



The Role of Timber Management on the Green Mountain National Forest

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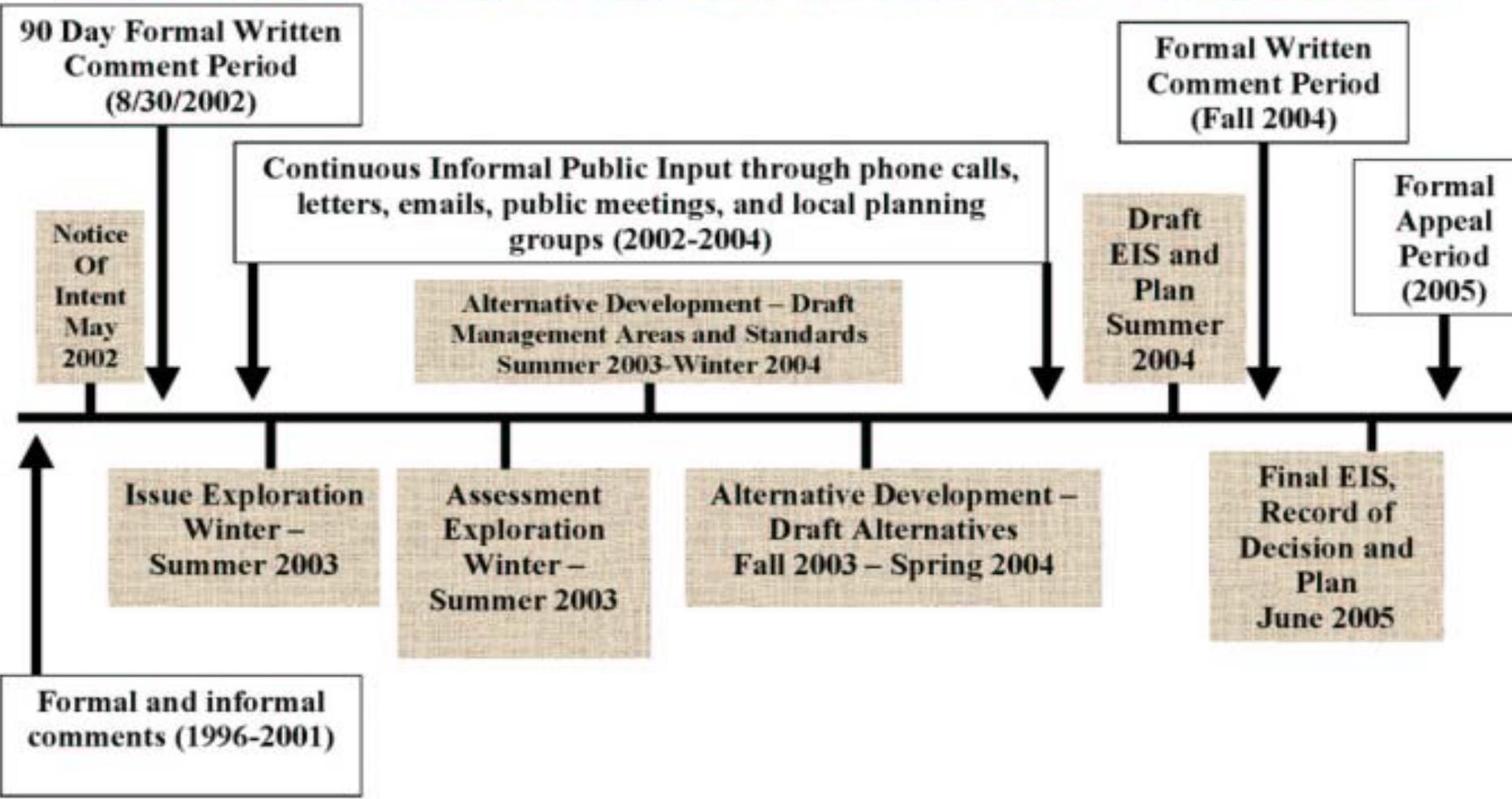
Forest Plan Revision
October, 2003

Agenda

- ✦ Plan Revision Timeline
- ✦ The Role of Timber Management
- ✦ Timber Management Methods
- ✦ Timber Management on the GMNF:
Past, Present, and Future
- ✦ Open House

Public Involvement Timeline

GMNF Forest Plan Revision



Issue Exploration: Winter-Summer 2003

- ✦ Role of the GMNF
- ✦ Desired Future
- ✦ Goals and Objectives
- ✦ Land Acquisition
Priorities
- ✦ Management of Newly
Acquired Lands
- ✦ Developed Recreation
- ✦ Undeveloped
Recreation
- ✦ Road Management
- ✦ Trail management
- ✦ Ecosystems/Biodive
rsity
- ✦ Wilderness
- ✦ **Timber
Management**

What is in a Forest Plan?

