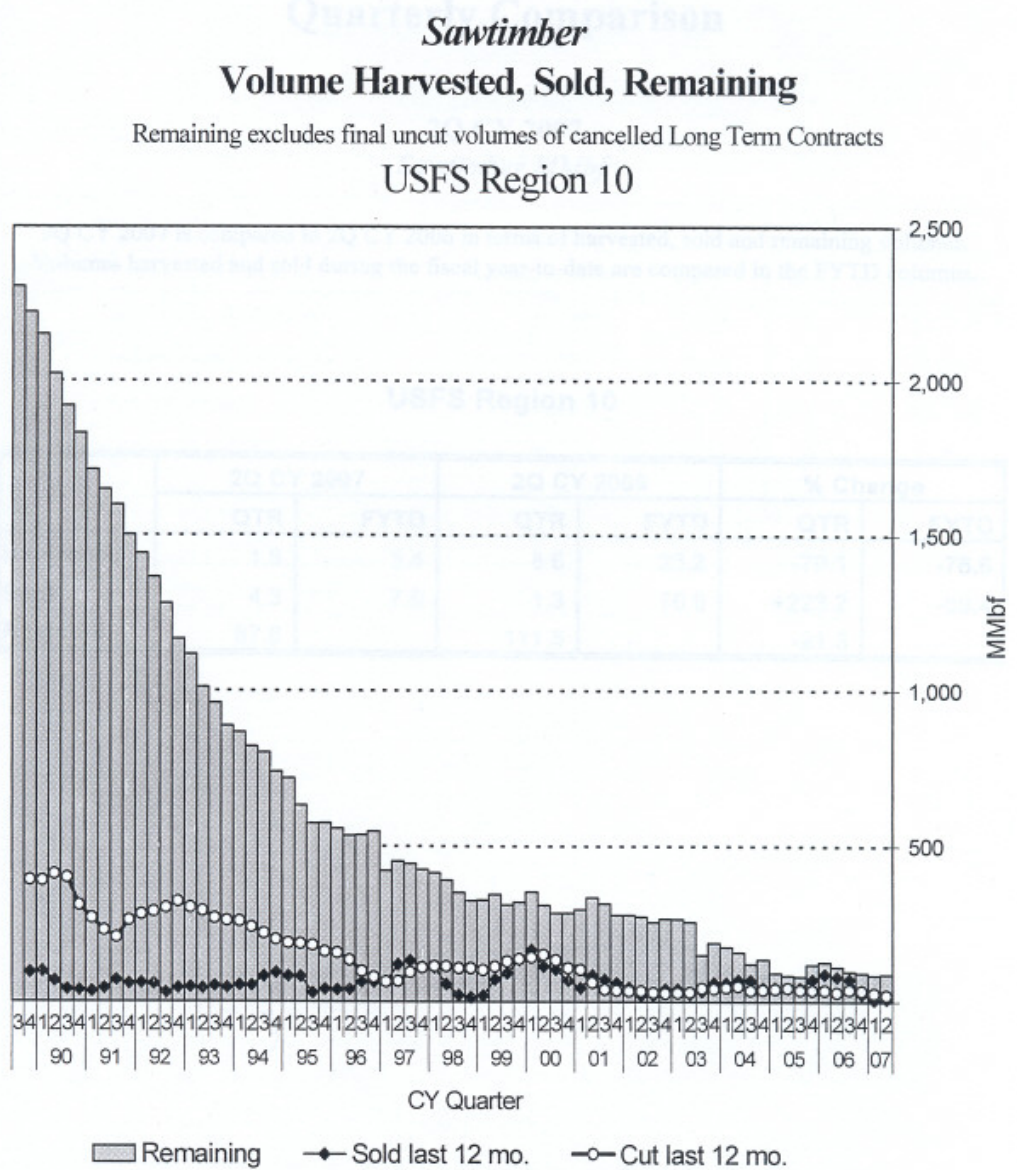


These clearcuts are great, but where did all the loggers go?



Where did the loggers go?

