



**University of Idaho**

College of Natural Resources

# IDAHO FOREST ECONOMICS

Greg Latta

**POLICY ANALYSIS GROUP**

IFRP Webinar May 18, 2020



@UIDAHOCNR

---

e-newsletter and reports

<http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/pag>



# CNR POLICY ANALYSIS GROUP



**Dennis Becker**  
Dean



**Greg Latta**  
Director



**Phil Cook**  
Principal Researcher



**Greg Alward**  
Senior Scientist



**Raju Pokharel**  
Postdoctoral Fellow



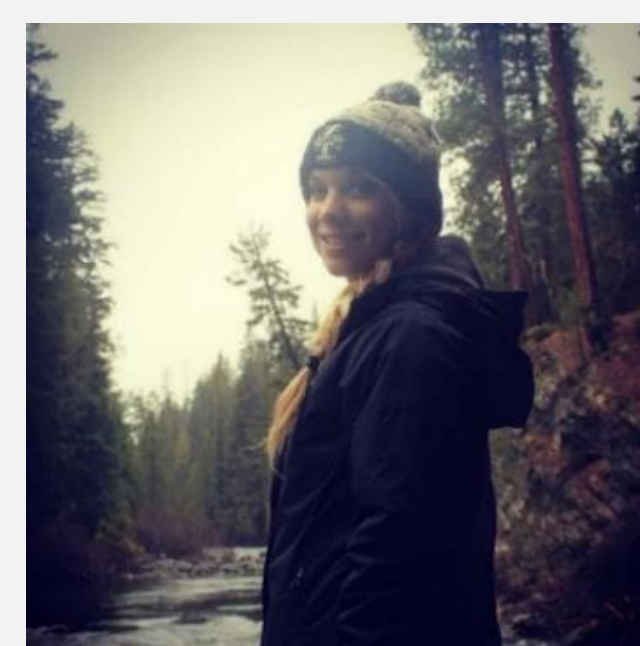
**Chelsea McIver**  
Doctoral



**Katie Wollstein**  
Doctoral



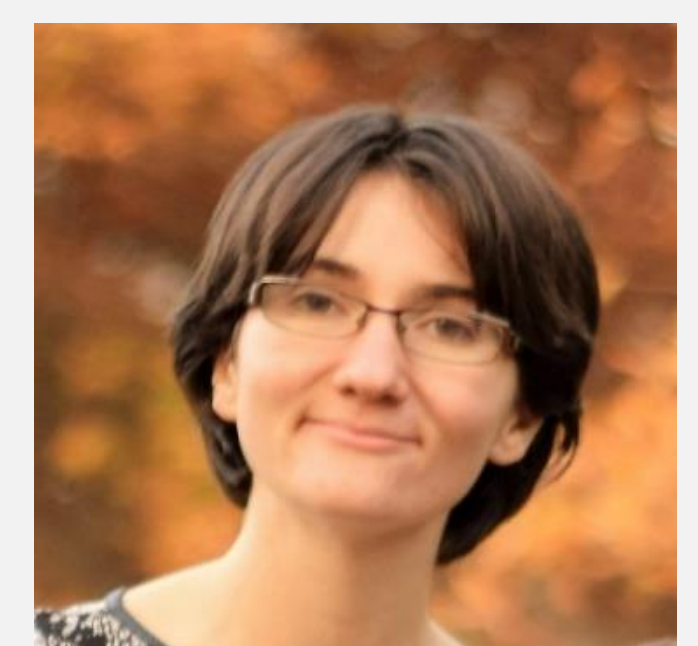
**Chad Washington**  
Masters



**Michelle Benedum**  
Masters



**Sarah Parkinson**  
Masters



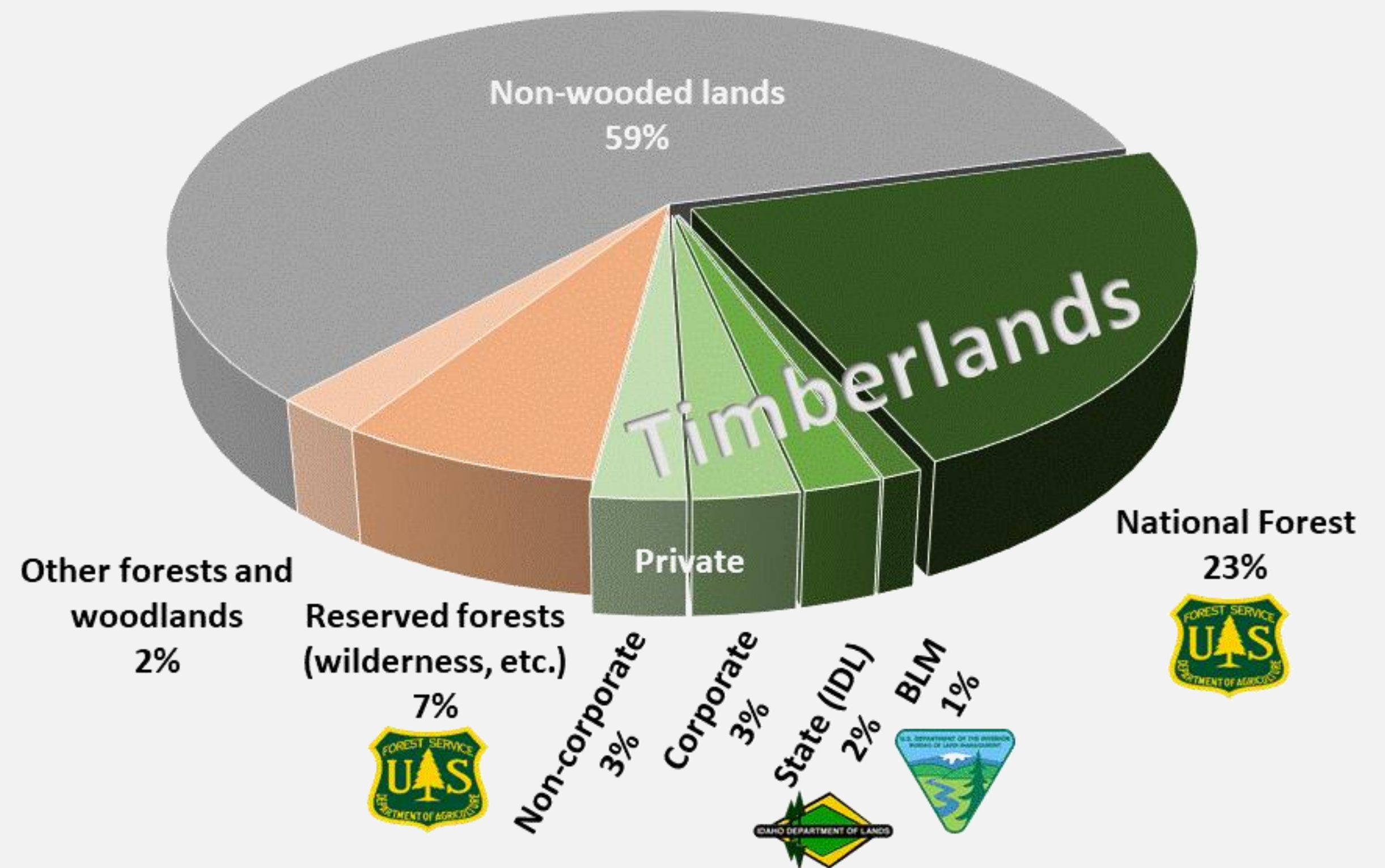
**Cassandra Goodmansen**  
Masters



# IDAHO'S FORESTS

- National Forest System Lands
  - 12.0 million acres of timberlands
- State Endowment Lands
  - 1.1 million acres of timberlands
- Private forest lands
  - 2.8 million acres of timberlands

## Idaho's 53 Million Acres

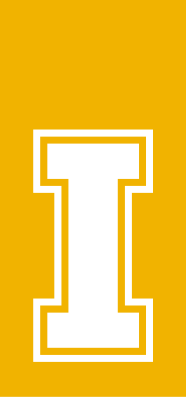


Data source:

Oswalt et al. 2018. Forest Resources of the United States, 2017: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service Update of the 2010 RPA Assessment, Review Draft. [https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/rpa/docs/2017%20RPA\\_TABLES%20Federal%20Register%20Review%20Draft%20032917-pdf.pdf](https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/rpa/docs/2017%20RPA_TABLES%20Federal%20Register%20Review%20Draft%20032917-pdf.pdf)



# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO'S FORESTS



200+ manufacturing and wholesaling businesses

IDAHO FOREST FACTBOOK

County Atlas of Forest Land and the Forest Products Industry

Station Bulletin 109

August 2019

Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station

Moscow, Idaho

DIRECTOR

Dennis R. Becker, Ph.D.

Forest Land Ownership

Federal

State and other public

Private

Non-forested land

Contributors:

Philip S. Cook, *Principal Researcher*

Amy Thorson, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Greg Alward, *Senior Researcher*

University of Idaho

Policy Analysis Group

Legend:

- Sawmills, millwork, treating
- Engineered wood and panel products
- Wood furniture and fixtures
- Other wood products
- Pulp, paper and paperboard mills
- Converted paper products
- Wholesalers of wood and paper products

Counties shown on map: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Clearwater, Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho, Lemhi, Adams, Washington, Valley, Payette, Gem, Boise, Elmore, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Twin Falls, Cassia, Bannock, Bingham, Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Franklin, Bear Lake.

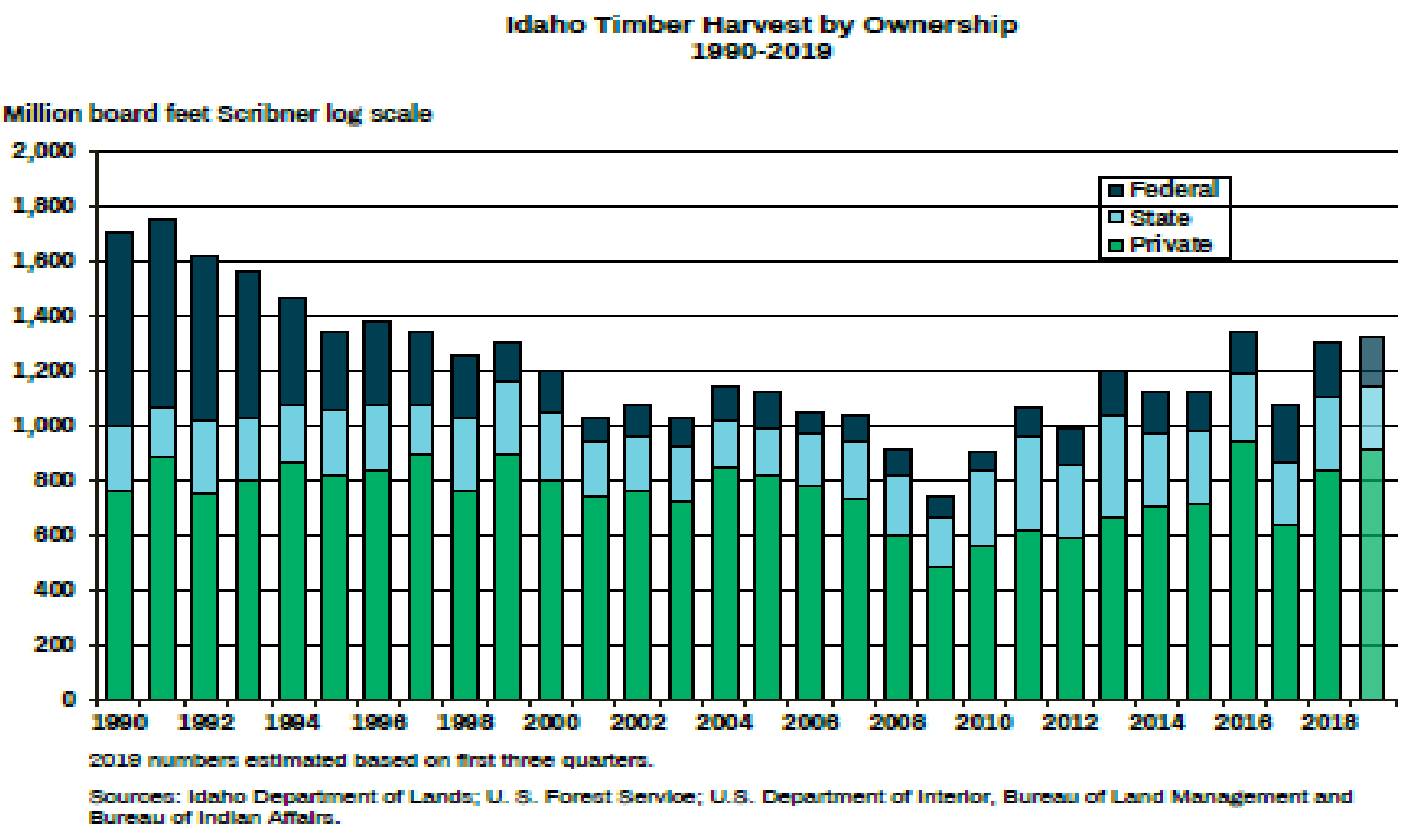


# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO'S FORESTS



## IDAHO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY 2019

### TIMBER HARVEST



**1.3**  
billion board feet  
+1.2% from 2018

**69%**  
from Private lands

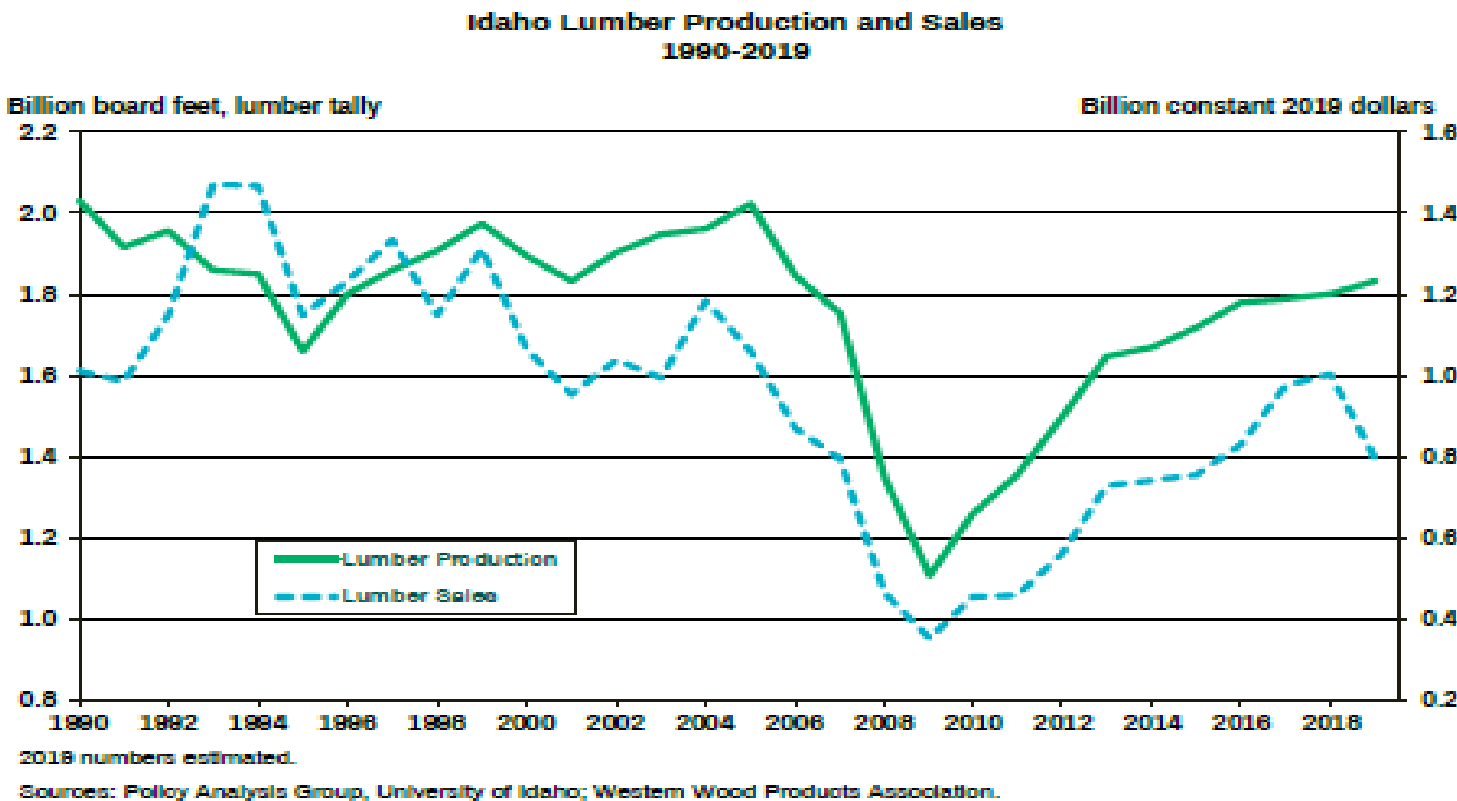
**17%**  
from State lands

**14%**  
from Federal lands

### LUMBER PRODUCTION AND SALES

**1.9**  
billion board feet  
of Lumber  
produced  
+4.1% from 2018

**\$793**  
million of Lumber  
sales  
-21% from 2018  
(due to 23% reduction in  
average price from 2018)



## IDAHO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY 2019

### ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

#### DIRECT EFFECTS

initial spending by FPI businesses for

- Forest Management (foresters)
- Harvest Operations (loggers)
- Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing (mill workers)



#### SUPPORT EFFECTS

additional spending by FPI businesses for supplies and by FPI workers, for example

- Harvesting equipment
- Mill equipment
- Home sales to workers
- Food for workers' families

**\$2.2 Billion** to Idaho's Gross State Product  
More than **31,000** jobs



Forest  
Management



Harvest  
Operations



Wood Products,  
Paper, and  
Furniture  
Manufacturing

= Total Forest  
Products  
Industry

#### Employment

jobs

Direct	3,477	2,188	10,747	16,412
Support	1,010	361	13,475	14,846
Total	4,487	2,549	24,222	31,358

#### Labor Income

million dollars

Direct	\$123	\$79	\$542	\$744
Support	\$30	\$11	\$462	\$503
Total	\$153	\$90	\$1,004	\$1,247

#### Gross State Product

million dollars

Direct	\$203	\$127	\$874	\$1,204
Support	\$65	\$24	\$919	\$1,008
Total	\$268	\$150	\$1,792	\$2,212

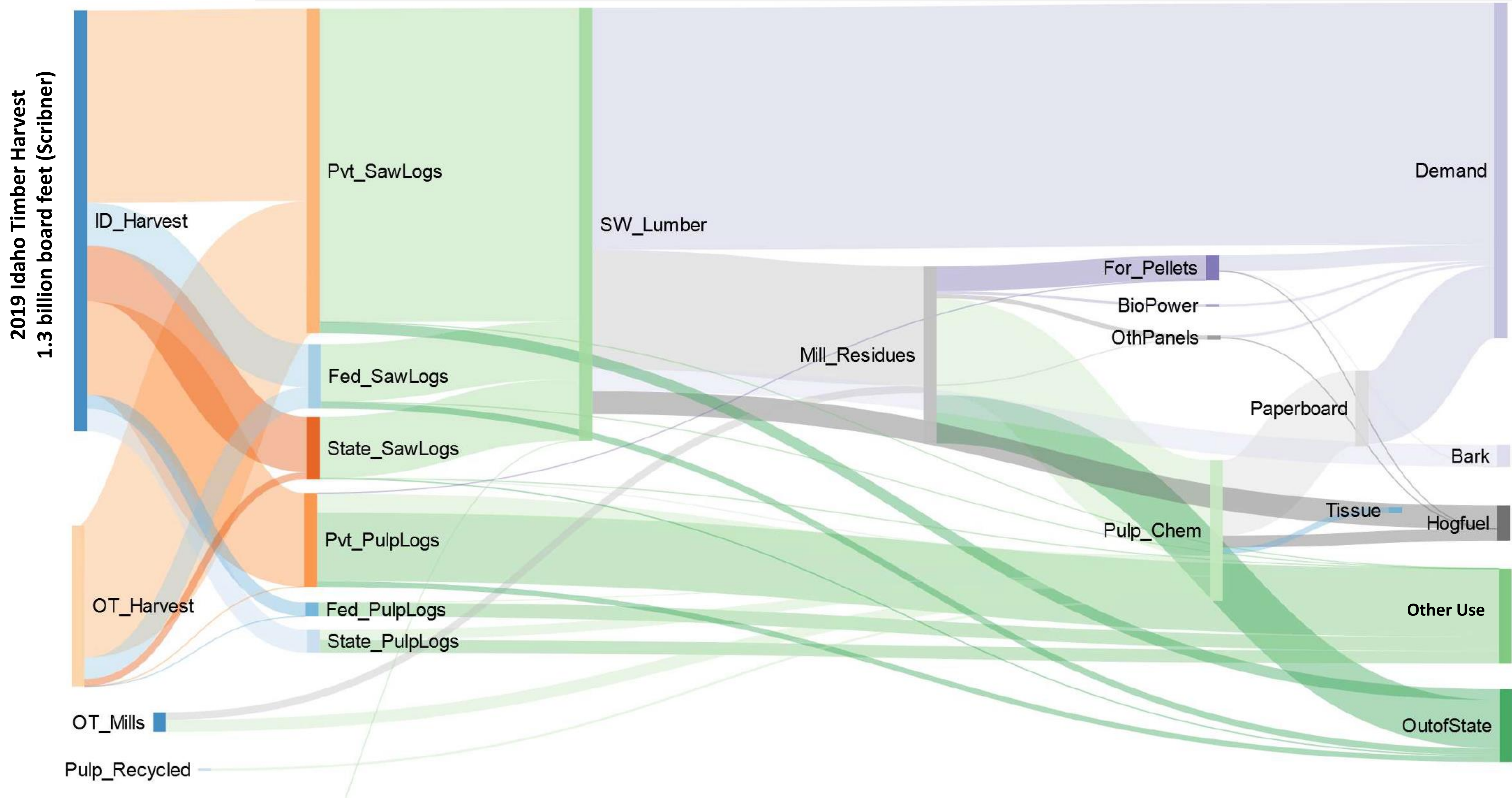
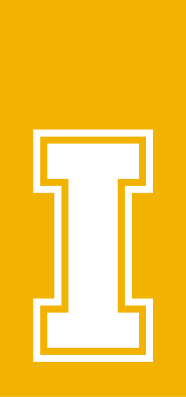
Numbers based on 2018 data.  
Sources: Policy Analysis Group, University of Idaho; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, regional accounts data.

Electronic copies available at: [www.uidaho.edu/cnr/policy-analysis-group/research/forest-products-industry-reports](http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/policy-analysis-group/research/forest-products-industry-reports)

Each Million  
Board Feet of  
Timber Harvested  
in Idaho  
Provides  
**24  
Jobs**  
13 direct jobs  
plus  
11 support jobs

REPORT  
CONTRIBUTORS:  
Raju Pokharel, Ph.D.,  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Greg Alward, Ph.D.,  
Senior Researcher  
Philip S. Cook,  
Principal Researcher  
Greg Latta, Ph.D.,  
Interim Director

# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO'S FORESTS





# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO'S FORESTS

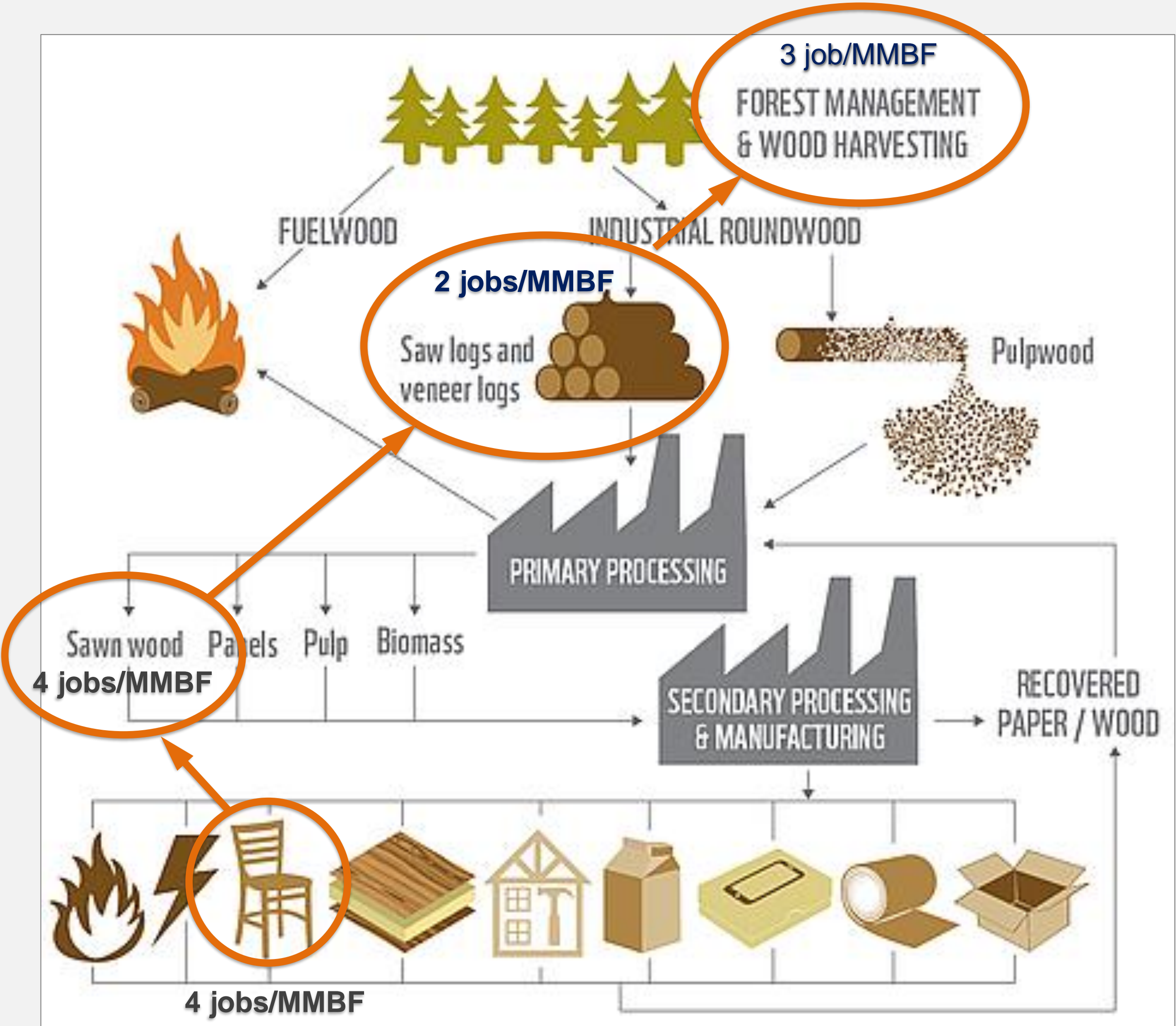
\$2.2 billion in state GDP (2018); 24 total jobs per million board feet

## SUPPLY CHAIN MULTIPLIERS

*Direct* jobs in each sector

*Indirect* jobs include support industries (e.g., electricians, mechanics, teachers)

<div>Forest Management + Harvest Operations + Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing = Total Forest Products Industry</div>				
Employment	----- jobs -----			
Direct	3,477	2,188	10,747	16,412
Support	1,010	361	13,475	14,846
Total	4,487	2,549	24,222	31,358
Labor Income	----- million dollars -----			
Direct	\$123	\$79	\$542	\$744
Support	\$30	\$11	\$462	\$503
Total	\$153	\$90	\$1,004	\$1,247
Gross State Product	----- million dollars -----			
Direct	\$203	\$127	\$874	\$1,204
Support	\$65	\$24	\$919	\$1,008
Total	\$268	\$150	\$1,792	\$2,212

