



Forest Regulation in Montana

“Rethinking Forest Regulation “

Rights and Resources Initiative

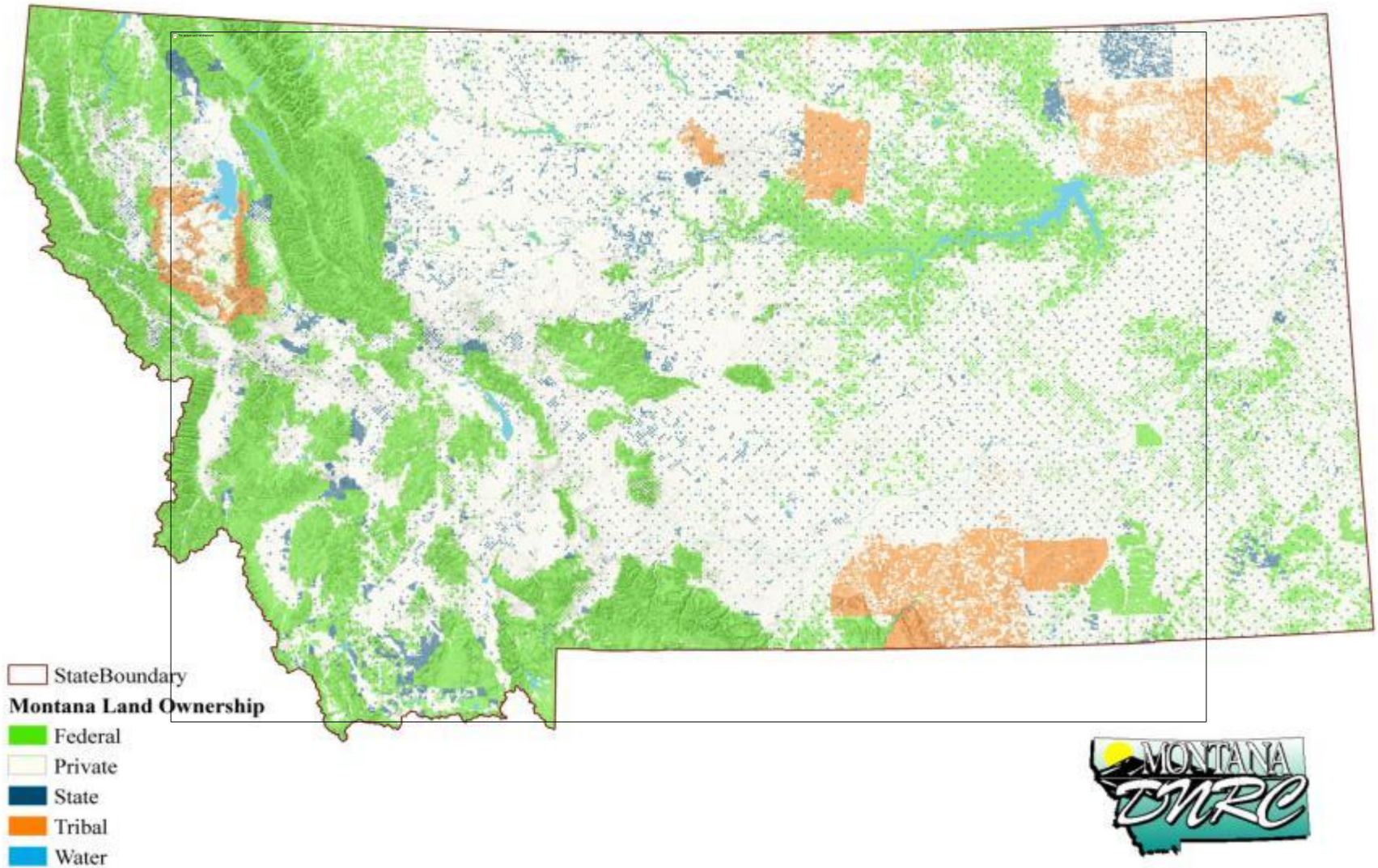
Montana Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Division

University of Montana - Lubrecht Forest

October 17-22, 2010



MONTANA - 2007



Montana Forest Statistics



Total Forest: 22 million ac (9 million ha.)

- 60% National Forest
- 24% Small Private
- 8% Corporate
- 8% State or Tribal

Average Timber Harvest:

- 1.0 million cubic meters

Forest Products Industry:

- 14 large wood products mills
- 10 log home / post-rail plants
- 600 logging professionals

Annual Value of Wood Products:

- \$750 million

Origins of Montana Forest Regulation

1989: Forestry at a Crossroads

- Federal Clean Water Act
- Potential of Federal Enforcement
- Pressure for Forest Practices Act



Non-Regulatory Approach

- Montana Best Management Practices (BMP) Law
- Landowner/Logger Education
- Monitoring
- Continuous Improvement

Less Restrictive Than Other States

- California
- Oregon
- Washington

Goals: *Improve Forest Practices* *Minimize Regulatory Burden*

From this.....



To this.....



From this.....



