

## **Forest Economics: How We Got Here and Where We Are Heading**

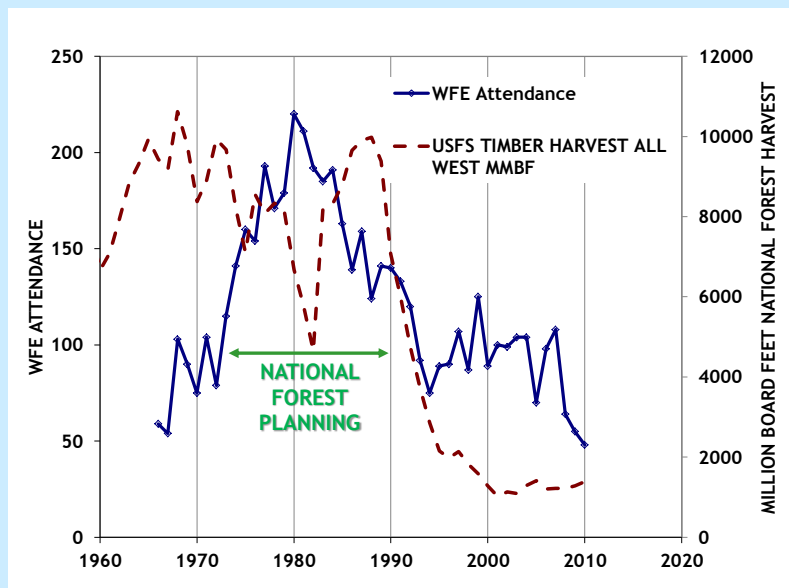
### **Western Forest Economics: How We Got Here and Where We Are Heading**

- EVOLUTION OF DISCUSSION TOPICS IN EARLY WFE MEETINGS
- BUT, WAIT, WHERE ARE WE?
- ATTRIBUTES OF FUTURE ECONOMICS RESEARCH

## Discussion Topics at WFE circa 1970-71

- Public Land Management
- Taxation of private forest land
- Market models for projection and policy analysis
- Optimal stand management
- International trade
- Production structure of the forest industry
- Energy production from wood