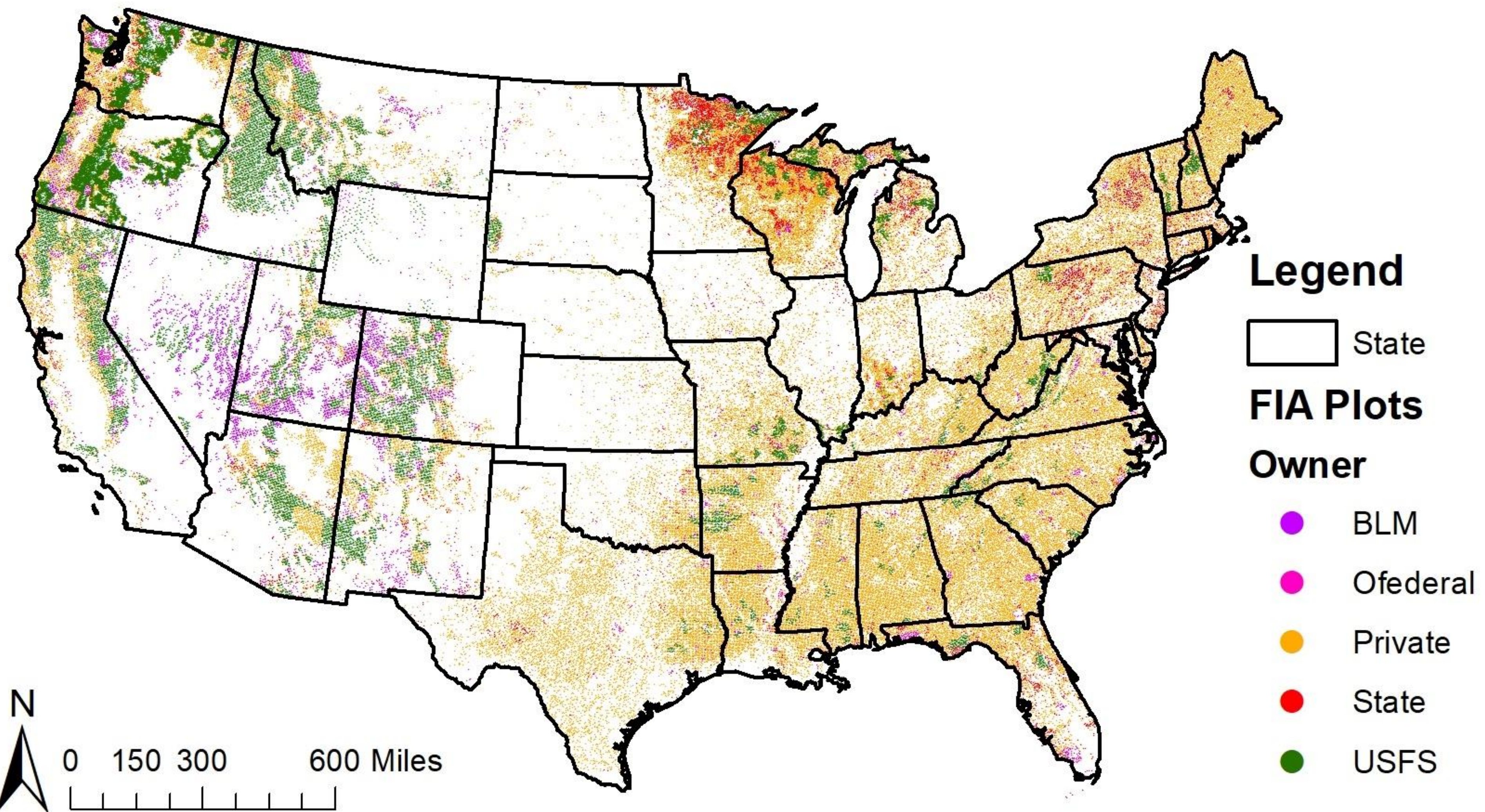




# FORESTS OF THE UNITED STATES



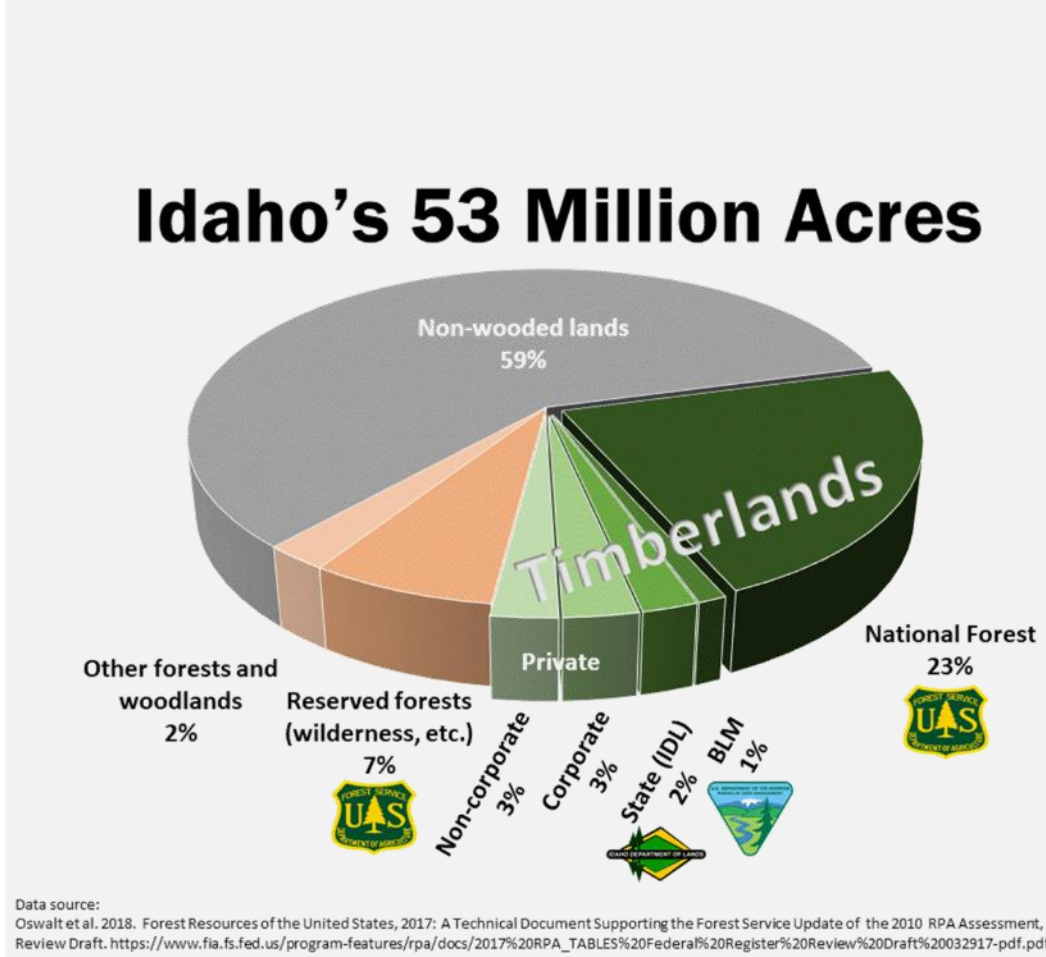
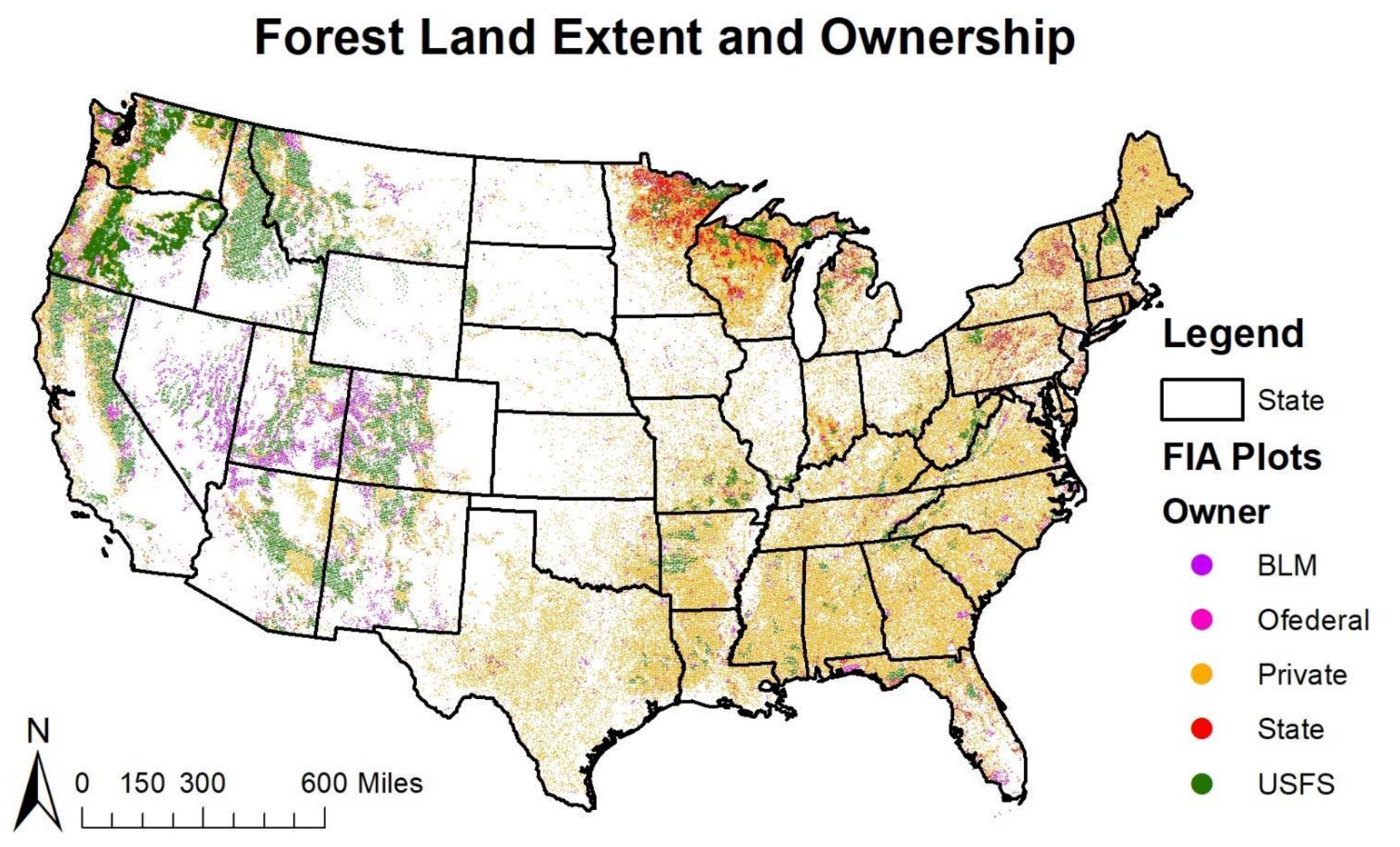
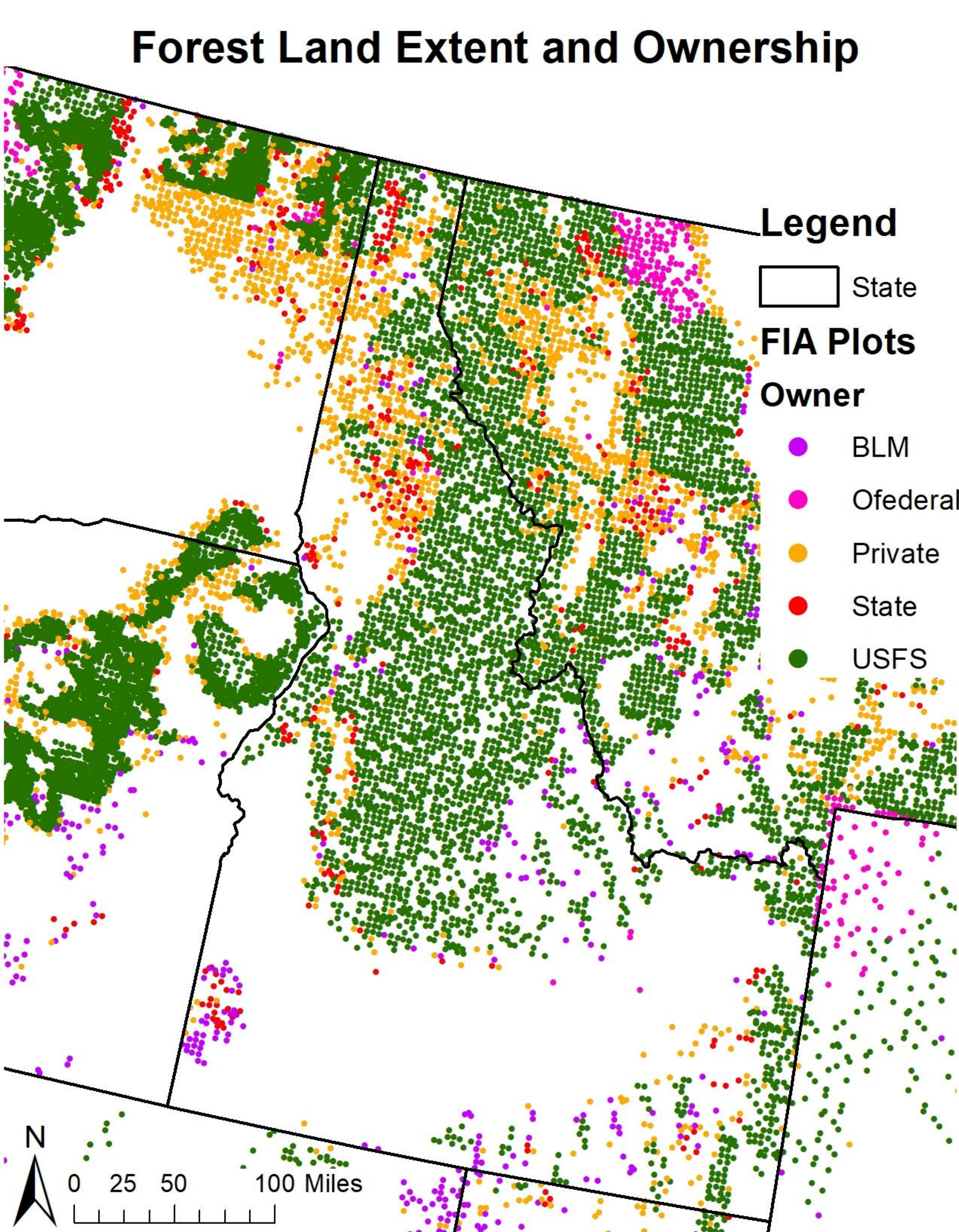
## Forest Land Extent and Ownership



Owner	Million Acres	Percentage
BLM	31	5%
Ofederal	19	3%
Private	427	64%
State	57	8%
USFS	135	20%
Total	670	



# FORESTS OF IDAHO



Idaho		
Owner	Million Acres	Percentage
BLM	0.9	4%
Ofederal	0.1	0%
Private	2.9	14%
State	1.2	6%
USFS	15.9	76%
Total	21	

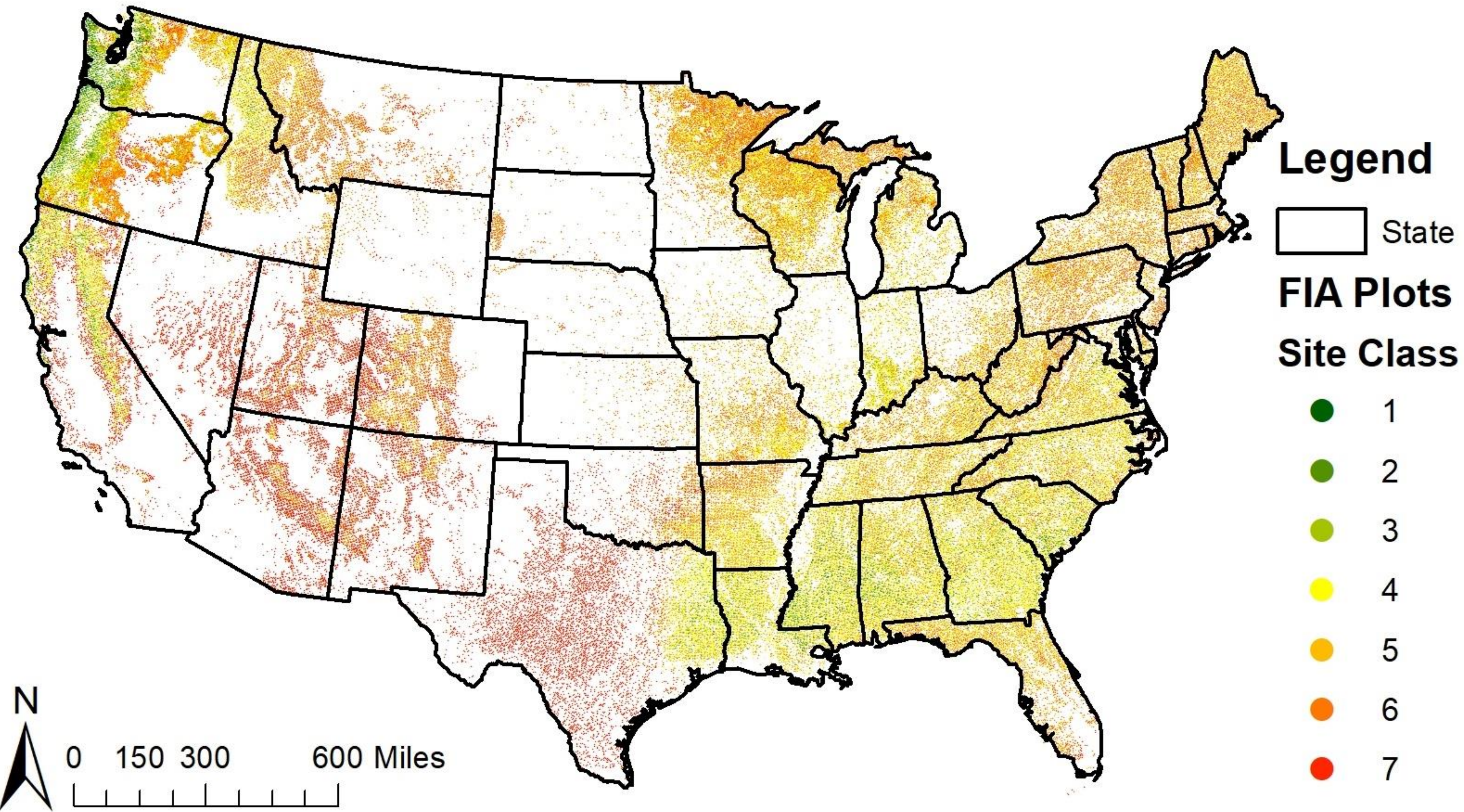
United States		
Owner	Million Acres	Percentage
BLM	31	5%
Ofederal	19	3%
Private	427	64%
State	57	8%
USFS	135	20%
Total	670	



# FORESTS OF THE UNITED STATES



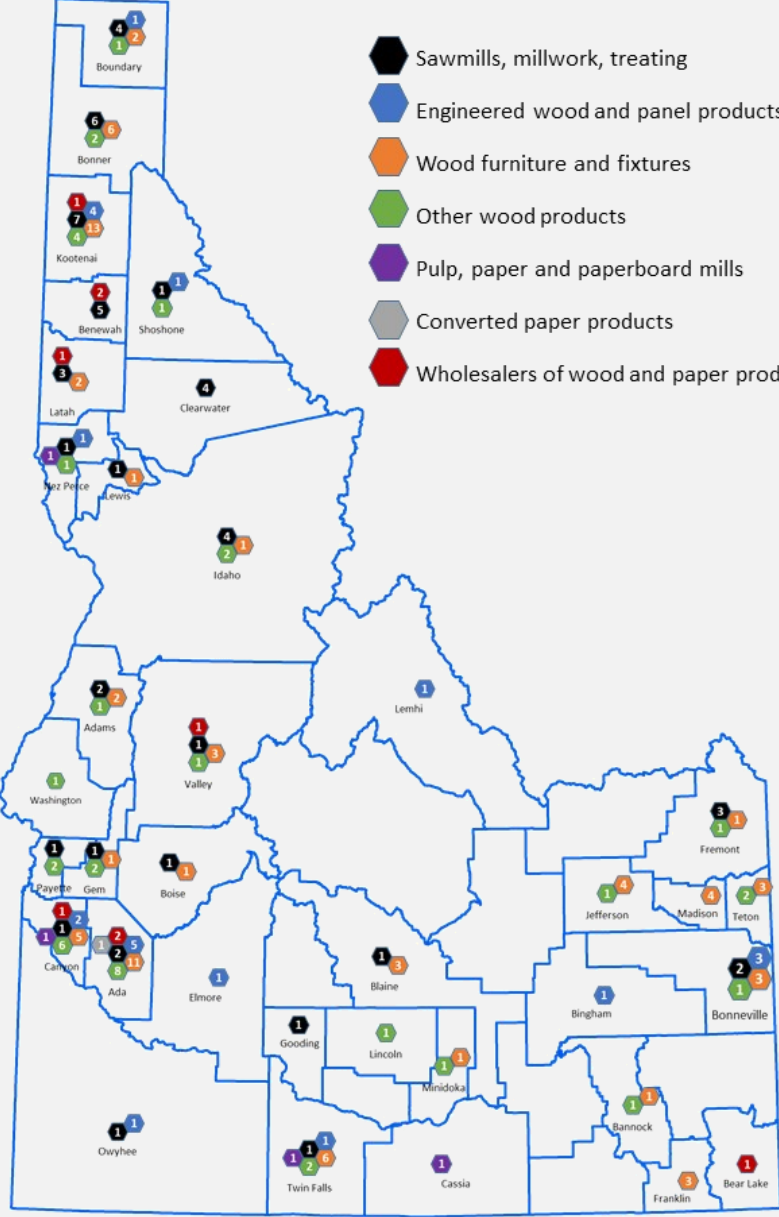
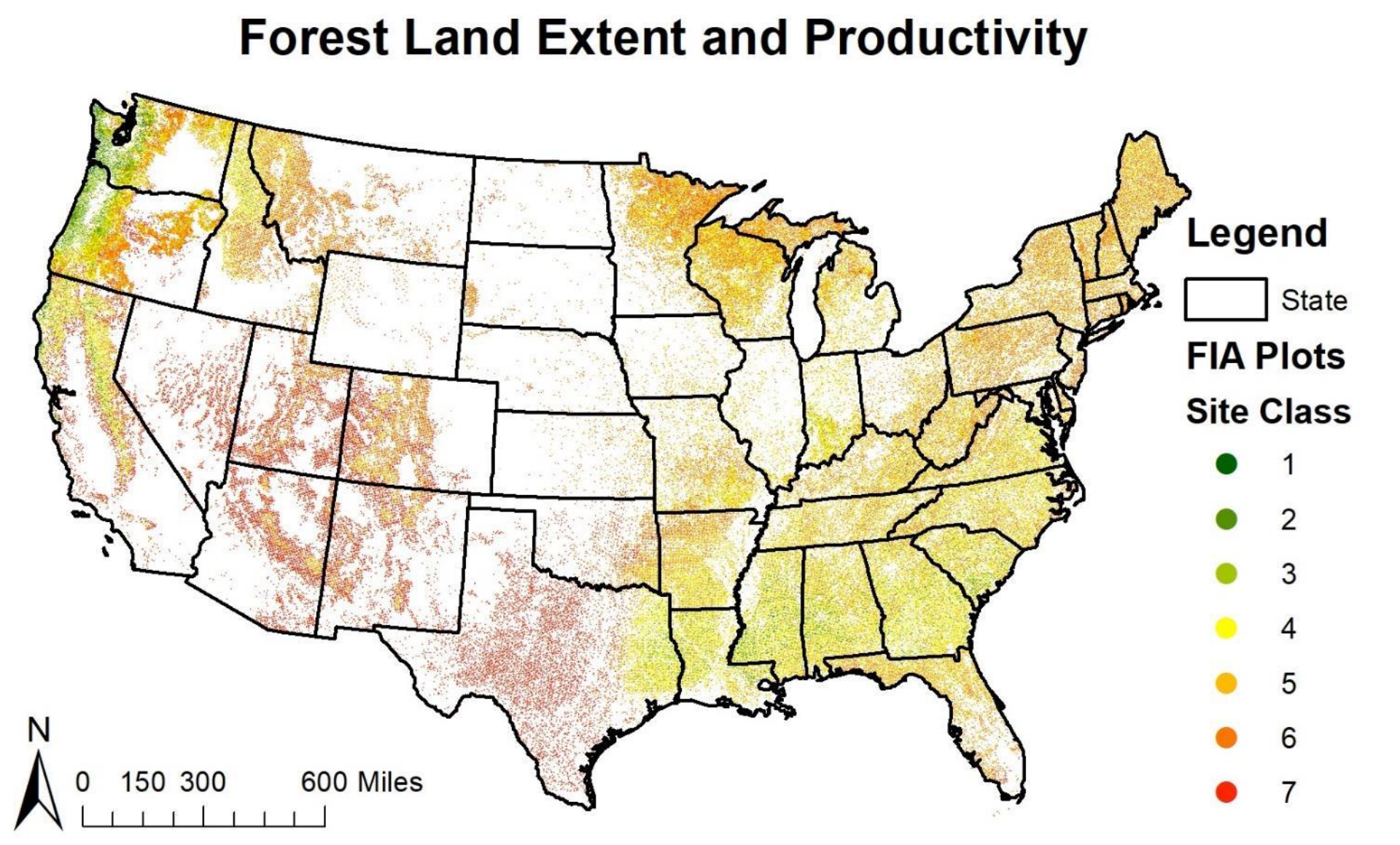
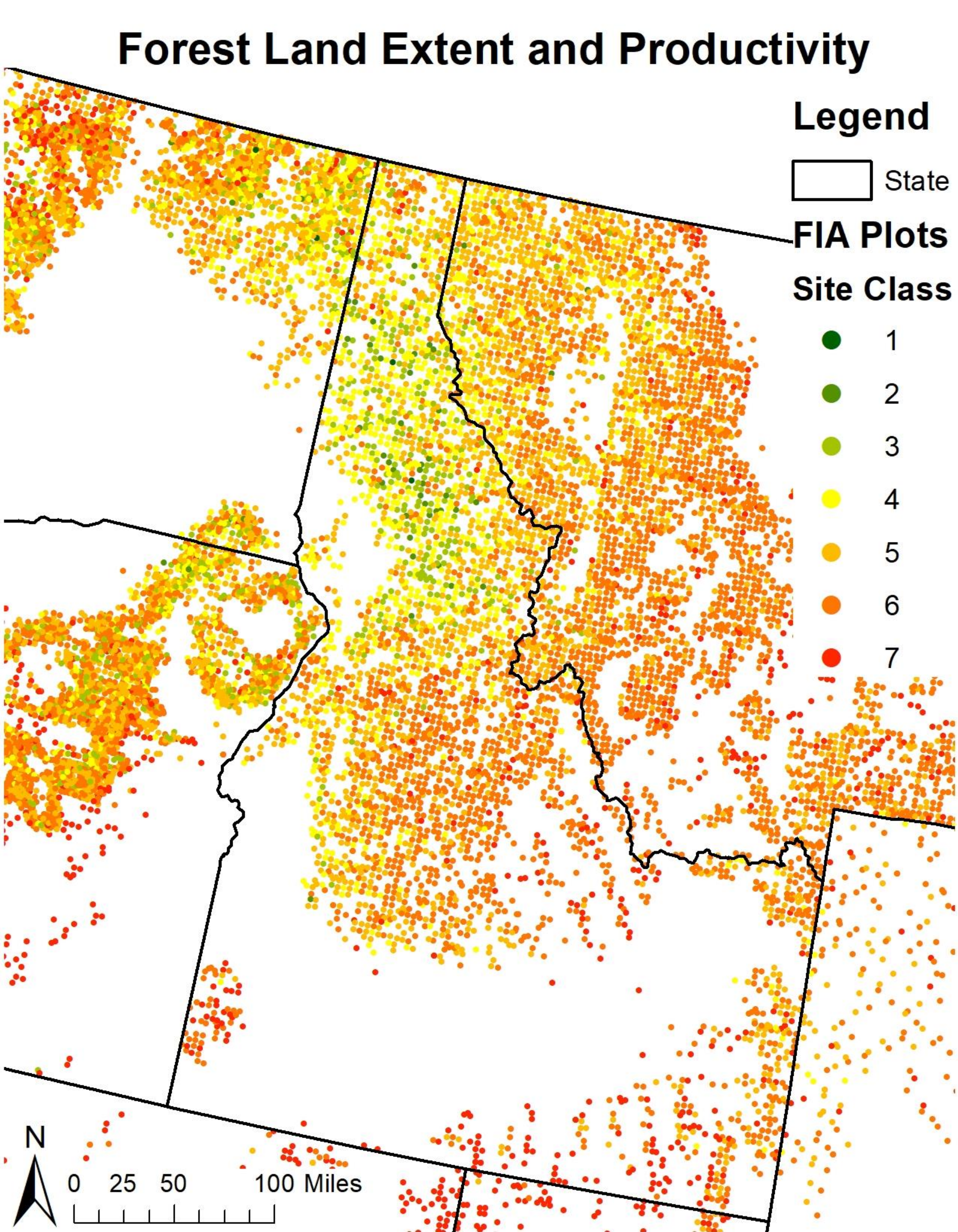
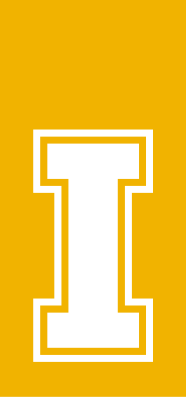
## Forest Land Extent and Productivity



Site Class	Million Acres	Percentage
1	2	0%
2	17	3%
3	50	7%
4	109	16%
5	190	28%
6	160	24%
7	140	21%
Total	670	



# FORESTS OF IDAHO

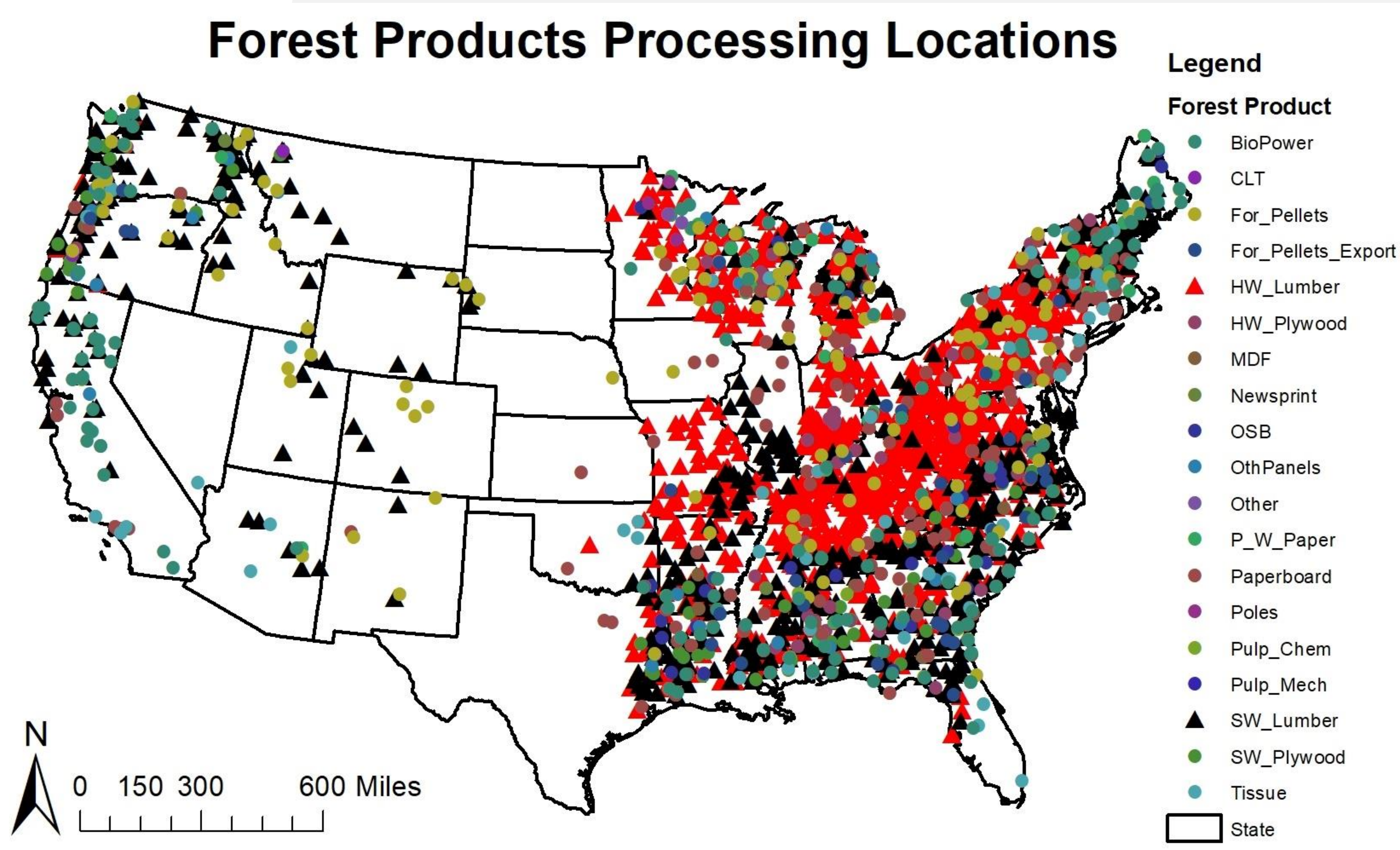


Idaho		
Site Class	Million Acres	Percentage
1	0.01	0%
2	0.26	1%
3	1.64	8%
4	3.99	19%
5	6.50	31%
6	7.29	35%
7	1.31	6%
Total	21.01	

United States		
Site Class	Million Acres	Percentage
1	2	0%
2	17	3%
3	50	7%
4	109	16%
5	190	28%
6	160	24%
7	140	21%
Total	670	



# FOREST PROCESSING IN THE UNITED STATES



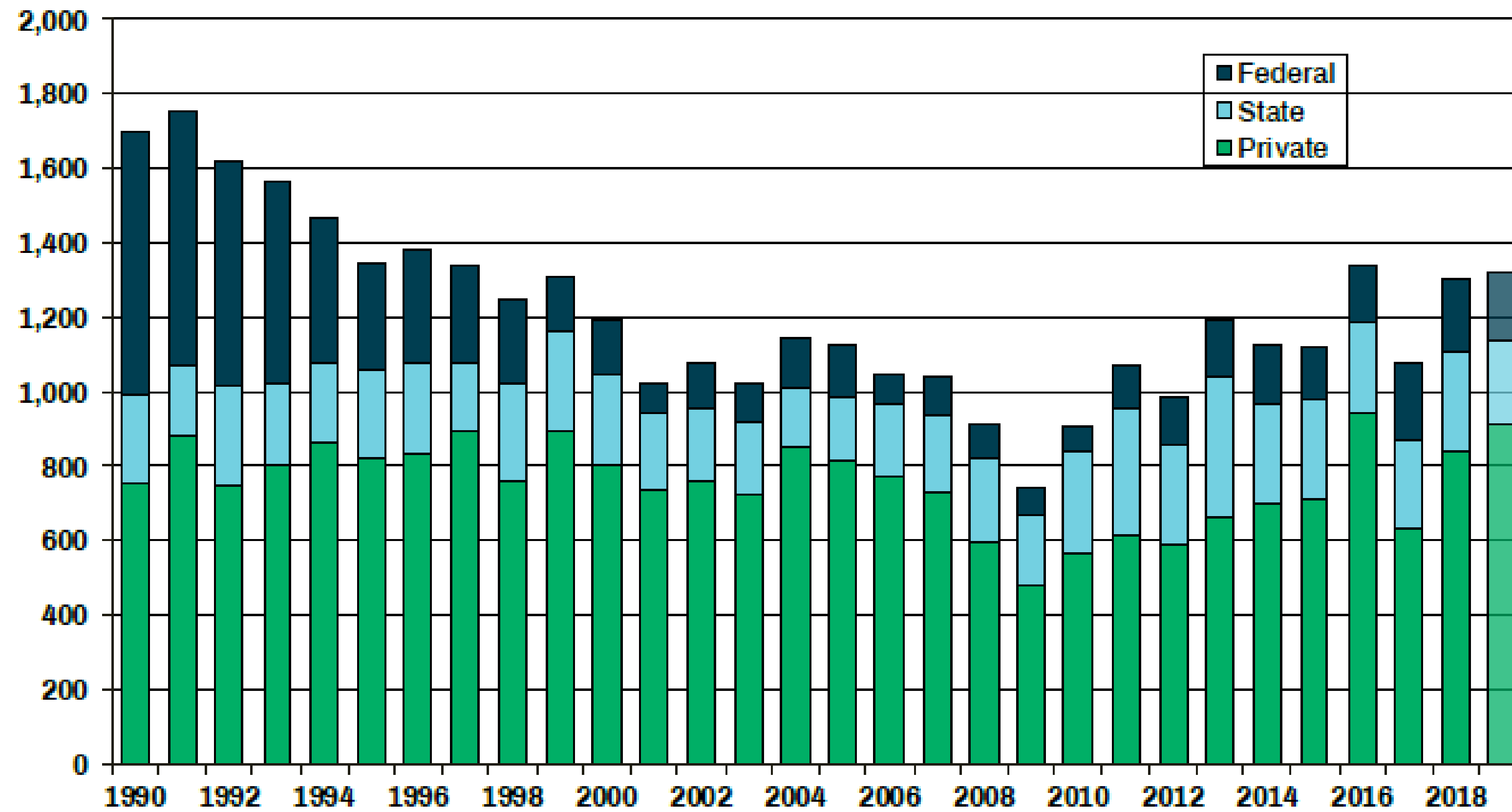


# IDAHO'S TIMBER HARVEST



Idaho Timber Harvest by Ownership  
1990-2019

Million board feet Scribner log scale



2019 numbers estimated based on first three quarters.