- ✦ Goals and Objectives
- ✦ Standards and Guidelines
- ✦ Management Areas
- ✦ **Land Suitable for Timber Harvesting and Upper Limits on Timber Sales**
- ✦ Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

Mission Statements

✦ USDA Forest Service Mission:

“...to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

✦ Green Mountain National Forest Mission:

“...to sustain, protect and enhance forest ecosystems...”

GMNF: Stewards for 70 Years

- ✦ 100 years ago most of the landscape was farmlands on what is now the GMNF
- ✦ Today the forests are restored and thriving



GMNF Staff Follow Environmental Regulations and Laws

- ✦ Resource specialists plan, design, implement, and monitor timber sales.
- ✦ Interdisciplinary teams work to prevent erosion, protect cultural resources, and maintain plant and animal habitats.

The Role of Timber Management

- ✦ Provide key wildlife and bird habitat



**Wildlife opening
created by a timber
sale. Young
hardwood trees
follow early
successional habitat
(0-9 years post-
harvest).**

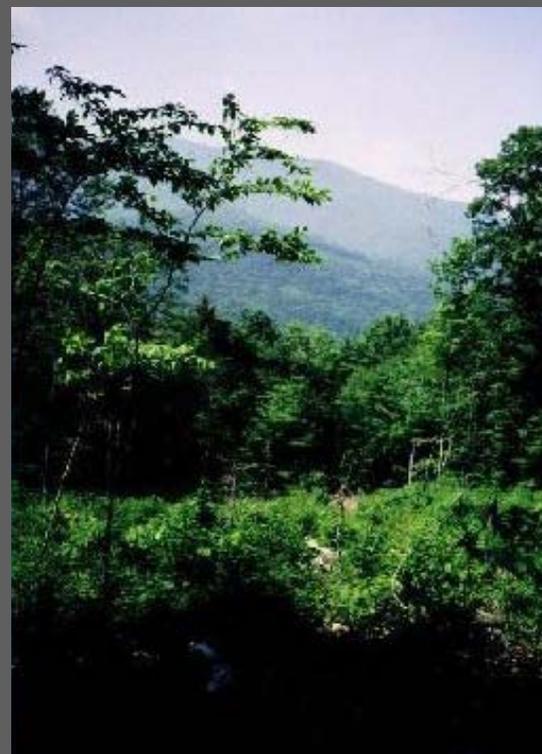
The Role of Timber Management

- ✦ Provide wood for a variety of forest products



The Role of Timber Management

- ✦ Enhance Recreation
 - vistas, dispersed camping
- ✦ Provide public access
 - parking areas, hiking opportunities
- ✦ Demonstrate high quality and sustainable forestry



Timber Management is Good for a Forest

- ✦ Timber management is an important tool to achieve biodiversity goals
 - Early successional management is important for wildlife
 - A majority of birds and wildlife need habitat diversity
 - Diverse forests include different age classes, forest types, and species variety, and are generally healthier forests.

Timber Management Provides Local/Global Goods & Services

- ✦ High-quality sawtimber
- ✦ Timber for making unusual furniture, clocks, and bowls
- ✦ Local income from timber-related jobs
- ✦ Firewood permits
- ✦ Christmas tree permits and bough permits for holiday wreaths

Timber Management Methods

✦ Even-aged timber management

- Clearcut (~95% of trees removed)
- Shelterwood cut (~50%)
- Delayed Shelterwood (~50%)
- Thinning (~20-30%)

