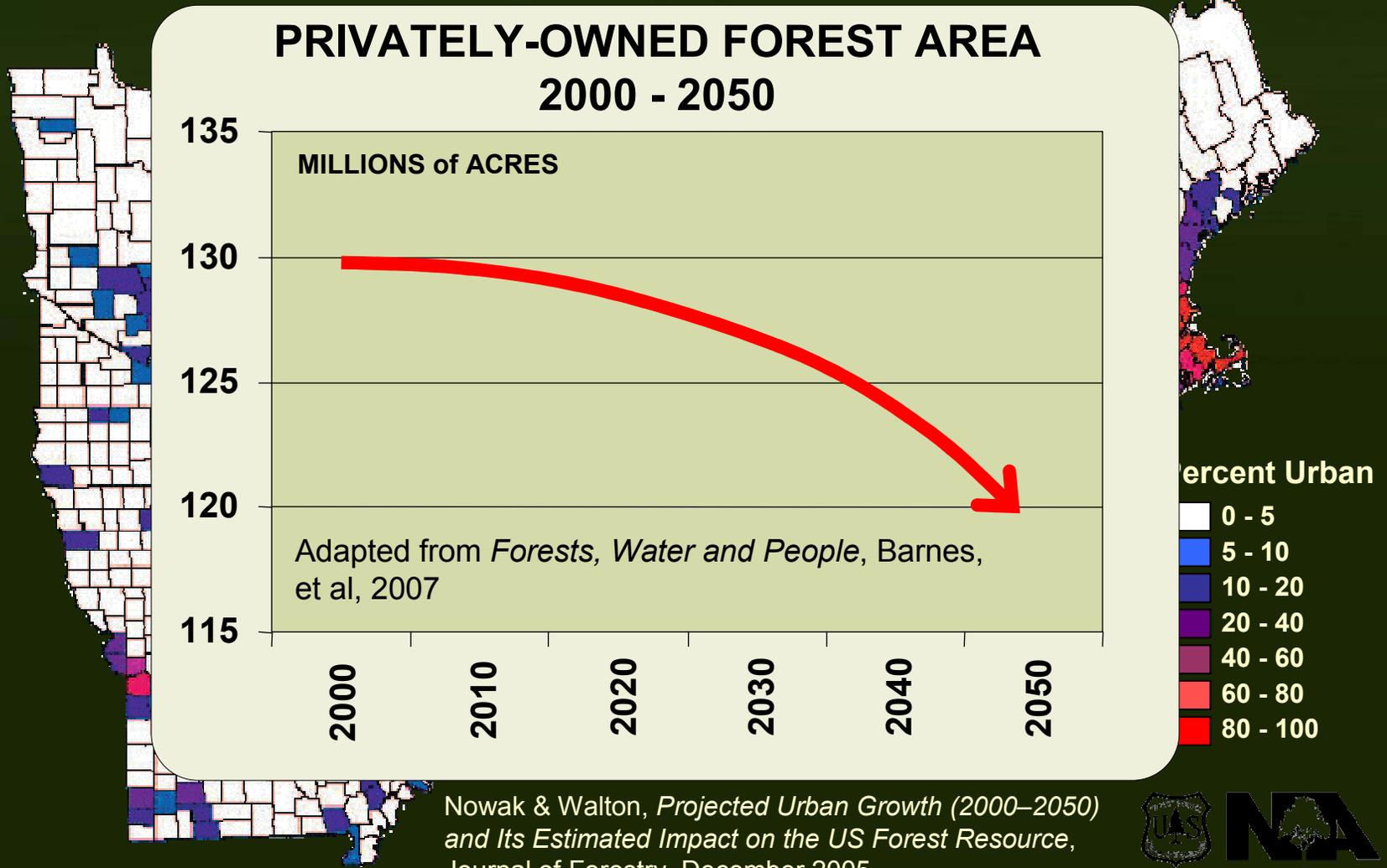


# Enhancing the **FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** in the **NORTHEASTERN AREA**

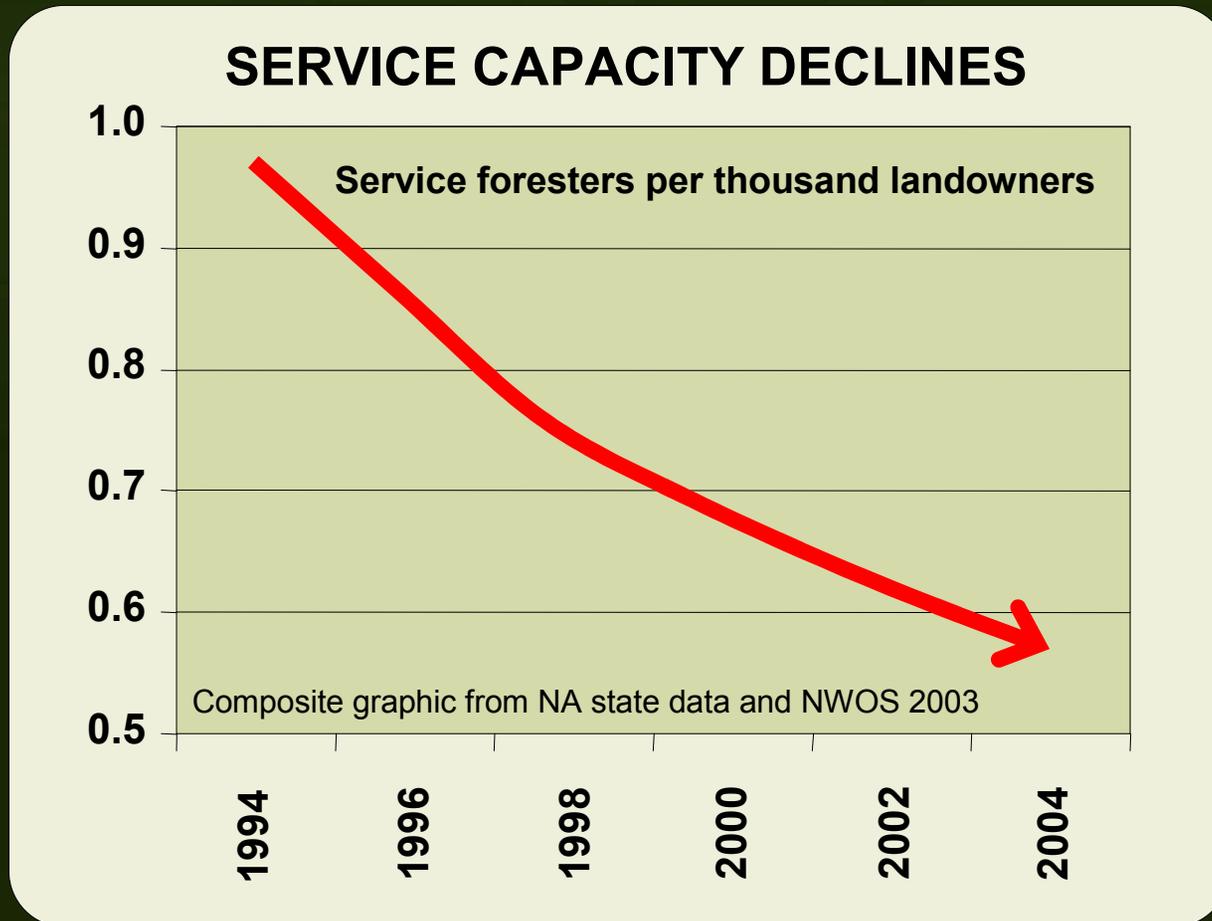
By dramatically expanding our influence and impact – helping to keep forests as forests



# URBANIZATION 2060



# THE CAPACITY ISSUE



## **“The Fire in the East” – Dave Kittridge**

- **The National Woodland Owner Survey estimates as few as 4% of family woodland owners have a management plan, and only 14% consult a forester before a timber sale**
- **At the rate cost-share plans are being adopted by woodland owners it would take 144 years for all owners in the NA to have one**

# “The Fire in the East”

- **The National Woodland Owner Survey documents that ownerships change hands every 26 years**
- **It all adds up to a moving target of owners, a downward spiral of ownership sizes, and an overall erosion and permanent loss of private forestland**

# “Engaged” Landowners

- Thus, research indicates only about 15 % family woodland owners are “engaged” in the management of their woods
- By engaged, we mean owners who consult foresters, participate in cost-sharing or conservation easement programs, and who generally make good stewardship decisions about their land
- Lack of engagement with your woods generally means lack of appreciation for your woods





