

Wood, Water, and Wildlife: Connecting the Dots

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Michigan's World-Class Forests and Waters

- 20 million acres of forests
- 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams



Healthy forests, healthy fisheries

- 80% of U.S. freshwater originates in forests
- Forests cover 34% of U.S. land; 56% of Michigan land



What is “Forests for Fish”?

- A collaboration to help natural resource professionals demonstrate how *Michigan's forests provide abundant clean water and quality fish habitat*
- Funded by the USFS, State and Private Forestry



Wood is Good!

- Healthy fisheries rely on:
 - Clean water
 - Wood recruitment
- These provide:
 - Habitat
 - Grade Control
 - nutrients



Trees help streams!

- Trees:
 - filter water/reduce pollution
 - reduce erosion
 - Minimize the effects of flooding
 - Maintain habitat—shade, food, cover, enrich oxygen levels



Public land

- Fisheries biologists and foresters already work together on public land
 - Compartment reviews
 - Habitat improvement



Tree Drops

- Working together on the Au Sable
 - Lack of recruitment
 - Lack of habitat
 - Lack of channel diversity
 - Overall lack of!!



Private land

- How can biologists and foresters work together on private land?



Economics and Scale

- Commercial fishing: \$12 million/year
- Sportfishing: \$2.4 billion/year
- Forest Industry: \$20 billion/year



We need to pay attention to: Fish Habitat and Land Use

- Urban land use
- Agricultural land use
- Forest land use



We need to pay attention to: Fish Populations



What species have:

- Declining?
- Stable?
- Increasing?
- T&E species
- Extirpated species

Fish Habitat

- Stream or lake bottom
- Water quality
 - Sediment
 - Temperature
- Structure



Final Harvests



Thinnings



Fire

- Erosion risk
- Invasive species



Ruts



Composite mats



Stream Crossings



Regeneration

- Healthy forests provide quality fish habitat



Public Trust & Our Responsibilities

- Natural resources are reserved for public use
- Protect, maintain, and improve the resources



Public Trust, Gifford Pinchot and his Maxims

- Consultation can be painful, but it's your job
- If it's the right thing to do, slow down and educate
- Be honest and sincere, listen to others viewpoints
- Great communications = great support



**Thank You for Everything
You do!**

