Socioeconomic Mitigation Measures

Were They Effective & What Have We Learned?

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Mitigation Strategies

- Payments to Counties
- Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative
- Jobs in the Woods Program
Payments to Counties

- “Owl Guarantee”
- Replace timber receipts with gradually declining payments
  - 1995 85% of ave. 1986-1990
  - 2000 58%
  - Expire in 2004

- 2000 Payment to Counties Legislation
  - Ave. of 3 highest years (1986-1999)
  - Expires in 2006
Payments to Counties

Million dollars

Unadjusted  Owl guarantee adjusted
Payment to Counties: Impact?

- Impact of Strategy?
  - More $ to counties
- Outstanding questions
  - Did it help develop new revenue sources?
  - Did economic development reduce need for payments?
Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative

Goals

- Minimize adverse affects on jobs
- Assist with long-term development & diversification
NEAI Strategies

- Retrain and support dislocated workers
- Retain existing and attract new businesses
- Invest in ecosystem management
- Reorganize delivery mechanisms
NEAI Outcomes/Lessons

Community-Scale Interventions

- Social/human capital investments--key
- Hard infrastructure investments--key in some communities
- Industrial recruitment/expansion--only marginally successful

(From Kusel et al)
NEAI Outcomes/Lessons

Worker assistance

- Many timber dislocations - long before NWFP/NEAI
- Retraining programs never beyond pilots
- NEAI did not serve dislocated workers well
- Little long term investment in ecosystem management industry

(From Kusel et al)
Ecosystem Investment & Jobs in the Woods

- Invest in restoration
- Ensure that target audience benefits
Undertaking Restoration

- Government employees
  - Direct employment
- Non-profits and their employees
  - Grants and agreements
- Contractors and their employees
  - Contracts
Policies to Benefit Local, Rural, Distressed Communities

- Jobs in the Woods Program (‘94/5-)
- Interagency Letter (‘98-)
- Stewardship Contracting (‘98-’13)
- County Payments (‘00-’06)
- Nat’l Fire Plan Approps.(‘01-)
- Interior & F.S. Approps. (‘03-)
FS & BLM Contracting Spending

Fig. 3 Total annual land management procurement spending
Forest Service and BLM, FY 1990-2002
Fig. 7-- Indexed forest-level budgeting, staffing, and contracting, Northwest Forest Plan Area forests in Oregon and Washington compared to nation-wide Forest Service budget excluding fire management.
Did the money reach the target?
Jobs in the Woods Waiver-FS

Forest Service- Dollars and percent of contract value to affected counties


year

real dollars

- 90,000,000 80,000,000 70,000,000 60,000,000 50,000,000 40,000,000 30,000,000 20,000,000 10,000,000 0

- 0.10 0.20 0.30 0.40 0.50 0.60 0.70 0.80 0.90 1.00
BLM-Amount and percent of contract dollars to affected counties

real dollars

year

More local community capture?

If so, distance between nat’l forest and contractor HQ should decline over time.
Mean distance declines over time

Fig. 3—Mean distance contractors traveled to work on national forests
But, expected distance increases, when controlling for other variables.

Fig. 3--Percent change in distance traveled to work on national forest lands in the affected counties of the Northwest Forest Plan, 1990-2001.
Community Benefit Declined

- Fewer contracts and less money over time
- Nearby communities--awards decline more slowly
  - But, not likely result of local benefit policies
- Less direct employment at the forest level

Restoration-based economic development strategies have not created new opportunities restoring national forests in the NW Forest Plan area for local communities.
Management Implications

➢ Upfront monitoring and data collection
➢ Soft Infrastructure development
   • Supports more comprehensive development
➢ Restoration-based economic development
   • Deliberate/integrated efforts
   • Collaborations with communities