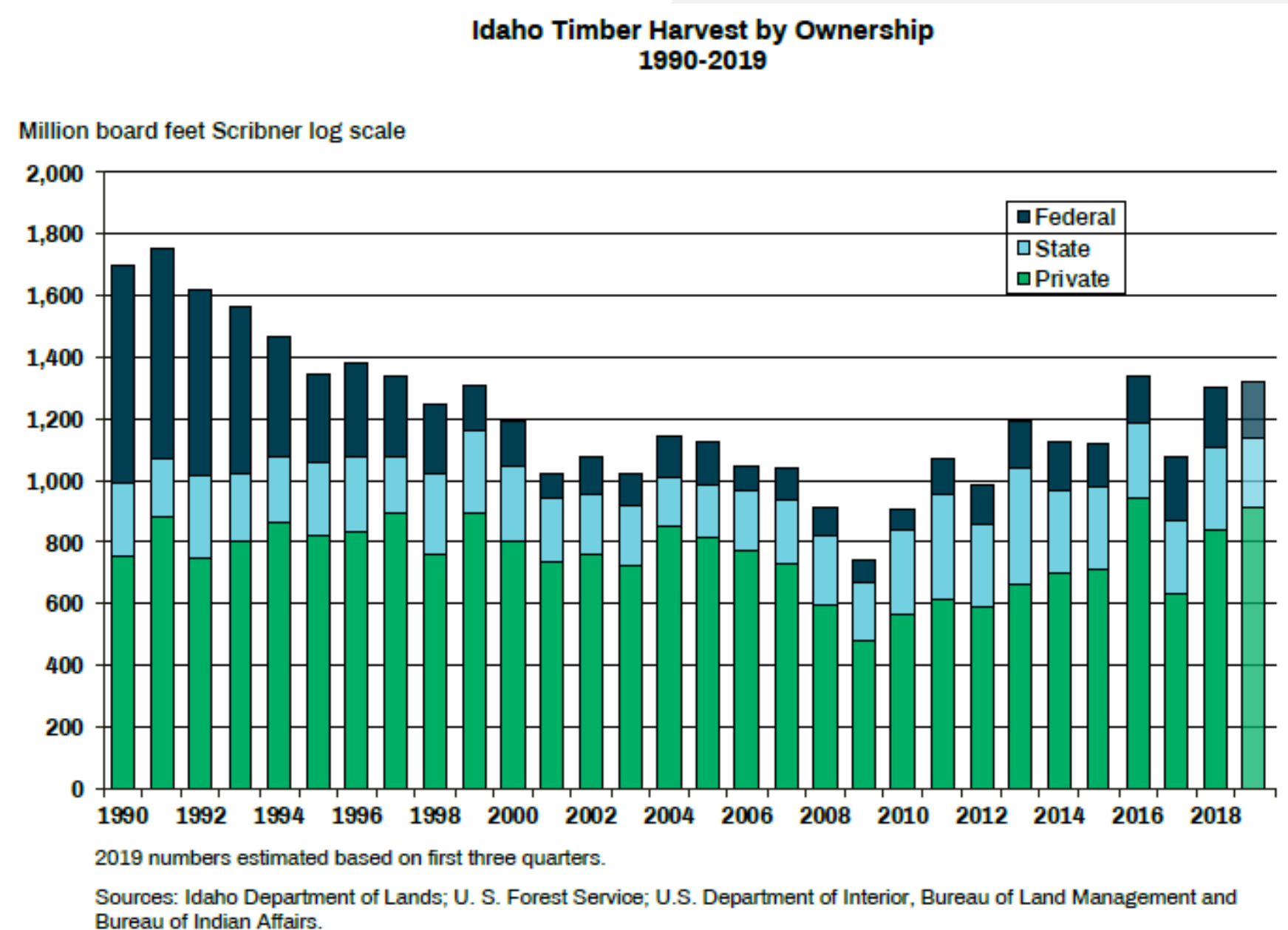
Sources: Idaho Department of Lands; U. S. Forest Service; U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs.



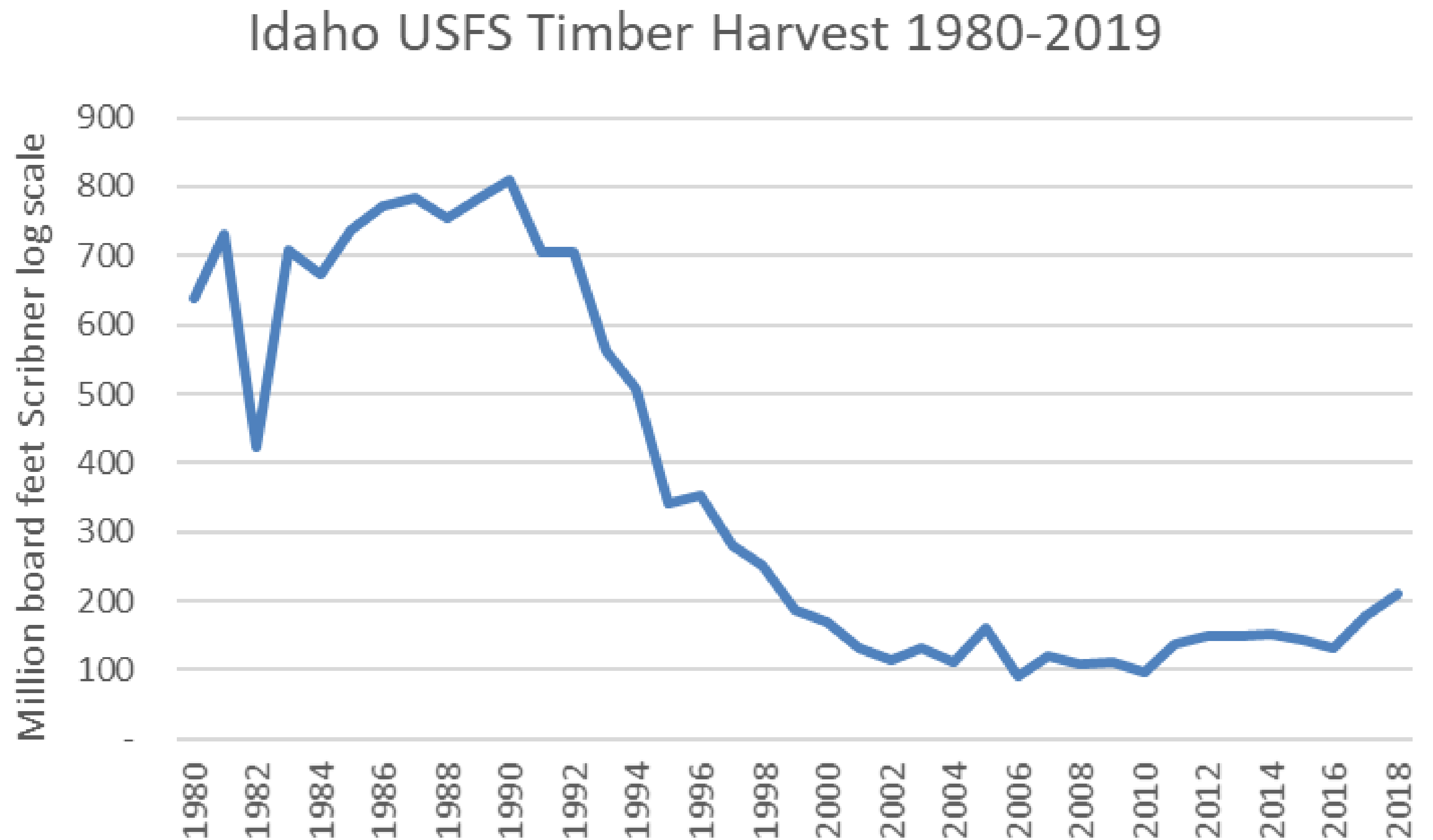
# IDAHO'S TIMBER HARVEST



## Idaho Timber Harvest by Ownership, 1990-2019

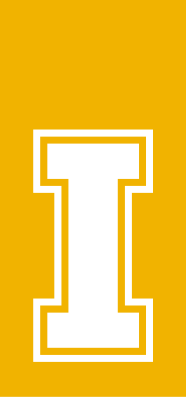


- Isolating the USFS component of total Idaho harvest
- >85% drop in harvest in the 1990's

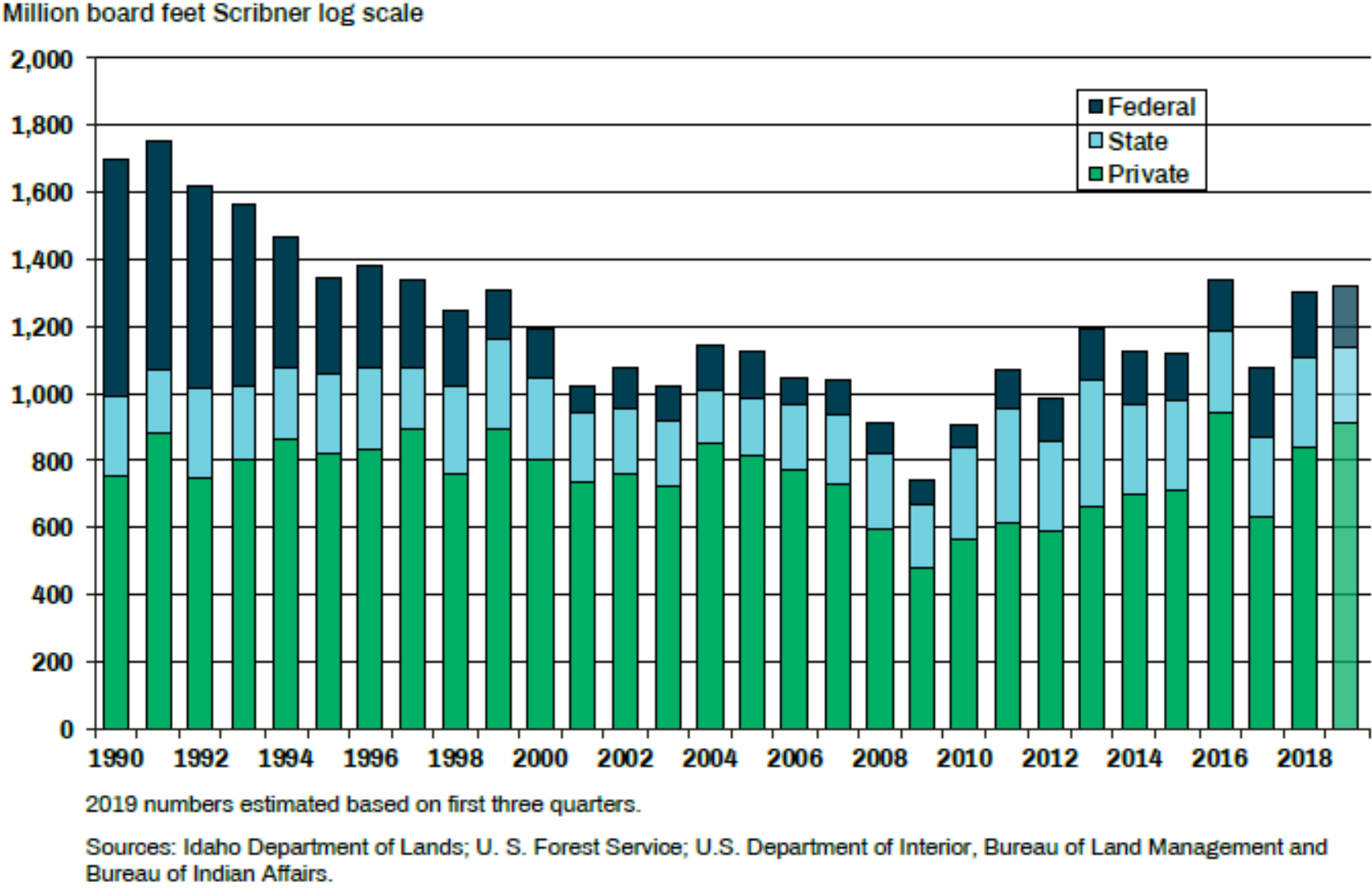




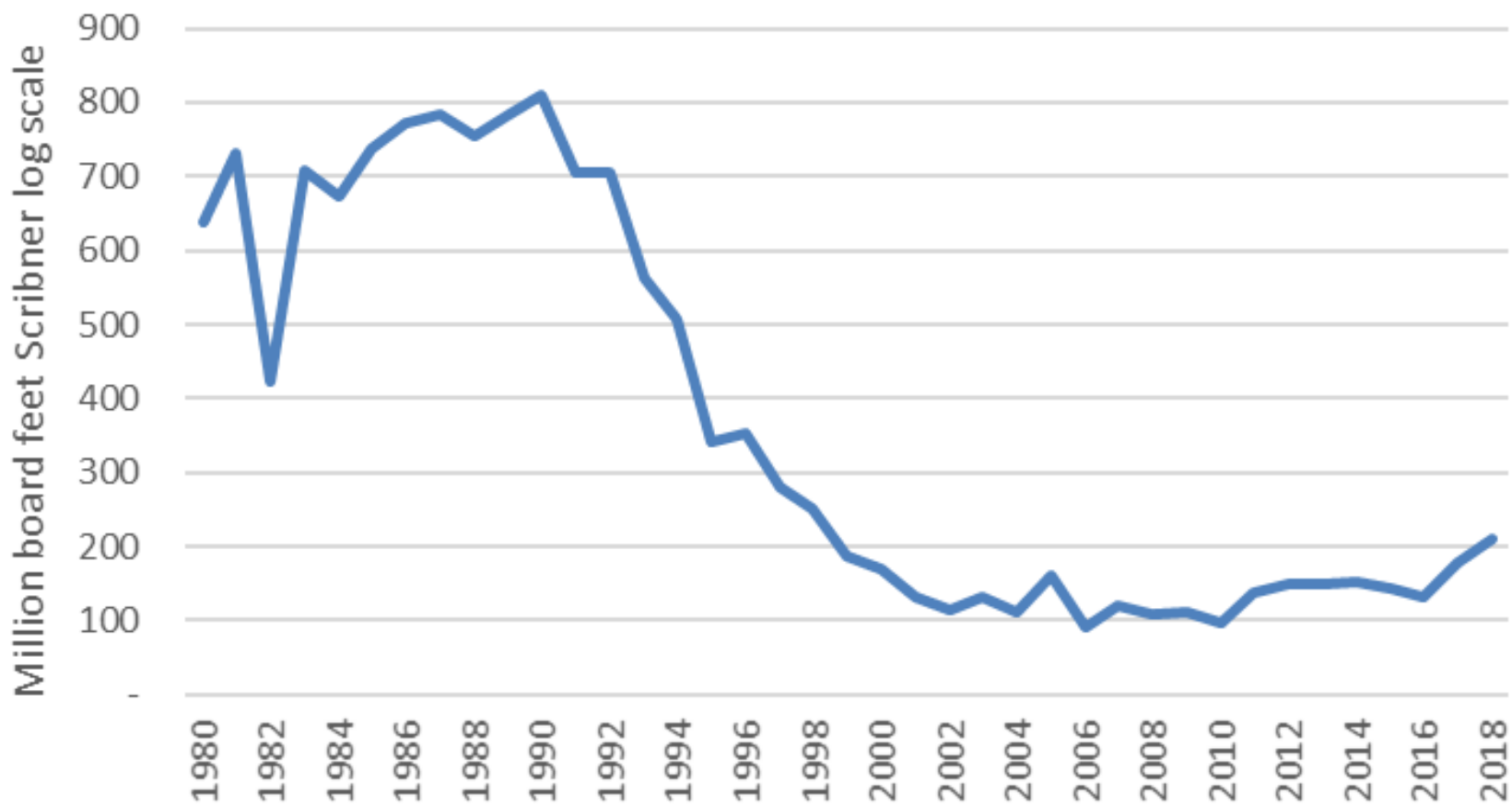
# IDAHO'S TIMBER HARVEST



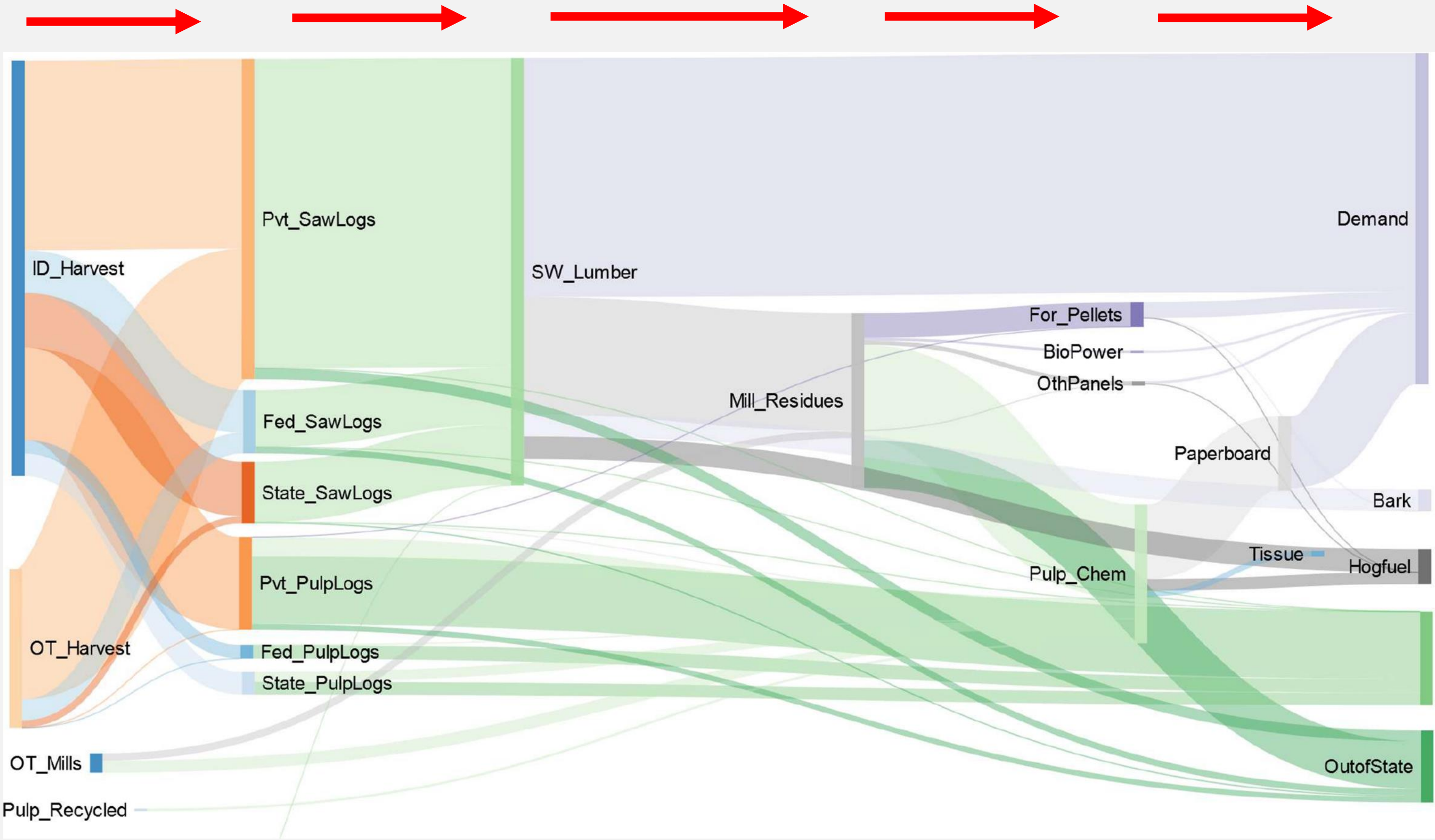
Idaho Timber Harvest by Ownership  
1990-2019



