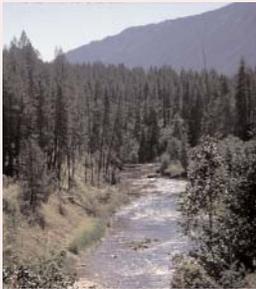


# YFF Review



## Rural Communities and Forests

A summary of a forum and workshop exploring the rural community perspective of managing the forest environment

A Yale Forest Forum Event

November 13 & 14, 2003

Global Institute of  
Sustainable Forestry

New Haven, Connecticut

#### Faculty Advisory Group

**Mark Ashton**  
Professor of Silviculture and Forest Ecology

**Graeme Berlyn**  
Professor of Forest Management and Anatomy and Physiology of Trees

**Gary Brewer**  
Professor of Natural Resources and Policy

**William Burch**  
Professor of Natural Resource Management

**Ann Camp**  
Lecturer in Stand Dynamics and Forest Health

**Ben Cashore**  
Assistant Professor of Sustainable Forest Management

**Tim Clark**  
Professor (Adjunct) of Wildlife Ecology and Policy

**Lisa Curran**  
Associate Professor of Tropical Resources

**Michael Dove**  
Professor of Social Ecology and Anthropology

**Paul Draghi**  
Lecturer in Forest History

**Bradford Gentry**  
Lecturer in Sustainable Investments

**Timothy Gregoire**  
Professor of Forest Management

**Xuhui Lee**  
Associate Professor of Forest Meteorology and Micrometeorology

**James Lyons**  
Professor in the Practice of Natural Resource Management

**Robert Mendelsohn**  
Professor of Forest Policy and Economics

**Florencia Montagnini**  
Professor in the Practice of Tropical Forestry

**Chadwick Oliver—Chair**  
Professor of Forestry

**Oswald Schmitz**  
Professor of Population and Community Ecology

**David Skelly**  
Associate Professor of Ecology

#### External Advisory Board

**Clark Binkley**  
Hancock Timber Resource Group

**Bruce Cabarle**  
World Wildlife Fund

**Charles Collins**  
The Forestland Group

**Ralph Grossi**  
American Farmland Trust

**Philip Janik**  
USDA Forest Service

**Ron Jarvis**  
The Home Depot

**Thomas Jorling**  
International Paper Company

**Sara Kendall**  
Weyerhaeuser Company

**Keville Larson**  
Larson & McGowin

**Peter Mertz**  
UBS Timber Investors

**Martin Rosen**  
The Trust for Public Land

**Scott Wallinger—Chair**  
MeadWestvaco Corporation

# YFF Review

## Rural Communities and Forests

A summary of a forum and workshop exploring the rural community perspective of managing the forest environment

Issue Editors  
Peter Land, Chadwick D. Oliver

Series Editor  
Mary L. Tyrrell

Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry  
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
Yale University

360 Prospect Street, New Haven CT 06511  
phone (203) 432.5117 fax (203) 432.3809  
email: [gisf@yale.edu](mailto:gisf@yale.edu) web: [www.yale.edu/gisf](http://www.yale.edu/gisf)

#### Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry

**Chadwick Oliver**  
Director

**Gary Dunning**  
Executive Director

#### YFF Review

The *YFF Review* joins the GISF Website as an outreach tool to improve the accessibility of information on issues relating to forestland use and conservation. The purpose of the Review is to inform stakeholders about programs and activities sponsored by GISF. We hope that you will find the information in each *YFF Review* useful and stimulating. For more information on topics covered in this issue visit our website at [www.yale.edu/gisf](http://www.yale.edu/gisf).



## Contents

Executive Summary	4
Issue Introduction	9
Presenter Summaries	
Panel of Rural Community Leaders	
Jeff Whiting	13
Michael Weil	14
Wendy Sanders	14
Carol Johnson	15
Michael Jackson	16
Jim Walls	17
Nadine Bailey	17
Jack Shipley	18
Richard Bolen	19
Panel of Policy Leaders and Yale Scientists	
Randy Phillips	21
Jim Hull	21
Abigail Sarmac	22
Barry Muchnick	22
Starling Childs	23
Ellen Brennan-Galvin	24
Thomas Brendler	25
Elizabeth Golden	26
Lloyd Irland	26
Workshop Summary	29
Resources for More Information	33
Additional Readings	36

This forum and workshop were made possible with support from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Class of 1980 Fund, and the Yale Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry.

## Executive Summary

Those wanting a healthy environment are increasingly recognizing that a socially and economically viable rural infrastructure must be in place in order to sustain an ecosystem's many values. For several reasons, rural communities around the world are not as viable as urban and suburban communities. A forum and workshop were held at Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES) on November 13 and 14, 2003, to address ways to achieve viable rural forest communities in the United States.

In his opening remarks, Forum and Workshop Chair Pete Land described how he and faculty advisor Chad Oliver first proposed the event as a student project. Pete's inspiration for the proposal was a pattern he has observed in which predominantly urban and suburban environmentalists alienate rural people whose livelihoods depend on the management and extraction of natural resources. Such alienation seemed counter-productive to achieving goals of sustainability. With Dr. Oliver's guidance, Mr. Land submitted to the FES Class of 1980 Fund a proposal to bring together rural community leaders with the purpose of giving them a collective voice in the national environmental debate.

Dr. Oliver then offered a broad perspective on the issue as background to the more specific cases and actions discussed by the panelists. He explained how modern society has failed to keep rural communities viable, often leaving them out of the urban economic boom. He then explained the "triad" scenario in which part of each of the world's forested ecosystems would be used for "integrated management," accommodating a wide variety of values, while part would be set aside for reserves—and other parts could be used for intensive management (Figure 1). This approach would not only enhance biodiversity and many other values by managing for a greater diversity of stand structures, but also reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and allow more rural communities to remain involved in forest management.