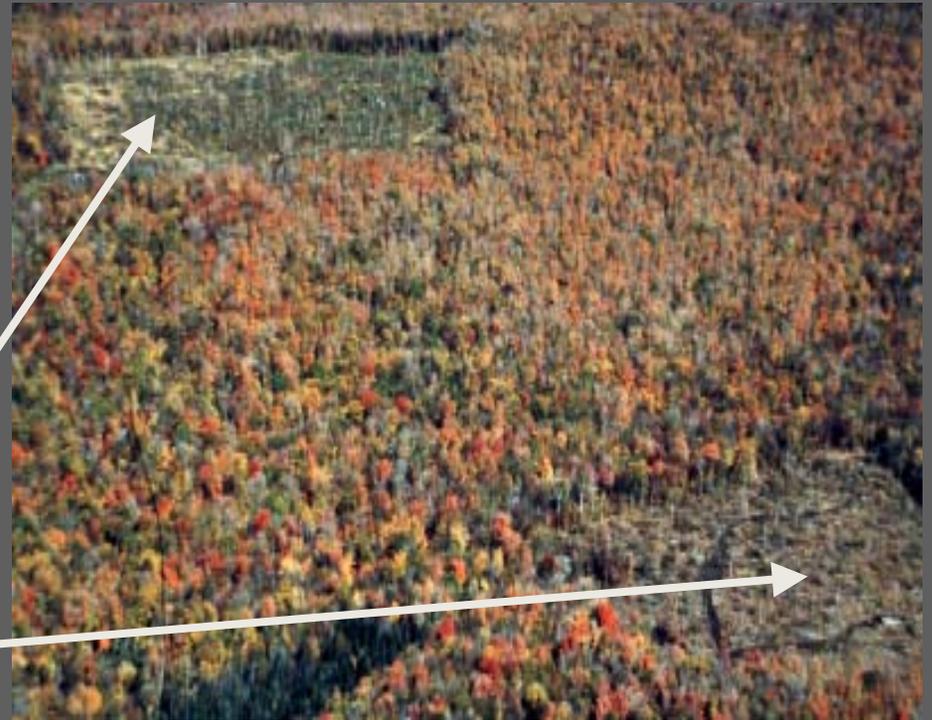
✦ Uneven-aged timber management

- Individual Tree Selection
- Group Selection

Even-aged Timber Management

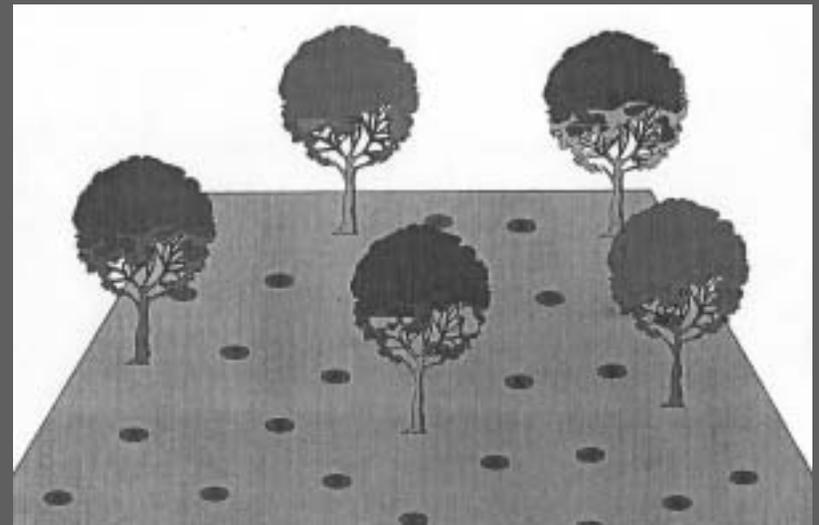
- ✦ Why we do this
- ✦ Forest types
- ✦ Wildlife
- ✦ Plants

Patch Clear Cuts



Clearcutting

- ✦ Create permanent upland openings
- ✦ Regenerate aspen stands (intolerant to shade)
- ✦ Create vistas and parking areas
- ✦ Salvage damaged stands to stop spread of insect and disease



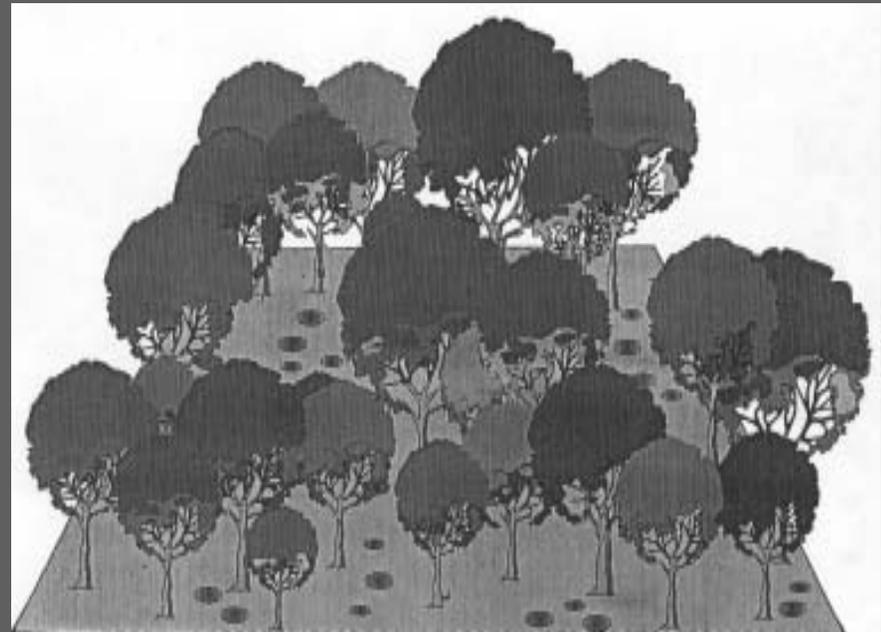
Shelterwood Harvests

- ✦ Two Cuts: Seed Cut and Removal Cut (**5-7 years** after seed cut)
- ✦ Regeneration of Oaks



Delayed Shelterwood Harvests

- ✦ Two Cuts: Seed Cut and Removal Cut (40-50 years after seed cut)
- ✦ Well formed pole-timber or small saw-timber trees are retained (wind firm)



Thinning

- ✦ Reduces Density of Trees to:
 - Improve growth and quality of desirable trees
 - Favor mast (acorn) producing trees
 - Salvage dying trees