Idaho USFS Timber Harvest 1980-2019



- That harvest moves through our forest economy

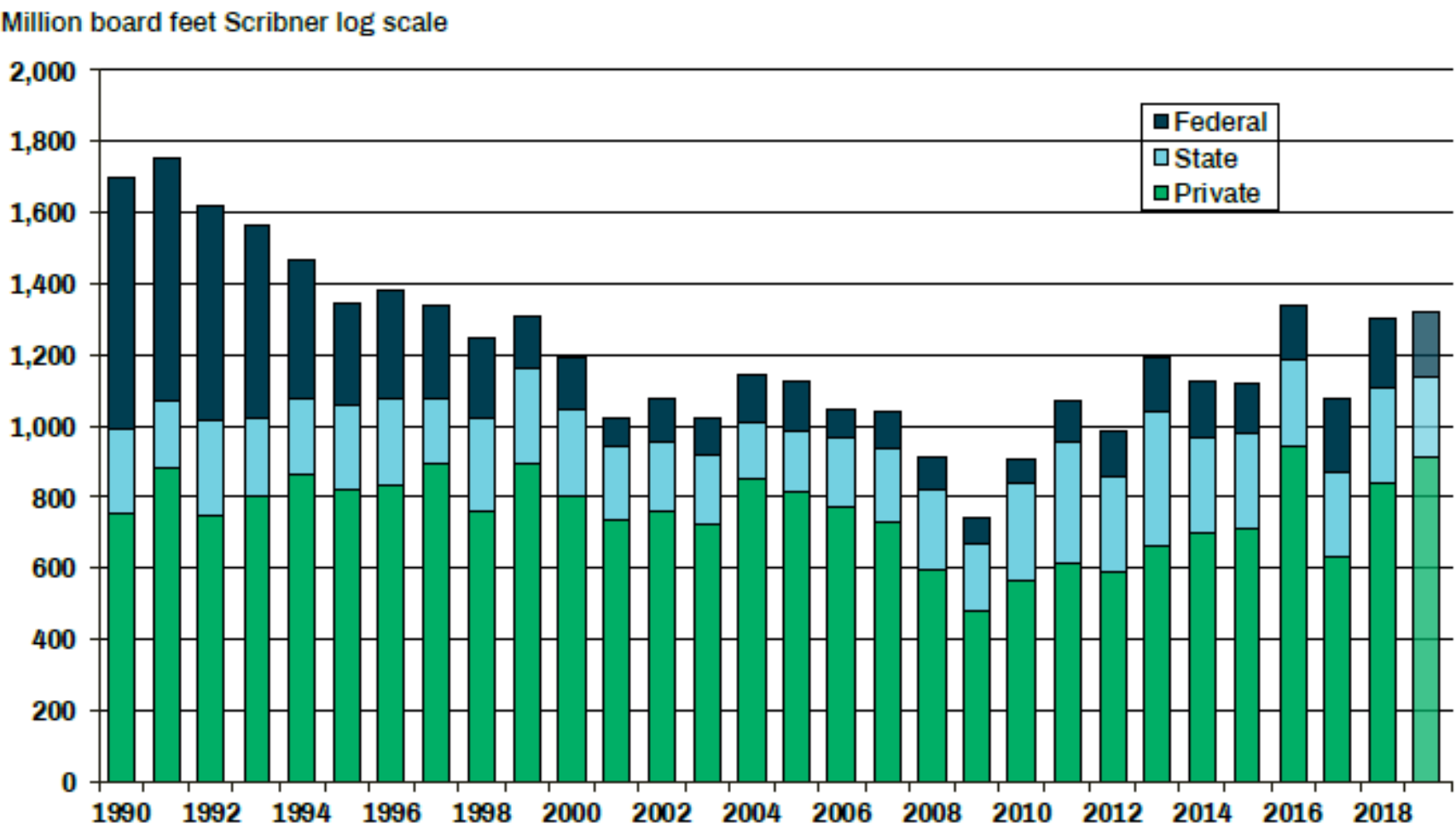




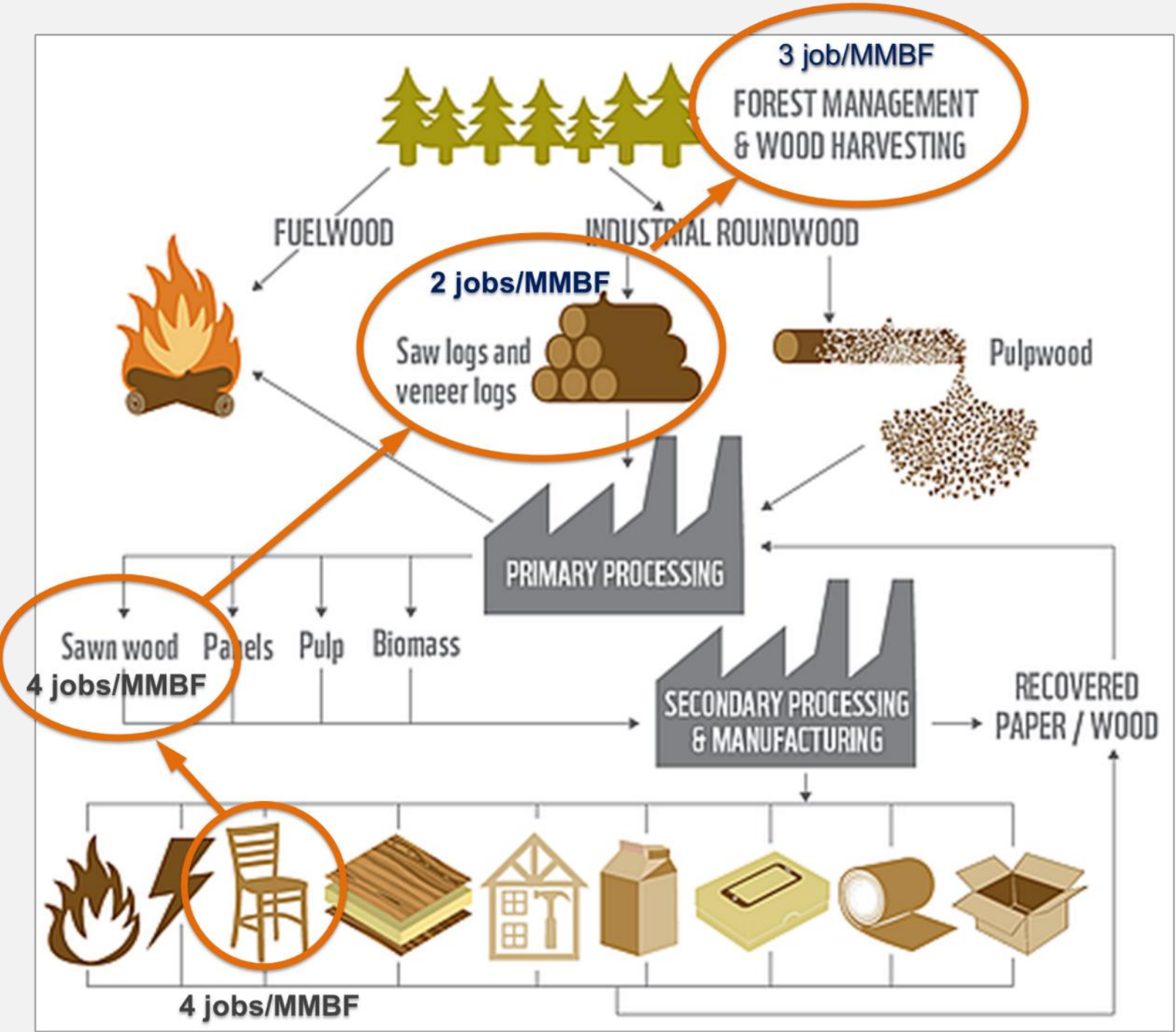
# IDAHO'S TIMBER HARVEST



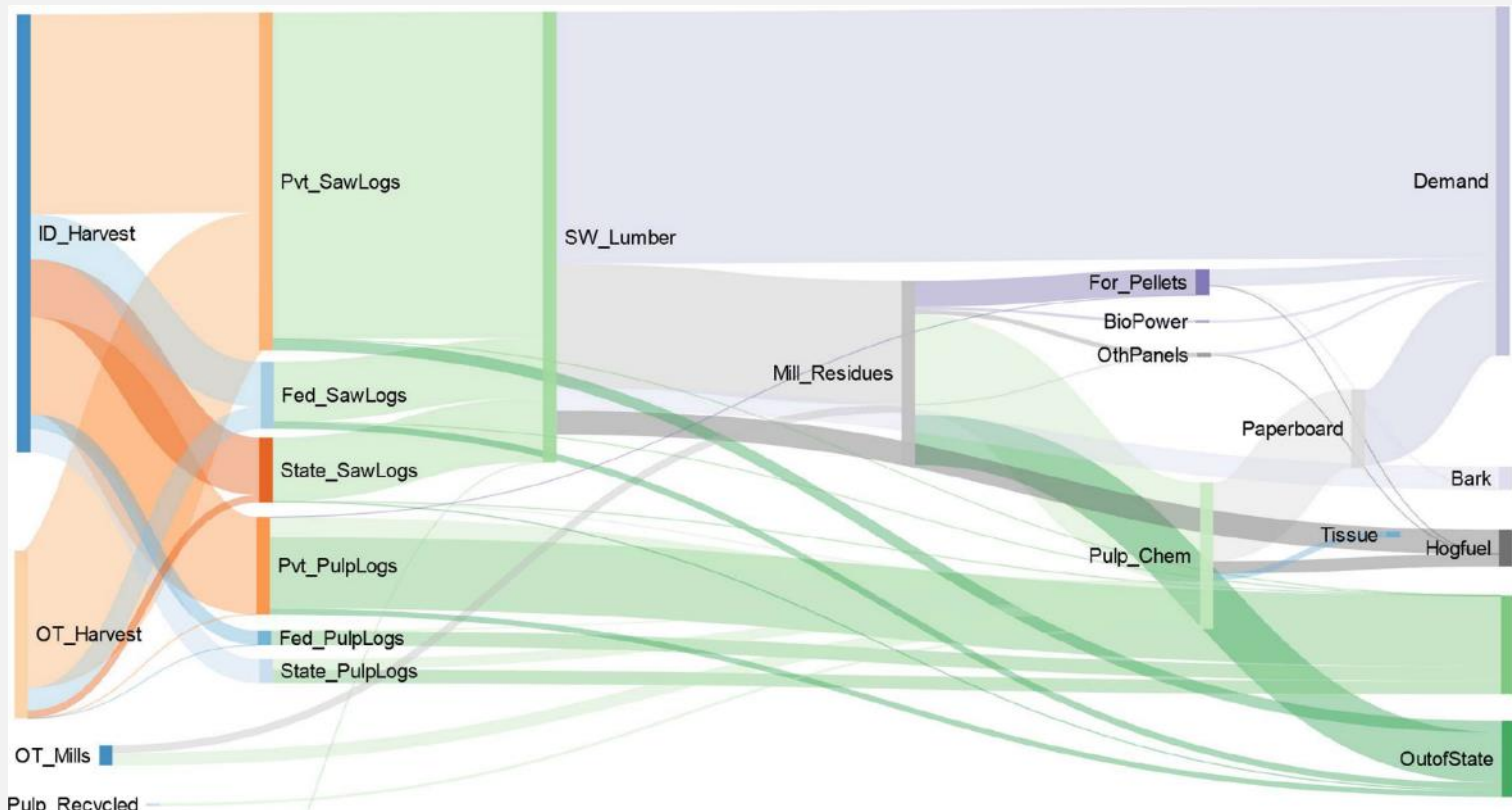
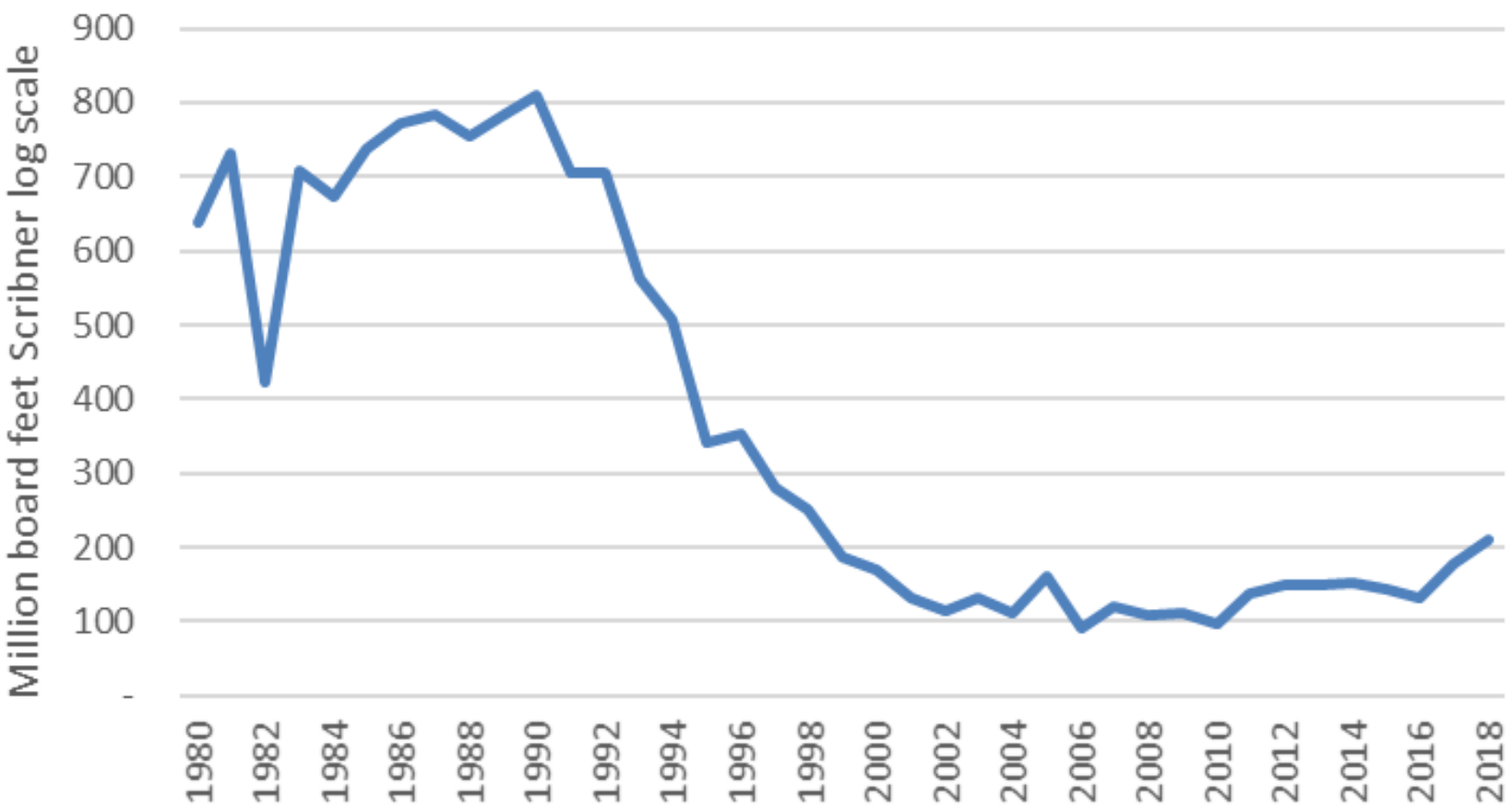
Idaho Timber Harvest by Ownership  
1990-2019



- That harvest moves through our forest economy
- Creating jobs (and taxes) and spurring the local economy

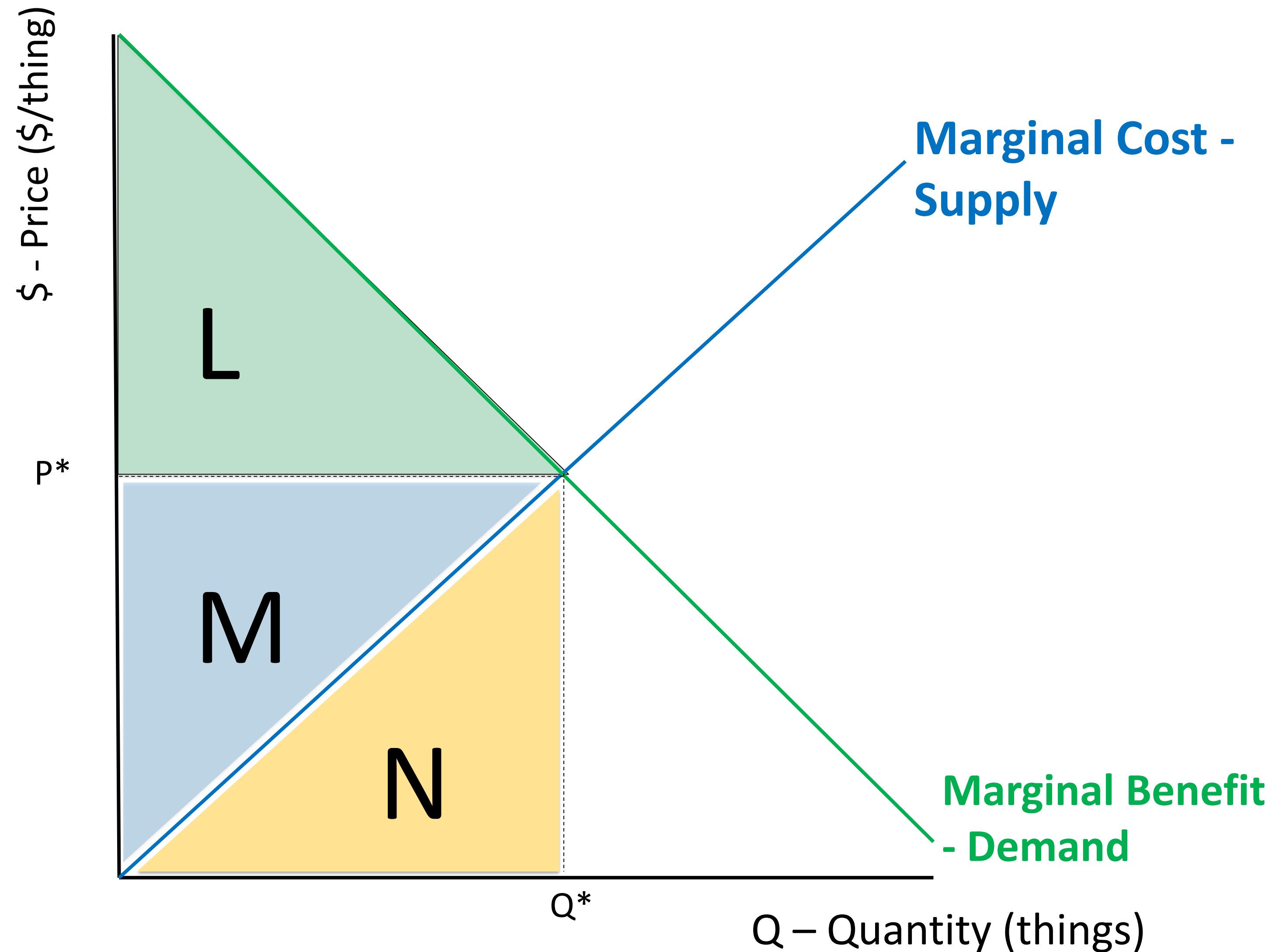


Idaho USFS Timber Harvest 1980-2019





# Econ 101 - Static Efficiency *(static means just the current year)*



**L = Consumers Net Benefits (Surplus)**

**M = Producer's Net Benefits (Surplus)**

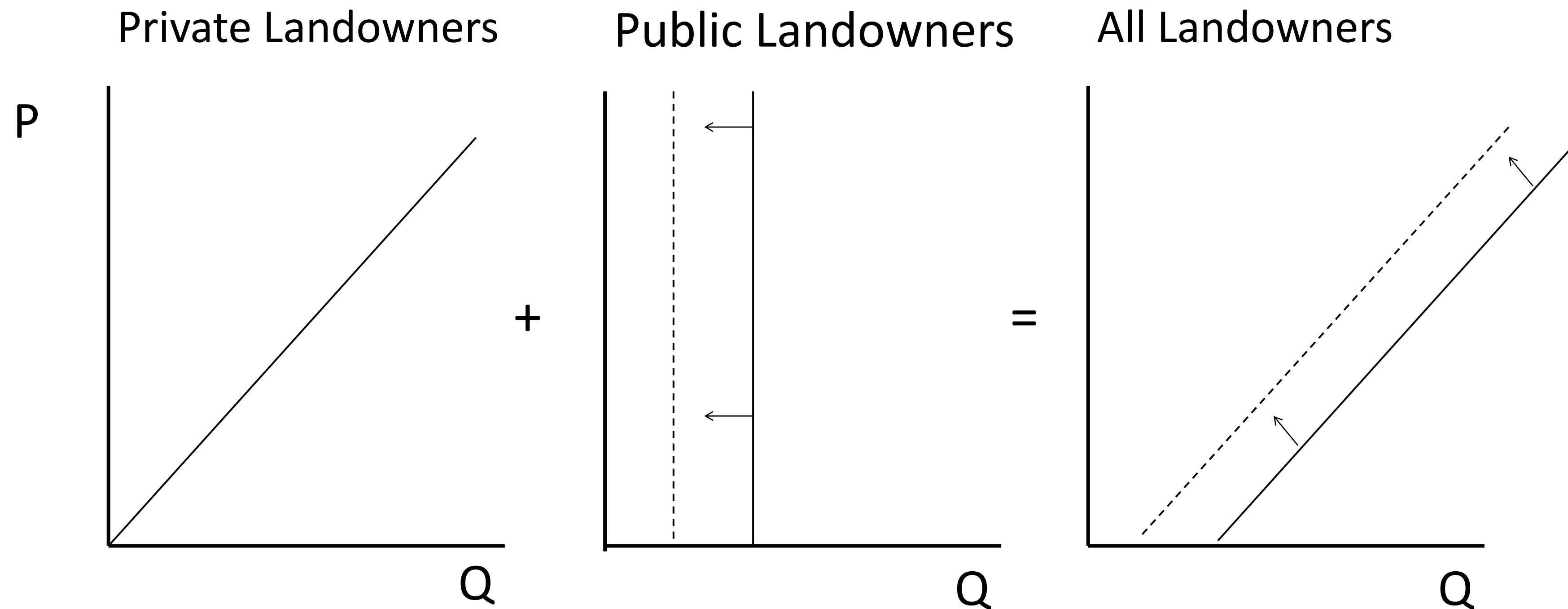
**N = Total Cost**

**M+N = Total Revenue**

**L+M = Net Benefits (Net Social Surplus)**



# Markets - Example

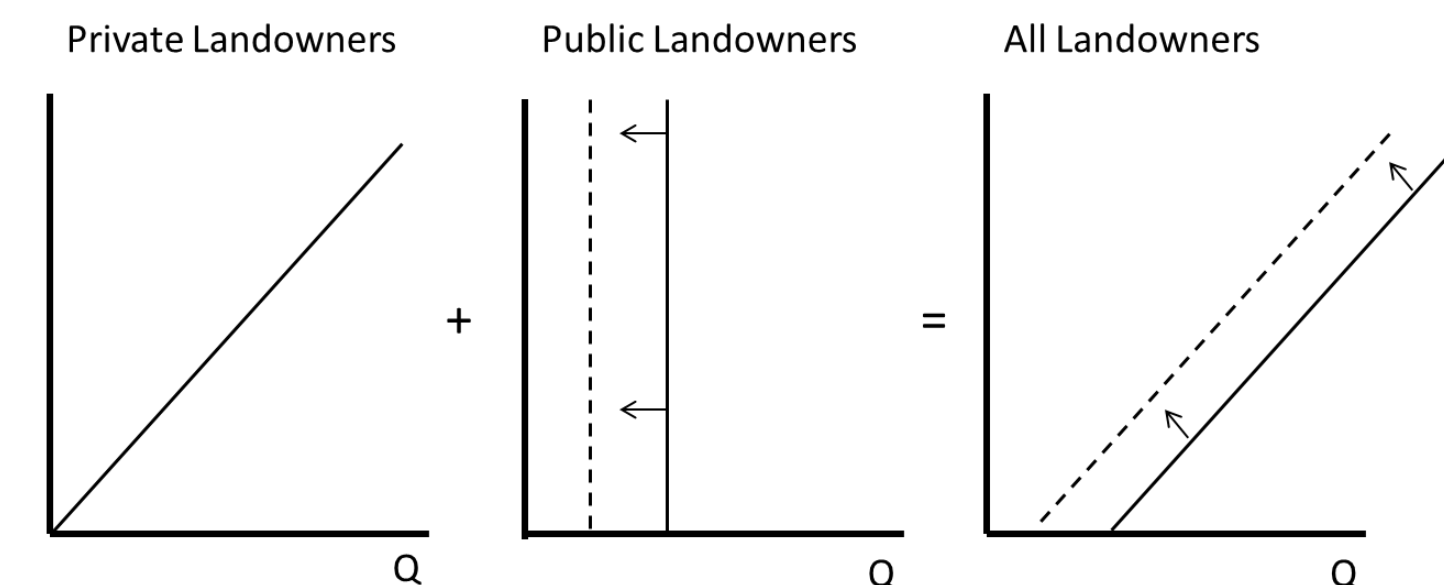
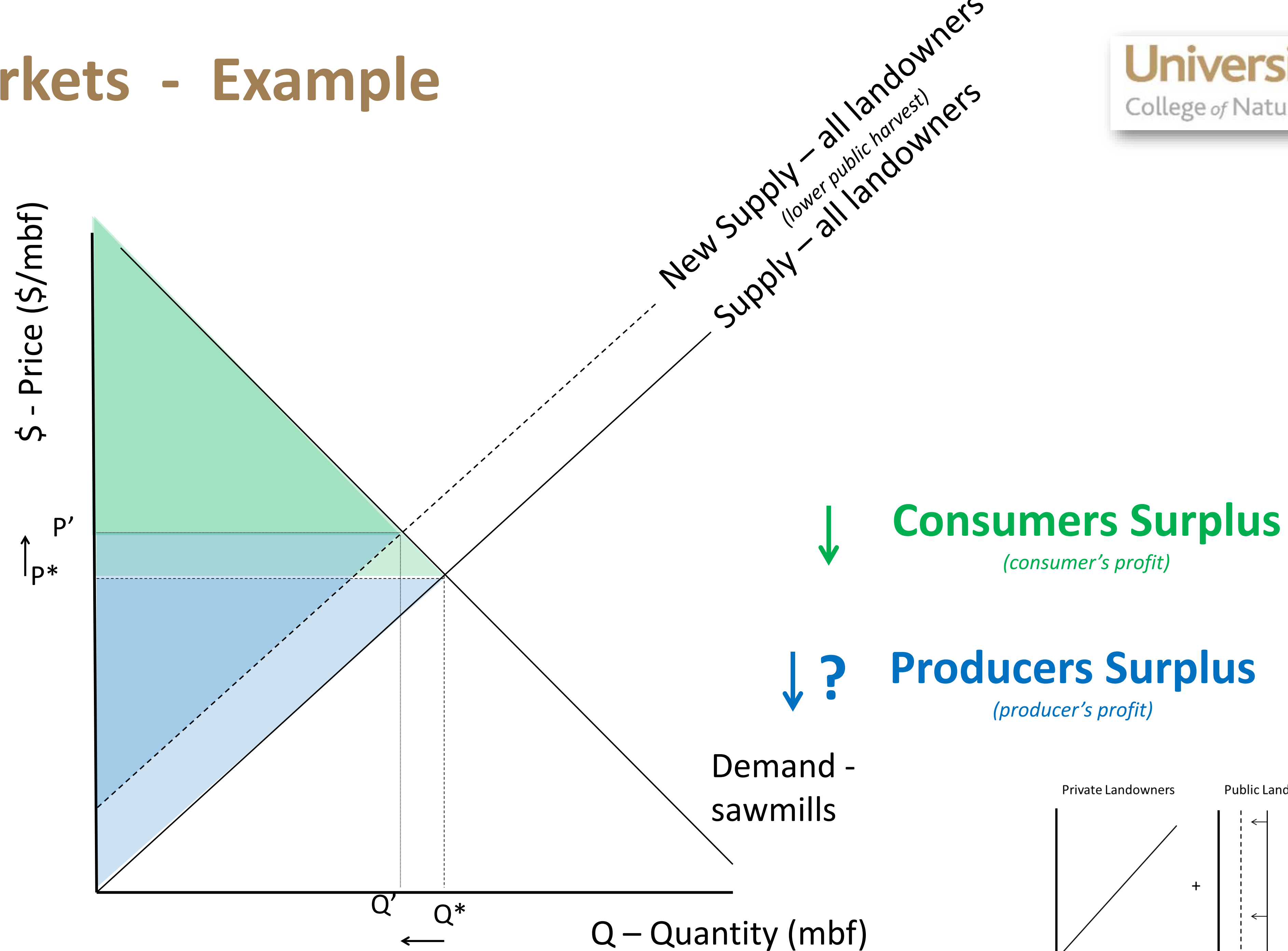


Consider a policy to reduce harvest on public lands

What is the potential impact of this policy?