# Stewardship Project

## A Partnership Effort

- Penn State University
- University of Minnesota
- Yale – Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry
- Dovetail Partners
- USFS Northern Research Station & Region 9
- Minnesota Forest Resources Council
- Cooperative Extension
- NAASF Exec Director
- NEMO/FREMO
- NRCS: Natl. Forester & Eastern Regional Forester
- Nature Conservancy
- U. of Wisconsin
- w/communication to USFS S&PF Regions



# A NEW APPROACH



Landscape Stewardship



Provide seamless government  
(integrated solutions)



Enhance Financial Viability  
via new tools/partnerships



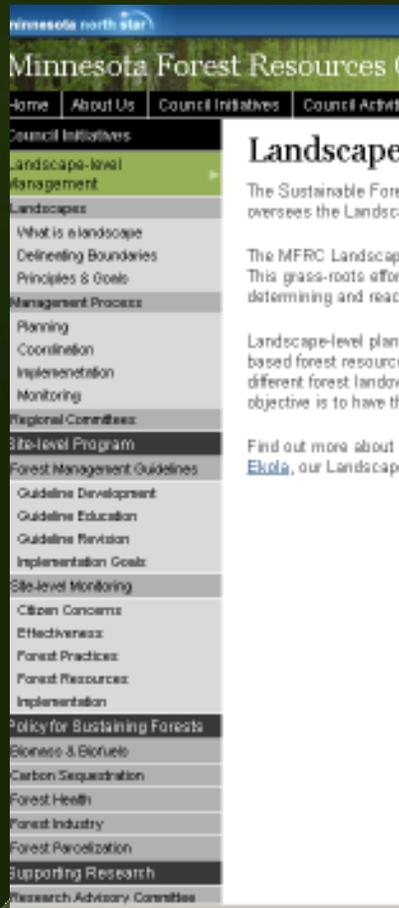
# LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP

*“Landscape stewardship is an approach to the conservation of privately-owned forestland that seeks to engage all stakeholders within a community of place or interest in developing and implementing collaborative natural resource solutions to social, economic and environmental issues.”\**

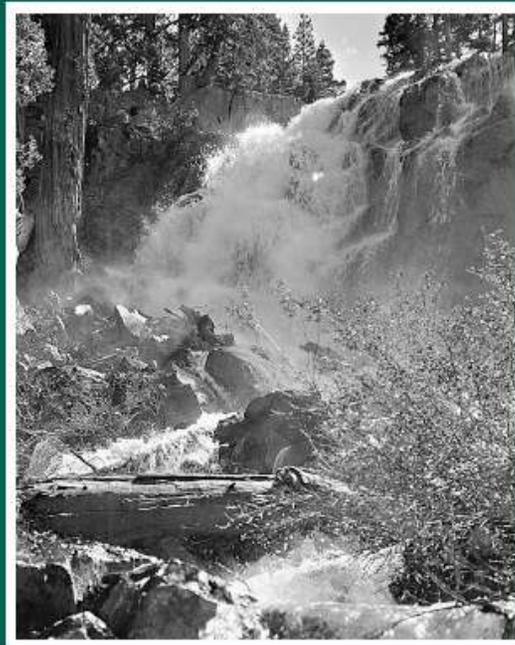
- Collaborative process
- Convergence of landowner objectives and society’s ecological objectives
- Program accomplishments must contribute to “Keeping Forests as Forests”