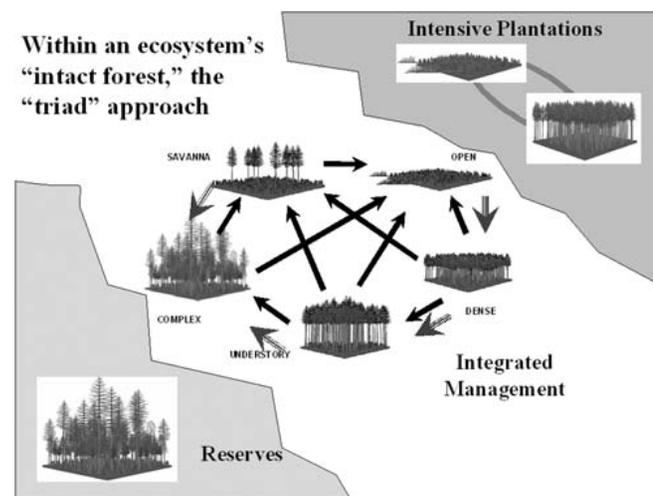


Figure 1: The "triad" approach to the world's forested ecosystems

The panel of rural community leaders presented in geographical order from east to west, beginning with Jeff Whiting, the Select Board Chair for Goshen, Vermont. Mr. Whiting described some of the challenges in managing a small town with an unusually high proportion of public land, at least by eastern U.S. standards. Michael Weil, Village Administrator for Potsdam, New York, explained why his town struggles with sprawl and a lack of tax support from the area's four colleges. Wendy Sanders, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Forest Alliance in Hayward, Wisconsin, described her organization's unique approach, which she called "regional with deep community roots."

Carol Johnson, Executive Director of North Olympic Timber Action Committee in Port Angeles, Washington, led off the panel's western contingent with a tale of three small towns on the Olympic Peninsula trying to salvage their economies from the impact of a reduction in timber harvest. Michael Jackson, a co-founder of the Quincy Library Group in

Quincy, California, described an unlikely partnership in one of the most divided logging communities in northern California, and its relationship to San Francisco. Jim Walls, Executive Director of the Lake County Resources Initiative in Lakeview, Oregon, argued that forests need to be managed if they are to be restored; at the same time, rural forest communities must explore new markets beyond wood to remain competitive.

Nadine Bailey, a longtime activist on behalf of timber workers and currently employed by California's Senate Field Staff in Redding, identified a disconnect between urban politics and rural reality that is symptomatic of a society in which people no longer have to live with the consequences of their actions. Jack Shipley, a founding board member of the Applegate Partnership in southwestern Oregon's Applegate River watershed, described several successful projects his organization has implemented through a unique collaboration between industry, conservation groups, natural resource agencies, and residents. Richard Bolen, a County Forester based in Wakefield, Michigan, was unable to attend the forum after his flight was cancelled by a snowstorm. In a speech read on his behalf, Mr. Bolen explained how a diverse group of 29 residents used the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators to develop a common vision of sustainable forestry for the county.

After the public forum concluded, the group reconvened for an evening session, during which a panel of policy leaders and Yale scientists was asked to respond to the presentations given by the rural community leaders. These speakers included Randy Phillips, Executive Director of the Forest Counties Payments Committee, a Congressional advisory committee; Jim Hull, Texas State Forester; Abigail Sarmac from the United Nations Forum on Forests; Barry Muchnick from the Yale History Department; Starling Childs, Founder of EECOS, Inc. and representative from the FES Class of 1980; Ellen Brennan-Galvin, a Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar at Yale FES, who also serves on the National Academy of Science's Committee on Population; Thomas Brendler, Executive Director of the National Network of Forest Practitioners;

Elizabeth Golden, an Environmental Consultant from Vermont; and Lloyd Irland, Lecturer and Senior Research Scientist at Yale FES.

The group identified and discussed several key considerations towards consolidating their efforts to encourage a viable rural infrastructure and a sound environment. Grouped into broad categories, the considerations include the following:

The decline of infrastructure is common to rural areas across the United States. "Infrastructure" refers to the background systems of roads and other transportation, schools, hospitals, libraries, public safety, public health, power, water, and communication facilities and organizations that enable other commercial and social activities to take place. Various infrastructure components can be in public or private sectors.

There is an abundance of energy in rural communities that can be harnessed with good leadership and collaboration.

"Environment" and "economy" are not forces that act against each other, so commodities, jobs, and environmental enhancement can be synergistic, not mutually exclusive.

The group convening at the workshop has the potential to create a network that works collaboratively to make rural communities viable again.

The outcome of the Forum and Workshop was the realization that all these community leaders have similar visions of viable rural communities maintaining the many environmental values—commodity and non-commodity—provided by forests. At present, however, they are each struggling to keep their community's infrastructure together until suburban and urban people appreciate the importance of these communities. They also realize they have common obstacles of low wages, few people and resources to maintain a large community infrastructure, and low tax bases.

The rural communities also realize that they have a lot of energy and a positive outlook—an attitude that they can provide both commodity and non-commodity environmental values from the forests—but it is a skill they have developed. The rural people have the special skills, knowledge, and will to maintain forests to provide the environmental values of timber, recreation, biodiversity, water, fire safety, and others. If these disappear, urban people—the truly resource-dependent people—will be hurt.

They did not consider there to be a polarization of forest work and wood commodity production vs. protecting the environment. They feel the two can be synergistic, not just compatible. They are concerned that United States policy has stopped management of many national forests—to the detriment of rural communities—but allows wood to be imported from other countries, many of which have fewer environmental regulations. Also, while the United States builds largely out of wood, many other countries build mostly out of steel, concrete, and brick—substances that cause far more pollution than wood.

If they focus on their commonalities, avoid disagreements over details of solutions, and use modern technologies (e.g., email and websites) to communicate with each other, they can present a large, strong, unified social force. The technologies enabling this communication can help overcome the previous disadvantage of rural communities—the slow communication and isolation from like-minded groups.

The synergy of the conference has led to interest in further forums/workshops that explore specific aspects of the discussions.

## Issue Introduction

### **CHAD OLIVER**

Pinchot Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies and Director of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at Yale University

### **PETE LAND**

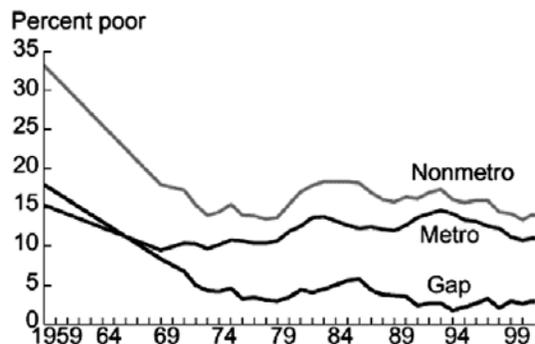
FES Class of 2003, Forum & Workshop Chair

The members of America's rural communities that manage resources are typically fit with a paradoxical pair of stereotypes. Politically, they are often seen as obstacles to conservation programs and laws that directly affect rural areas; and so they appear “anti-environmental.” At the same time, the nature of their work as farmers, ranchers, miners, and foresters gives them direct knowledge and experience with the resources that environmentalists seek to protect. Advocates of a healthy environment are increasingly recognizing that a socially and economically viable rural infrastructure must be in place to sustain an ecosystem's many values.

