Economic Reflections on the Northwest Forest Plan

Ernie Niemi
ECO Northwest
I don’t think we can accept an answer that is going to paralyze employment in the Northwest

President George H.W. Bush.
Underlying Reasoning, I

Timber Industry (Jobs)

Forest Resources

Environment (Owls)
Underlying Reasoning, II

Timber industry = economic base

Crumbling of the base would have catastrophic, economy-wide consequences.
But the Sky Did Not Fall

Federal Timber Harvests (bbf)

Timber Employment

Total Employment

Per Capita Income ($1999)
Competition for Resources: Current Reality

Timber Industry (Jobs)

Competing Commercial Uses (Other Jobs)

Environment (Intrinsic Values, Ecosystem Services)

Quality of Life (Household Location)

Forest Resources
NWFP Helped Reveal:

- Economic-base model is wrong.
- There is competition for resources.
- There have been benefits as well as costs.
- Messages matter.