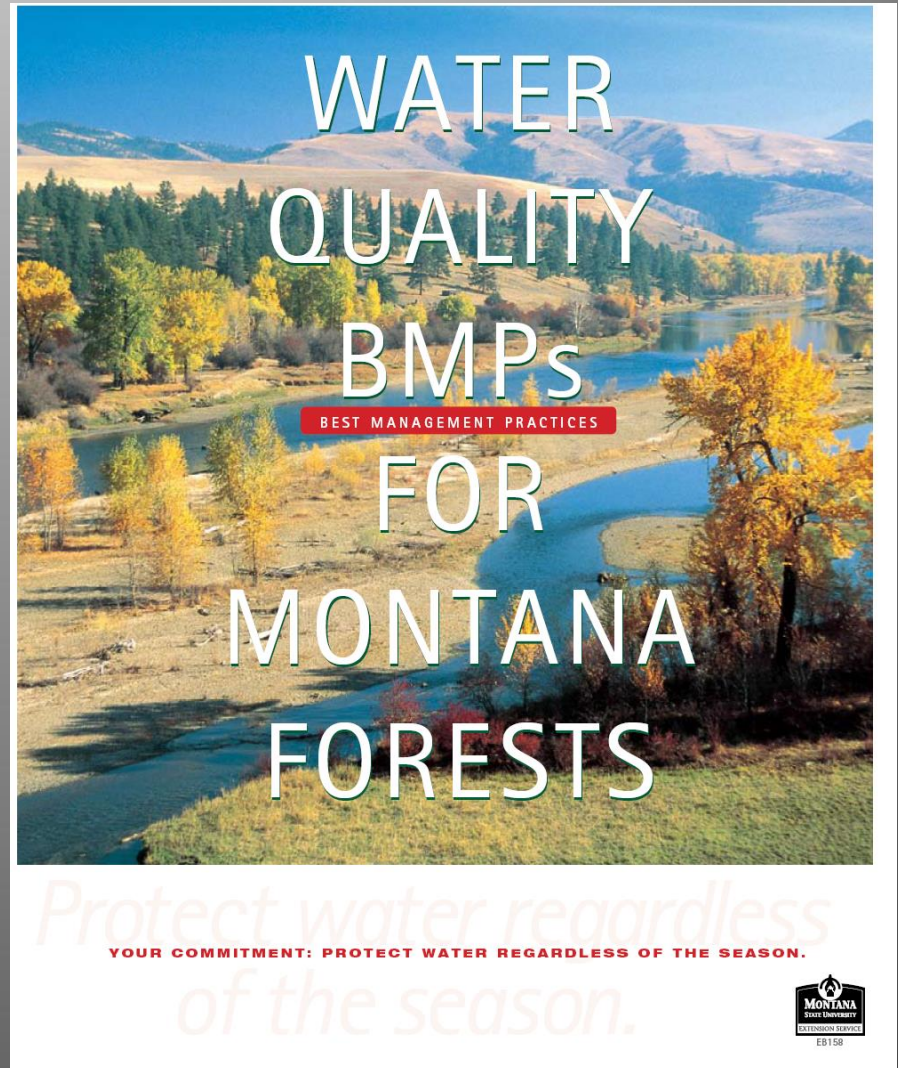
To this.....



Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Minimum standards for protecting soil/water quality

- *Road Construction*
- *Timber Harvesting*
- *Stream Crossings*
- *Hazardous Substances*
- *Streamside Management Zones*



Emphasis on: Education & Monitoring



Loggers

- ✓ Accredited Logger Professional Program
- ✓ Stewardship Education for Loggers

Landowners

- ✓ Forest Stewardship Program
- ✓ Individual on-site advice



Monitoring

- ✓ Field audits every two years
- ✓ Report to state legislature
- ✓ Additional regulation if needed
 - ✓ 1991 Streamside Management Zone Law
- ✓ Continuous improvement

BMP Audit Process: Interdisciplinary Audit Teams

- *Review ~45 sites statewide (1-2%)*
- *Rate BMP Application and Effectiveness*
- *Publication of results (Present results to State Legislature)*
- *Continuous improvement*



Results: BMP Audit Trends

1990 vs. 2010



Category	1990	2010
<i>Successful Application of All BMPs</i>	78%	97%
<i>Successful Application of High Risk BMPs</i>	53%	93%
<i>% Sites with Major Departure</i>	61%	11%
<i>Average Number of Impacts per Site</i>	8.0	0.6

Role of State Government



Educate:

- Loggers
- Landowners

Coordinate:

- Technical Committee
- Audit Process

Monitor/Report:

- State Legislature
- Public

Critical Factors for Success



Government Involvement

- Federal Pressure
- State Legislation
- Agency Education & Coordination

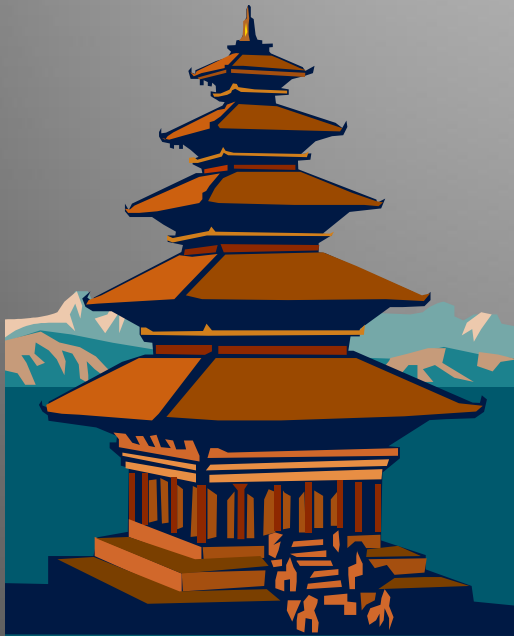
Non-regulatory Process

- Emphasis on Education
- Landowner/Industry Involvement
- Self-Regulation

Proven Results

- Monitoring/ Audits
- Biennial Report

Application to Other Countries



- *Establish clear goals*
- *Pressure / incentives from central government*
- *“Progressive Regulation”*
- *Match the prevailing culture*
- *Locally driven*
- *Industry & political support*
- *Transparency*



Thank You!

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