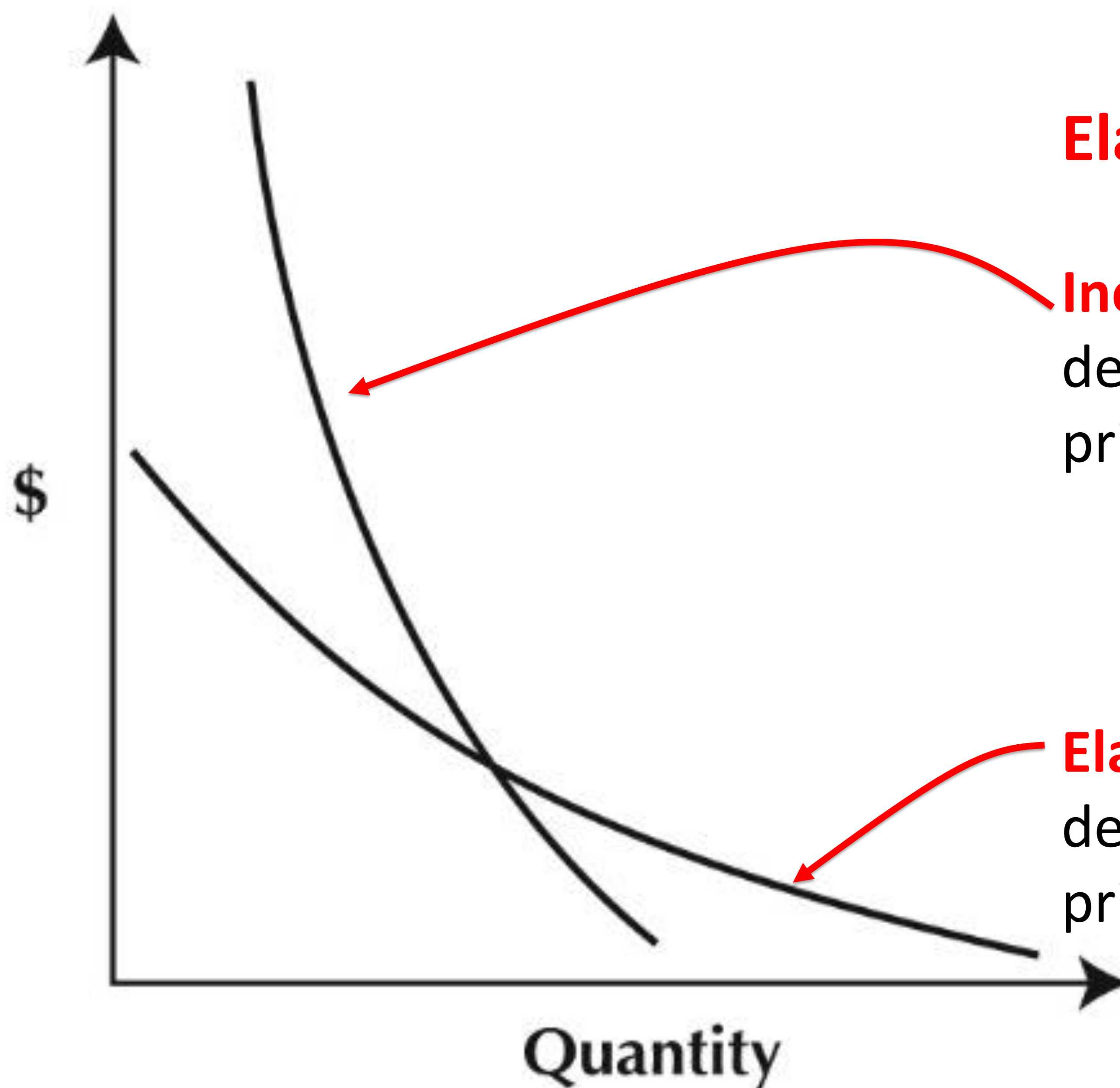


# Markets - Example





# Elasticity – Responsiveness to Changes



**Elasticity** - % Change in Q / % Change in P

**Inelastic Demand Curves** – quantity demanded changes little with substantial price change

- So P ↑ leads to Q ↓

**Elastic Demand Curves** – quantity demanded changes substantially with little price change

- So P ↓ leads to Q ↑



# Simple Market Example – Dynamic Efficiency

Sadly, it only gets more complicated

We have to think about the future

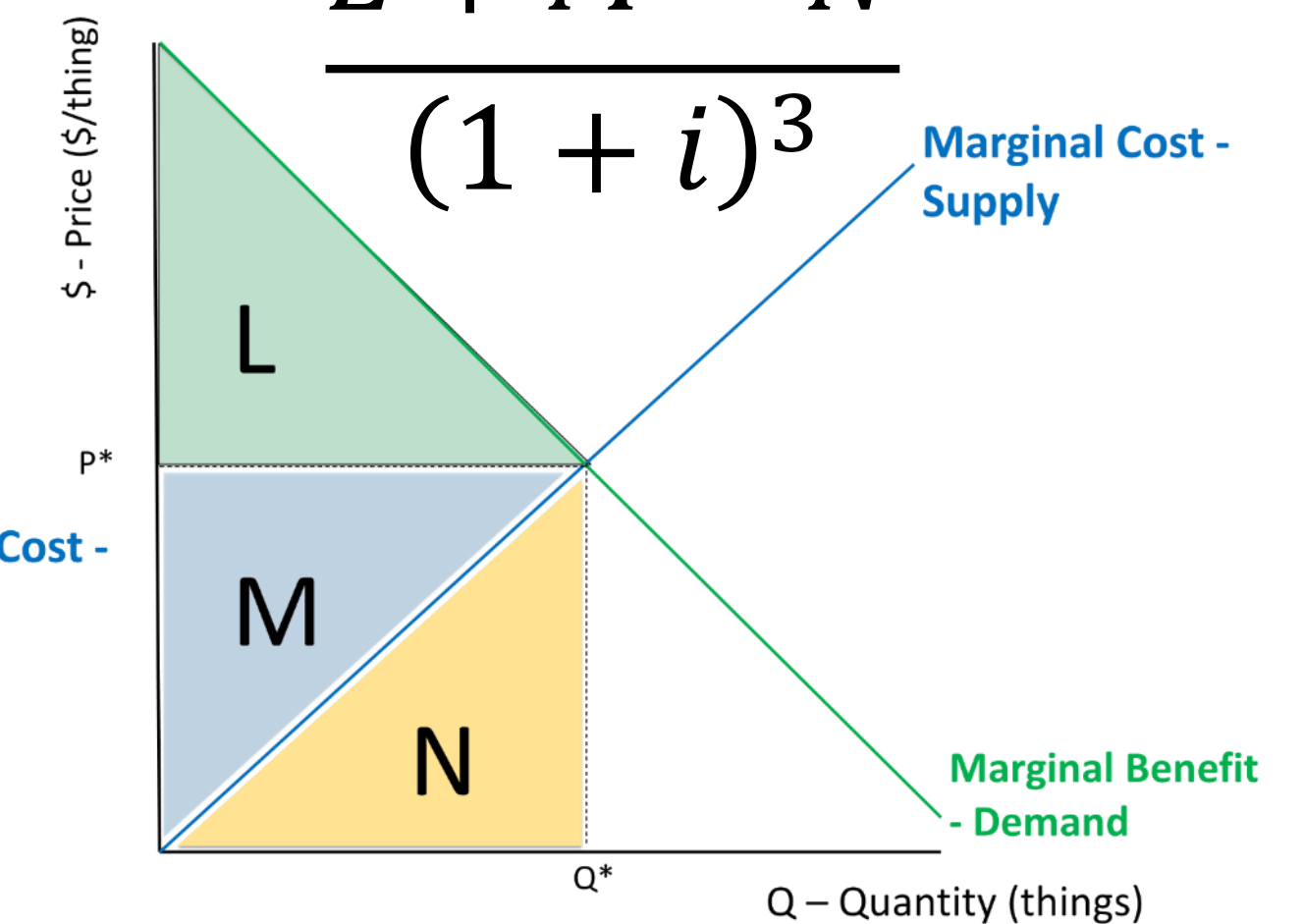
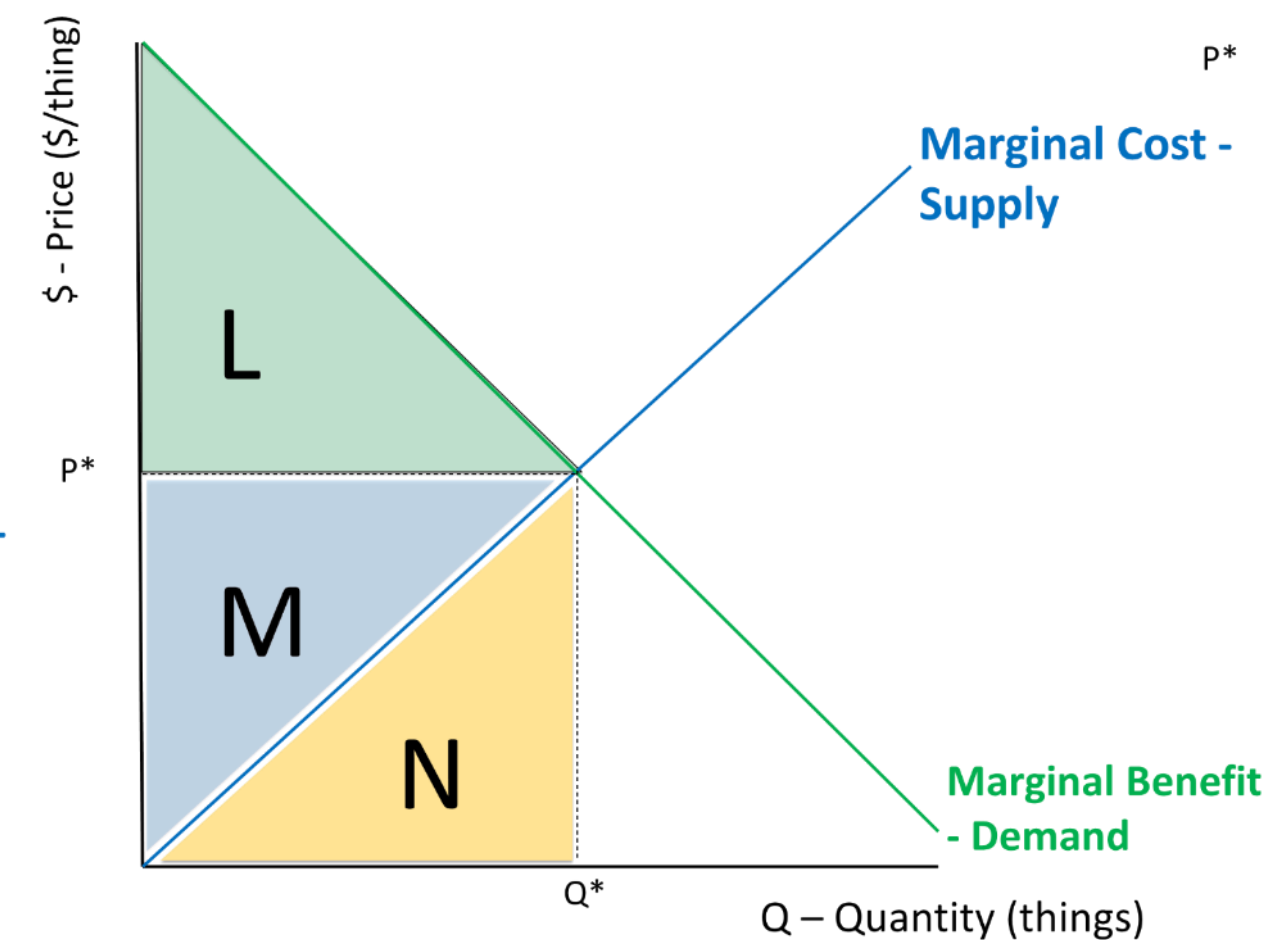
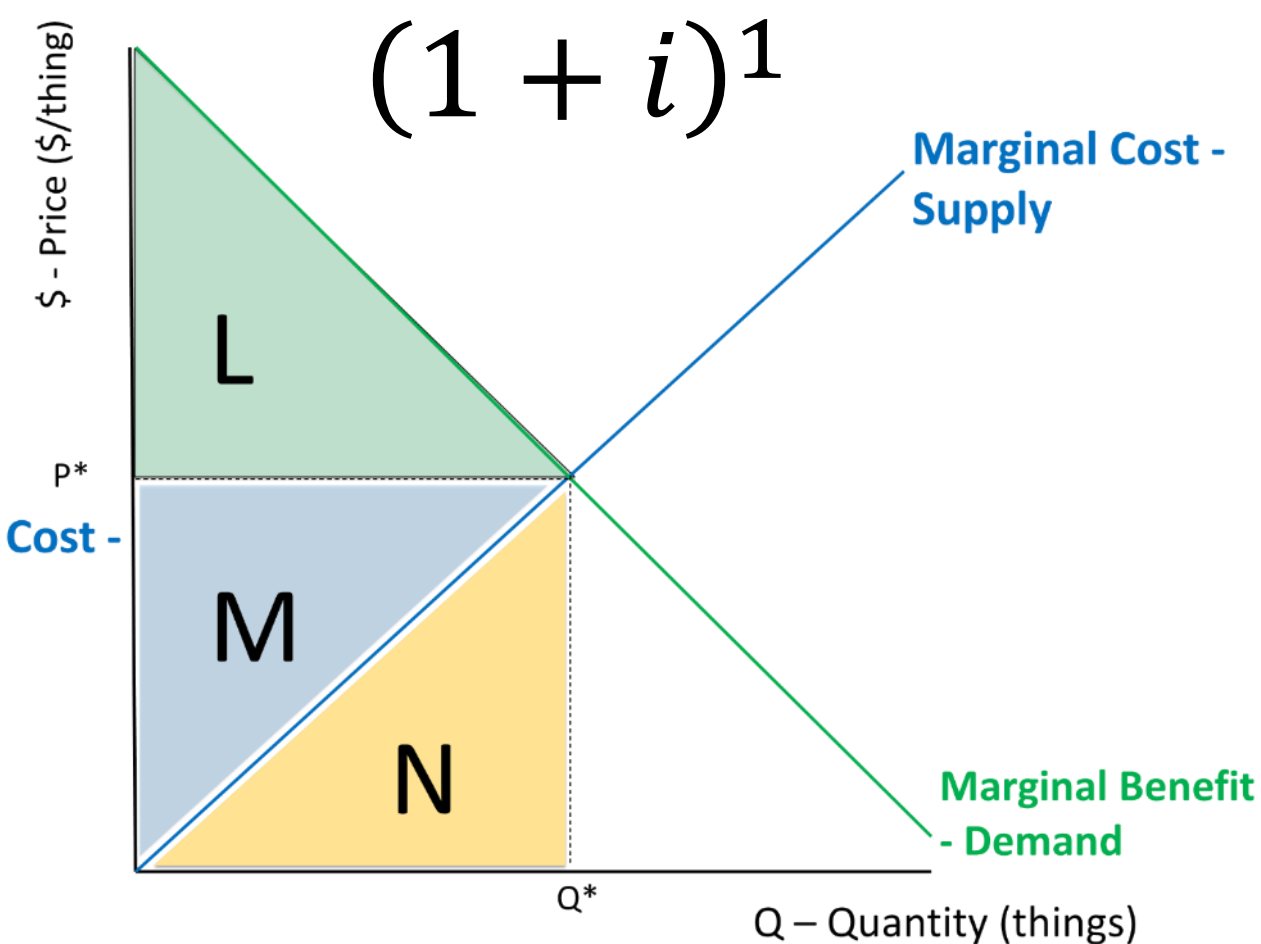
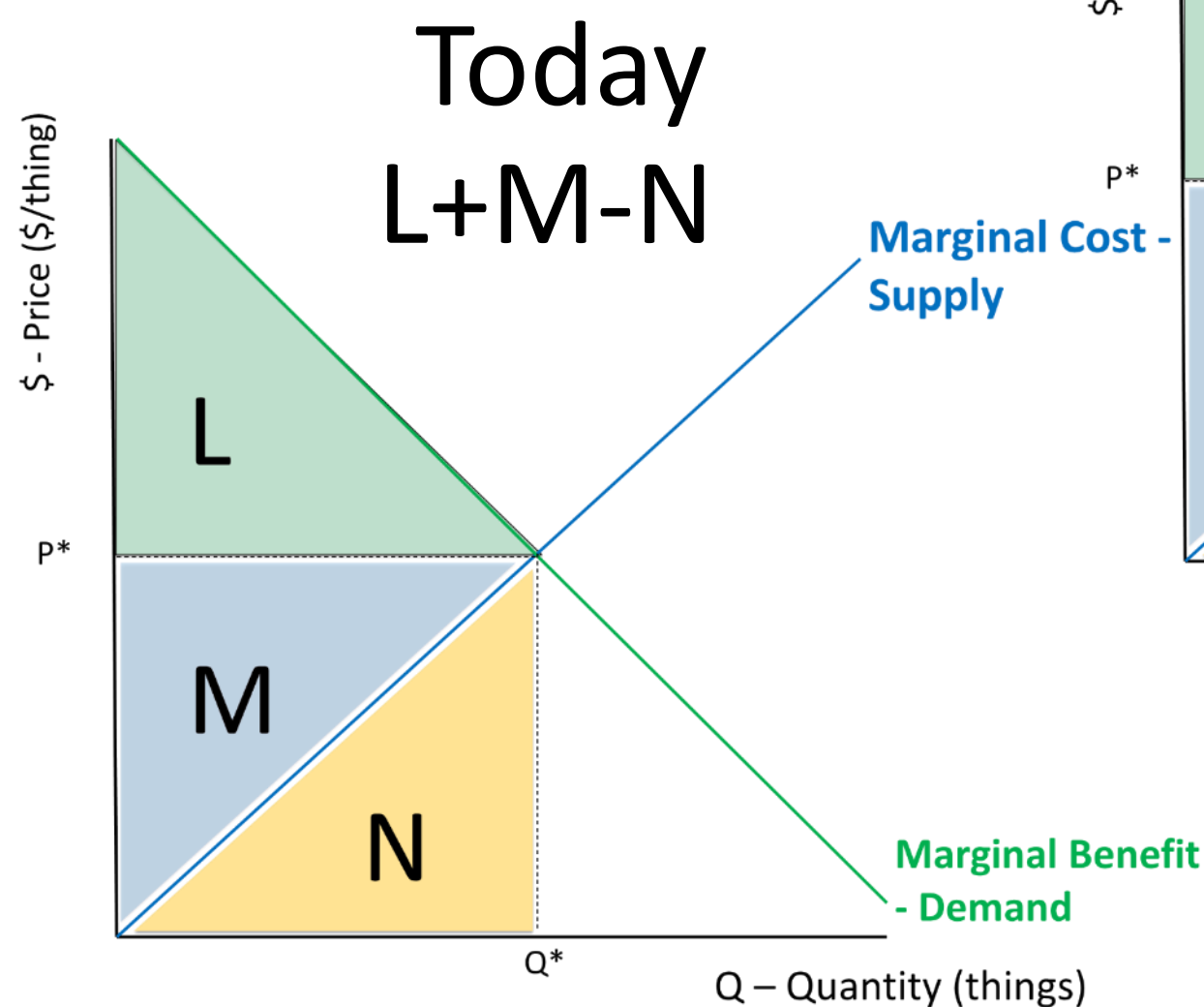
And Discount

And on and on

$$\frac{L + M - N}{(1 + i)^2}$$

$$\frac{L + M - N}{(1 + i)^1}$$

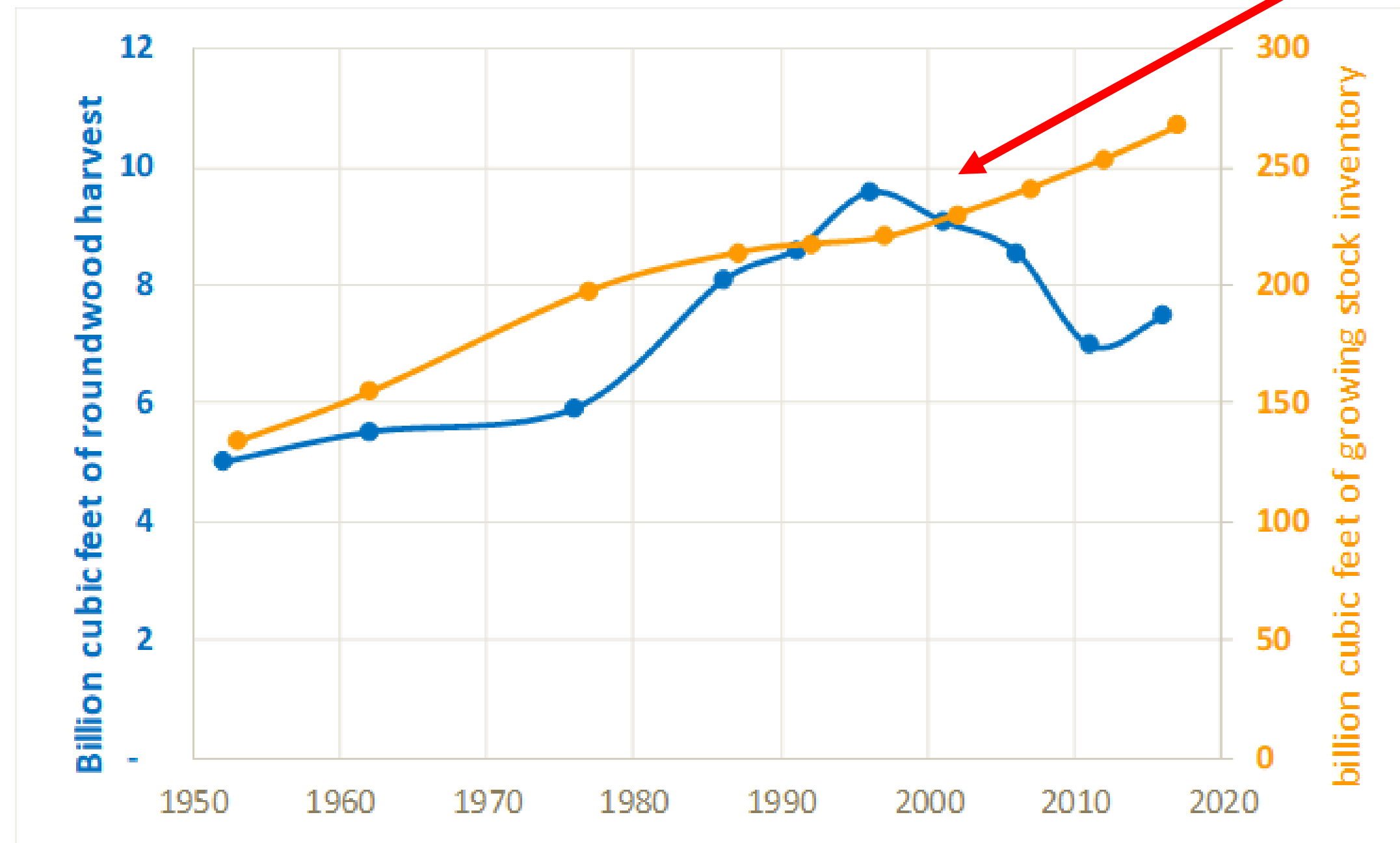
$$\frac{L + M - N}{(1 + i)^3}$$



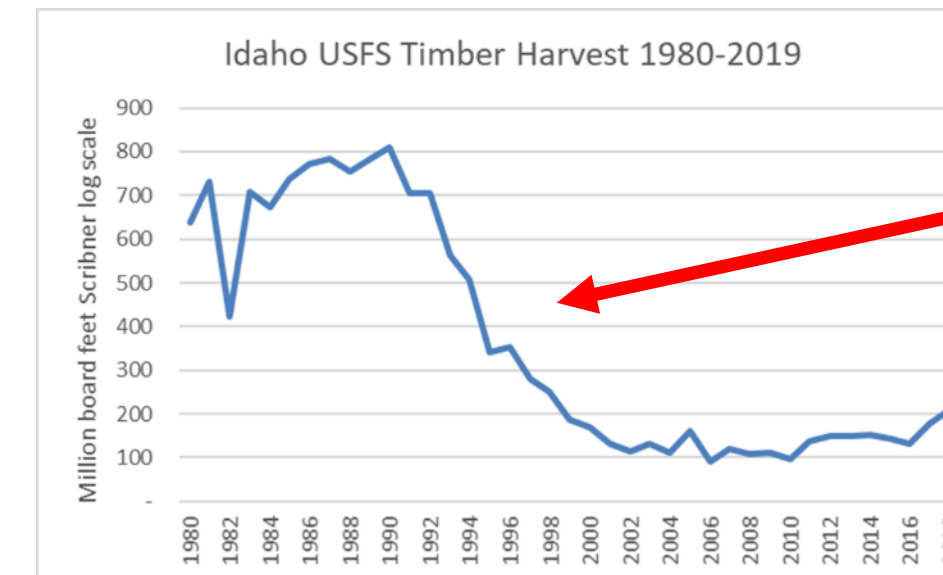


# Simple Market Example - looking back

## Southern US Roundwood Harvest

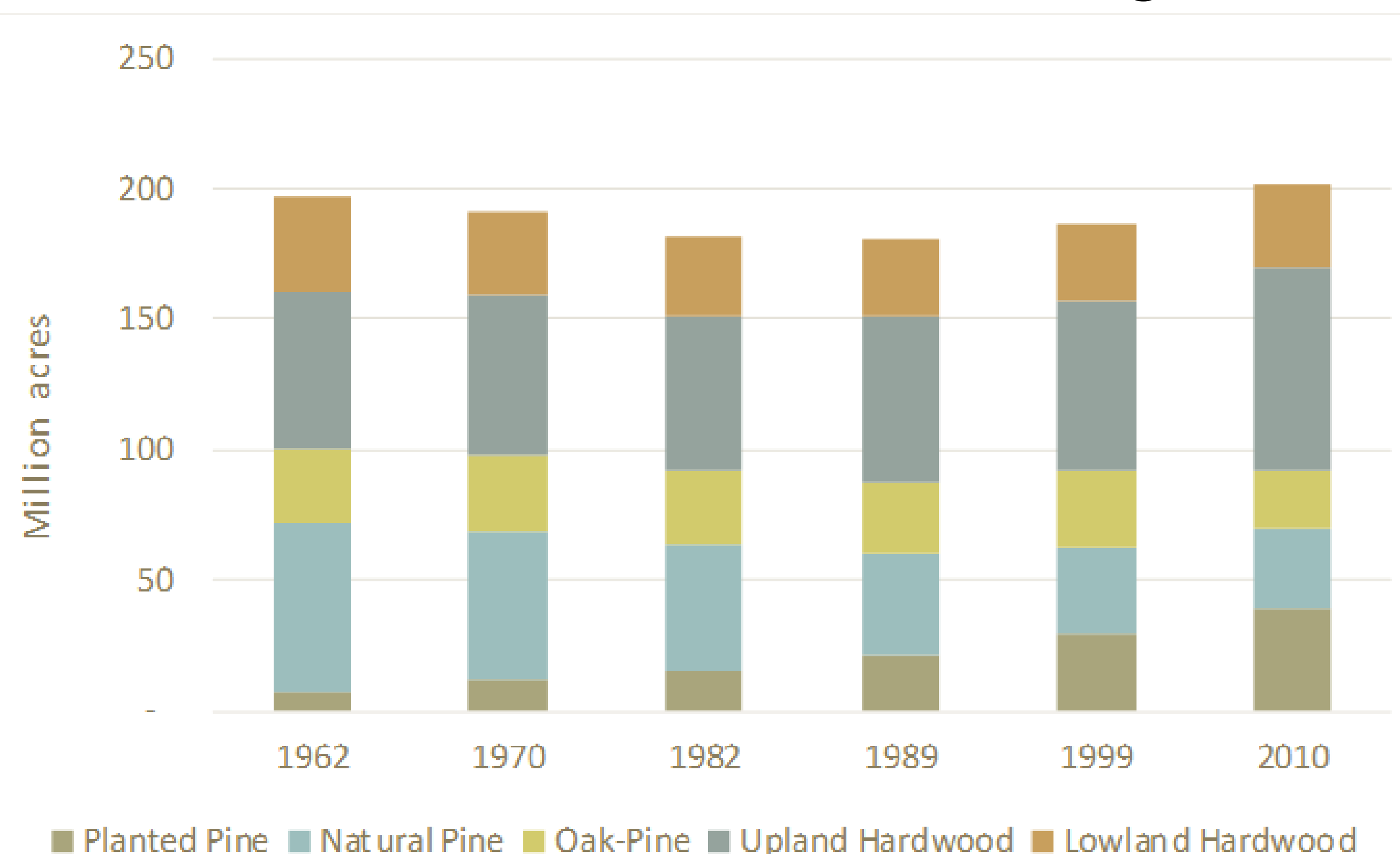


With this



They responded to this

## Southern US Timberland Acreage



The long-term effects are still being felt

We are foresters though – we are used to it being complicated and playing out over long periods of time



# LOOKING FORWARD



- These are the things that keep me awake at night

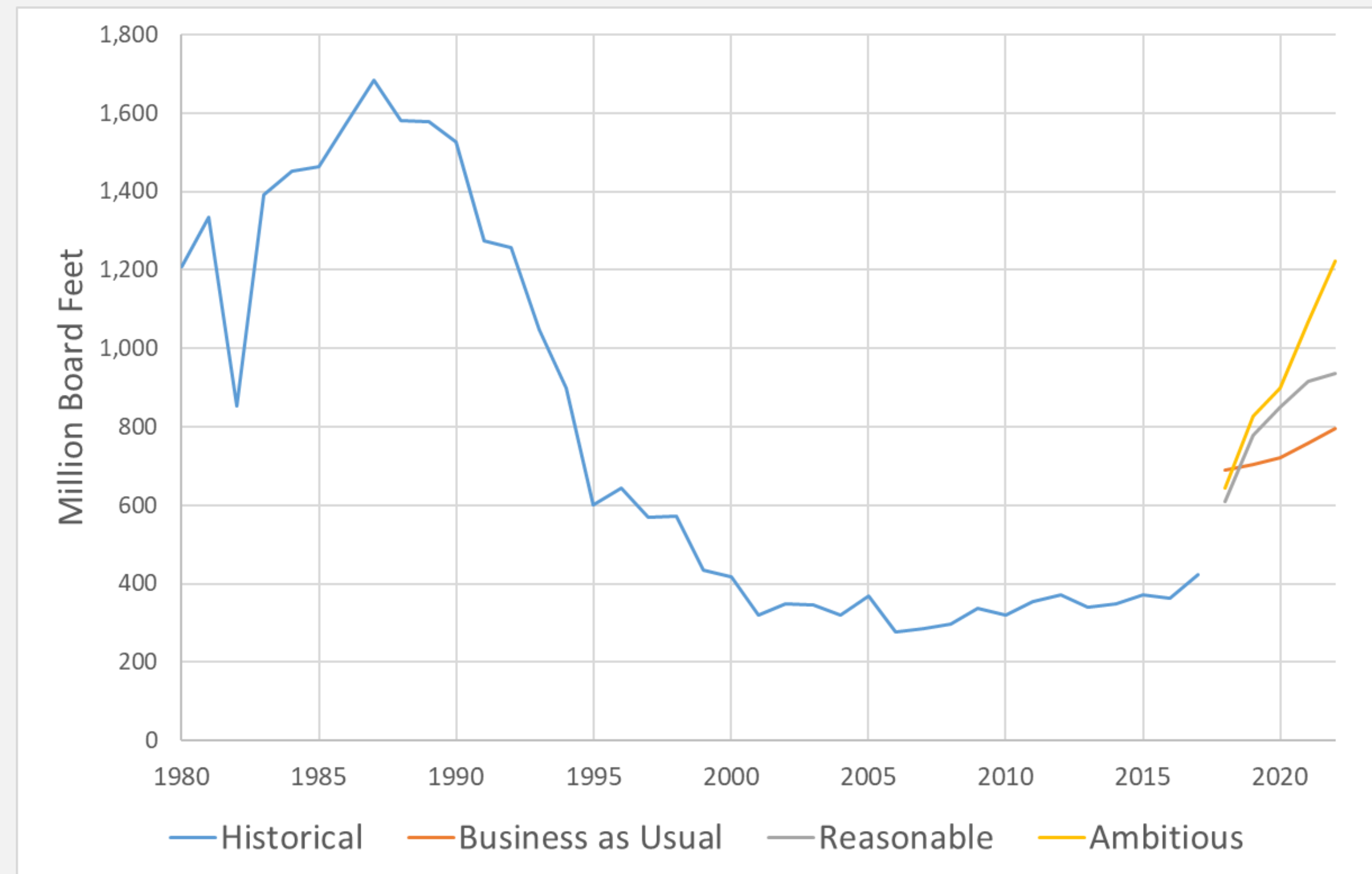


# FEDERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT



- We can use our market, logistics, and economic contribution modeling to evaluate potential responses to policy or market stimuli
  - This means looking to the future
- What might an increase in federal harvest mean for Idaho's forest sector?
  - This could be Good Neighbor Authority or Shared Stewardship
  - Or – forest collaboratives and partnerships

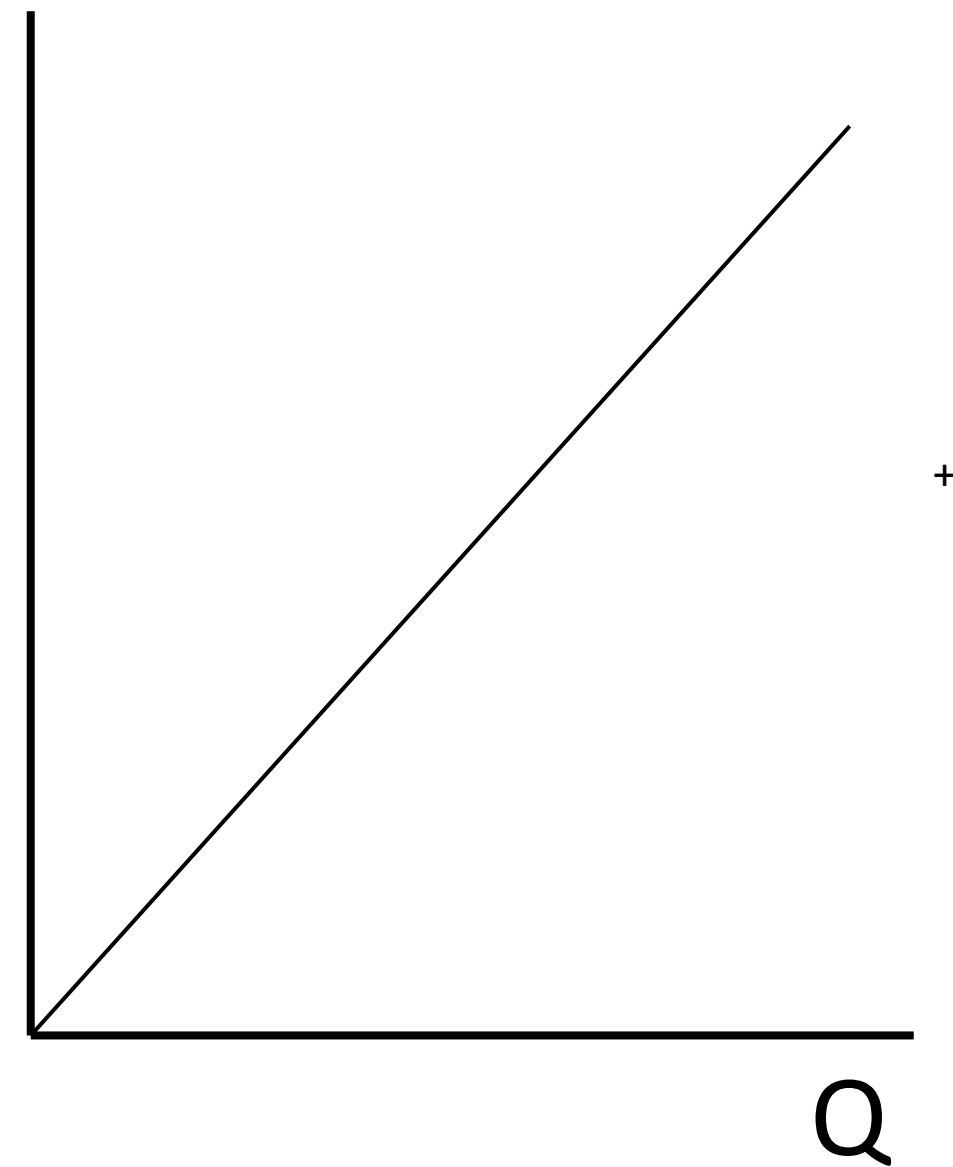
**USFS Inland Northwest Timber Harvest 5-Year Projections**



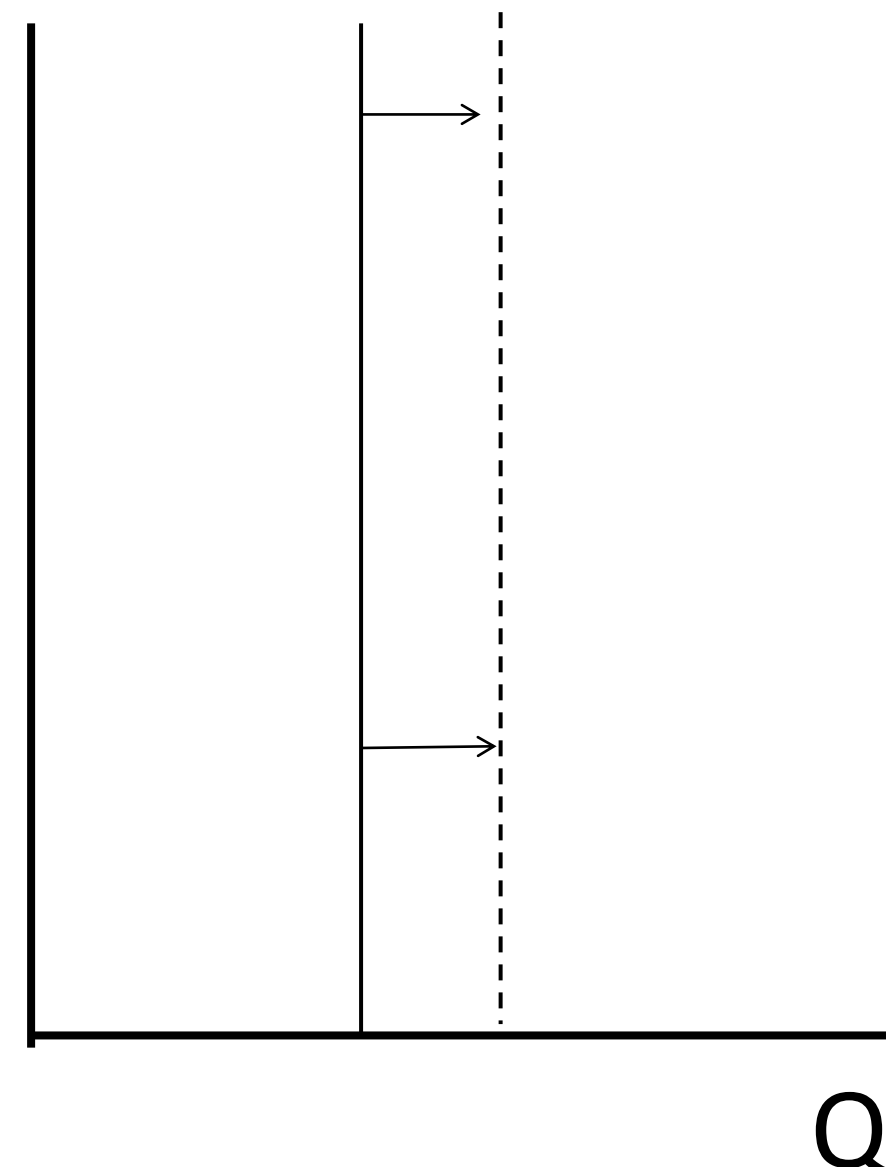


# Simple Market Example 2

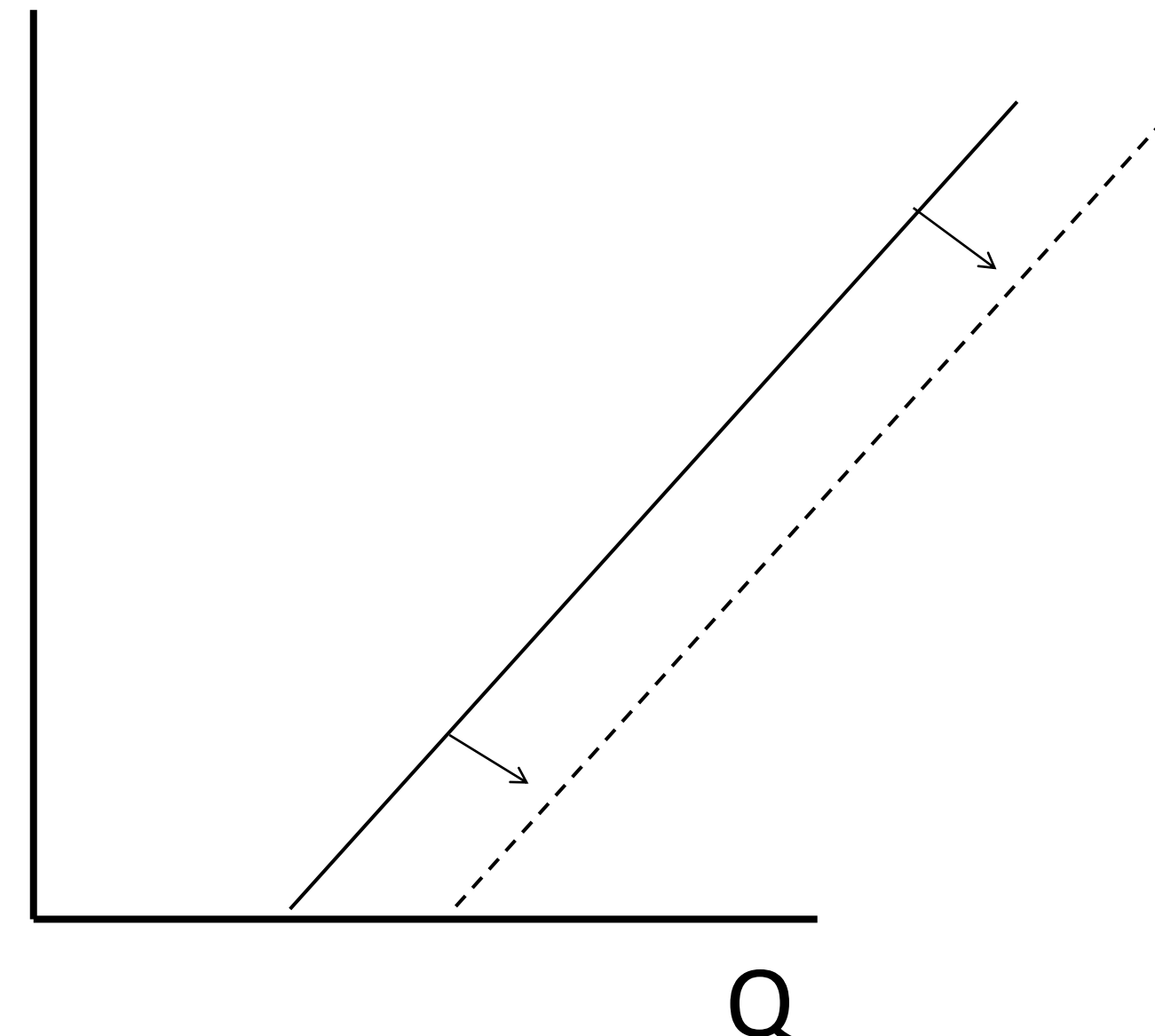
Private Landowners



Public Landowners



All Landowners



Consider a policy to increase harvest on public lands

What is the potential impact of this policy?