Most people live in places that would be forested if not for farms and buildings. Because of large areas of human settlement and agriculture, many forest ecosystems exist on a smaller area than they would naturally occupy. And we are managing them for increasingly more values—including lifestyles, biodiversity, commodity production, forest health, protection of soil and water, and carbon sequestration. These values are best provided when rural communities have the expertise, means, and prosperity to manage them. “Prosperity” is important because it allows a society to look to the long term and view multiple values, and so stimulates good management of the environment.

Unfortunately, many rural communities in the United States (and elsewhere in the world) are not as economically viable as urban and suburban communities (Figure 2). This phenomenon has gained recognition worldwide, with organizations such as the World Bank beginning to focus on the viability of rural communities. There exists a “vicious cycle,” in which the lack of high-paying jobs, tax base, and

**Poverty rates by residence, 1959-2001**



Note: Metro status of some counties changed in 1984 and 1994. Metro and nonmetro rates are imputed for 1960-1968, 1970, and 1984.

Figure 2: Metro vs. nonmetro poverty rates 1959-1999. Source: US Department of Agriculture

infrastructure in rural forest communities discourages highly educated people from moving to these areas, thus leading to further decline in high-paying jobs, tax base, and infrastructure (Figure 3). Economic development commonly brings people to cities or suburbs for work.

Although many affluent people have moved back to rural areas, they still tend to gain their employment from cities, a trend being labeled “gentrification.” Many cities have further cut rural areas out of the economic loop by importing and exporting abroad. Consequently, a greater percentage of rural people in the United States live in poverty than do people living in cities.

One problem is that worldwide, much more wood is growing than is being harvested and consumed. With global trade in wood, forest owners try to cut costs to make their forests profitable—and wages are one cost that is cut. This leads to two possible scenarios for managing forests. In the first scenario, the world’s timber would be harvested from

about 8% of forests in intensive plantations and the rest of the forest would be left unmanaged in reserves. Very few rural communities with forestry skills would be needed under this scenario, since the plantations would be largely mechanized and the other forest lands would be largely off limits as reserves.

In the second scenario, about a third of the world’s forests would be used for “integrated management,” which would provide much of the world’s wood while accommodating a wider variety of values. The integrated management scenario would not only enhance biodiversity by managing for a greater diversity of stand structures, it would also protect watersheds, provide access to forests for recreation, reduce the loss of forests to catastrophic forest fires, and reduce the world’s dependence on intensive plantations that could be insect, pathogen, and financial risks. The “integrated” approach to forest management would only be sustainable if landowners were paid for non-timber services and if rural communities remained involved in forest management. While managing for wood alone in intensive plantations limits employment, biodiversity, and many other values a forest can provide, managing forests for multiple values can increase the skill base, profitability, wages, and viability of rural communities, as well as other values.

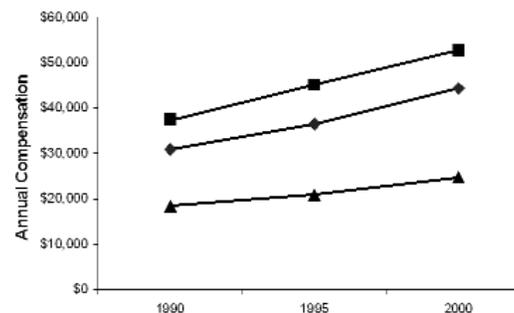


Figure 3: Annual total compensation per full-time equivalent employee 1990-2000. Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States

In many countries, rural communities have demonstrated that they can have political power when they band together. This was observed in the United States in 2000 when George W. Bush used overwhelming support from rural counties to win the election. An excellent opportunity exists to bring together leaders from rural forest communities to consolidate their efforts and generate a sustainable rural infrastructure.

The forum and workshop, entitled “Managing the Forest Environment: The Rural Community Perspective,” was held at Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on November 13 and 14, 2003, to discuss the importance and viability of rural forested communities.

The forum combined the expertise of rural community leaders from different regions of the United States, Yale scientists, and other invited guests interested in the issue. The rural community leaders shared the challenges they have faced, and often overcome, in their attempts to maintain the viability of their communities. The Yale scientists gave a perspective on global, national, and regional trends of forests; the latest understanding of forests; and the need for viable rural communities. Other experts, policy makers and members of other organizations, also participated as a resource for ideas and information in the workshop that followed the public forum.

The event began on November 13 with a forum, open to the public, which featured presentations by the panel of rural community leaders. In the evening, the Yale scientists and policy leaders were given a chance to respond to the presentations of the rural community leaders. On November 14, the forum participants reconvened for a workshop with the purpose of discussing specific ways that rural forest communities can be made more viable. In a discussion moderated by Chad Oliver, the group identified several key considerations to encourage viable rural communities.

## Presenter Summaries

### PANEL OF RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS

#### JEFF WHITING

Select Board Chair, Goshen, Vermont

Mr. Whiting described some of the challenges in managing a small (population 227) Vermont town with an unusually high proportion of public land by eastern U.S. standards. “State and federal mandates hit a small town disproportionately,” explained Mr. Whiting. “We have to do everything that a big city does, just less of it and with only a tiny fraction of the people to do it.” Thus small towns like Goshen are run by people who tend to be both “volunteers and generalists.”

Another challenge for the Goshen Select Board is sharing the town with the U.S. Forest Service, which, as Mr. Whiting explained, often has its hands tied in litigation. Federal protection for the Indiana bat has shut down logging in the Green Mountain National Forest for the past four years. The consequences to the local economy are not limited to jobs in the forestry sector; they can also be observed in the recent appraisals of private land adjacent to the National Forest. “Property values have gone up, but disposable income has not,” said Mr. Whiting.

Mr. Whiting also noted that the federal government has finally changed the formula for payments to towns in lieu of taxes so it is no longer tied to yearly logging income. However, Congress still decides annually what percent of the full amount they will fund. “We don’t allow the taxpayers in town to decide individually what percent of their full taxes to pay.” If private landowners don’t pay the full amount, the land goes to “tax sale.” Also, “there is no mechanism to increase the annual federal payment in lieu of taxes when the taxes on surrounding landowners go up. Even now, the taxes on an undeveloped private acre are much higher than the Forest Service pays in lieu of taxes.”



Pete Land and Jeff Whiting

**MICHAEL WEIL**

Village Administrator/Engineer, Potsdam, New York

St. Lawrence County in upstate New York has one of the largest areas of any county east of the Mississippi River, but has a population of only about 100,000. In the heart of this rural county is Potsdam, where Mr. Weil is the Village Administrator. Potsdam's economic tension is not with public land, but with the four area colleges that are exempt from paying taxes. "The schools do not contribute to the tax base," Mr. Weil explained, "yet we are responsible for maintaining the infrastructure that supports them." He identified suburban sprawl as another challenge in Potsdam. "Sprawl takes the land out of production" Mr. Weil said, "leading to forest fragmentation, which is detrimental to both ecological and commercial values of our forests."

