

# Social Changes: Implications for Forests and Forestry

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# The Contested Terrain of Interface Forests

- Real estate: the American Dream
- Natural Resource Commodities
- Marketing and Retail
- Economic Development: Health, Education, and Welfare
- Environmental Advocacy

# A Symmetrical Analysis

- Emphasize both good and bad
- Three topics
  - Economic
  - Political/regulatory
  - People: Community and landowners
- Implications

# Quality, Quantity, Accessibility of Timber

- Value and volume, not acreage, determine profit
- Accessible, high value, high volume trees will find a market
- Longer rotation



# Non-Timber Economy

- Metro-Farms provide higher value/acre than rural farms
- Non-traditional, non-timber forest products
  - Edibles: nuts, fruit,...
  - Floral decorations
  - Leaves, seeds, roots
- New Jobs



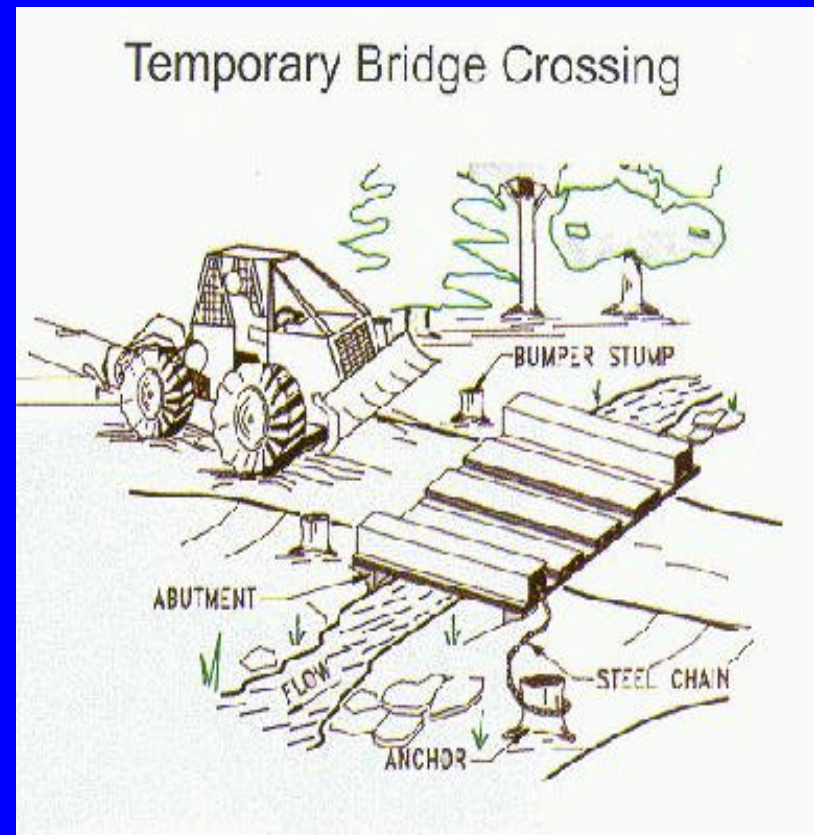
# Economic Revaluation of Forests

- Suburban and urban trees often worth more than their rural cousins
  - Property value (5-15%)
  - Cooling
  - Storm water management
  - Privacy
  - Aesthetics



# Increased Regulations, BMPs, etc

- Lower short term profits to fund regulatory apparatus?
- Long term benefits of improved conditions?
- Jobs for new class of professionals



# Changing Community Structure and function

- New residents advocate environment quality
  - Same environmental concerns as locals
  - Differ ability and willingness to express





# Changing Community Decision Making Process

- More Formalized Decisions
- Old networks replaced by formal process
- Process more complex but more thorough?



# Community Quality of Life

- Social Capital
- New settlers bring new resources
- New settlers create turbulence
- Some people benefit others lose from changes



# Community Quality of Life

- Access to health, education, transportation, jobs
- Cleaner, safer, higher amenity living
  - Sought by migrants
  - Degraded by higher density
  - Difficult balance



# Opportunities and Challenges

- Land use planning efforts to stop fragmentation are sand castles on the beach
  - Rather than stop the rising tide, we must work with it, develop techniques to work in a fragmented forest
  - Cross boundary and boutique forestry



# Opportunities and Challenges

- New owners don't know/trust forestry
  - Reach them through other professions (nursery, lawn care, fire insurance,...)
  - Reach them through their media (home improvement stores, gardening www, ...)
- Change image from lucky logger to amenity manager

