

Political vs. Private Forest Management: Reason for Hope!

By

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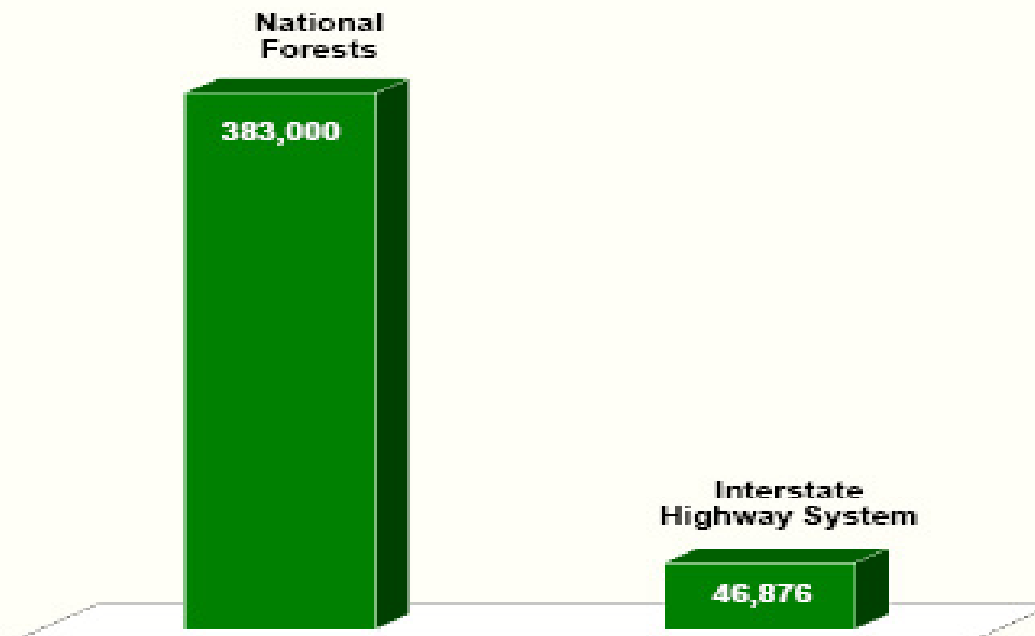
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FIGURE 1

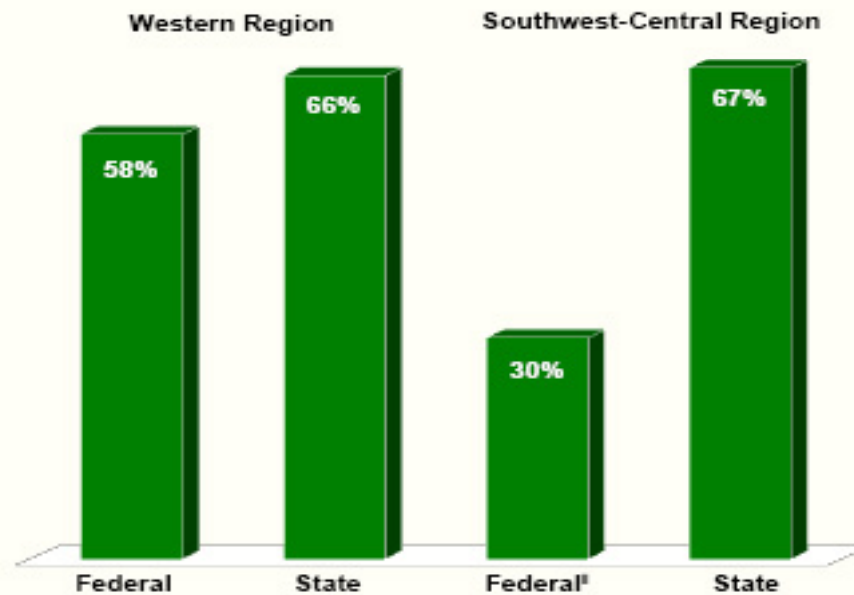
Miles of Roads



Source: "Report of the Forest Service FY2002: Healthy Forests and Grasslands — Financial and Performance Accountability," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, May 2003, page 128; U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

FIGURE III

Timber Growth in Montana's Public Forests (productive potential)



Source: Donald R. Leal, "Turning a Profit on Public Forests," Political Economy Research Center, Policy Series No. PS-4, September 1995.

* This does not include the Gallatin National Forest, an old-growth forest, which actually had a negative annual growth rate.