**WENDY SANDERS**

Executive Director of Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Hayward, Wisconsin

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance serves a large portion of the Midwest: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the province of Ontario. Ms. Sanders described it as "a beautiful area where people come to visit and decide to stay." The consequences include property values that double every five years and a high rate of conversion of working forests into real estate. Ms. Sanders was invited to speak as a rural community leader because of her organization's unique approach, which she described as "regional with deep community roots." The Great Lakes Forest Alliance facilitates cooperative management efforts that bring together state foresters, industry leaders, private woodland owners, local government, conservation groups, county foresters, academics, and community planners. She also described an apparent disconnect between the various groups' values and their actions, stemming from a lack of information. "Better data leads to better dialogue, which leads to better decisions," she said. Ms. Sanders hopes that more environmentalists will participate in this collaborative process.

**CAROL JOHNSON**

Executive Director of North Olympic Timber Action Committee  
Port Angeles, Washington

Ms. Johnson told a tale of three small towns with contrasting climates in Clallam County, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Moving from east to west, there is Sequim (annual rainfall = 16 inches), Port Angeles (annual rainfall = 30 inches), and Forks (annual rainfall = 100 inches). Since logging was curtailed for environmental protection a decade ago, these three neighboring towns have been forced either to become creative or to perish. With its dry climate, Sequim has attracted a substantial population of retired people, but the town needs a young work force. The Sequim area has also developed agricultural products, including lavender—Sequim hosts a well attended Lavender Festival. The Port Angeles Economic Development Council has tried to organize by industry clusters in forestry, marine trades, agriculture, education, tourism, and technology.

Each group works on economic opportunities within their industry, including various tourist festivals and manufactured forest products. "We are beginning to see success with this concept, but the Olympic Peninsula is a resource-based area and that will never change." Forks, once known as "the logging capital of the world," has suffered the most. Evidence can be found in its difficulty maintaining services, especially funding the local hospital. There are some bright spots, with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources increasing the planned timber harvest on its Olympic Peninsula lands. Ms. Johnson commended these towns for being open to unconventional economic solutions, but she remains convinced that sustainable forestry will ultimately be the best opportunity for growth.



Michael Jackson

**MICHAEL JACKSON**

Co-founder of the Quincy Library Group, Quincy, California

An attorney with an environmental background, Michael Jackson was a founding member of the Quincy Library Group (QLG), an unlikely partnership in one of the most divided logging communities in northern California. In the early 1990s, President Clinton's environmentally friendly policies threatened Quincy's timber-based economy. The town became so bitterly divided over the issue that the conflict occasionally turned into violence. Behind the scenes, Mr. Jackson began meeting with pro-logging leaders at the town library, leading to the formation of the QLG and eventually a forest plan that was passed by Congress in 1998.

While the QLG partnership unified the community, Mr. Jackson said that it upset environmentalists in "imperial" San Francisco, especially the Sierra Club, with whom Mr. Jackson has worked. "The folks at the Sierra Club are good people," he explained, "but they don't have a clue about how to manage forests." Mr. Jackson added that environmentalists must realize that while "human intervention is indeed part of the problem, human intervention will also need to be part of the solution." A problem facing communities like Quincy, that have so much public land, is how to convince people not only in San Francisco but all around the country that sustainable forestry can be good for both the local economy and the environment. "Even here in Connecticut, you are owners of our National Forest in Quincy," Mr. Jackson explained, "but we're the ones who can see the soil and the water. Must we stop working just because you're scared of a chain saw?"

**JIM WALLS**

Executive Director of the Lake County Resources Initiative  
Lakeview, Oregon

Echoing a sentiment expressed by Mr. Jackson, Mr. Walls opened by saying that "forests will not rebuild themselves; they need to be managed." He added that this restoration might be accomplished by returning to a treatment approach that predates European settlement in this country. Mr. Walls works with the Lake County Resources Initiative to help create economic opportunities in southern Oregon, while recognizing that healthy environments and viable communities are interrelated. He explained that communities will need to look beyond traditional uses of forests in order to compete: "Unless we create a 'Mad Tree Disease' in Canada, [to stop imports] we cannot rely on commodities to support our local economy. We need to explore other forest markets." Energy markets are among those that Mr. Walls is exploring. His group is currently trying to create a biomass plant as a way to use the excess small diameter trees, which need to be removed to keep the whole forest from burning.

**NADINE BAILEY**

California Senate Field Staff, Redding, California

Two decades ago, Ms. Bailey thought she had her life figured out. "I was housewife married to a logger," she explained, "and thought I would do that forever—until a little northern spotted owl flew into my life and changed everything." Ms. Bailey has since seen her hometown of Hayfork, California wither away in the absence of logging. She became an activist dedicated to bringing her community's story to the national spotlight, with the hopes that she would raise public awareness of the social and economic impacts of the Endangered Species Act. The problem, as Ms. Bailey sees it, is that people no longer have to live with the consequences of their political actions. "I wish everyone who had a hand in the Northwest Forest Plan could live in Hayfork for a

year and experience the results,” Ms. Bailey said. She identified a lack of respect for local knowledge as one factor contributing to the disconnect between urban politics and rural reality: “People in urban areas seem to think that if some rural person in Hayfork can log, then any dummy can do that for a job.” Ms. Bailey was hopeful that rural people would someday be respected for their role as “the producers for urban consumption.”

**JACK SHIPLEY**

Founding Board Member of the Applegate Partnership  
Grants Pass, Oregon

Mr. Shipley discussed his work with the Applegate Partnership, a community-based group that brings together industry, conservation groups, natural resource agencies, and residents from the 500,000-acre Applegate River watershed, located in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon and northern California. Formed in 1992, the Partnership uses community involvement and education to support management of the land in a manner that sustains natural resources and that will, in turn, contribute to economic and community well-being. The Partnership produces a bimonthly newsletter, which is distributed to all residents of the watershed and is made available at local businesses, libraries, and the offices of state and federal agencies.