- ◆ After 1990, the Forest Service reduced the amount of timber sales available.
- ◆ As the industry harvested more timber than was sold, the volume of timber-under-contract declined.
- ◆ There were some timber sales that were terminated, but most of the decline came from harvesting at a greater rate than the timber was sold.



Viking Lumber Company – 2010





Recommendations for Tongass National Forest Management

Immediate steps can be taken by the Forest Service to initiate a transition to sustainable Tongass National Forest management. Based on our experience in the region, we recommend a number of institutional capacity needs and directives that, along with the broader components we have proposed, can initiate a transition in the next 6-12 months.

Restoration

- **Implement** new Regional directives that prioritize restoration at adequate scales to catalyze investment.
- **Increase** and redirect Forest Service capacity to adequately plan for and implement restoration projects and stewardship contracts.
 - **Direct** the Northern Tongass Interdisciplinary Team to work on stewardship, restoration, and second growth.
 - **Require** a Stewardship Contracting training session for Region 10 staff immediately.
 - **Add** a Stewardship Staff Officer position responsible for coordinating restoration work.
 - **Add** a Second Growth Staff Officer position responsible for second growth timber program.
 - **Add** a fourth Interdisciplinary Team specifically targeted to second growth, stewardship, and restoration.
- **Request** local Tongass Forest Service staff work with collaborative restoration partners to develop shared priorities so out-year projects align with collective interest and capacity, as well as participate in pre-NEPA collaboration.
- **Prioritize**, fund, and implement current restoration and stewardship projects in the works including Spit Point, Stoney restoration, Ocean Boulevard, and the False Island IRMP.
- **Leverage** additional USDA funds, such as those from the Rural Development Utilities Program, to facilitate regional market demand and infrastructure conversion for biomass heating in communities currently dependent on fossil fuel energy.
- **Develop** and implement a long-term monitoring program to determine the effectiveness and impact of restoration work on ecosystem and community health.

Timber

- **Stop** all planning and implementation on outdated, socially contentious and un-economical timber sales (e.g. Tonka, Central Kupreanof, Navy, Wrangell 10-year project). Redirect remaining funds and capacity to transition timber sales and second growth.
- **Redirect** the two Southern Tongass Interdisciplinary Teams to focus on 'bridge' timber and small sales only.
- **Prioritize**, fund, and implement a second growth inventory to be completed by 2013.
- **Encourage** regional and national stakeholders, and the Forest Supervisor, to identify socially acceptable areas of bridge timber for the next 3-5 years while investment in step timber planning and harvest increases.
- **Provide** relief from old growth timber production targets.
 - **Plan** for timber sales that meet *existing industry* needs during the transition, as opposed to providing shelf volume based on an inflated demand scenario of 267mmbf.
- **Begin re-directing** the current timber sale program funds toward restoration and second growth, while increasing overall restoration funding.
 - **Redirect** the \$2.5 million Tongass timber pipeline fund in the FY10 Interior bill to a watershed restoration fund.
 - **Increase** and use Legacy Roads and Trails funding on the Tongass National Forest.
 - **Ensure** that the Tongass is a priority landscape for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.
 - **Develop** a \$15 million Tongass Watershed Restoration Fund.

The 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan schedules only 4% of the Tongass for timber harvesting.

1/2 of the scheduled timberland is in roadless areas and 1/4 is young-growth. Only the remaining 1/4 is mature timber in roaded areas.