**Good Neighbor Authority**

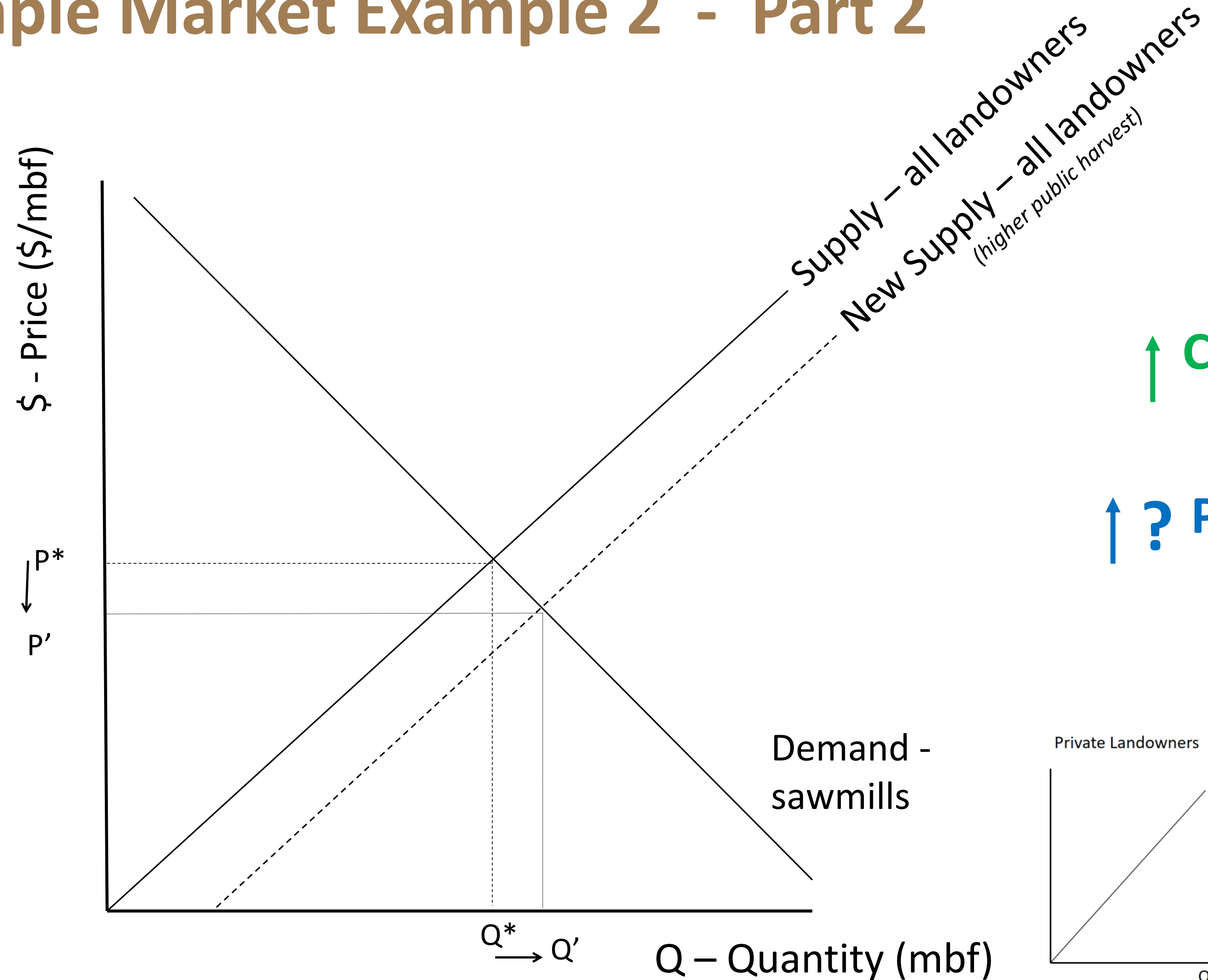
**Shared Stewardship**

**Nez-Perce Forest Plan Revision**



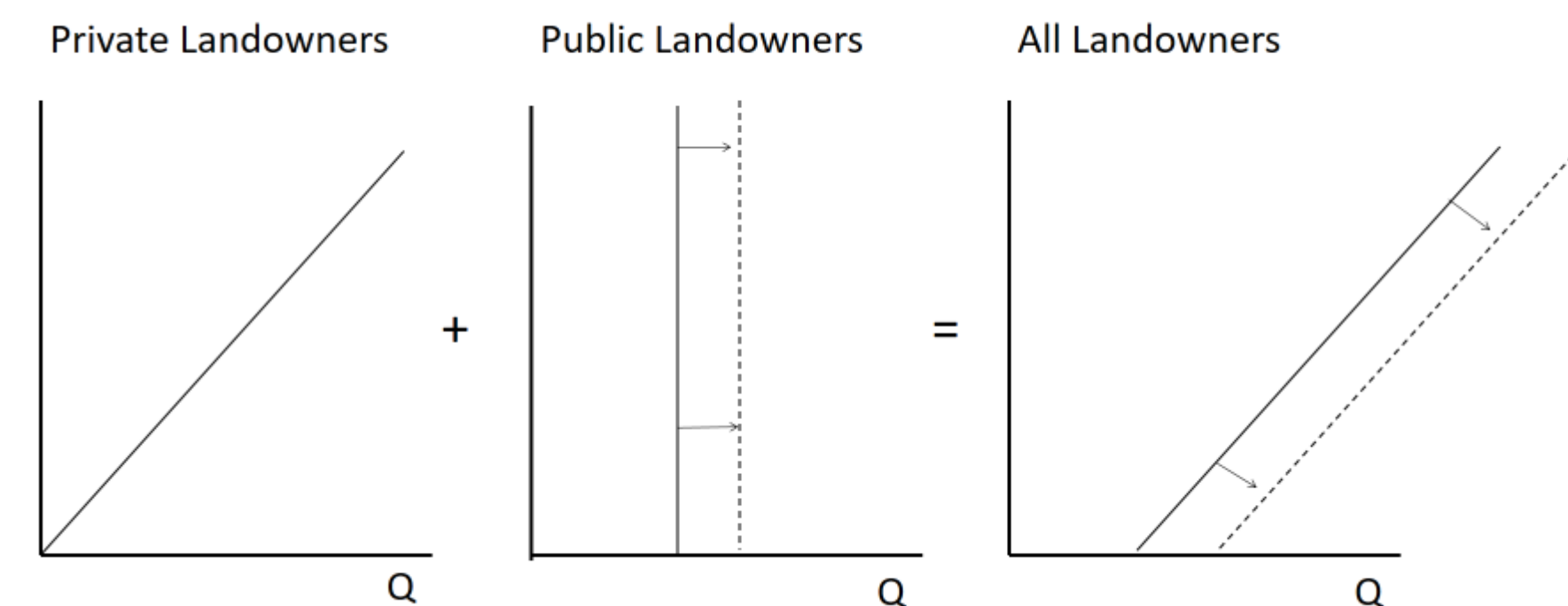


# Simple Market Example 2 - Part 2



↑ **Consumers Surplus**  
*(consumer's profit)*

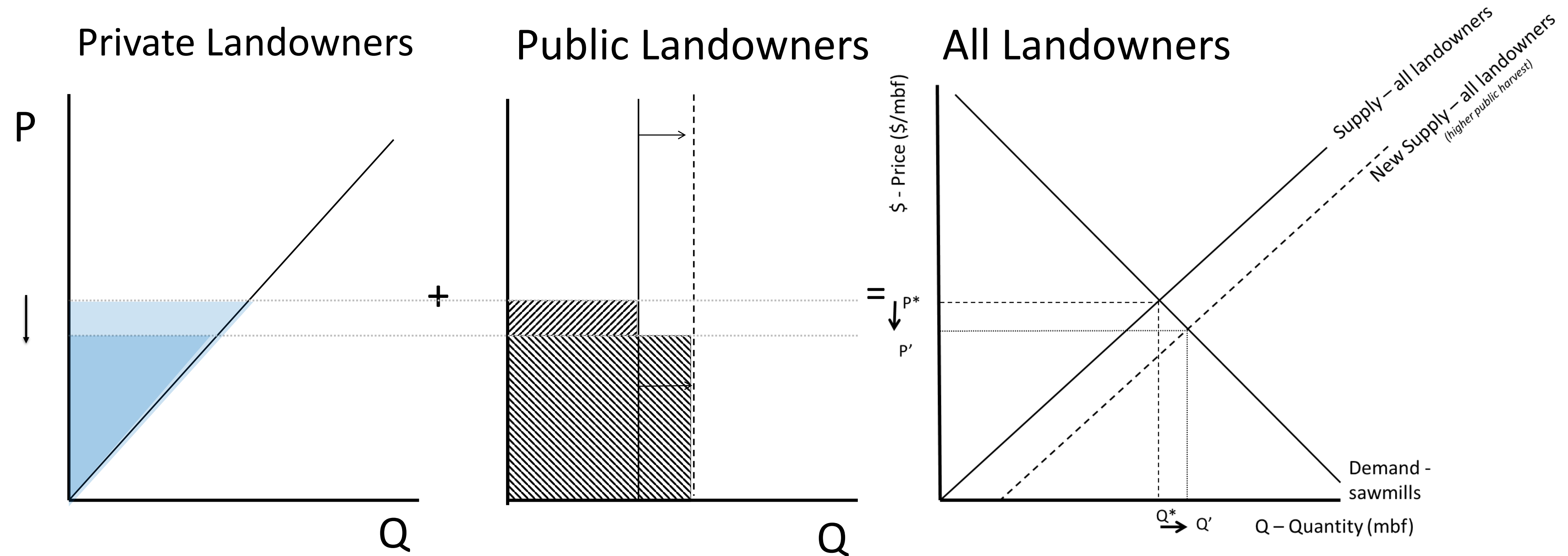
↑ **? Producers Surplus**  
*(producer's profit)*





# Simple Market Example 2

Producers Surplus  
(producer's profit)



Consider a policy to increase harvest on public lands

What is the potential impact of this policy?

**Good Neighbor Authority**

**Shared Stewardship**

**Nez-Perce Forest Plan Revision**





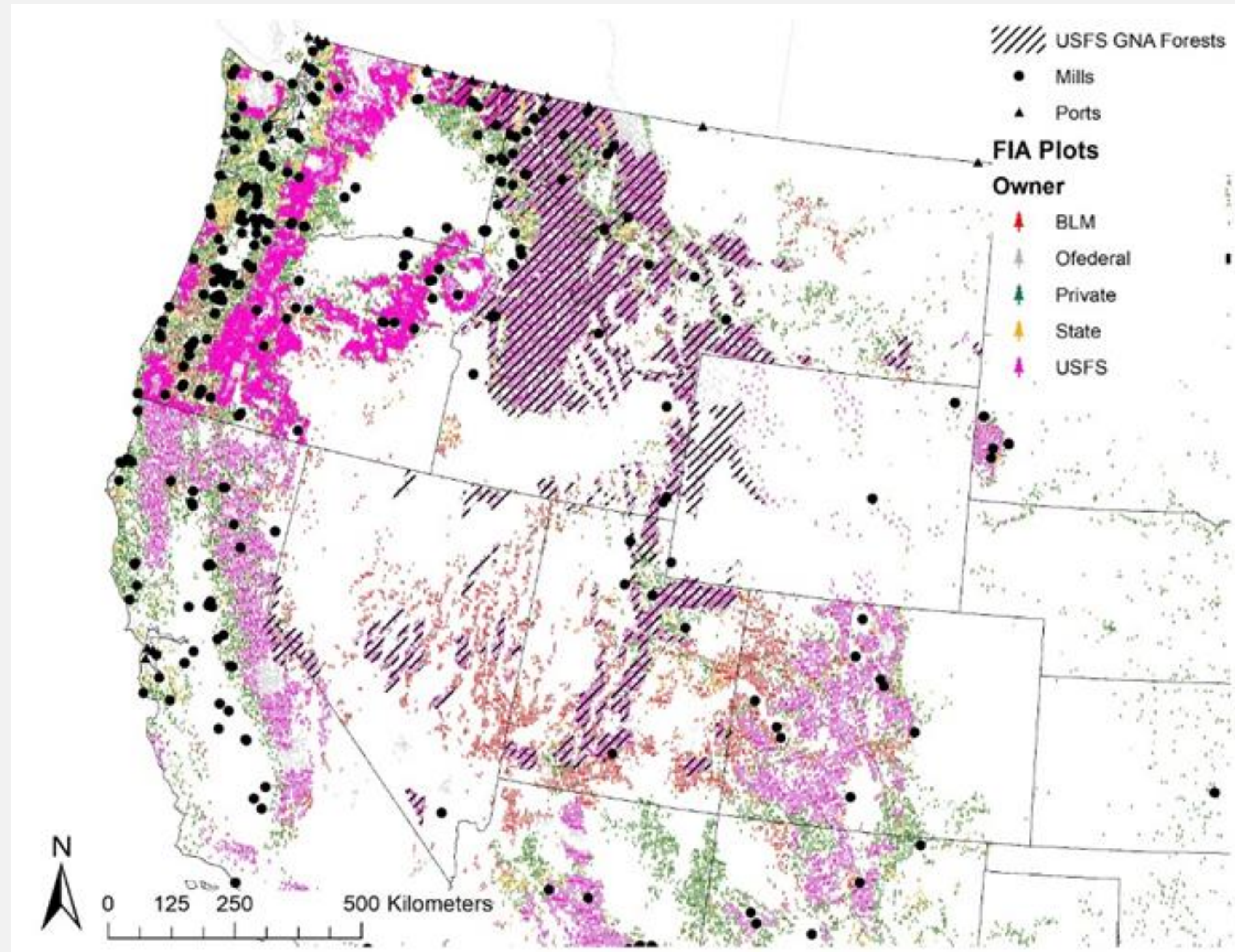
# INCREASING FEDERAL TIMBER HARVESTING



## Modeling Forest Market Impacts

### Current USDA Analysis

- 235 million acres in national forest system
- Focuses on 23 national forests covering 62 million acres
- Includes projected ID and MT state harvest levels
- Accounts for national demand, international trade, and all wood products facility production





# FEDERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

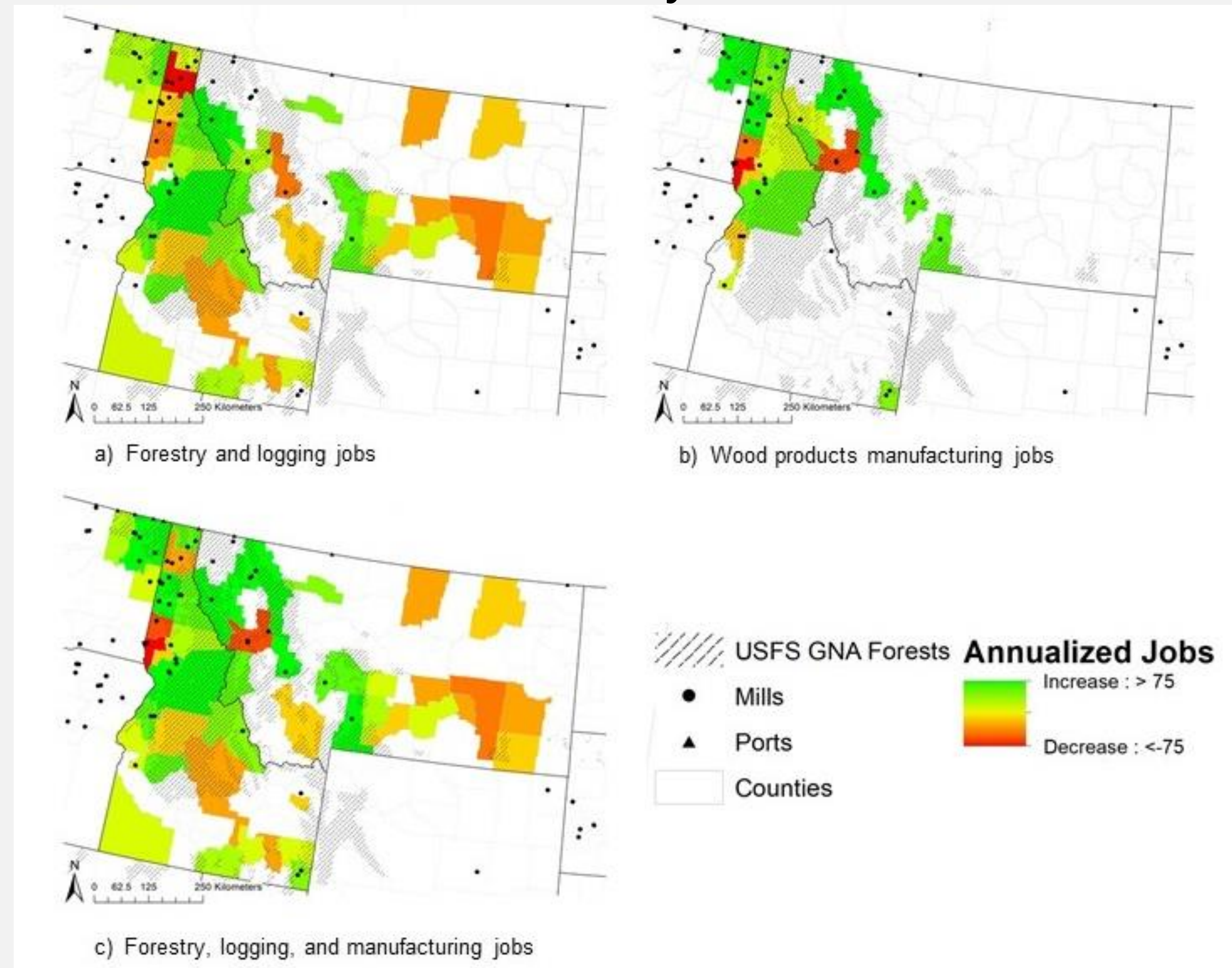


- What might an increase in federal harvest mean for Idaho's forest sector?
- Findings - *It could:*
  - Displace private timber
    - Upside: 60% of that displacement will be outside of the region and the industry will be in a better long-run position
  - Require more truckers
    - Downside: More harvest means more trucking required when we are looking for solutions at the current level



# WHAT MIGHT AN INCREASE IN FEDERAL HARVEST MEAN FOR IDAHO'S FOREST SECTOR?

- Additional Jobs by Subsector
- We can look at the jobs created (or lost) by subsector and across counties
- The results demonstrate the complexity of market responses even within a single state

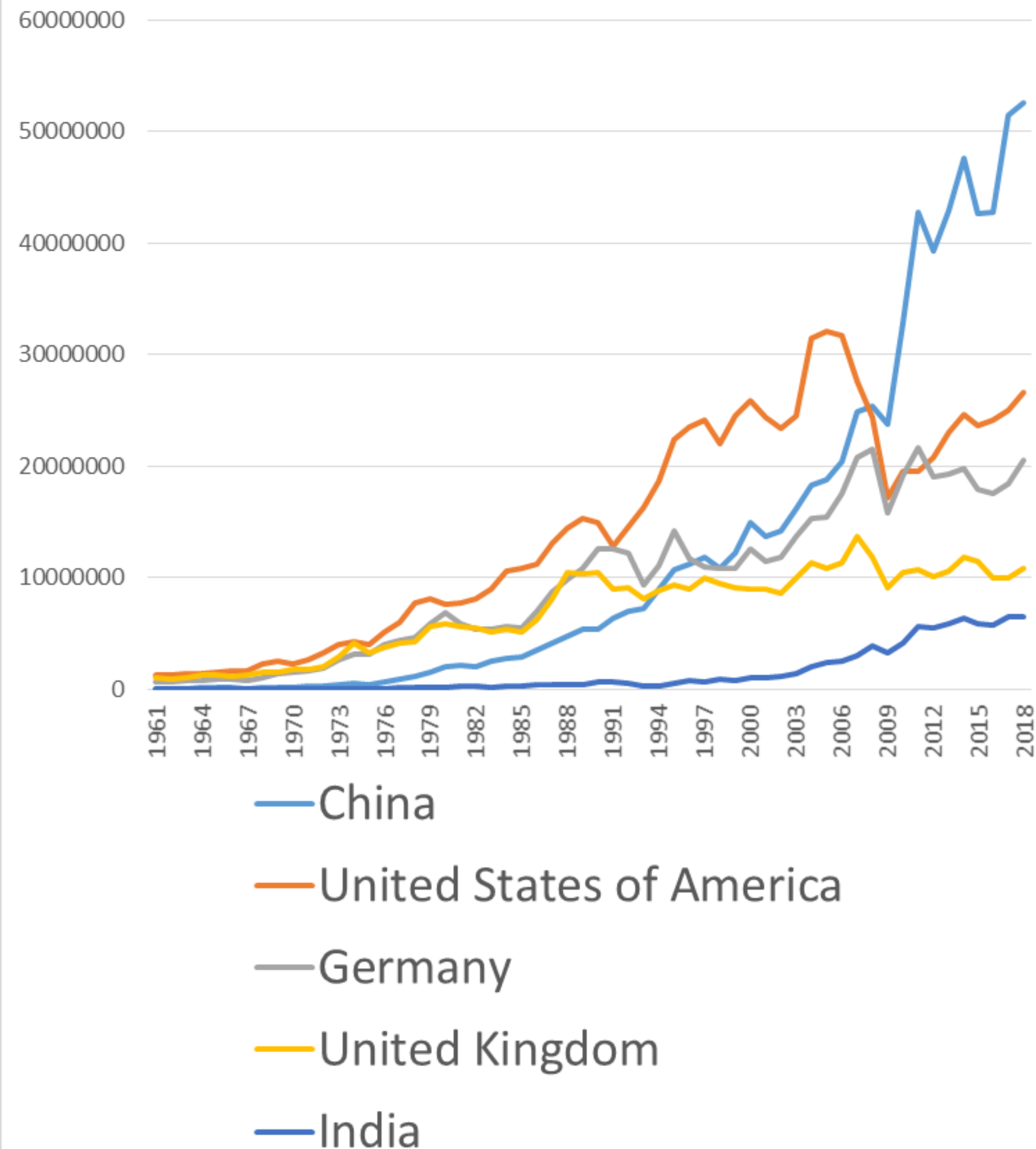




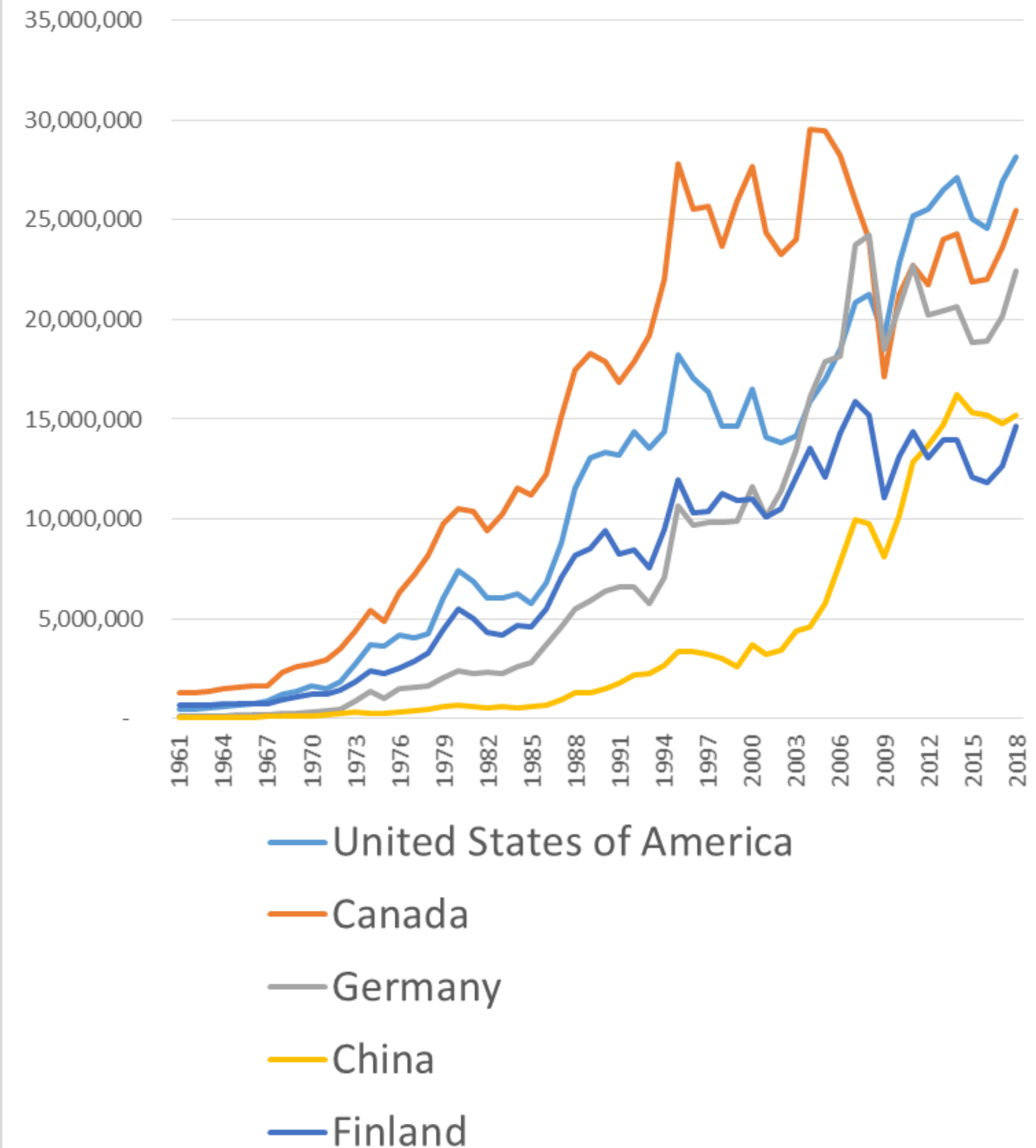
# GLOBAL PLAYERS – HERE COMES CHINA



## Forest Products Imports



## Forest Products Exports

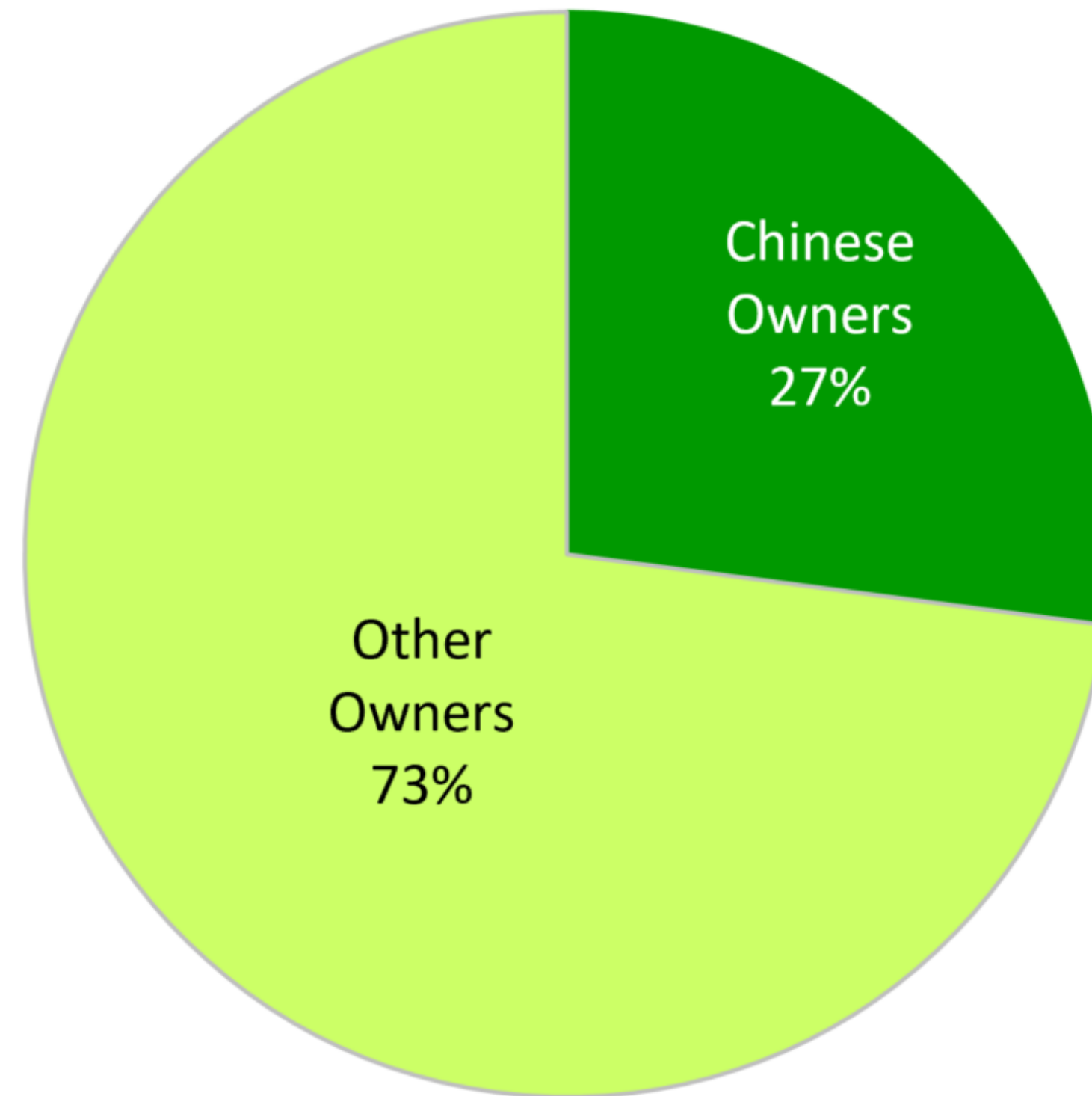




# FOREIGN JUST AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE



It's not just foreign trade that we need to be thinking about when we think of a new global economy