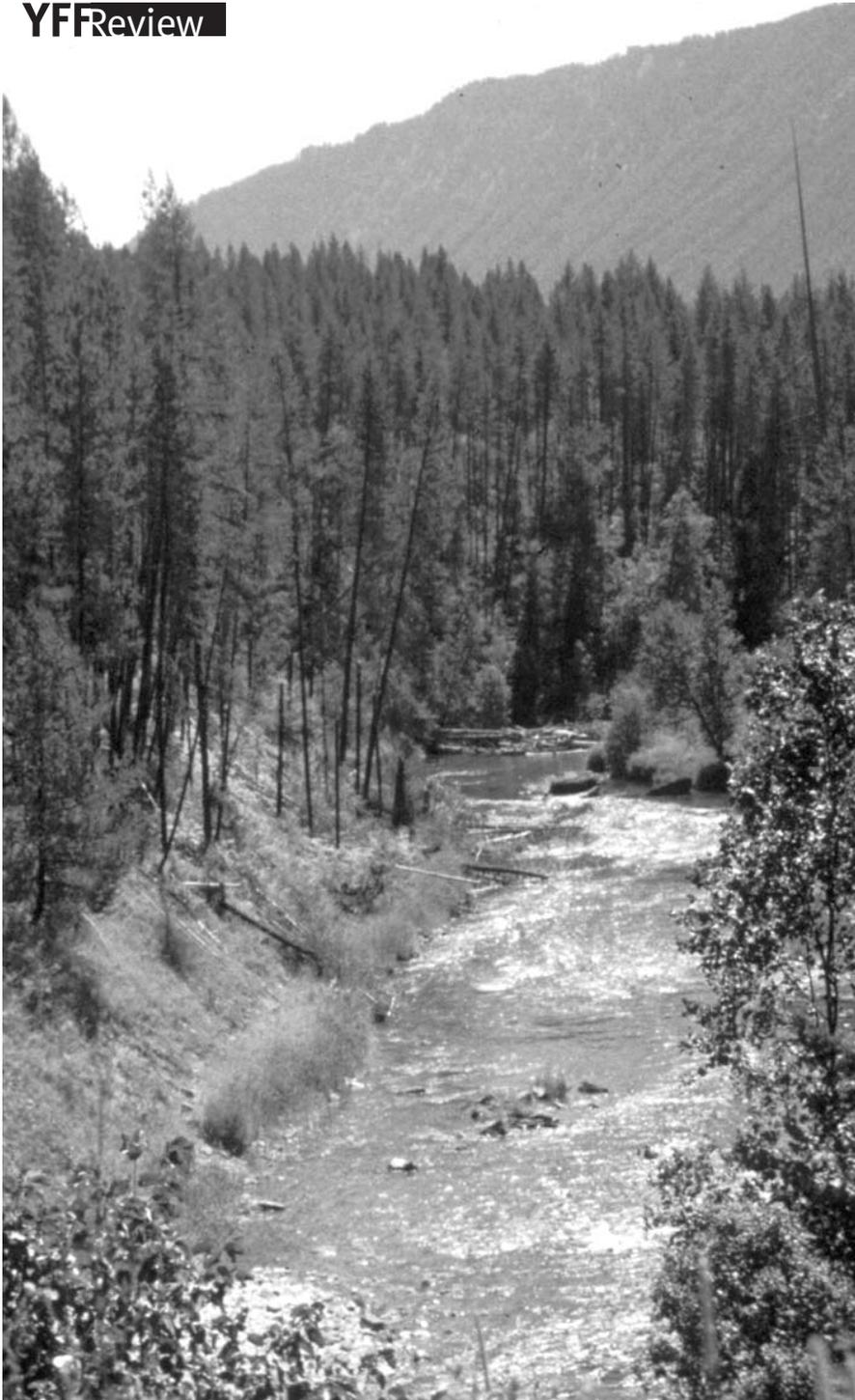
Mr. Shipley noted the successful collaboration that resulted in the Applegate Fire Plan, a comprehensive strategic document created by the Partnership in 2001. The Plan compiles existing fire plans and data to produce an overall view of the watershed and its relationship with fire. The Western Governors’ Association has praised the Applegate Fire Plan as a model for other communities. The plan is being carried out by the Applegate River Watershed Council, a subcommittee responsible for monitoring and implementing the Partnership’s projects. Through its Tree Planting and Restoration Program, the Council has worked with some 300 landowners to plant more than 200,000 trees in the watershed over the past ten years.

**RICHARD BOLEN**

Director of Forestry & Parks, Gogebic County Forestry & Parks  
Commission, Bessemer, Michigan

Mr. Bolen’s flight was cancelled because of inclement weather, but he sent the text of a speech to be read on his behalf. In that speech, he described his role as Gogebic County Forester in developing a strategic forest plan for this rural county on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. A diverse group of 29 residents assembled in 1999 to identify a series of goals and an encompassing vision for the county. One goal called for a definition of “sustainable forestry” upon which everyone in the county could agree. A secondary community group, the Forest Advocacy Coordinating Team (FACT), was organized and assigned to this task. When the FACT first met in 1999, it worked hard to reach a consensus among its members on a draft definition of sustainable forestry.

To facilitate the process, the members agreed to focus refinement on a few key phrases within the definition. Using the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators as a guide, the five key phrases from the definition became the criteria for a list of indicators specific to Gogebic County. Over the next two years, data and input from the community at large were incorporated. The county’s definition of sustainable forestry and its accompanying list of indicators were finalized in 2002. Mr. Bolen explained that while the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators are not a one-size-fits-all solution, once adapted to the local level they serve as an excellent way of bringing together diverse interests to identify a common vision for sustainable forestry in their community.



### PANEL OF POLICY LEADERS AND YALE SCIENTISTS

The following people were invited to offer comment in reaction to the presentations given by the panel of rural community leaders.

#### **RANDY PHILLIPS**

Executive Director of the Forest Counties Payments Committee  
Washington, D.C.



Jim Hull

Mr. Phillips, who directs a Congressional advisory committee, shared his belief that local communities can have a greater influence, and community-based organizations such as those represented by the panelists are essential to this end. “Typically, we encourage, or simply tolerate these organizations,” explained Mr. Phillips, “but we are inconsistent in the way we involve them in management activities, or development of programs.” He added that there are programs cutting across every federal agency that communities need to be aware of and plug into. Among these programs are grants that encourage the growth of new businesses locally, a key to the viability of forest-dependent communities. According to Mr. Phillips, “It makes a difference to have a company headquarters in your town.”

