Forest Products Manufacturer’s Perspective on NWOS

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How is NWOS Data important?

**Wood Supply Assessment**

- *What is the likely supply of wood from private forest owners over time in a specific region?*

**Communicating Sustainability**

- *Demonstrate to buyers of American products that America’s forests are managed and harvested sustainably*
Wood Supply Assessment

• Knowledge of *aggregate* landowner behavior is critical in forecasting wood supply
• What aspects of aggregate behavior are predictable?
Wood Supply Assessment

Statewide, less than 20% of harvested acres are from patches less than 40 acres in size.

Virginia Harvest Acres by Forest Tract Size Class

Source: Virginia Tech Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support
Debt-to-income ratio is a significant predictor of harvest by private landowners.
Wood Supply Assessment

- Knowledge of *aggregate* landowner behavior is critical in forecasting wood supply
- What aspects of aggregate behavior are predictable?
- To what extent do survey responses coincide with observed behavior?
- Needed from NWOS:
  - Access to *aggregate* information that pertains to woodbasket regions, summarized by ownership size class;
  - Access to data in as *raw a format as possible* while preserving privacy of respondents;
  - More research correlating responses with actions.
Sustainable Forest Management

• Buyers of forest products insist on evidence of sourcing from sustainably managed forests.

• Many international customers do not understand how forestry operates in the US:
  • Most wood comes from private forests
  • FSC forest management certification is not practical or affordable for many private forest owners
  • However, most harvests take place as part of sustainably managed systems.

• Impediments to markets for US forest products are impediments to opportunities for private forest owners.
Sustainable Forest Management

Reconcile this:

“relatively few ownerships have a written forest management plan… or have received forest management advice…”

Oswalt et al. 2019, p. 9

Data from Oswalt et al. 2019
Sustainable Forest Management

• Needed from NWOS:
  • Help convey the story of sustainable forest management being practiced by the very landowners supplying the greatest share of America’s forest products.
  • Clarity in distinguishing behaviors by different segments of the population of US private forest owners