2018 Pulp Mill Ownership in U.S. North





# CANADIAN FOREST COMPANY INVESTING



CANADA TOP 10 SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCERS - 2017 (Million Bf)						
Rank		Company	No. of Mills Open	Production		Change
2016	2017			2016	2017	
1	1	West Fraser	13	3796	3809	0%
2	2	Canfor	13	3787	3744	-1%
4	3	Resolute FP	8	1844	2011	9%
3	4	Tolko	7	1897	1620	-15%
9	5	J.D. Irving	7	895	920	3%
7	6	Interfor	5	876	875	0%
8	7	EACOM	7	851	874	3%
6	8	Weyerhaeuser <sup>1</sup>	3	876	827	-6%
5	9	Western FP	8	943	809	-14%
11	10	Arbec	4	623	670	8%
Total Top 10			75	16,388	16,159	-1.4%
Total Canada Shipments				28,521	28,041	-1.7%
% of Canada Shipments				57.5%	57.6%	

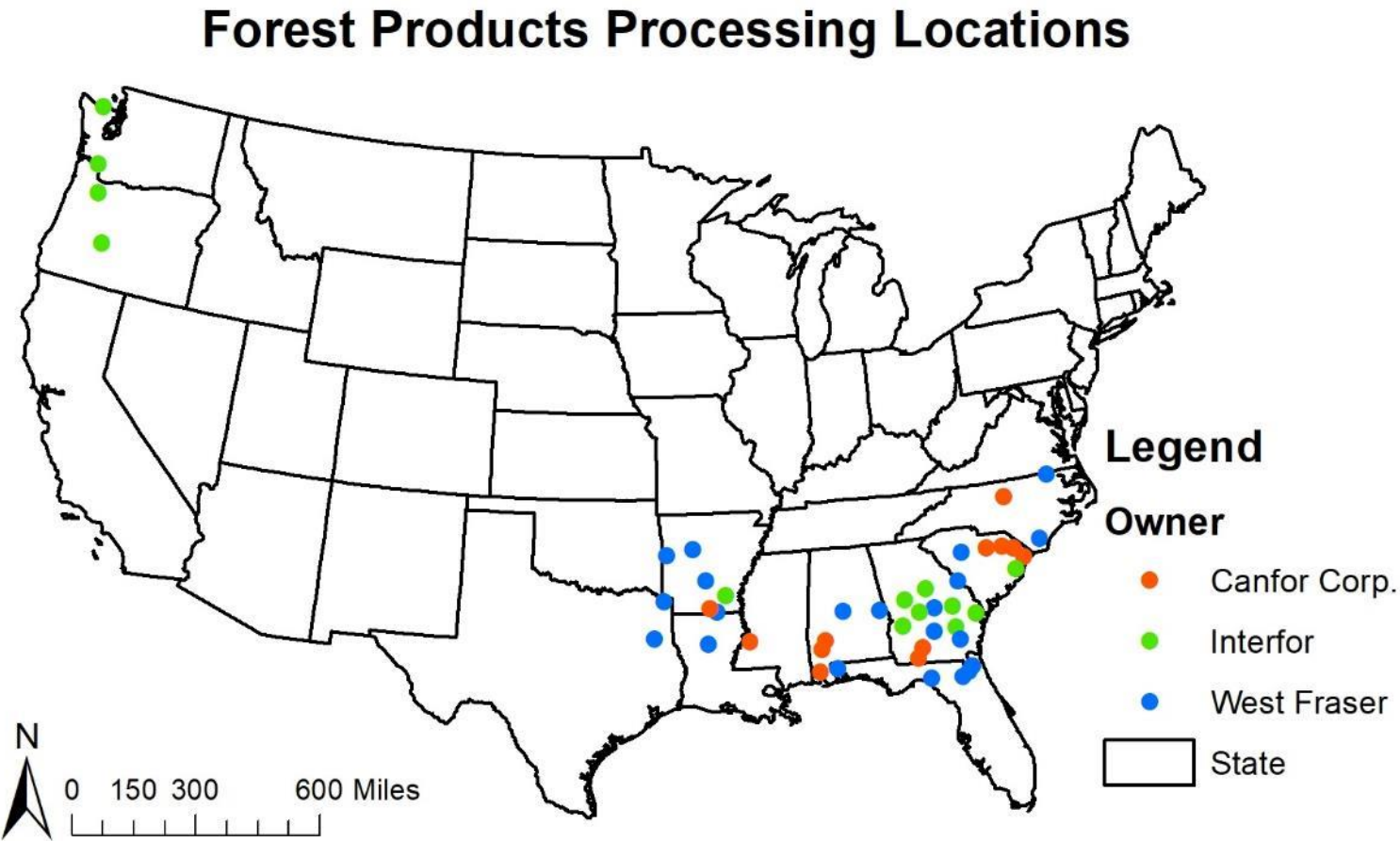
Notes: Includes lumber produced only at primary sawmills and excludes U.S. production.

1. Production with custom cut volume

USA TOP 20 SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCERS - 2017 (Million Bf)						
Rank		Company	No. of Mills Open	Production		Change
2016	2017			2016	2017	
1	1	Weyerhaeuser	16	3640	3682	1%
2	2	Georgia-Pacific <sup>1</sup>	17	2507	2597	4%
3	3	West Fraser	21	2139	2424	13%
4	4	Sierra Pacific	12	2009	2064	3%
5	5	Interfor	13	1612	1720	7%
6	6	Canfor	11	1336	1411	6%
7	7	Hampton <sup>1</sup>	7	1325	1410	6%
8	8	Idaho Forest Group	6	1036	1108	7%
9	9	Potlatch FP	4	700	735	5%
10	10	Stimson	6	655	620	-5%
Total Top 10			113	16,959	17,771	4.8%
Total US Shipments				32,644	33,861	3.7%
% of US Shipments				52.0%	52.5%	

Notes: Includes lumber produced only at primary sawmills and excludes offshore production.

Source: FEA Canada/WOOD MARKETS





# DOMINANCE OF US SOUTH

## Southern Lumber Capacity

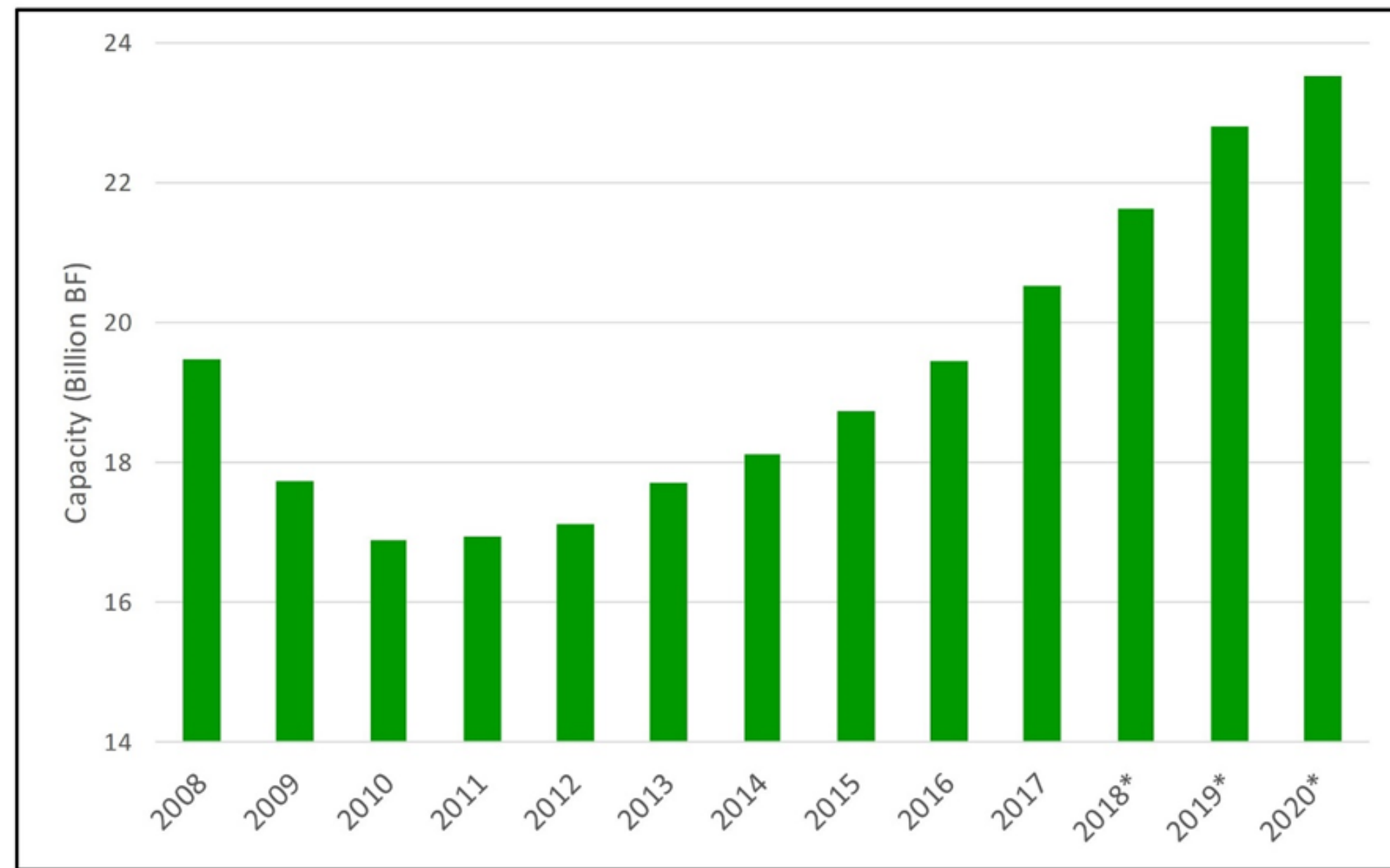


Figure 1. Softwood lumber capacity in the U.S. South, 2008-2020. Capacity estimates reflect a year-end snapshot, and estimates for 2018-2020 include announced projects that are expected to come online in the given year. Source: Forisk Consulting.

<https://forisk.com/blog/2018/07/12/southern-lumber-producers-past-present-future/>

Good summary from (<http://www.timberharvesting.com/southern-softwood-lumber-explosion/>)

—Interfor is spending \$46 million for a major upgrade at its Monticello, Ark. facility and lesser amounts to tweak its other multiple works in Georgia. It has also identified a site in the central region for a **new 200MMBF operation**.

—Canfor has announced a new 275MMBF plant for Washington, Ga. and committed \$125 million for modernization and refinements at several mills that will **increase annual capacity by another 75MMBF**.

—At Talladega, Ala., Georgia-Pacific is nearing completion of a new 230 MMBF capacity mill and has upgraded an existing plant at Belk, Ala. Earlier this year G-P told it would **build a new 350MMBF mill** to replace its existing facility, now producing about 110MMBF per year, at Warrenton, Ga. G-P has indicated other projects will be forthcoming, and some speculate the next one will involve the restart of its idle mill at Buna, Tex.

—Rex Lumber Co. is building a **new mill** near Troy, Ala. that will have a capacity of **240MMBF**.

—Two Rivers Lumber Co. last year completed a **new 200MMBF plant** near Demopolis, Ala.

—Although it has yet to officially reveal the location of the facility, Westervelt Lumber recently announced it intends to erect a **new 250MMBF capacity plant** in Alabama. Speculators point to a site near Thomasville.

—Elsewhere in Alabama, Weyerhaeuser is converting its stud mill at Millport to a more conventional sawmill, greatly increasing log intake and lumber output. Also, the company is expected to finally officially start up its **gigantic new mill** at Dierks, Ark.

—LaSalle Lumber Co., a joint venture involving Louisiana's Hunt Lumber Co. and Canada's Tolko Industries, has a **new 200MMBF capacity mill** going up near Urania, La. At least two more companies are each said to be considering a new mill in the state.

—Biewer Lumber in early 2017 opened its **new 230MMBF facility** in Newton, Miss. and reportedly has indicated it may erect another in either Mississippi or Arkansas.

—Two idle mills in Arkansas were **upgraded and restarted** last year: Conifex with the mill once owned by Georgia-Pacific at El Dorado (180 MMBF capacity); and Caddo River Forest Products with the former Curt Bean Lumber Co. at Glenwood (100MMBF).

—Jordan Lumber Co. **added a third green line** to its already big mill at Mt. Gilead, NC, making it the largest capacity single shift mill in the region.

—Sooner or later, Klausner, or another company, will start up that long since finished but still idle mill at Enfield, NC.

—West Fraser typically does not announce its construction plans, but 18 months ago did reveal it would expand production at its Newberry, SC mill by 37%. Last year it spent millions to significantly increase output at mills in Opelika and Maplesville, Ala. The company may be considering building its first ever greenfield sawmill in the region, possibly in central Alabama.

All this new and expanded production will mean a **heightened annual log demand that could push 13 million tons**. The timber is certainly available, as is logging capacity. What about mill labor? That could be an issue. What about trucking capacity? That could be a serious issue.

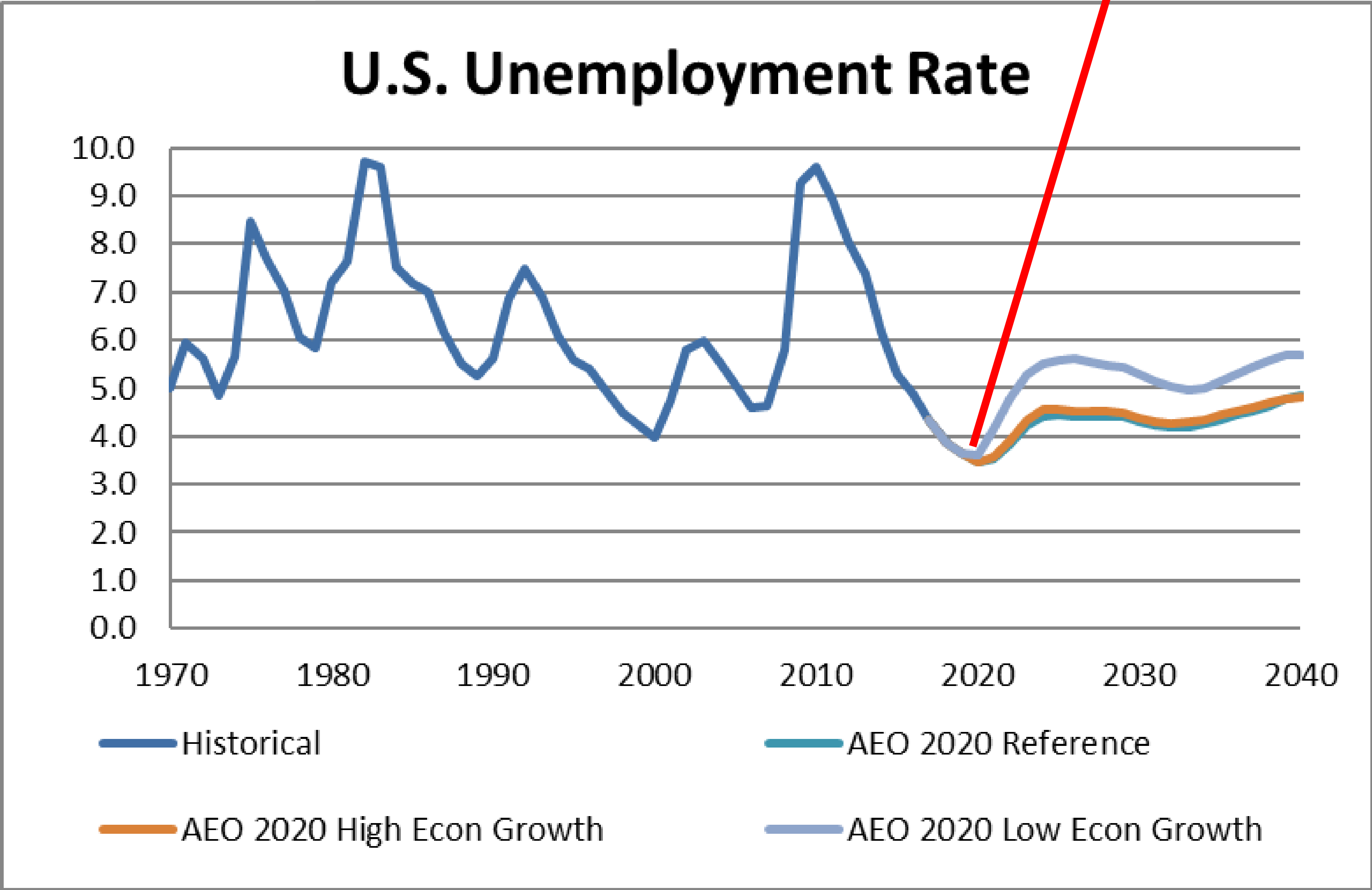
New and expanded mills will produce abundant quantities of chips and other residues, all of which will require more trucks, trailers, and drivers. However, this increased chip production will trim roundwood demand at some paper, OSB and pellet plants in certain locations, so the net trucking demand will be offset to a certain extent.

I





# LABOR FORCE ISSUES

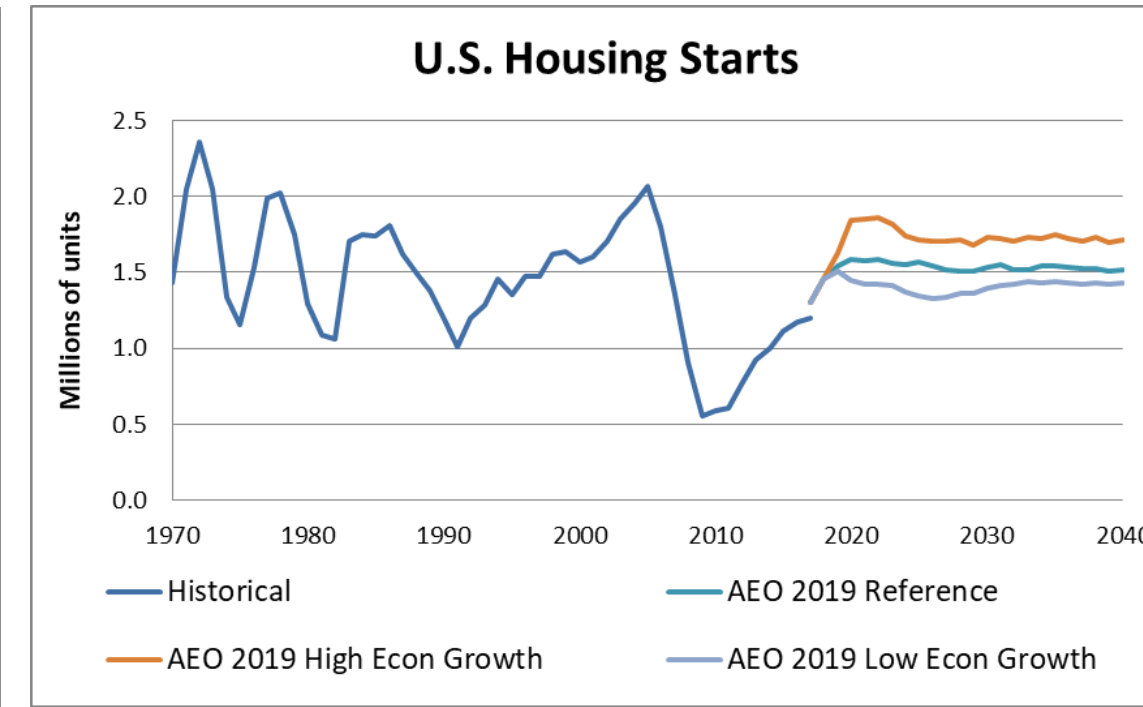
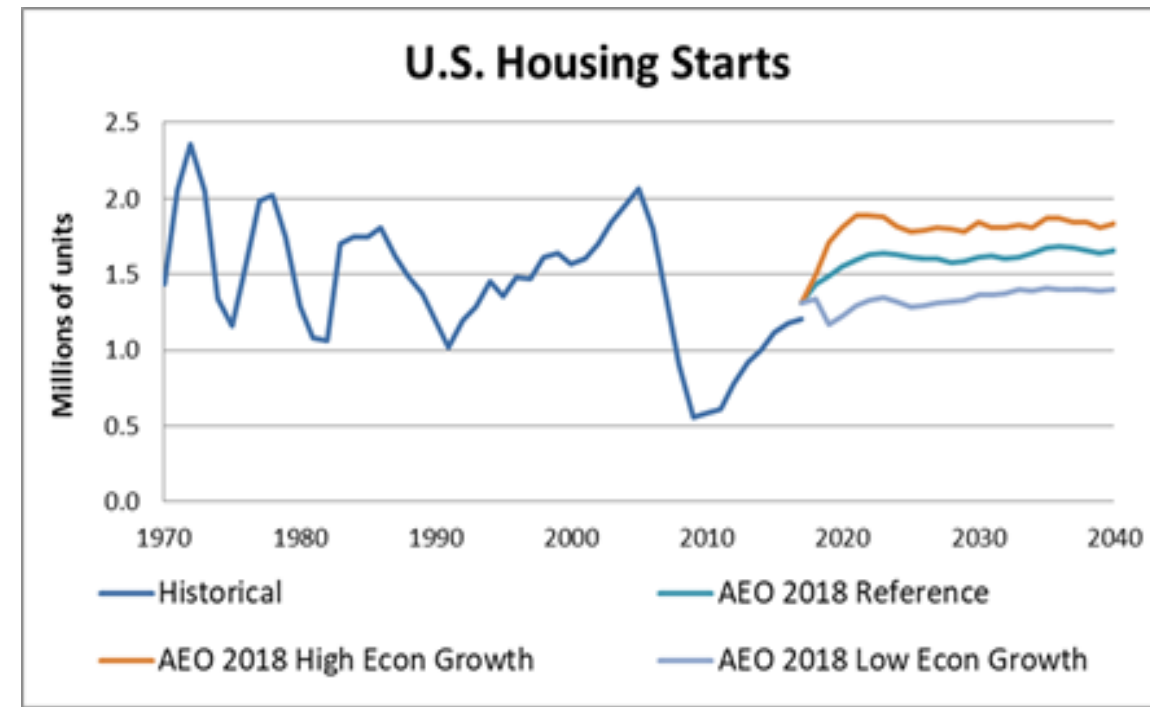
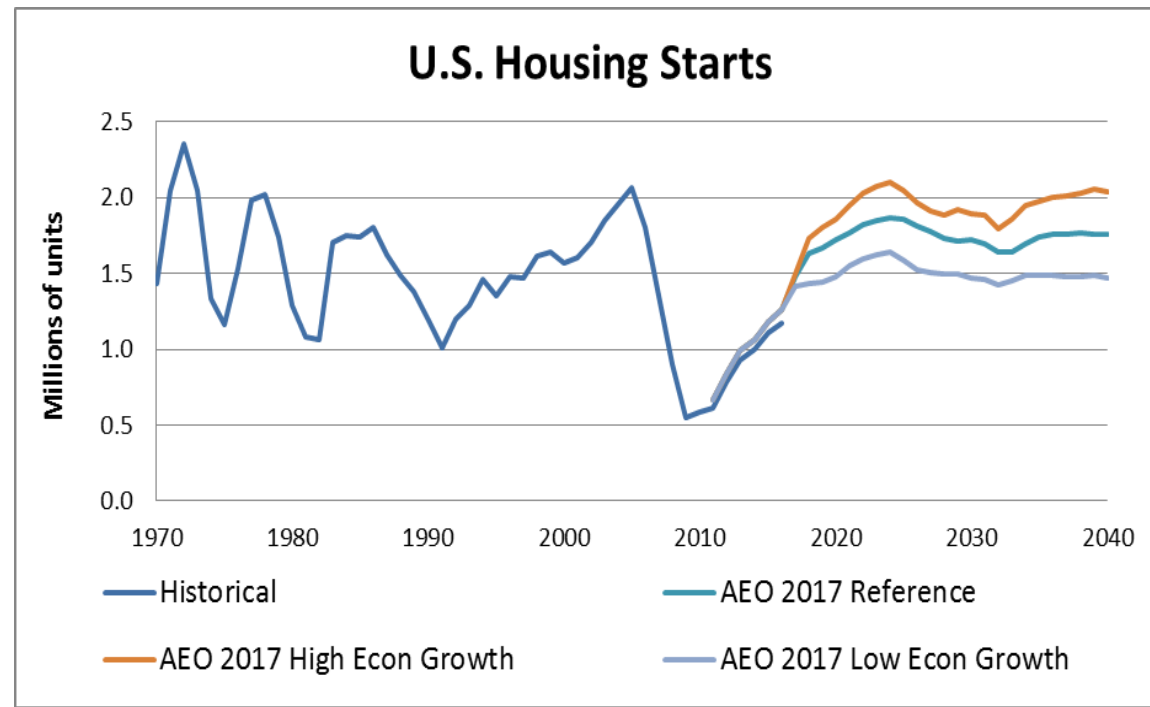