#### **JIM HULL**

Texas State Forester, College Station, Texas

Like many of the other participants, Mr. Hull found Dr. Oliver’s opening remarks to be very encouraging. But Mr. Hull at first thought they might be overly optimistic, calling Dr. Oliver’s vision a “perfect world” scenario: “I don’t disagree with any of it, but how do we get there? How many hundreds of years will it take?” Then, after listening to the panelists, Mr. Hull said he began to realize that maybe some of these goals were achievable after all, that community leaders were making it possible. He still worries, however, that such progress would be difficult in places where community initiatives are rare and are sometimes met with

resistance or apathy. “Where are the Quincy Library Groups and Applegate Partnerships in other parts of the country?” Mr. Hull asked. He answered his own question by pointing out that some communities have a different mindset. He suggested that more state foresters need contact with these energetic rural community leaders to understand ways they can be encouraged and their ideas and energy expanded to other communities and regions.

#### **ABIGAIL SARMAC**

United Nations Forum on Forests, New York, New York  
currently at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Portland, Oregon

With only one day remaining in her job with the United Nations Forum on Forests, Yale FES alumnus Abigail Sarmac declared that the stories told by community leaders on the panel were exactly the type that the UN wanted – and needed – to hear. All too often, she explained, the UN trots out a token local person to bring that voice to the table and stops there. In her opinion, governments need to hear from a more legitimate and powerful coalition of community leaders. Likewise, local communities should be aware of the benefits of bringing their issues to a global arena.

#### **BARRY MUCHNICK**

Ph.D. Candidate, Yale University Department of History  
Glenside, Pennsylvania

Mr. Muchnick distilled each of the rural community leaders’ stories into a single, compelling message. He framed these messages in a historical context, citing the following as reasons why history serves as a useful guide:

to critique an assumption that today’s problems are worse than those of the past;

to learn how settlement patterns, policies, and ideologies are formed;

to show the persistence throughout environmental history of “the myth of conservation riding in on a white horse to save the environment from the deleterious actions of rural people.”

Among the messages Mr. Muchnick captured from the speakers were that bureaucratic problems exist even in local governments; that the intellectual virtues of the environmental movement often exclude local people; that the U.S. Forest Service is often viewed by rural communities as an occupying force; and that there can be great power in bringing local stories to the national stage.

#### **STARLING CHILDS**

FES Class of 1980, Founder of EECOS, Inc., Norfolk, Connecticut

Representing one of the forum’s sponsors, the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Class of 1980, Mr. Childs briefly explained why he is an anomaly in modern American society as the third-generation manager of a forest in northwest Connecticut. At the turn of the last century, when New England’s forest cover was a mere fraction of what it is today, Mr. Childs’ grandfather purchased several thousand acres of deforested land and restored it before there were any laws in place encouraging that sort of behavior. Today, the Childs family’s Great Mountain Forest is a place “where people can come and learn that forest management is good—that it provides forest products and jobs and support for rural communities—and that chainsaws, in the hands of true conservationists, are valuable and efficient tools in the implementation of that management.”

**ELLEN BRENNAN-GALVIN**

National Academy of Science, Committee on Population, Greenwich, Connecticut; Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

A renowned population researcher, Dr. Brennan-Galvin provided some international perspective for the panel of U.S. rural community leaders. She critiqued the dichotomous urban/rural paradigm, arguing that these terms represent a continuum rather than a divide. As an example she cited a misleading estimate that of the 2.2 billion people who will be added to the world's population, 2 billion will be in urban areas in developing countries. What that figure fails to mention, she contended, is that most of this growth will occur in smaller municipalities that fall somewhere between traditional definitions of urban and rural. She said that larger scale research should be done that examines the relationship between the various community types and forests.

Dr. Brennan-Galvin reminded the panel that when compared to developing countries, America's poorest rural communities still enjoy relatively high standards of living. While rural communities here in the United States face declining infrastructure, elsewhere they suffer from a complete absence of it. "It's not a matter of maintaining roads—it's that there are no roads." Dr. Brennan-Galvin suggested that the panel of community leaders pool their efforts with those of leaders in developing countries. As a possible source of funding for rural community initiatives, she mentioned the World Bank, which in 2004 will for the first time lend at the sub-national level.

**THOMAS BRENDLER**

Executive Director of the National Network of Forest Practitioners  
Providence, Rhode Island

Mr. Brendler runs a national network of community forestry organizations, small businesses, and forest workers. He commented that the perspectives presented on the panel echoed those he had heard from members of his alliance from other parts of the country. For rural community leadership to be respected, he argued, we need to shed some light on the unfair stereotypes that have been attached to rural people: "As our country has become more economically complex, it's easier for consumers to be detached from the raw material," Mr. Brendler explained. "It seems that the closer you are to the raw material, or the more calluses you have on your hands, the lower your social status. And a lot of that work is happening in rural areas."

Another stereotype described by Mr. Brendler was an archaic view of rural people: "I often hear people talk about visiting rural areas as going to 'the country' as if they're going back in time, when in fact they're heading to a place inhabited by people just like themselves, only (sometimes) poorer." One way NNFP has tried to create a better understanding of rural people and their interests was to participate in a series of "restoration summits" that brought together environmental activists with community forestry organizations and forest workers to lay out principles for ecological restoration. Putting diverse perspectives in the same room, and creating an opportunity for people to share and listen, marked a significant step toward building respect, understanding, and, ultimately, a broader community.



Tom Brendler



Elizabeth Golden

**ELIZABETH GOLDEN**

Yellow Wood Associates and the National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region, St. Albans, Vermont; currently an Environmental Consultant, Shoreham, Vermont

Drawing from her experience in developing and facilitating similar forums and workshops, Ms. Golden was able to offer a number of points around which rural communities are able to rally, including:

- a concern about government control over our natural resources;

- a need to adapt to national changes in markets (e.g. new technologies) and to look for new markets (e.g. tourism) for our forests;

- an understanding of the value of local knowledge;

- a need to collaborate across communities in order to increase collective political power;

- an understanding of the tools that we have available, so that each person's unique skills are put to use.

**LLOYD IRLAND**

Lecturer and Senior Research Scientist, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; President, The Irland Group, Wayne, Maine

Echoing a sentiment shared by many of the panelists, Dr. Irland described a “pathos” in rural communities—a sadness of families unable to stay together. The lack of jobs prevents people from living and working in the towns where they were raised. Dr. Irland has seen this pathos in his home state of Maine. He reported an interview with a northern Maine logging contractor who said: “My son is the Navy, and I hope he stays there because there's nothing for him back home.” Dr. Irland declared that the problem is not limited to the forestry sector, but instead represents a wholesale shift in the economy that has weakened

all of our resource-dependent industries. One key item in infrastructure that has been under-maintained, possibly deliberately, is the forest road and trail system. Consequently, access for restoration, recreation, firefighting, prevention actions, and other uses is diminishing. Originally, those roads, for better or worse, were constructed and maintained through timber revenues.