# Building on existing landscape scale efforts

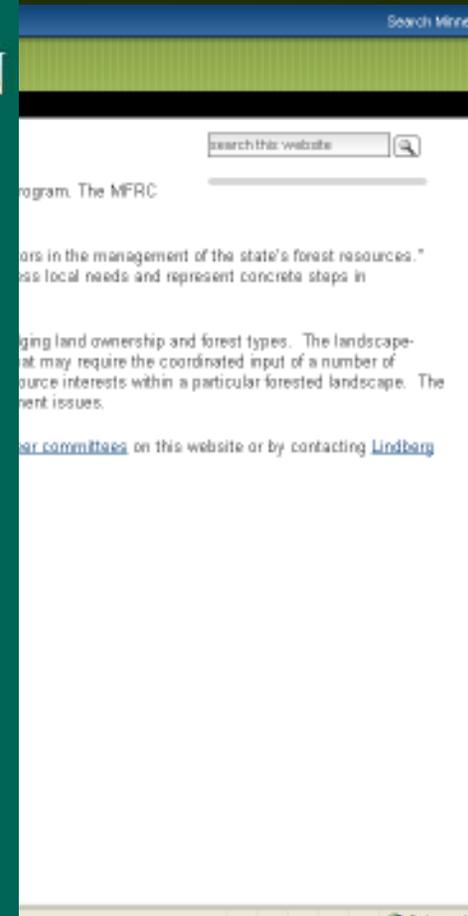


## STEWARDSHIP AND LANDSCAPE COORDINATION *for Sustainable Forests*

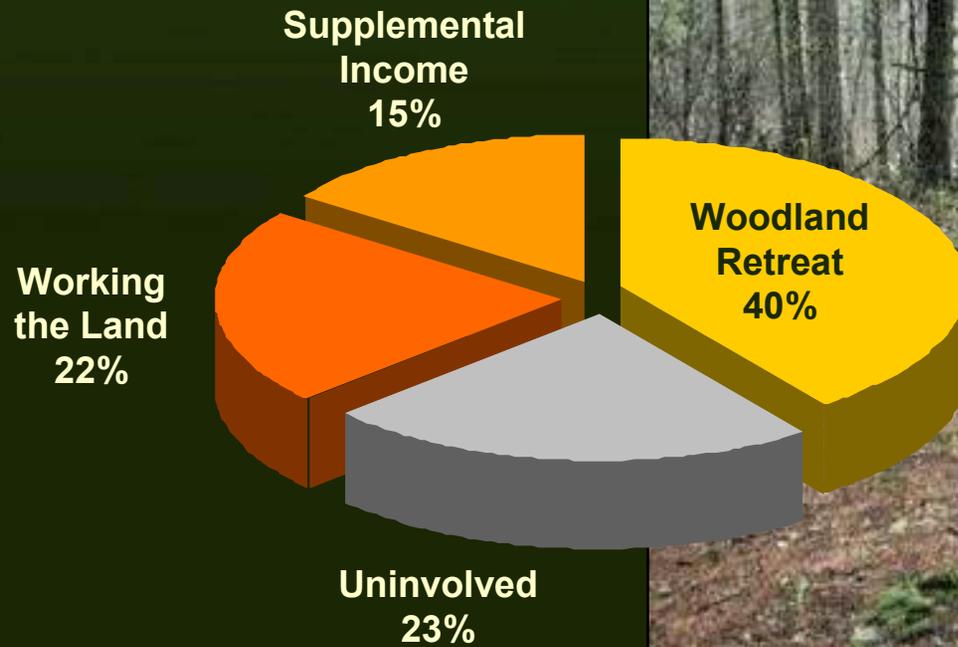


by John Fedkiw  
and Gerald A. Rose

Breaking New Ground Series



# ENGAGING LANDOWNERS



# Communications are Key

- Build on success of Sustaining Family Forest Initiative & use demographic information about landowners – to reach well beyond the choir
- ID best opportunities to reach a wider public & amplify messages on the importance of forests
- Provide tools and information to State Foresters in ways that can best be used by their staff



