

Understanding Sustainability as a Landscape Goal and Process: A Framework for Economic Modeling (or Understanding) and Analysis.

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Sustainability is becoming a universal goal across the world and for individual nations and their societies. It is a holistic societal goal of broad landscape proportions across multiple ownerships. It involves policy bounds and limits for sustainable use and management of the landscape but also a second criterion, decision or choice about what to sustain within those bounds over the long-term across the landscape and its multiple ownerships. It calls for a cultural change in the way forest use and management is planned and practiced across the multiple ownerships. This landscape level goal and process has not yet been defined or differentiated in concrete terms. Economic understanding and analysis requires a concrete framework or model for this new evolving process and understanding.

This new process of landscape planning and coordination is now defined as Landscape-level Forest Resource Management in the Minnesota approach to sustainable forests and more recently as Landscape Forestry for short. Stakeholders reaching across multiple and diverse ownerships, communities, public jurisdictions and citizen interests are deeply vested in the functional aspects of forests and the many resources within them. An awakening led by wilderness and environmental interests focused highly urbanized citizenry on the course and cumulative outcomes of forest use and management across the broad landscape. A renewed public awareness is recognizing that the landscape and its resources, in the sense of dependency as opposed to ownership, belong to all the people and their diverse interests and needs.

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