## Workshop Summary

During the public forum, the rural community leaders told stories that were deeply personal, revealing the struggles and successes they had experienced in their efforts to maintain the viability of their communities. The morning after the public forum, the community leaders and the panel of policy leaders and Yale scientists met for a workshop. In a discussion moderated by Chad Oliver, the group identified a number of underlying themes that connect their individual stories and plant the seeds for further collaboration. Four of the most prominent themes that emerged from the workshop are described below.

### **THE FAILURE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IS COMMON TO RURAL AREAS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.**

Common sentiments echoed throughout the presentations of the rural community leaders, helping them realize that the problems they are facing are not limited to their community or region. Many representatives from the West blame their communities' troubles on the large amount of public land and the inability of bureaucratic federal agencies to understand and meet the needs of communities. Representatives from the Midwest and East argued that dealing with federal agencies is a challenge for forest communities across the country. The group acknowledged that bureaucracy is part of democracy and that partnering with the Forest Service is often inevitable. One of the leaders suggested cultivating a relationship with the local Forest Supervisor. Another encouraged using local government as an authority when dealing with federal agencies and politicians.

Rural communities across the country are seeing their hospitals, schools, and roads fall into disrepair. As relatively higher-wage jobs, such as those held by government employees with medical benefits (e.g., U.S. Forest Service people), disappear from the community, the ability to support a local hospital declines. Some of the leaders were frustrated that they were unable to devote the necessary time and expertise to writing grants because their residents were already



stretched beyond their limits and were growing tired of working hard without noticeable results. It seemed to some that each community should have a single person whose job it is to write grant proposals. Ideally, the federal government would create and support this staff position. One way the federal government could better serve rural communities is to create a “Department of Rural Affairs” rather than addressing the subject through several agencies.

**THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF ENERGY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT CAN BE HARNESSSED WITH GOOD LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION.**

Some members of the group shared a concern that state and federal politicians are likely to ignore rural areas because cities are where the votes are. Others countered that rural people still have the potential to amass political power through collaboration, citing the 2000 presidential election, in which Bush’s widespread support in rural areas helped carry him to victory despite his comparatively poor performance in cities.

Large-scale collaboration across rural communities begins with effective organization within each community. The group discussed what causes the “pendulum of leadership” to move from federal to local. Typically, rural communities organize themselves in response to a unifying cause, which might take the form of a crisis, such as major flooding event or forest fire. The question is how to maintain the organization after the immediate crisis has passed.

The group agreed that rural people must not feel they lack the necessary talent to achieve political change. For inspiration, they can look to the Quincy Library Group, a community organization that took an assertive approach and went straight to Washington, DC, where it found credibility and results. Rural people also need to resist resource-specific labels that encourage them to compete against each other. When “logging people” and “farming people” compete for funds instead of consolidating their effort, twice as much energy is used to achieve smaller benefits for rural communities.

**“ENVIRONMENT” AND “ECONOMY” ARE NOT FORCES THAT ACT AGAINST EACH OTHER**

The group felt that rural communities have the “moral high ground” in the environmental movement. Although many of the leaders blamed environmental litigation for timber job losses everywhere from California to Vermont, the group agreed that maintaining a healthy environment is not an impediment to the viability of rural communities. In fact, providing environmental services such as water, habitat, and fire protection is part of the job of people managing the forests in the United States.

People managing forests in the United States currently give most of these environmental services away for free. If they were paid for these services in addition to the commodities they harvest, they would be better able to maintain a healthy environment, would have more and better paying jobs, and would have more socially viable rural communities.

The United States’ approach toward forests and forest products is environmentally very sound in two ways:

The United States consumes more wood than most countries because it builds out of wood, instead of more polluting steel, concrete, brick, or aluminum; and

The United States has stronger environmental protection of its forests than most countries, so United States’ forests are not managed in environmentally destructive ways.

The United States is not environmentally sound when it shuts down forest harvesting for environmental protection, because the consumption patterns remain, so the demand is shifted overseas—or more of the polluting steel, concrete, and brick are used. As a consequence, the forests in the United States are not tended to, so the environmental services are not provided, jobs are lost in rural communities, and dangerous exotic insects such as the Asian longhorn beetle and emerald ash borer enter with the imported wood and destroy the forests. To

counter these trends, the United States would be more environmentally sound if it became an example of how forests can be managed for a diversity of commodity and non-commodity values and, in the process, maintain viable rural communities.

**RURAL FORESTRY COMMUNITIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A NETWORK THAT WORKS COLLABORATIVELY TO MAKE RURAL COMMUNITIES VIABLE AGAIN.**

While the group acknowledged that there have been many attempts by rural communities to collaborate, most of the partnerships remain in small circles. There is still no “group of groups” that serves as a roundtable at the national level while representing the variety of local flavors. While communication hurdles once made such large-scale collaboration impossible, advances in technology have made it easier for rural communities to consolidate their effort.

The rural community leaders and others at the Forum will look for ways to increase the potential effectiveness they can achieve by working together and emphasizing their commonalities. They will do this through both existing organizations and through other opportunities that emerge.

The synergy of the group has led to interest in further forums and workshops that explore specific aspects of the discussions.

## Resources for More Information

### FORUM AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

**NADINE BAILEY**

California Senate Field Staff  
530.549.3882  
nadine.bailey@sen.ca.gov

**ELIZABETH GOLDEN**

Environmental Consultant  
802.897-2826  
goldenuc@aol.com

**RICHARD BOLEN**

Director of Forestry & Parks  
Gogebic County Forestry & Parks  
Commission  
906.663.4687  
dbolen@gogebic.org

**JIM HULL**

State Forester  
Texas Forest Service  
979.458.6600  
jhull@tfs.tamu.edu

**THOMAS BRENDLER**

Executive Director  
National Network of Forest  
Practitioners  
401.273.6507  
thomas@nnfp.org

**LOYD IRLAND**

Lecturer and Senior Research  
Scientist  
Yale School of Forestry &  
Environmental Studies  
203.436.2981  
lloyd.irland@yale.edu

**ELLEN BRENNAN-GALVIN**

Lecturer and Senior Research  
Scholar  
Yale School of Forestry &  
Environmental Studies  
203.625.9252  
ellen.brennan-galvin@yale.edu

**MICHAEL JACKSON**

Co-founder  
Quincy Library Group  
530.283.1007  
mjatty@inreach.com

**CAROL JOHNSON**

Executive Director  
North Olympic Timber Action  
Committee  
360.452.6645  
notac@olympen.com