*Annual Energy Outlook 2020*  
with projections to 2050

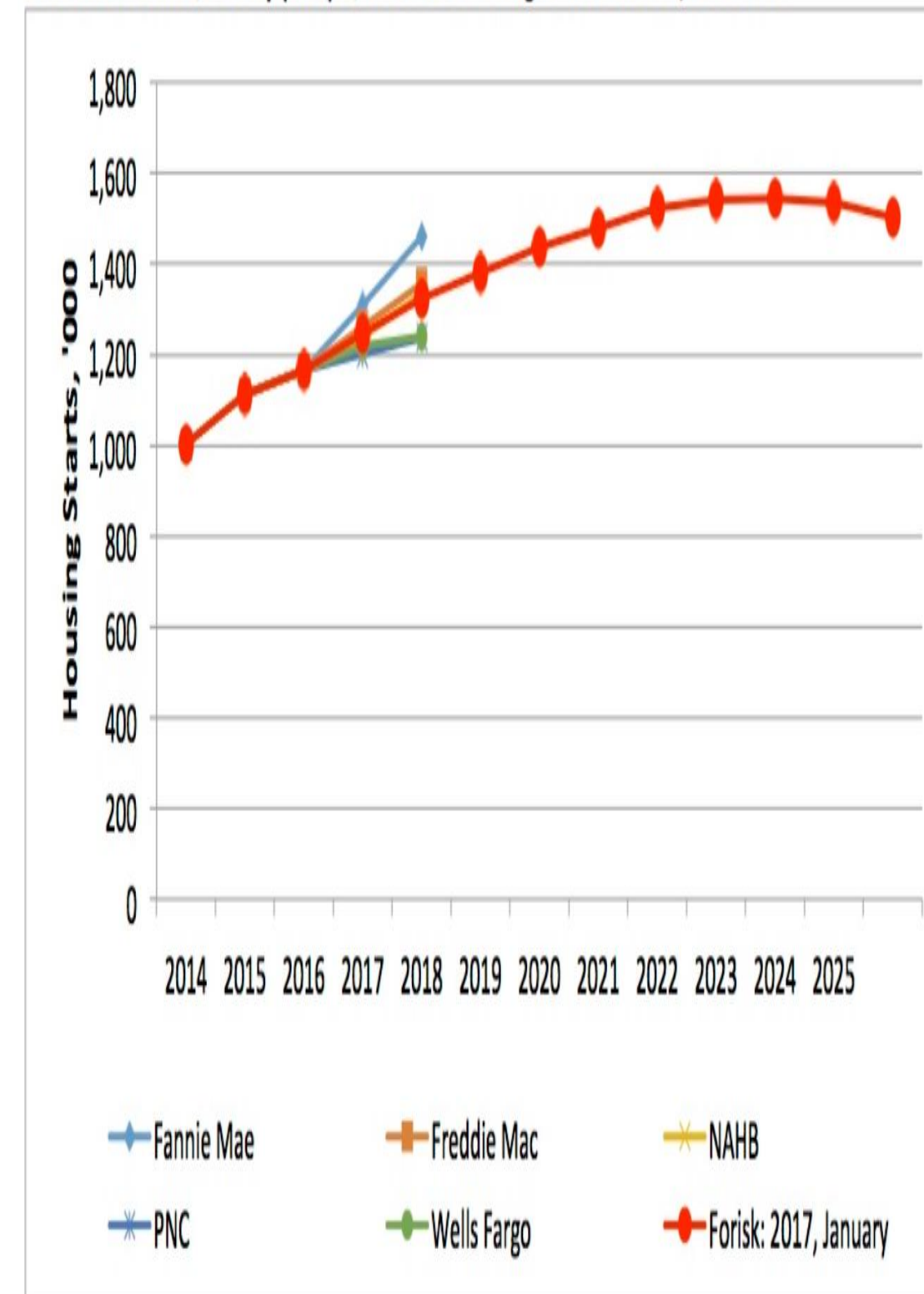




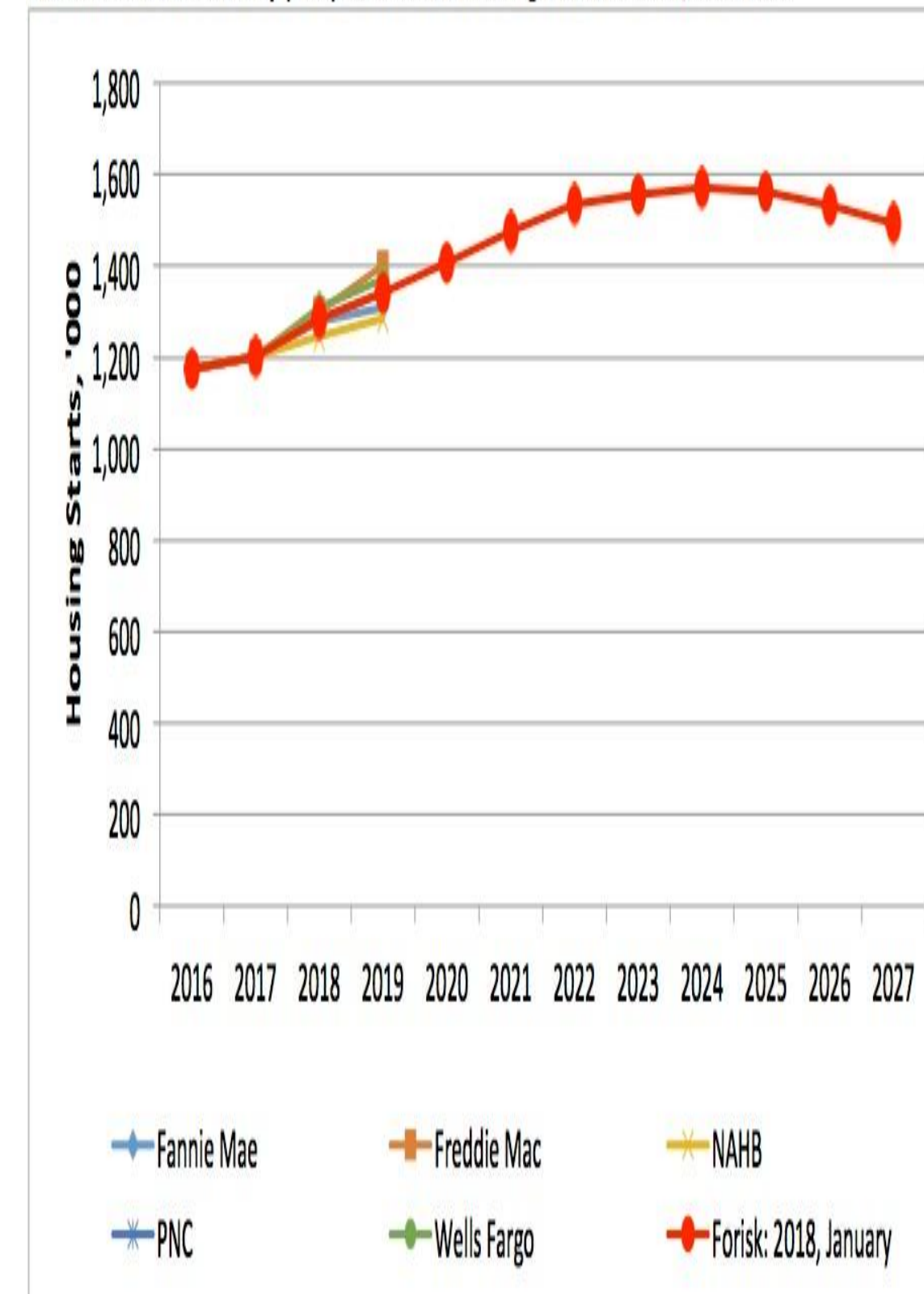
# Macroeconomic Drivers



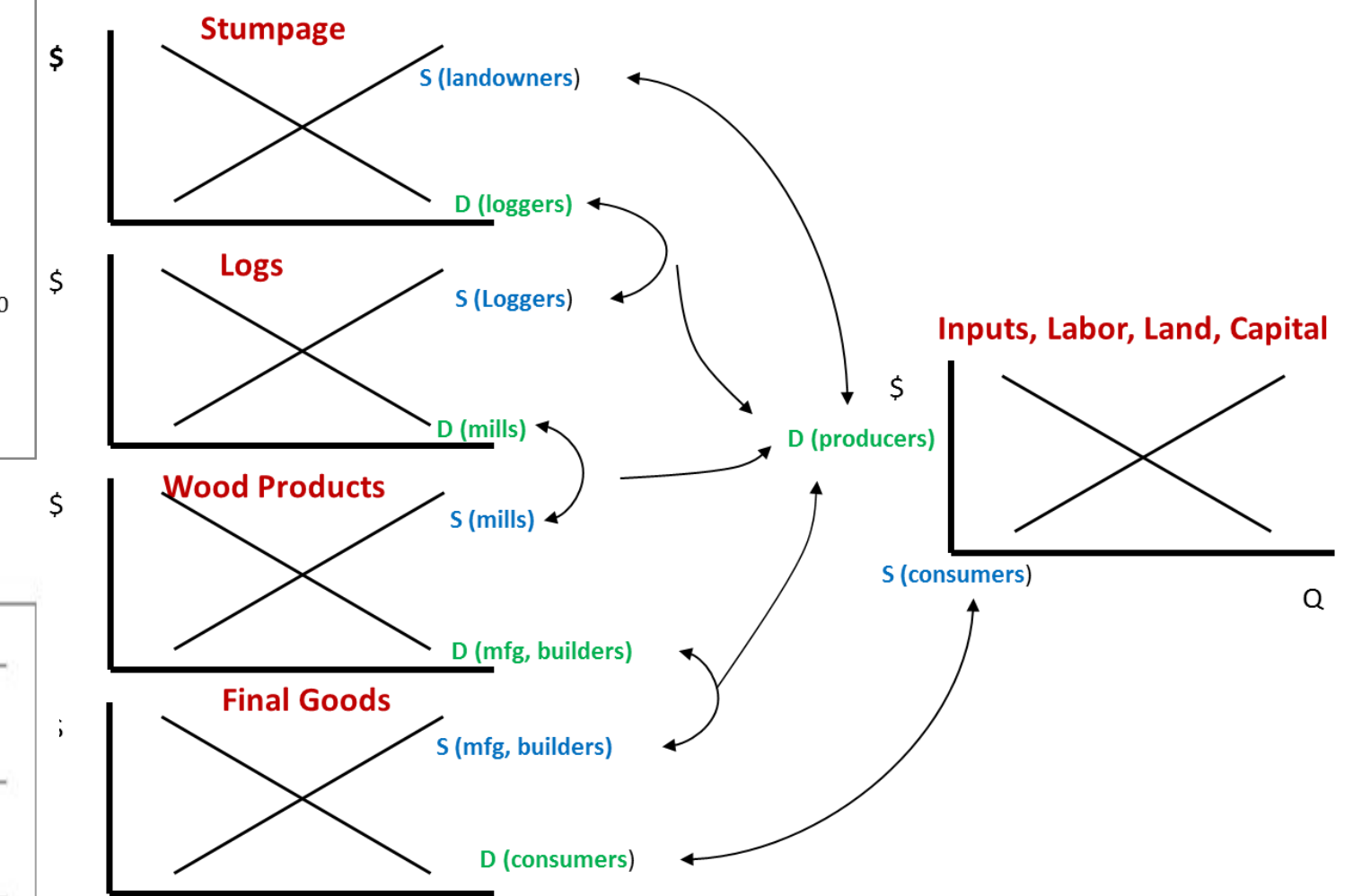
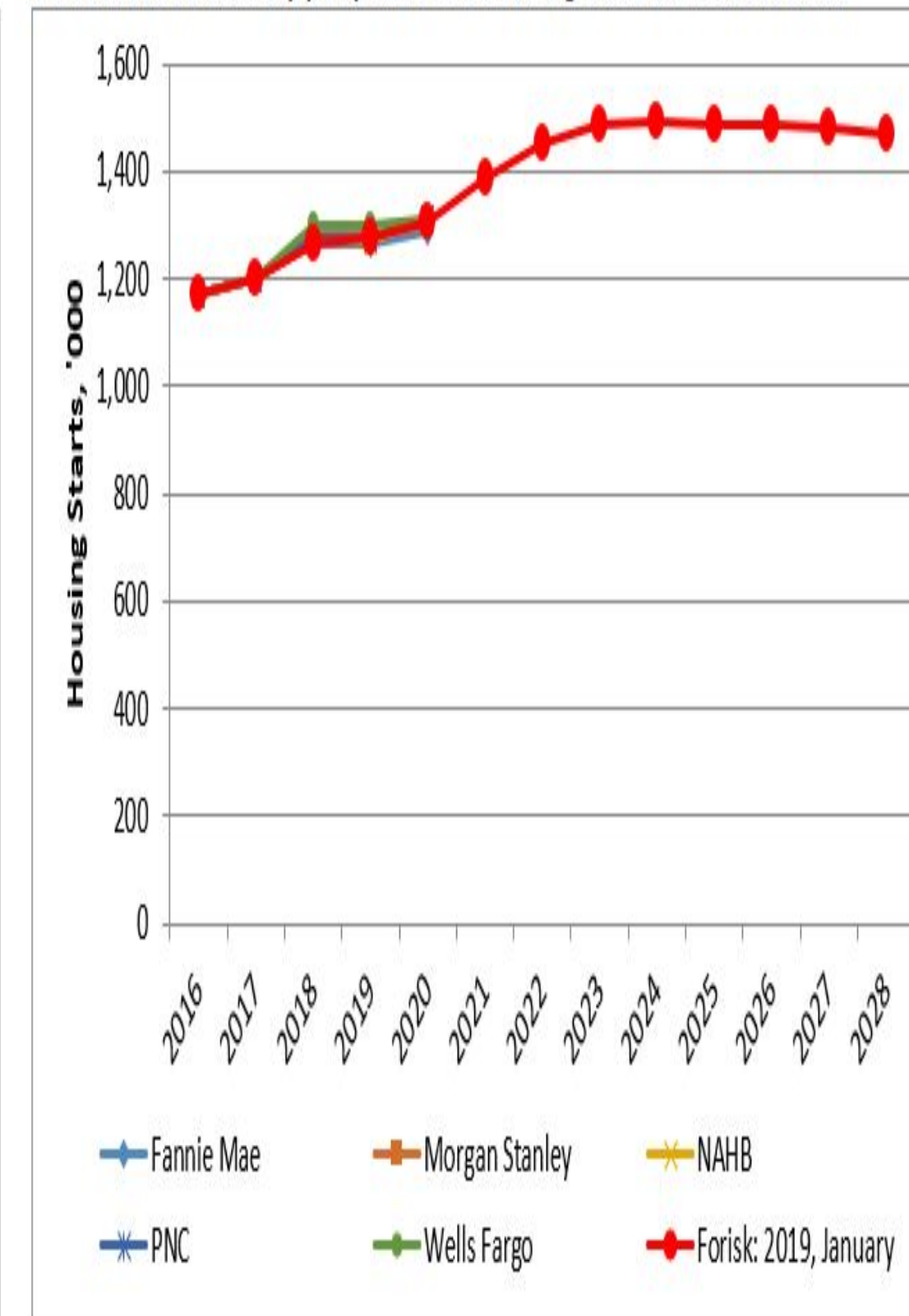
Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ) Q1 2017 US Housing Starts Outlook, Base Case



Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ) Q1 2018 US Housing Starts Outlook, Base Case



Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ) Q1 2019 US Housing Starts Outlook, Base Case



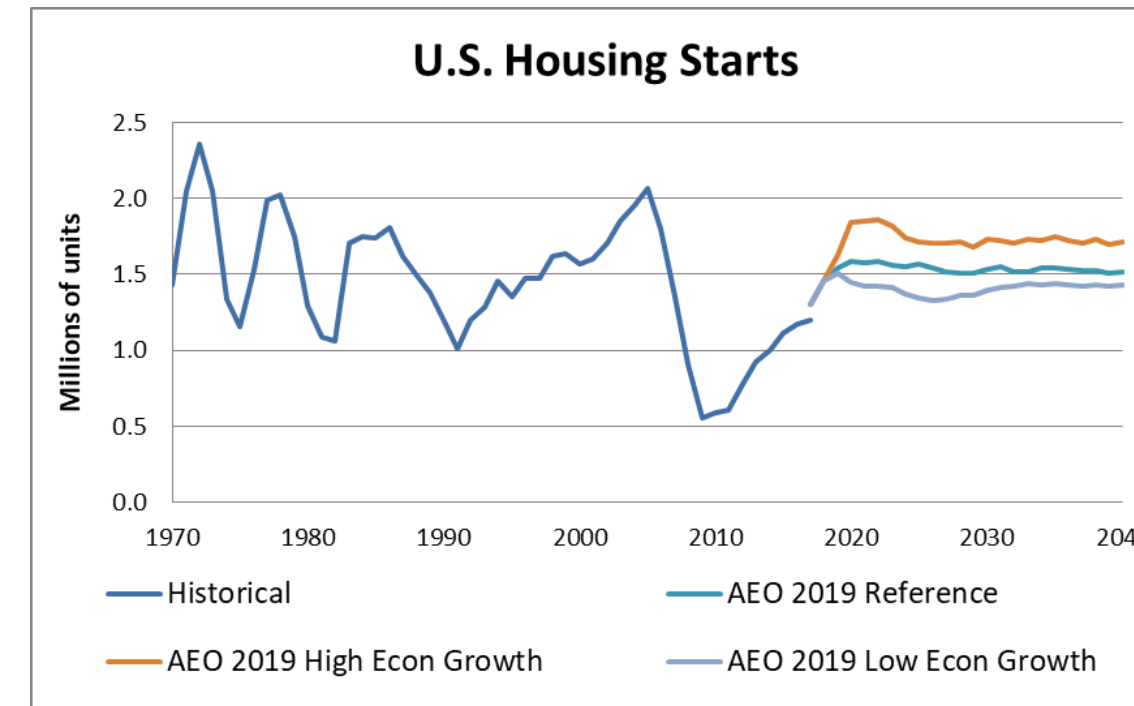
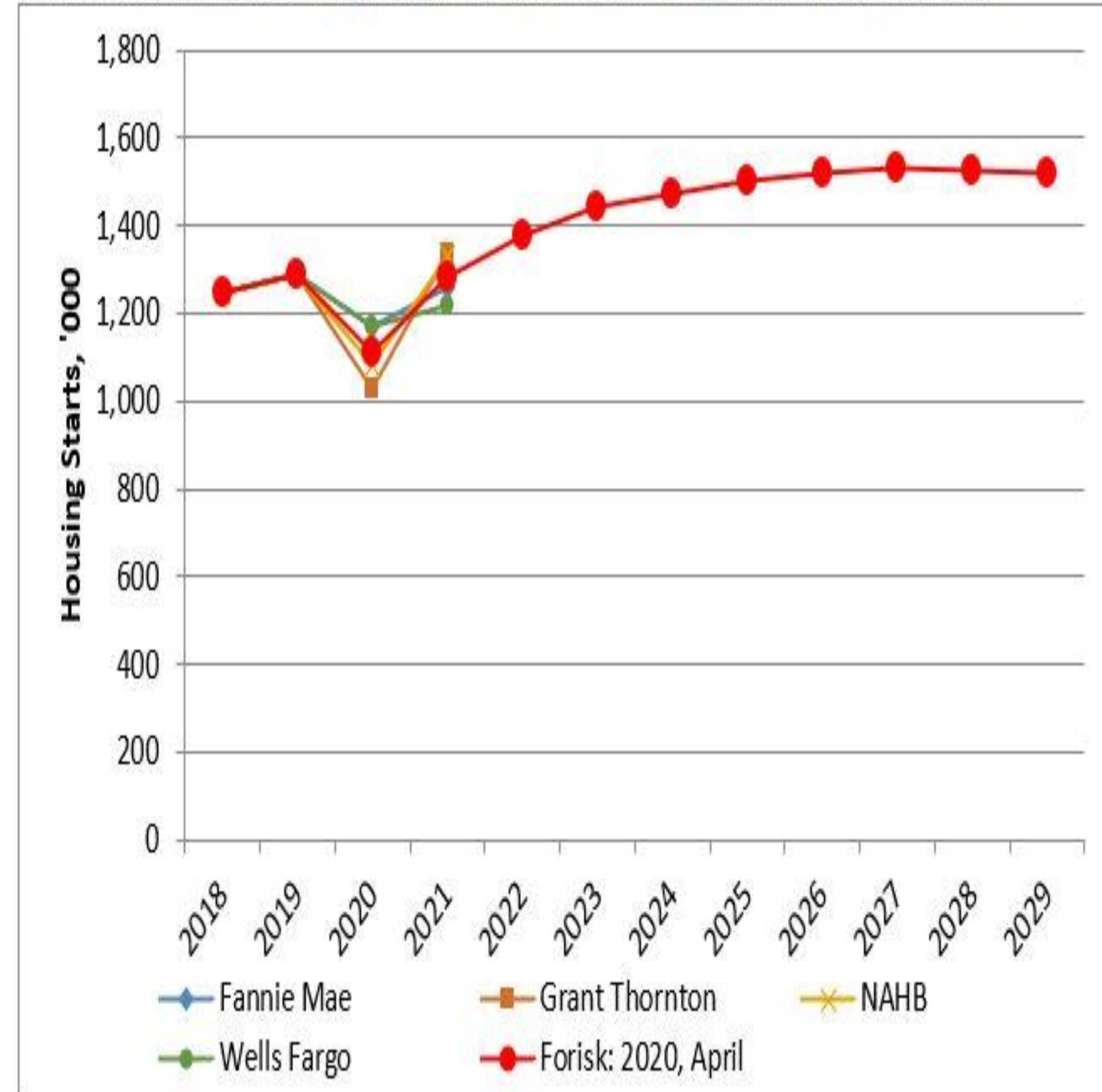
## Annual Energy Outlook 2020 with projections to 2050



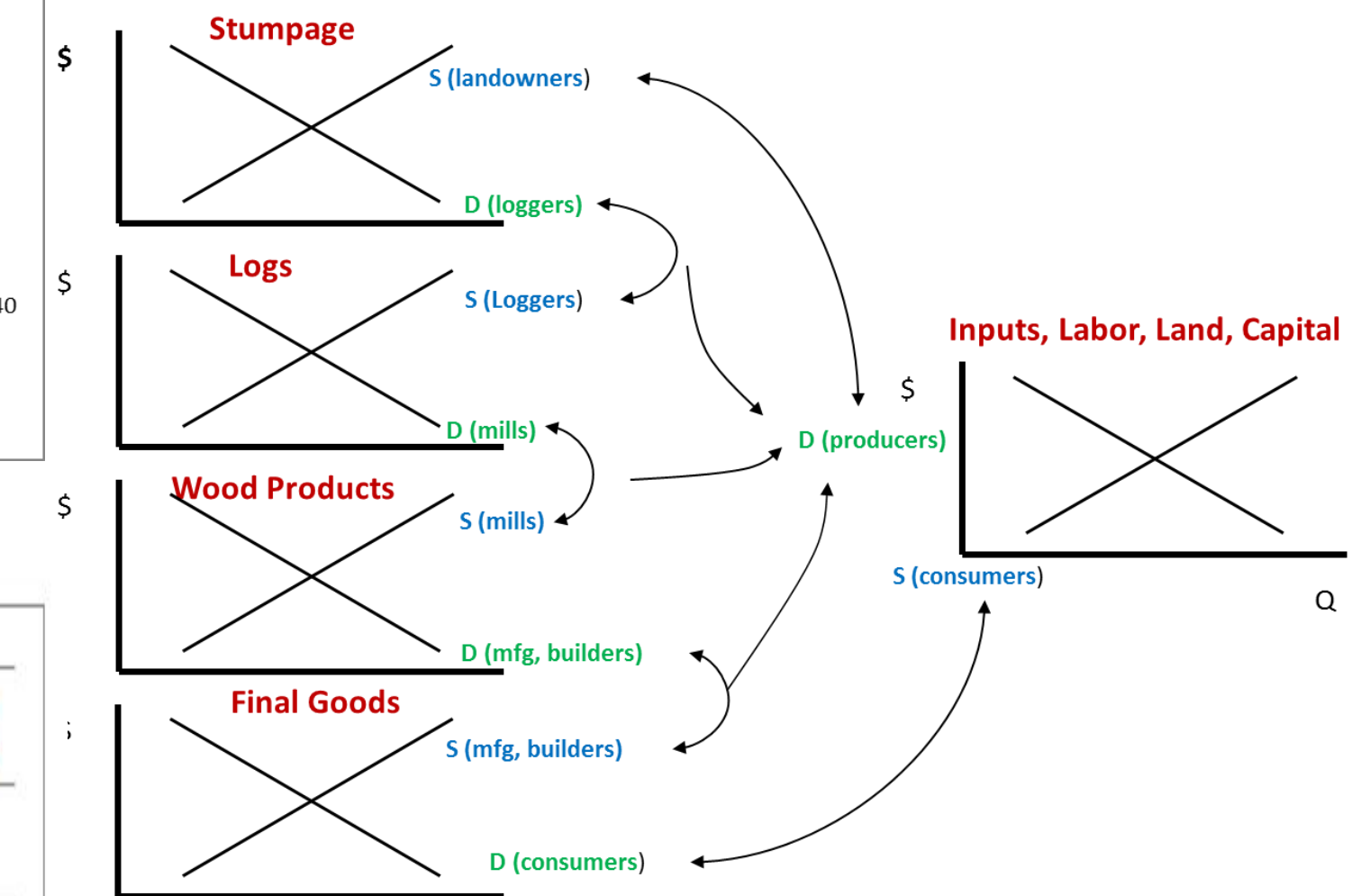
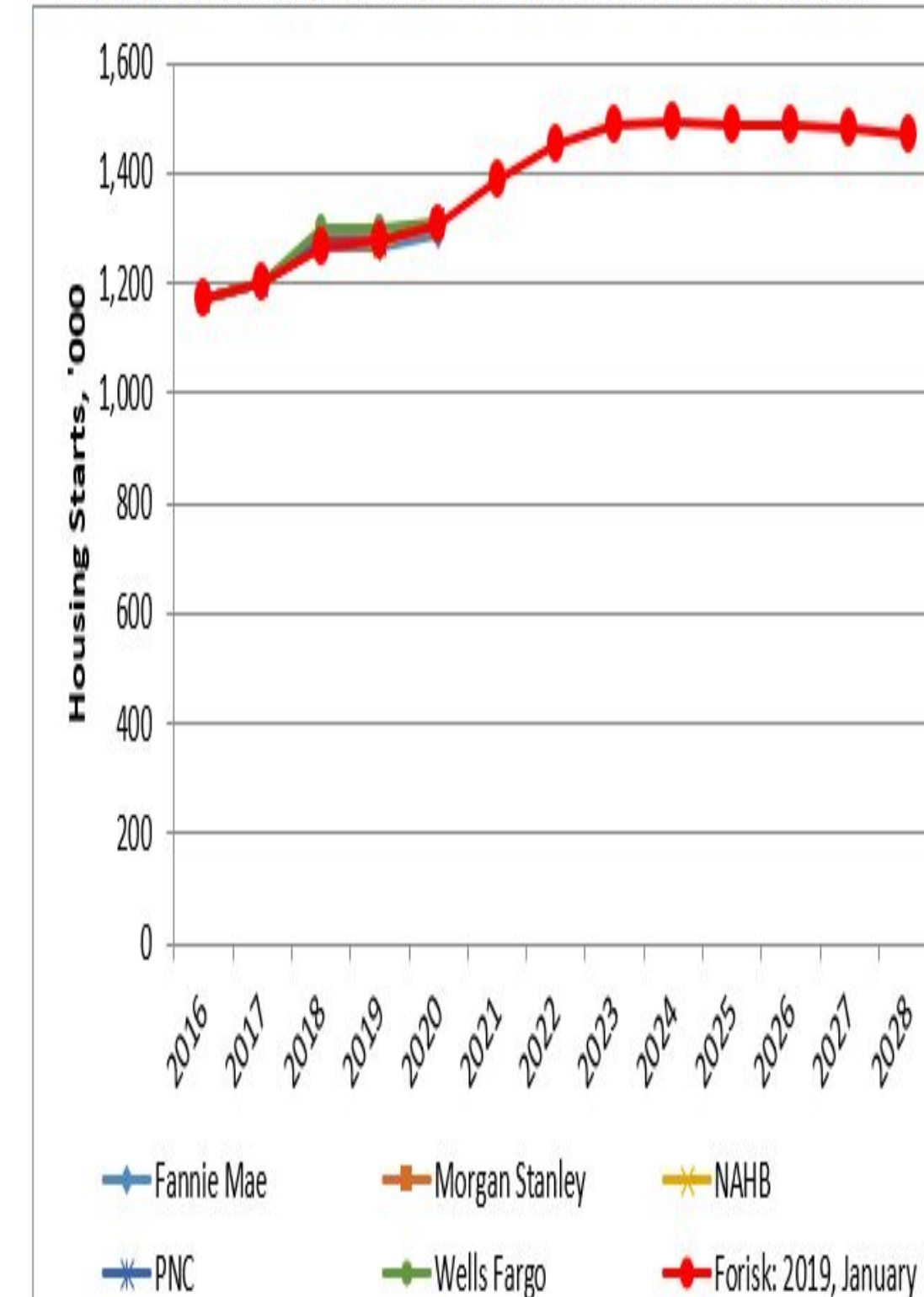


# Macroeconomic Drivers

Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ) Q2 2020 US Housing Starts Outlook, Base Case



Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ) Q1 2019 US Housing Starts Outlook, Base Case

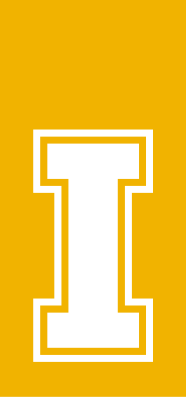


Annual Energy Outlook 2020  
with projections to 2050





# FOREST CARBON – OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



## Active Projects in the CA Cap-and-Trade Market



### Descriptive Statistics

Item	Value
Projects	96
Acres	4,343,307
QRs	124,445,079
Project Acreage	
Maximum	506,729
Minimum	521
Average	45,243
Project QRs	
Maximum	14,861,093
Minimum	(145,559)
Average	1,296,303

A QR is a ton of avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The current price per QR is between \$10 and \$15



# MASS TIMBER

## University of Idaho ICCU Arena



### Framework

**Project:** A 12-story high-rise containing retail space, offices and affordable housing

**Location:** 430 NW 10th Ave., Portland

**Anticipated construction start date:** Summer 2017

**Anticipated construction completion date:** Fall 2018

**Developer:** project ^

**Co-developer:** Home Forward

**Architect:** LEVER Architecture

**General contractor:** Walsh Construction Co.

**Structural engineer:** KPFF Consulting Engineers

**Fire, acoustic and sustainability engineer:** Arup

**Mass timber consultant:** StructureCraft Builders Inc.

**Construction:** CLT resilient rocking wall core, glulam post-and-beam frame and CLT diaphragm



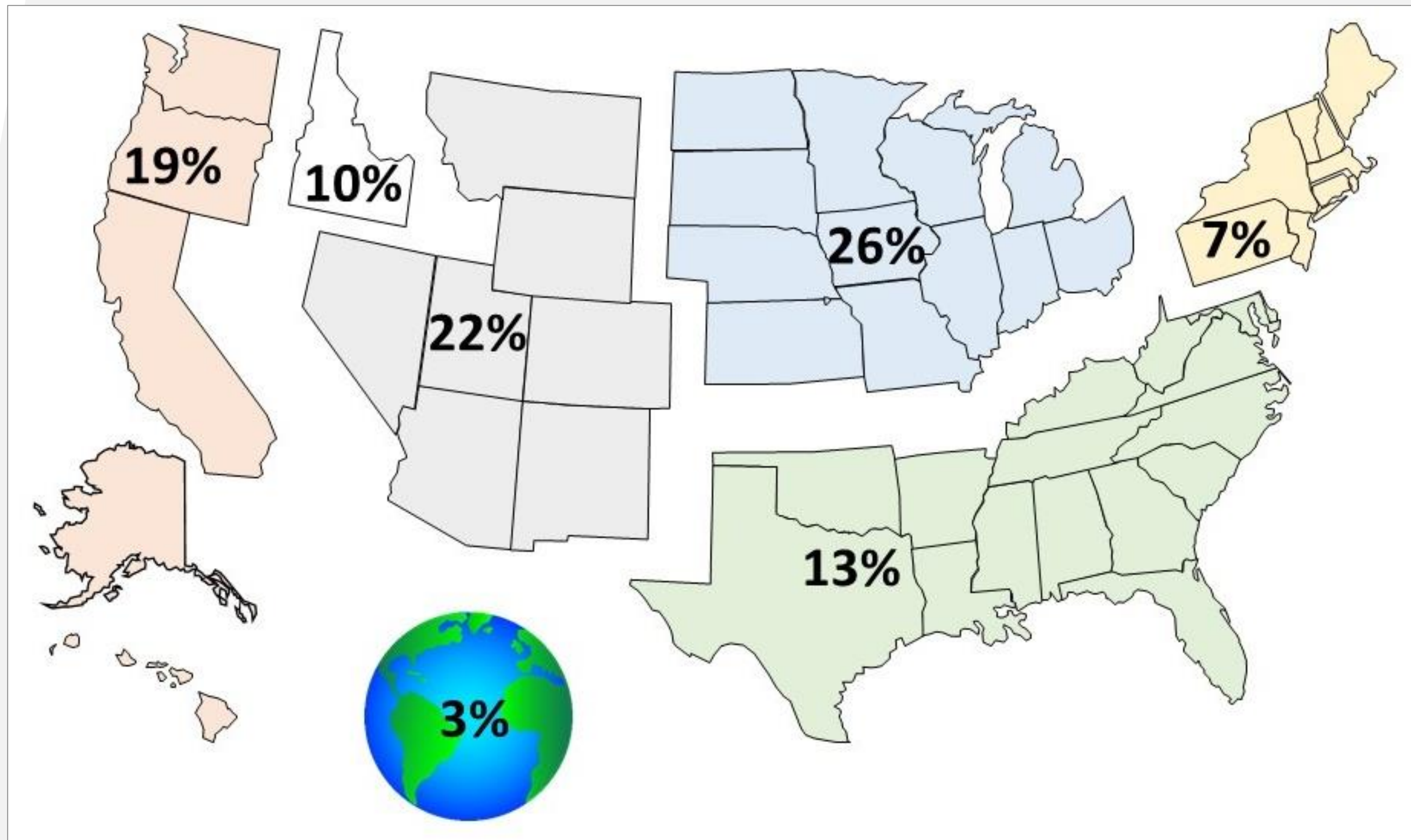
<https://oregonforests.org/node/163>



# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO'S FORESTS



90% of Idaho's primary wood products are exported out of state







**University of Idaho**

College of Natural Resources

**Greg Latta**

Director, Policy Analysis Group

[glatta@uidaho.edu](mailto:glatta@uidaho.edu)



@UIDAHOCNR

---

e-newsletter and reports

<http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/pag>