Figure II

Ponderosa Pine Forests

20-55
per acre



Historical
Density

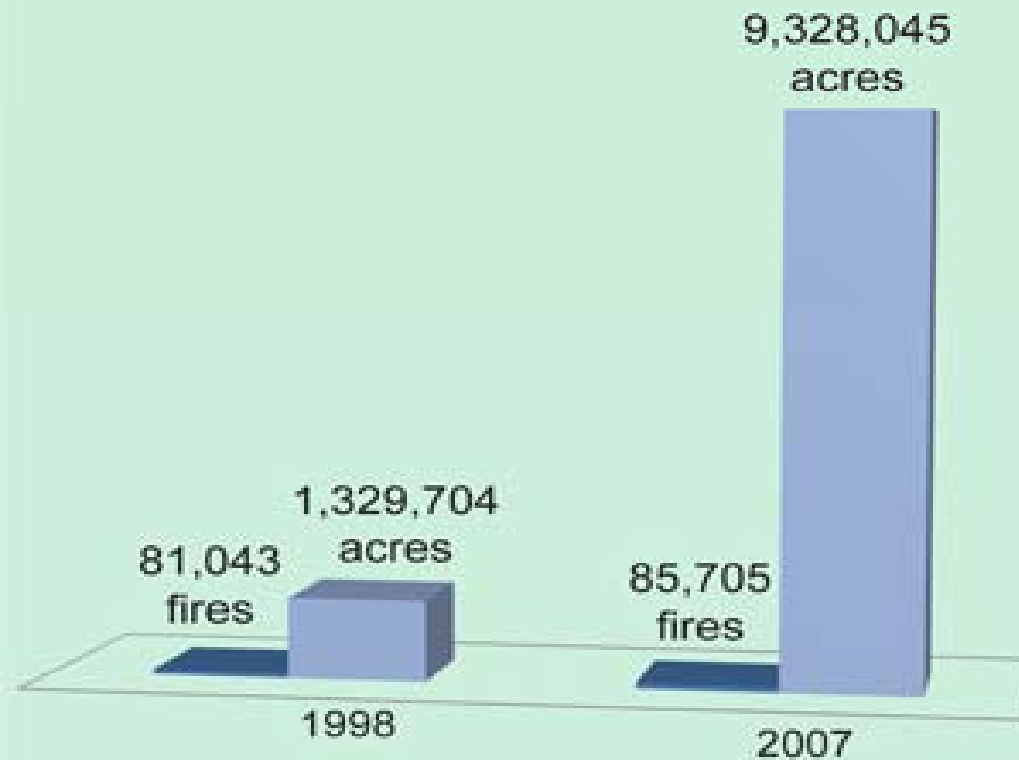
300-900
per acre



Current
Density

Source: H. Sterling Burnett, "Forest Roads: Benefits for Wildlife Management, Fire Suppression and Water Quality," *Water Resources Impact*, Vol. 3, No. 3, May 2001.

Figure I
National Fire Statistics 1998 & 2007



Source: National Interagency Fire Service.

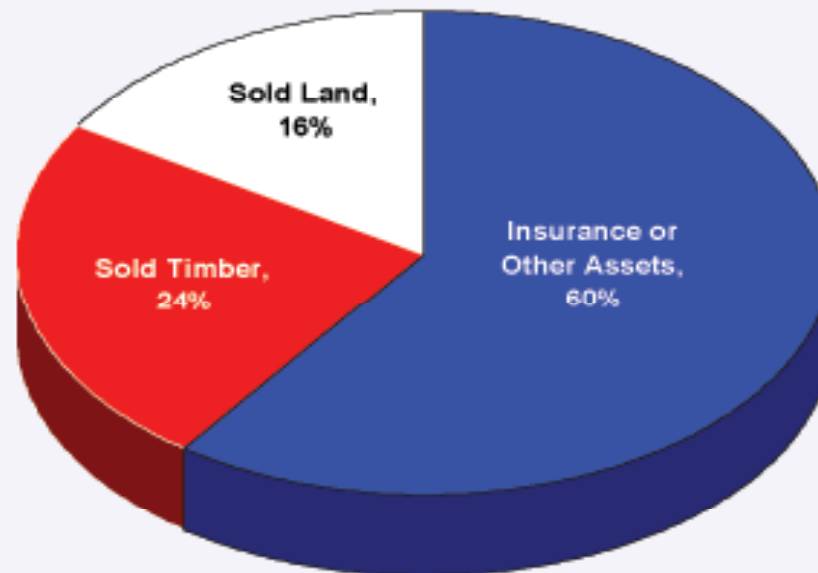
✓ **Be proud of and tout the virtues of your industry: valuable products, jobs, values, lifestyles, environmental amenities.**

- **Niche marketing – organic or green certification.**
- **Ancillary income (subject to state laws and liability) fee hunting, camping, etc.**
- **Biomass fuel (beware of discrimination)**

✓ **Things to beware of, in my opinion:**

- **New clean water regulations**
- **Endangered Species**
- **Bad practices make bad image and lead to calls for increased regulation**
- **Trusts and perpetuities**

Assets Used to Pay Estate Tax



Source: John Greene, et al., "Effect of the Federal Estate Tax on Rural Landholdings in the USA," in L.D. Teeter et al., eds., *Forest Policy for Private Forestry* (Cambridge, Mass.: CABI Publishing, 2002).



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