Estimate of Roadless Acres on the Tongass National Forest

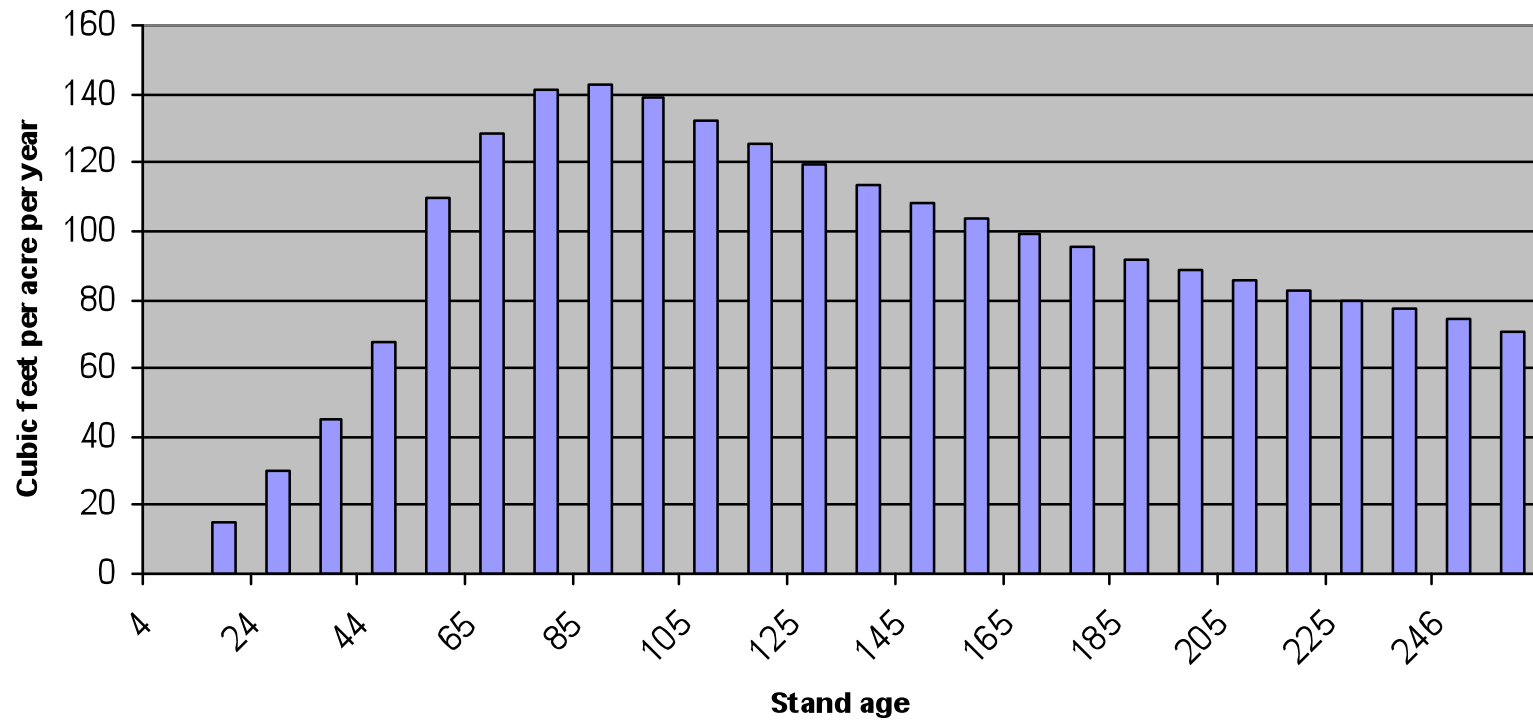
	Total	Roaded	Roadless	Roaded %	Roadless %
Forest Plan Scheduled for Harvest					
Young Growth	180,000	180,000	0		
Old Growth	496,000	168,640	327,360		
Total Scheduled	676,000	348,640	327,360	2.08%	1.95%
Total	16,801,250	1,364,834	9,679,944	8.04%	91.96%

We now see the establishment of a major enterprise which will provide year 'round employment, based upon a renewable natural resource offering a supply of raw material in perpetuity under proper scientific management. And it will, I am certain, be followed by other large-scale forest products plants.



- Transitioning to a young-growth timber economy is not a new idea. This has always been the plan.
- Frank Heintzleman had a viable business plan for the Tongass that was based upon good forestry and sound economics.
- Frank's plan was implemented in 1954 and it worked for over 40-years.
- Our challenge is to craft and implement a similarly viable plan.

Growth rate - CF per acre-year



Timber volume per acre by age class



Harris River wildlife thinning



Deer seem to do well in the young-growth areas even without thinning.