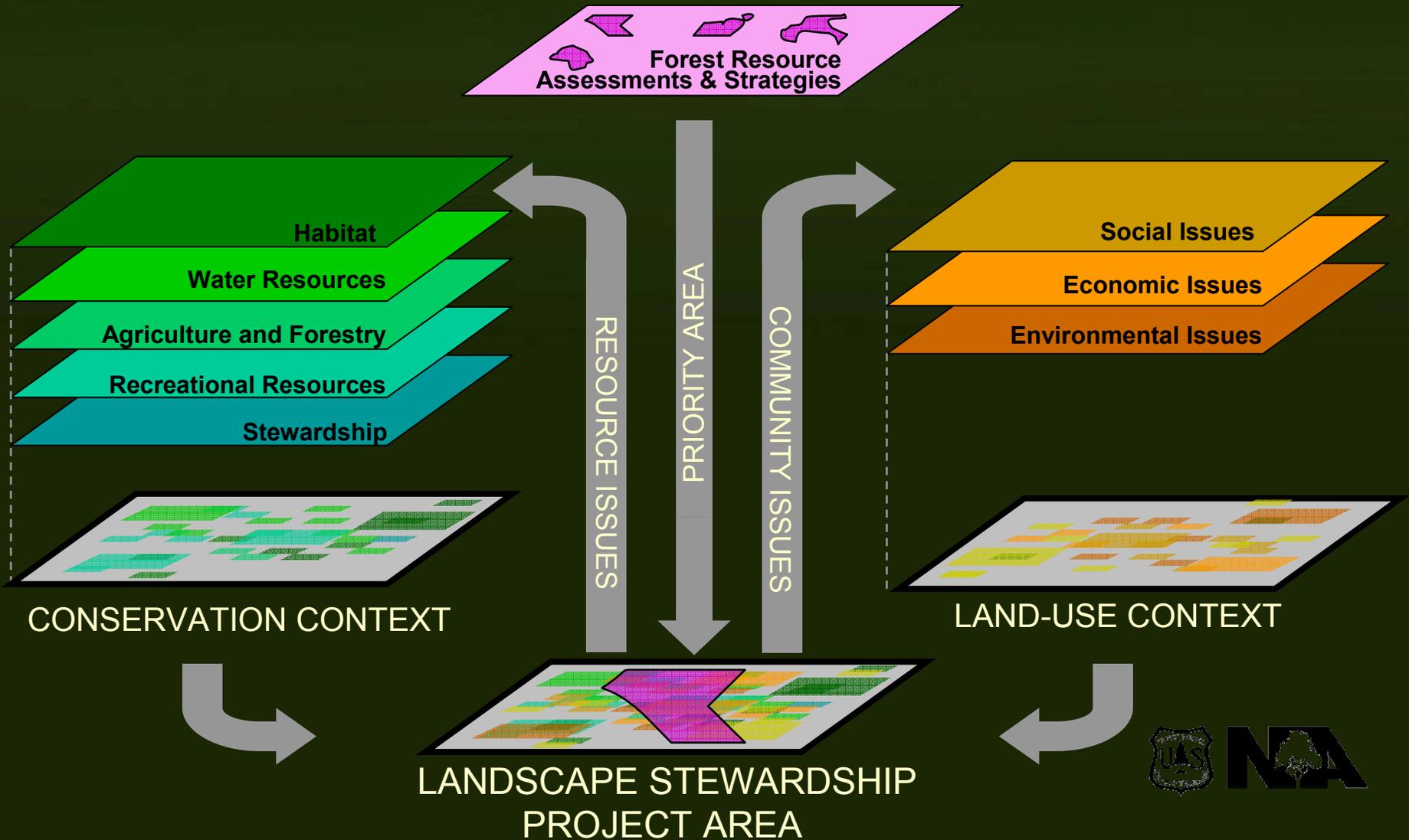
# Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively



[http:// www.engageinglandowners.org](http://www.engageinglandowners.org)



# BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT



# Landscape-Stewardship Planning Guidance

## ■ Documents:

- Landscape-scale Stewardship Planning Guidance
- Examples of Landscape-scale Plans
- User's Quick Start Guide

