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SOCIOECONOMIC MITIGATION MEASURES: WERE THEY EFFECTIVE AND WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

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Along with the Northwest Forest Plan came a series of mitigation measures designed to lessen the negative impact of reduced federal timber harvest and ease the transition to ecosystem management. These initiatives included the Jobs in the Woods Program, the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, a new approach to provide payments to counties in lieu of taxes, as well as continuing to supply goods and services from public lands, when doing so did not conflict with the ecological objectives of the Plan.

The Jobs in the Woods program was designed to create job training and economic opportunities performing restoration and ecosystem management on public lands, primarily through grants and agreements with non-profit organizations and procurement contracts. The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative sought to help communities diversify their economies by providing grants and loans for a wide variety of activities including strategic planning, infrastructure improvements, and industry-specific development projects. The revised payments-to-counties-in-lieu-of-taxes system provided steadily declining funding to replace the reduce impact of a dramatic drop in payments that would have come had payments continued to be tied to timber receipts. Congress replaced this system with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act in 2000, which restored payments to an average of the three highest levels between 1986 and 1999. This increased payments to counties affected by the Plan beginning in 2000.

This presentation will use the information gathered as part of the socioeconomic monitoring module as well as previous research about these mitigation measures to explore the impacts of these efforts, identify barriers to implementation and effectiveness, and consider how these sorts of approaches may be more effectively implemented in the future.

STATUS & TREND REPORTS CONCURRENT SESSIONS- Socioeconomic Monitoring

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