Harris River sediment project



Harris River valley

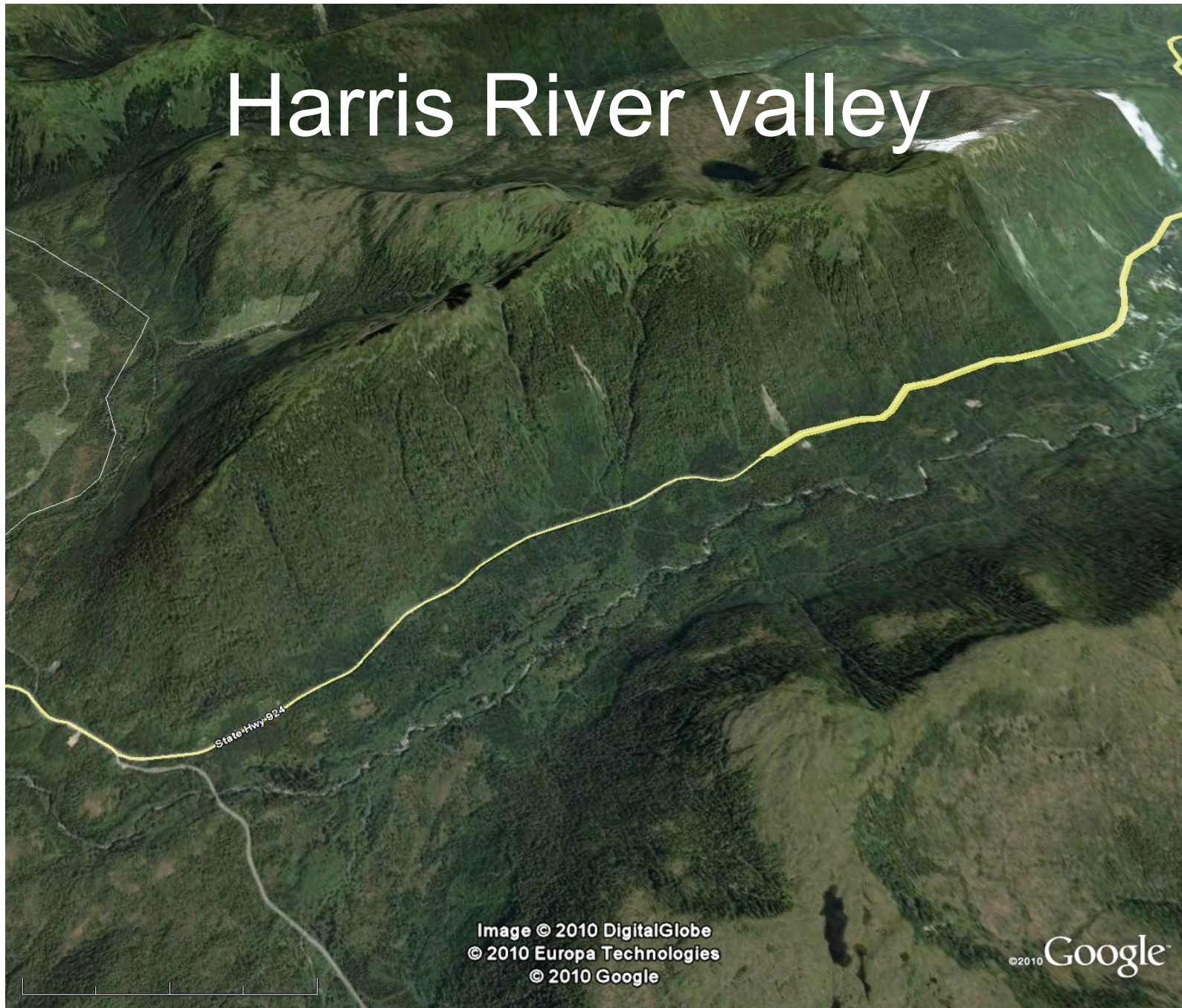


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Harris River - Beaverized log



The Timber industry can be restored quickly if we have an adequate timber supply.

In 1954, it took only 5 years to ramp-up to the level we are seeking