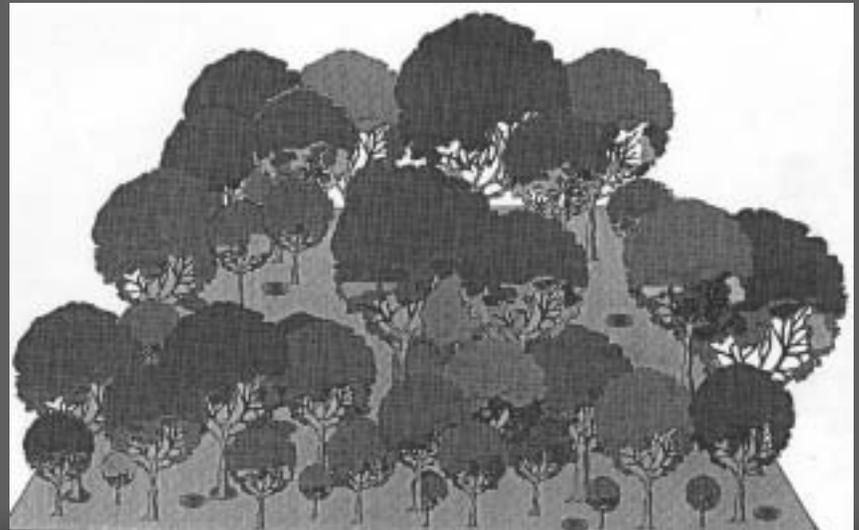
Uneven-aged Timber Management

- ✦ Why we do this
- ✦ Forest types
- ✦ Wildlife
- ✦ Plants



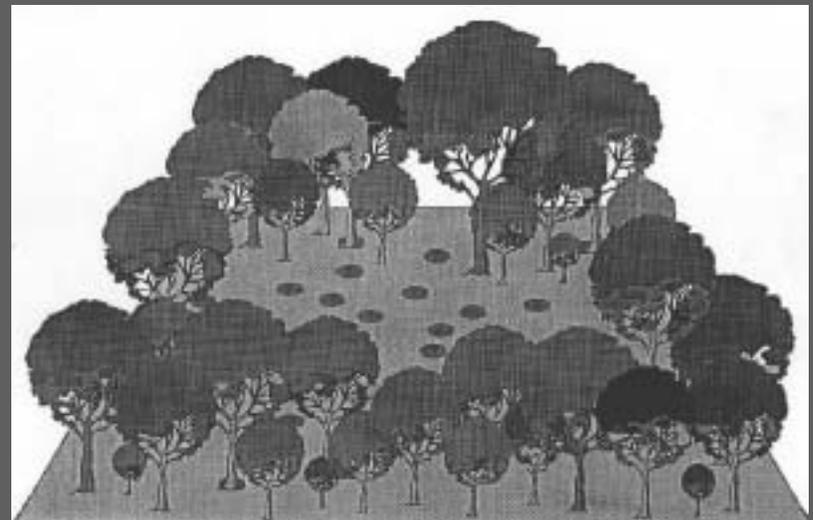
Individual Tree Selection

- ✦ Regenerate shade-tolerant northern hardwood stands of many sizes and varied ages
- ✦ Used in areas receiving high public use (trails, campgrounds)



Group Selection

- ✦ Larger openings can be used to regenerate intermediate and shade-tolerant species to provide early successional habitat
- ✦ Used to regenerate stands with pockets of high risk or low quality trees



Group Selection Continued

- ✦ Regenerate white pine (intermediate tolerance)
- ✦ Regenerate pockets of spruce
- ✦ Stands where small patches would have wildlife or visual benefits

Timber Harvesting Comparison

Even-age

- Favors oak, ash, hickory, aspen
- Regenerates every 50-150 years
- Thinning 10-20 years