## ■ Sections:

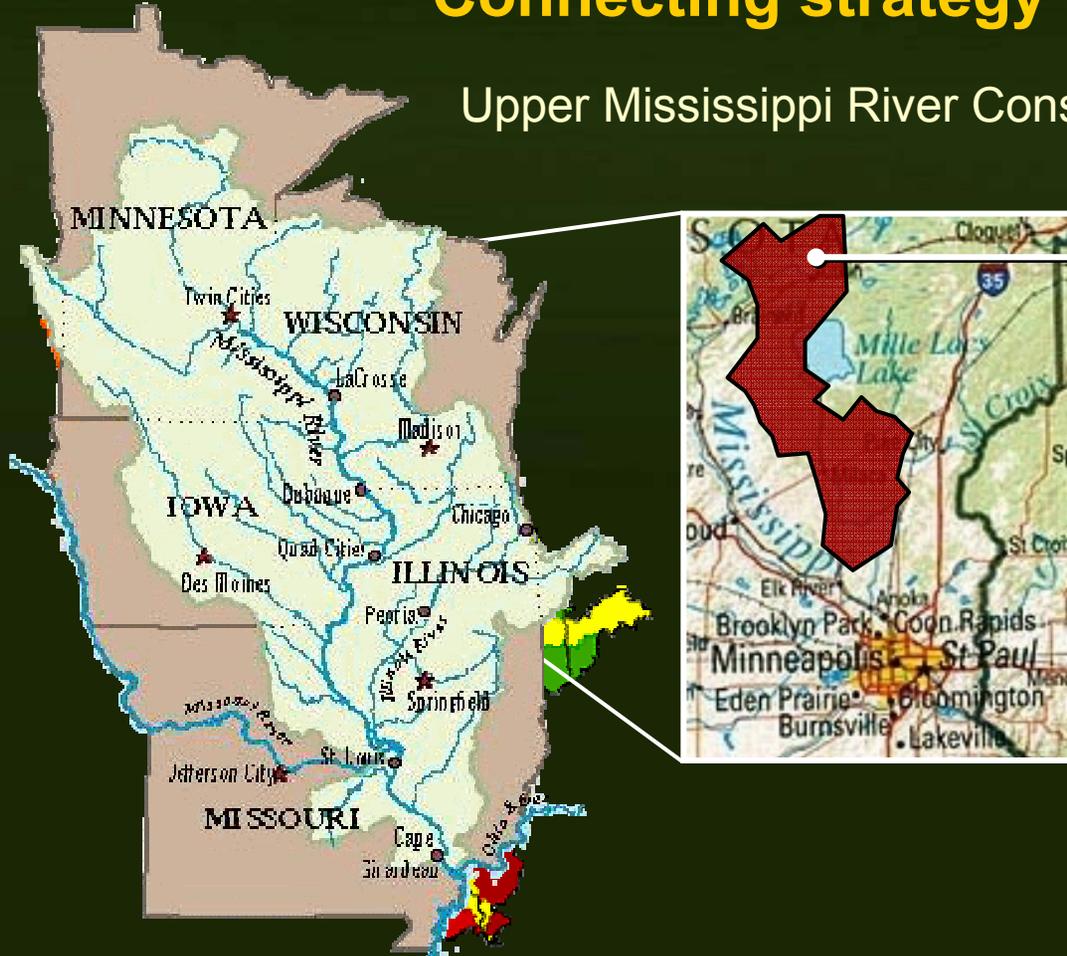
- Landscape approach
- Planning
- Coordination
- Implementation
- Monitoring/evaluation



# Forest Stewardship Program Reform

## Connecting strategy to results

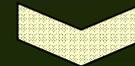
Upper Mississippi River Conservation Area



Priority Forest Model – HUC 8

### Priority forest landscape

Rum River Watershed



### Consider the needs of client communities within the landscape:

- **Anoka Sand Plain Partnership**  
Community of interest addressing biodiversity and hydrology issues
- **Four-Corner Partnership**  
Four townships with water quality concerns
- **Aitkin County**  
Community of place pursuing certification of private forestland and related hydrology issues