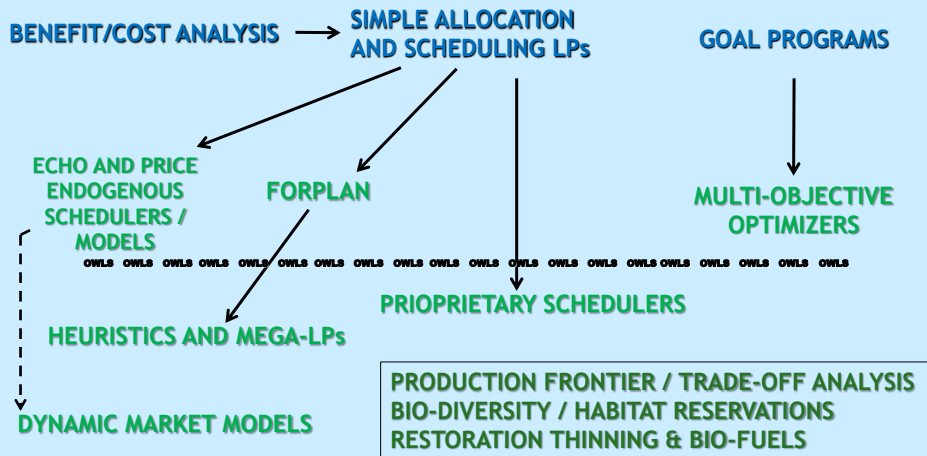
## WFE ATTENDANCE



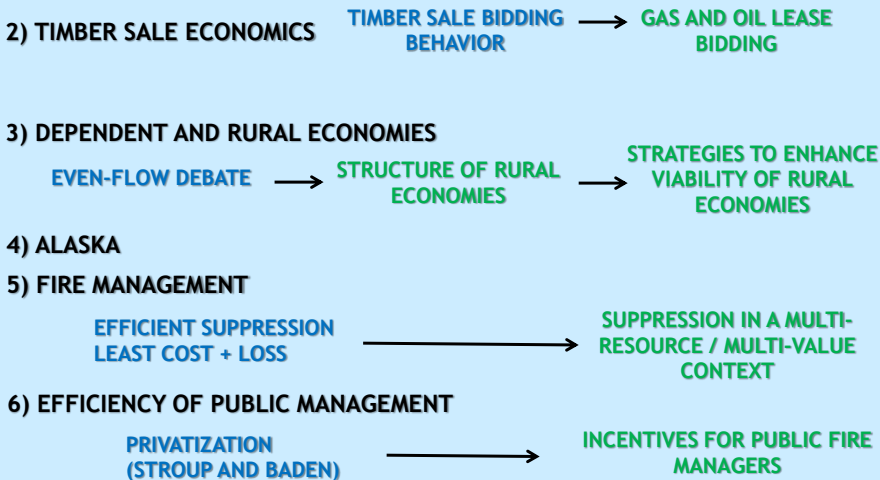
# EARLY WFE TOPICS AND THEIR EVOLUTION

## PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

### 1) OPTIMAL LAND-USE ALLOCATION IN A MULTIPLE USE CONTEXT (NOT JUST HARVEST SCHEDULING)



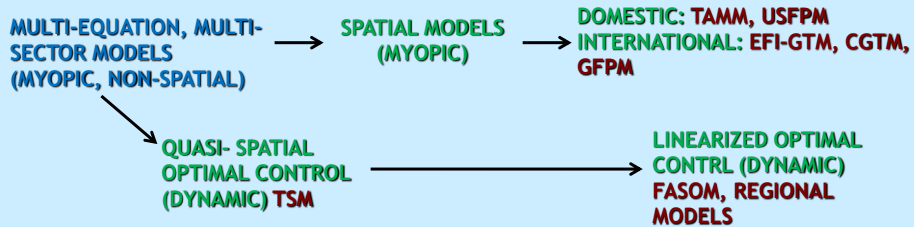
## PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT, cont'd



## TAXATION OF PRIVATE FOREST LAND



## MARKET MODELS: PROJECTION AND POLICY ANALYSIS



## OPTIMAL STAND MANAGEMENT



## PRODUCTION STRUCTURE OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY



## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

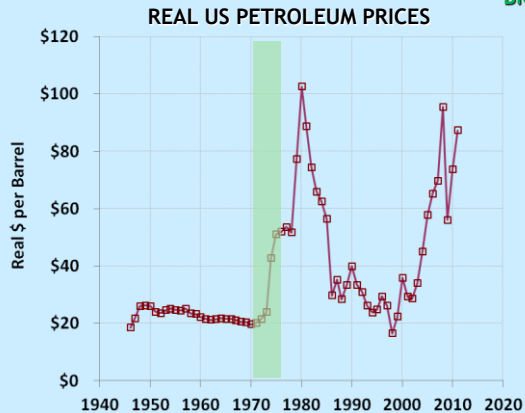


## ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM WOOD

WOOD POWERED  
ENERGY GENERATION

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BIOMASS  
BIOFUELS  
BIO-ELECTRICITY



## SO WHERE ARE WE?

- Western forest economics research is strongly influenced by federal land management policies.
  - In the absence of any clear (or even murky) paths forward, what studies are policy-relevant?
  - Is the future one of (i) local sustainable production cooperatives, (ii) special management units (like Rep. DeFazio's BLM Trust) or (iii) a broader federal policy?
- What is the link between provision of environmental services on federal lands and well-being of western non-rural populations?
  - Attribution with evidence
  - Experiments?
- Why so little attention to private lands, both corporate and NIPF?
- What's happening to the processing industry?
- What's happened to the industry and resource data?

## **PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE**

**TRENDS IN PUBLIC POLICIES, MARKETS, TECHNOLOGY**

**MORE EMPIRICAL: SPATIAL AT BROADER SCALES**

**EXPERIMENTAL: BEHAVIOR OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES USERS**

**MORE FOCUSED ON MICRO-SCALE: FIRMS, OWNERS**

**LOOSEN STRICT RATIONALITY ASSUMPTIONS IN MODELS**

**WHO WILL BECOME FOREST ECONOMISTS?**

**BROAD SOCIAL SCIENCE EXPOSURE IN EDUCATION**

**ORTHODOXY VERSUS HETERODOXY**

**MORE FOCUS ON DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIA AND ADJUSTMENT**