Uneven-age

- Favors maple, hemlock, beech
- Cuts occur every 10-15 years

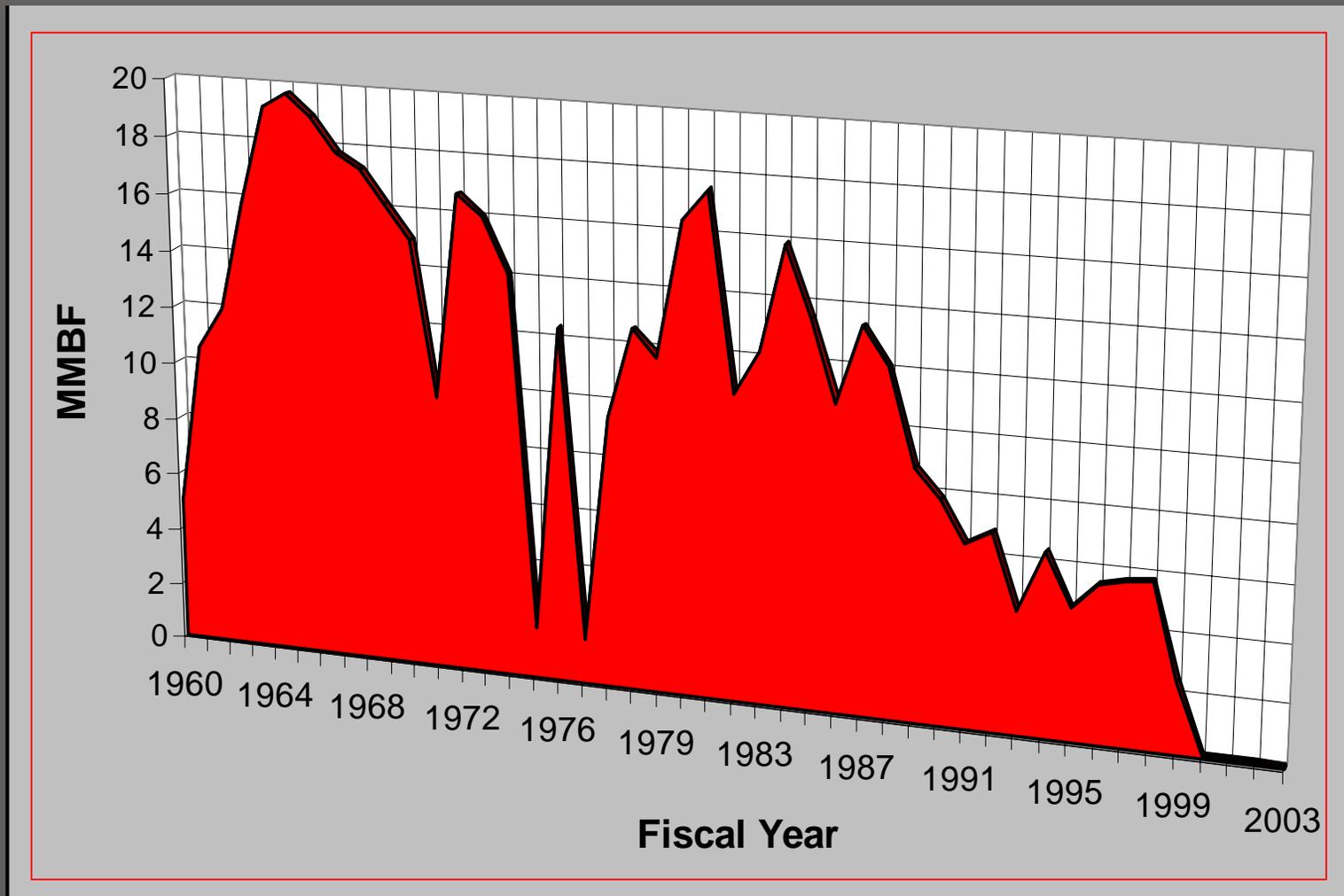
Timber Suitability Decision Tree

1. Is the land forested?
2. Is the forest capable?
3. Is the forest restricted by Congress?
4. Is the forest administratively restricted?
5. Is the forest technologically not suited or would require high harvesting costs?
6. Is the forest suitable, but in newly acquired land?
7. Has the current Forest Plan MA determined that timber harvest is appropriate?