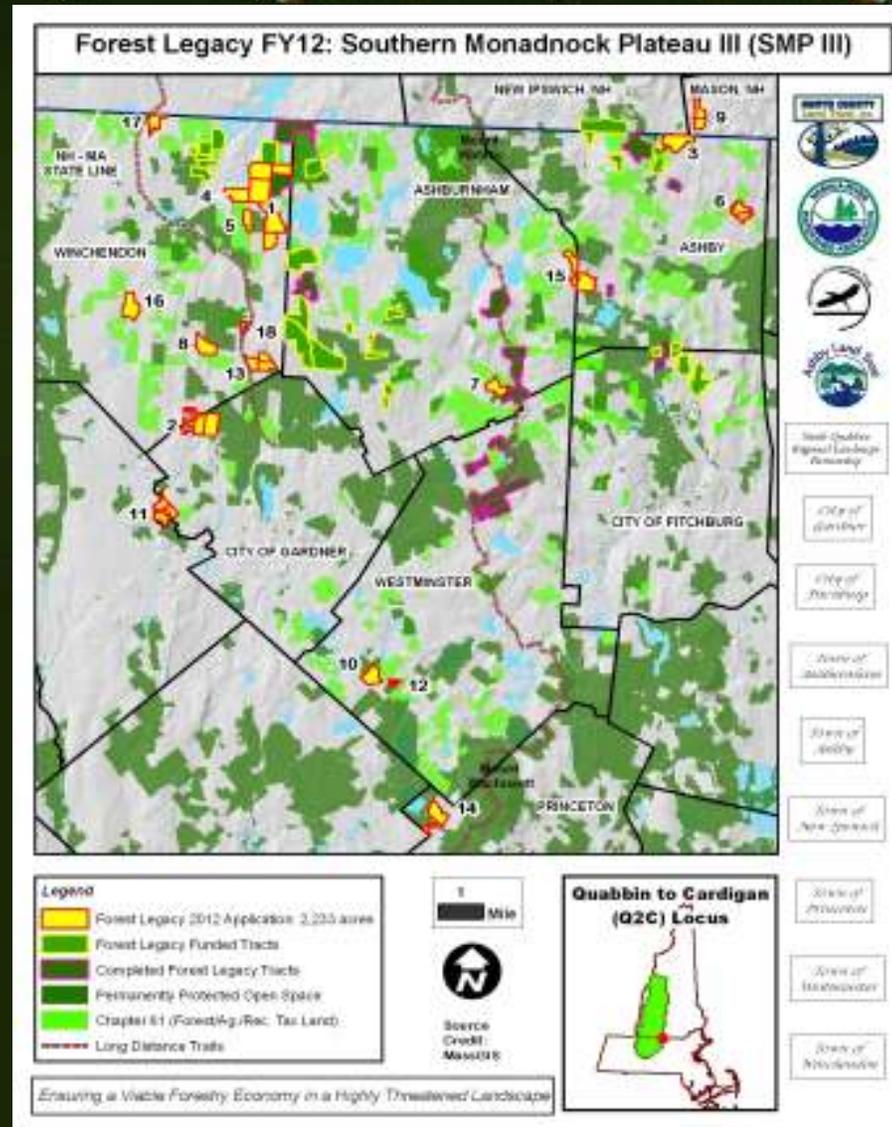
### Address the needs of individual forest landowners



# Forest Stewardship Program Reform

– Another Example Closer to Home

Quabbin to Cardigan Mountain Project



## Forest Stewardship Program Reform Example - Quabbin to Cardigan Mt.

Quabbin Corridor Connection Project –

18 parcels, 1,700 acres

Total Cost - \$4.24 million

Aggregator: Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

USFS Forest Legacy as buyer, with matching funds or bargain sales by Mass DCR, Ashburnham Conservation Trust, North County LT, Nashua River Watershed Council, two towns

Many sellers, many aggregators, one intermediary, one lead buyer, many matching funds



# PROVIDE SEAMLESS GOVERNMENT



# Enhance Financial Viability



# Stewardship Project

- **State Forest Resource Assessment**

- Analyze conditions and trends; Delineate priority landscape areas



- **Long-term State-wide Strategies**

- Address priorities and resources necessary to implement

- **Forest Stewardship Reform**

- Working in priority landscapes to address critical resource issues in an integrated fashion



# Stewardship Project

**By dramatically expanding our influence and impact – we will help to keep forests as forests**

## **States benefit because:**

- Provides implementation path for State Assessments & Strategies
- Brings new resources to the table (P/P Partnerships)
- Builds greater degree of public awareness and support
- Develops new & more effective communications tools



# Some Forest Service Grants in New England

- **Maine – Conservation and Protection of Priority Forest Lands in the Presumpscot River Watershed (Redesign)**
- **Maine – Kennebec Woodland Partnership/Sustaining Kennebec Woodlands**
- **Maine – Determining Effectiveness of Landscape-Level Planning (Stewardship Project)**



# Cont. Some Forest Service Grants in New England

- **Maine – Development of New Partnerships to Support and Expand the Maine Forest Stewardship Program (Stewardship Project)**
- **Vermont – Landscape-Based Forest Stewardship Planning – A Regional Approach (Stewardship Project)**
- **Connecticut – Private Forest Landowner Reactions to Community Engagement and Landscape-level Approaches to Forest Stewardship (Stewardship Project)**



# Stewardship Project

- **Where to next?**
  - Final development of Landscape Stewardship Guidance
  - NAASF Winter meeting – Full consideration
  - FY2011 Budget advice from NA?
  - Development of Measures/Metrics
  - Roll out / Training needs



# The Stewardship Project

*“We must dramatically accelerate the scale and pace of forest stewardship.... on both public and private lands.”*

*Tom Vilsack, Secretary, USDA  
August 14, 2009*