**STARLING CHILDS, II**

Founder  
EECOS, Inc.  
862.542.5569  
eecostar@aol.com

## Resources for More Information

### FORUM AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

#### **PETE LAND**

Co-founder  
Tamarack Media  
802.238.5938  
pete@tamarackmedia.org

#### **BARRY MUCHNICK**

Doctoral Candidate  
Yale Department of History  
203.865.2728  
barry.muchnick@yale.edu

#### **CHAD OLIVER**

Pinchot Professor of Forestry &  
Environmental Studies  
Yale School of Forestry &  
Environmental Studies  
203.432.7409  
chad.oliver@yale.edu

#### **RANDY PHILLIPS**

Executive Director  
Forest Counties Payments  
Committee  
202.208.6574  
rphillips01@fs.fed.us

#### **WENDY SANDERS**

Executive Director  
Great Lakes Forest Alliance  
715.634.2006  
forestls@lsfa.org

#### **ABIGAIL SARMA**

United Nations Forum on Forests  
917.517.8765  
abigail.sarmac@aya.yale.edu

#### **JACK SHIPLEY**

Founding Board Member  
Applegate Partnership  
541.846.6917  
rockycreekfarms@terragon.com

#### **JIM WALLS**

Executive Director  
Lake County Resources Initiative  
547.947.5461  
jwalls@gooselake.com

#### **MICHAEL WEIL**

Village Administrator/Engineer  
Village of Potsdam, New York  
315.265.7480  
mweil@vi.potsdam.ny.us

#### **JEFF WHITING**

Select Board Chair  
Town of Goshen, Vermont  
802.247.0174  
jeffingoshen@aol.com

### WEB RESOURCES

Applegate River Watershed Council  
[www.arwc.org](http://www.arwc.org)

Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress  
[www.communitiescommittee.org](http://www.communitiescommittee.org)

Environmental and Ecological Consulting Services  
[www.eecos.com](http://www.eecos.com)

Forest Counties Payments Committee  
[www.countypayments.gov](http://www.countypayments.gov)

Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission  
[www.gogebic.org/forestryandparks.htm](http://www.gogebic.org/forestryandparks.htm)

Great Lakes Forest Alliance  
[www.lsfa.org](http://www.lsfa.org)

Lake County Resources Initiative  
[www.lcri.org](http://www.lcri.org)

National Network of Forest Practitioners  
[www.nnfp.org](http://www.nnfp.org)

Quincy Library Group  
[www.qlg.org](http://www.qlg.org)

Rural Technology Initiative  
[www.ruraltech.org](http://www.ruraltech.org)

Texas Forest Service  
<http://txforests.tamu.edu>

United Nations Forum on Forests  
[www.un.org/esa/forests](http://www.un.org/esa/forests)

Village of Potsdam, New York  
[www.potsdam.ny.us](http://www.potsdam.ny.us)

Yellow Wood Associates  
[www.yellowwood.org](http://www.yellowwood.org)

## Additional Readings

Blaine House Conference on Maine's Natural Resource-Based Industry. 2003. Conference held November 17, 2003, Augusta, Maine. Final report available at: [www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/news/events/natres\\_conference\\_1003.html](http://www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/news/events/natres_conference_1003.html).

Brown, Beverly A. 1995. *In Timber Country: Working People's Stories of Environmental Conflict and Urban Flight*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Chase, Alston. 1995. *In a Dark Wood: The Fight over Forests and the Rising Tyranny of Ecology*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Cox, Thomas R. 1983. The Conservationist as Reactionary: John Minto and American Forest Policy. *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 74:146-53.

Cox, Thomas R., ed. 1985. *This Well-Wooded Land: Americans and their Forests from Colonial Times to the Present*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Cusack, D., B. Hodgdon, F. Montagnini. 2002. *Forests, communities, and sustainable management*. YFF Review Vol. 5, No. 6. Yale Forest Forum, Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Hirt, Paul. 1994. *A Conspiracy of Optimism: Management of the National Forests Since World War Two*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Jacoby, Karl. 2001. *Crimes against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

Langston, Nancy. 1995. *Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Lawrence, Joseph C. 1976. The Forest and the Trees: A Review Article. *BC Studies* 30:77-82.

Lee, Robert G. 1994. *Broken Trust Broken Land — Freeing Ourselves From The War Over The Environment*, BookPartners, Wilsonville, OR.

Lutts, Ralph H. 2001. *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment*. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Stauber, Karl. 2001. Why invest in rural America-and how? A critical public policy question for the 21st century, *Economic Review*, Second Quarter: 33-63.

Warren, Louis S. 1999. *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in Twentieth-Century America*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

White, Richard. 1979. *Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: A History of Island County, Washington*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Whitney, Gordon. 1994. *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Williams, Michael. 1989. *Americans and Their Forests: A Historical Geography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The Yale Forest Forum (YFF) was established in 1994 by a diverse group of leaders in forestry to focus national attention on forest policy and management in the United States. The group convened the Seventh American Forest Congress (SAFC) to collaboratively develop and articulate a common vision of forest management to diverse stakeholders.

For over 100 years, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES) has had a rich history in the pursuit of sustainable forestry. From the establishment of the School in 1901 Yale has played an integral role in the development of leaders who are prepared to confront the environmental challenges of the day.



**Marsh Hall, home of GISF,  
on the Yale University campus**

The School's Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry (GISF), housed in historic Marsh Hall, continues this rich tradition. Established by the Dean and a group of FES faculty members in 2000, GISF has launched new, innovative initiatives while coalescing and coordinating the many activities related to sustainable forest management at the School, including the School Forests and the Yale Forest Forum. The Institute was created to

address the management and conservation of both domestic and international forestlands in a holistic and comprehensive fashion. In pursuit of these ideals, GISF has developed several formal programs including the Program on Private Forests, the Program on Forest Certification, The Forests Dialogue, the Program on Forest Physiology and Biotechnology, the Program on Landscape Management, and the Program in Tropical Forestry.

The Yale Forest Forum is now the convening body of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry. Through YFF, GISF often holds multiple events each week at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and hosts workshops and seminars held outside the School, involving stakeholders from all sectors.

**For more information or  
additional copies  
of our publications,  
please contact us at:**

**Yale Forest Forum  
360 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511**

**Phone: (203) 432.5117  
Fax (203) 432.3809  
Email: [gisf@yale.edu](mailto:gisf@yale.edu)  
Web: [www.yale.edu/gisf](http://www.yale.edu/gisf)**



Yale School of Forestry  
and Environmental Studies  
360 Prospect Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511  
USA

**Mission of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry**

"To foster leadership through innovative programs and activities in research, education and outreach; to create and test new tools and methods; and to understand better and support sustainable forest management worldwide."