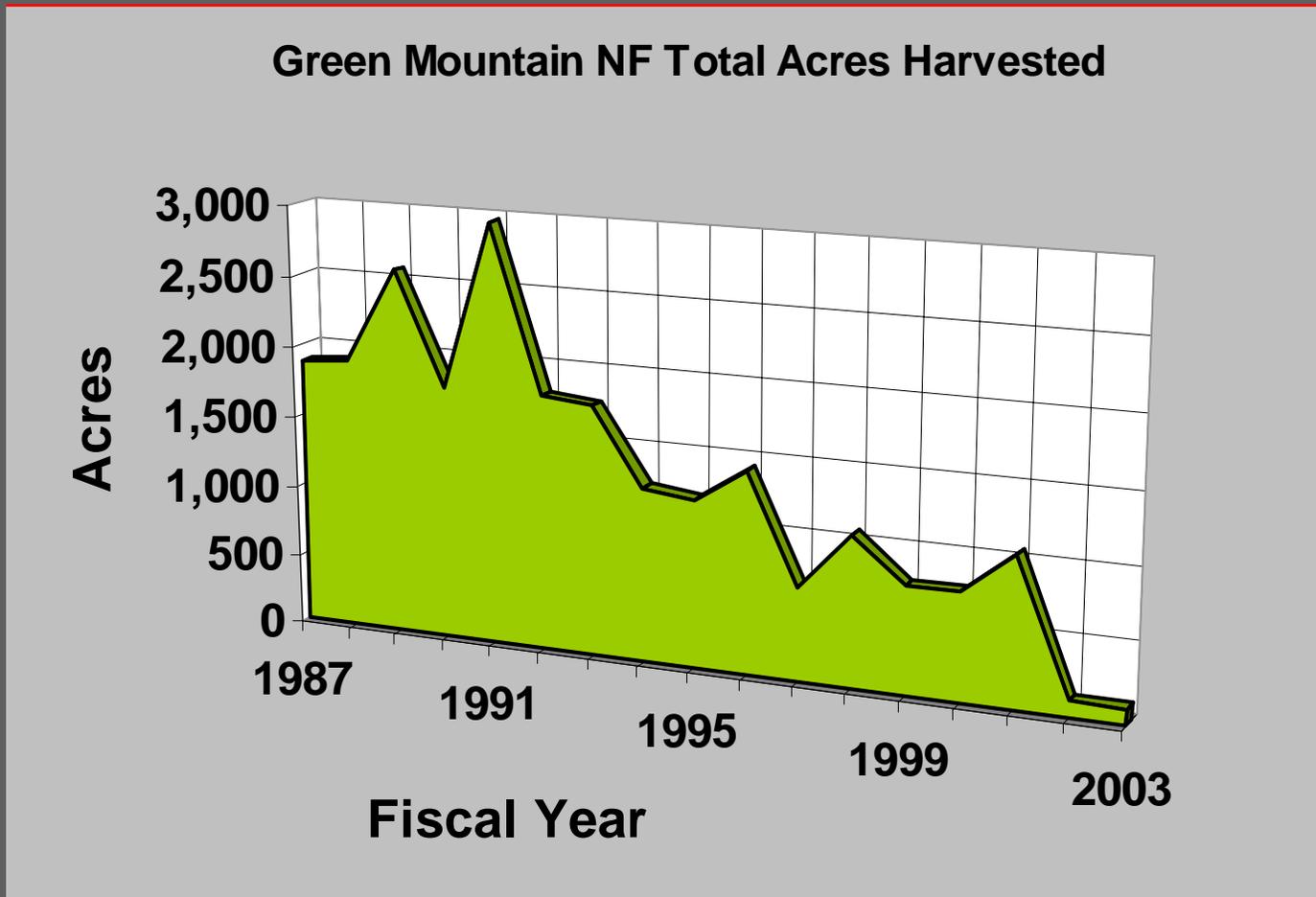
Lands Suitable for Timber Harvest

- ✦ Total National Forest: 385,000 acres
- ✦ Suitable for Timber Harvest: 122,000 acres (current Forest Plan)
- ✦ Timber harvesting since 1987 (all methods): 23,123 acres (19% of suitable land)

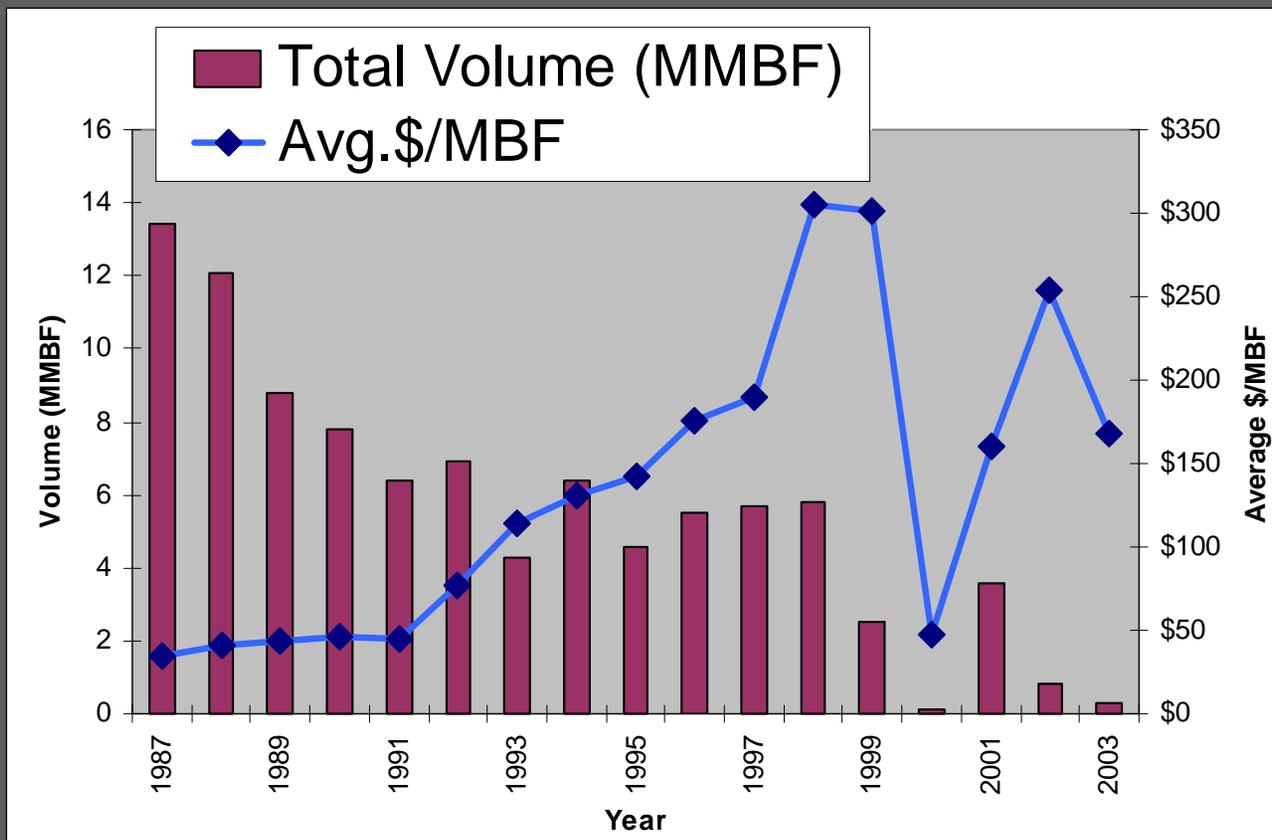
GMNF Timber Sold 1960 - 2003



GMNF Total Acres Harvested

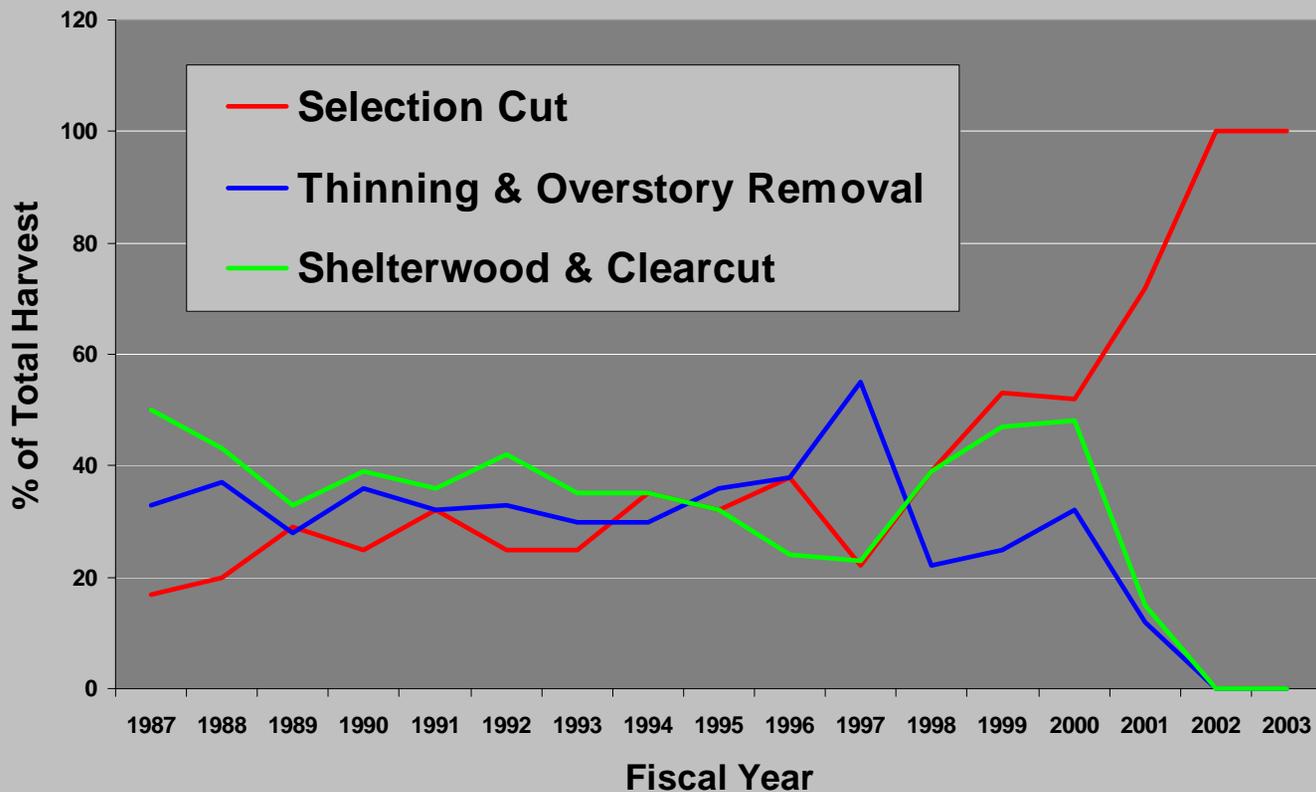


GMNF Timber Cut, Revenues Generated from 1987 - 2003

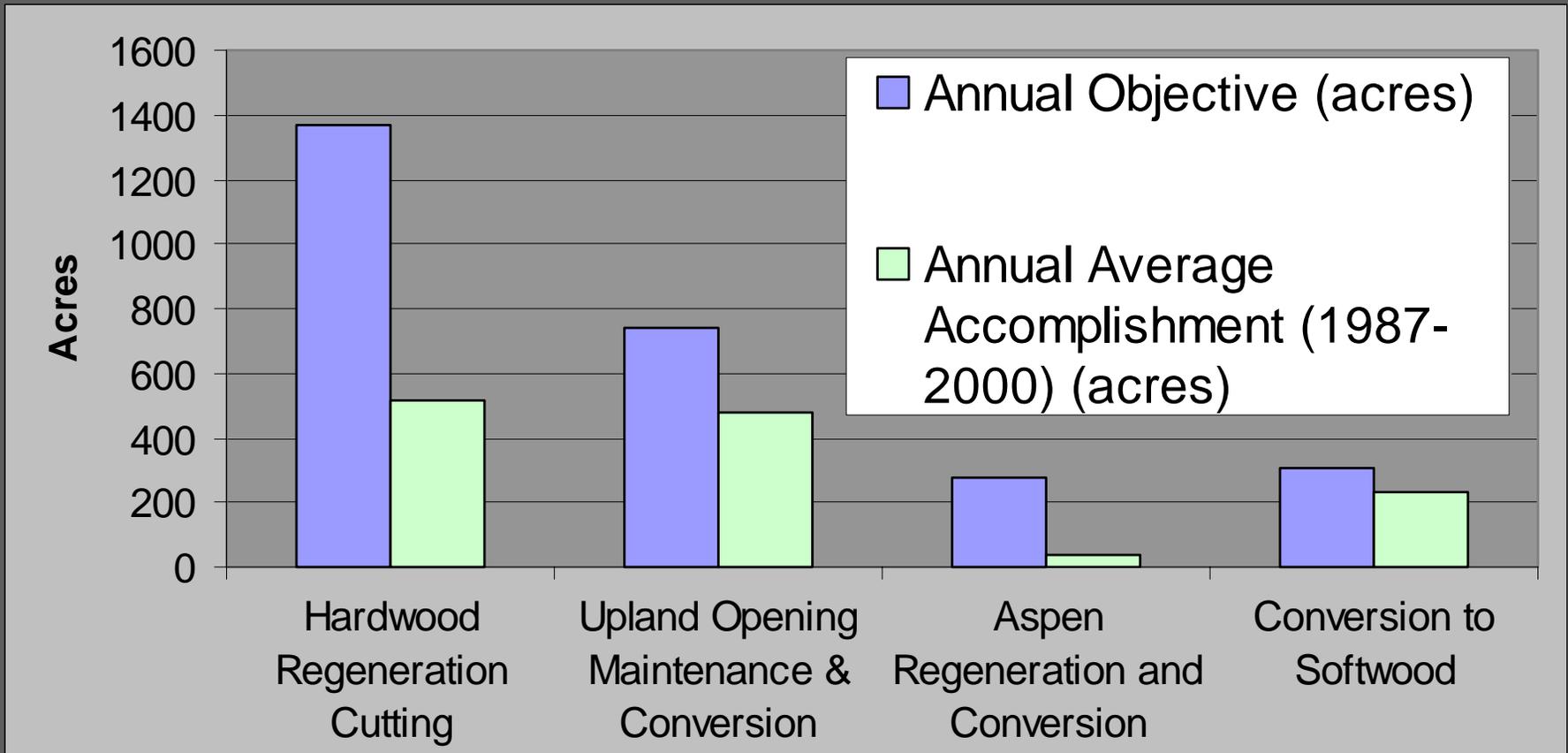


GMNF Harvest Method Trends

Green Mountain NF Harvest Method Trends



Accomplishment of Forest Plan Objectives for Vegetation Composition



The GMNF is a Living Laboratory

- ✦ Timber sale areas demonstrate benefits of forest management
- ✦ Research and lessons learned on National Forest land are shared with state and private landowners
- ✦ Colleges, universities, and schools rely on timber sale areas to provide high quality and sustainable forestry examples

Future Timber Management Direction

- ✦ Continue focus on:
 - Improving wildlife habitat
 - Sustaining ecosystems
 - Providing high-quality forest products

Future Timber Management Direction Continued

- ✦ Work with public to further develop timber management program
- ✦ Utilize the timber management program to support the working landscape of Vermont

Current Timber Management Direction

- ✦ Rebuild Timber Program
- ✦ Implement Sales Under Current Rules
Until Plan is Revised
- ✦ Plan Future Sales

Questions

1. What is your view or “desired future condition” for the vegetation on the GMNF?
 - Forest communities: oak, maple, aspen, hemlock, etc. Mixes?
 - Tree size, age
 - Forest attributes: dark, quiet, open, park-like
2. How would you like to see timber management change from the current Forest Plan?

Questions

3. What types of methods would you like to see used in vegetation management?
 - Even-aged, uneven-aged management
 - Others?

4. For what purposes would you like to see timber management used
 - Provide wildlife habitat
 - Timber production
 - Demonstration Forestry
 - Others?



Thank you for
coming!