National Forest Certification Study
Certification Studies, 1998 - 2004

(1998 . . . )
Pennsylvania

(2000 . . . )
4 States, 2 Schools

(2002 . . . )
30 First Nations
Process & Timeline

- Crosswalk ~ paper study (2005)
- Orientation with Forests (‘05 – ‘06)
- Auditor Selection (‘05 – ’06)
- Pre-evaluation (“06)
- “Additional Considerations” (“06)
- Full Evaluation (‘06 – ‘07)
- Final Reports (‘07)
Five National Forests (NF):
1. Allegheny NF, Pennsylvania
2. Chequamegon-Nicolet NF, Wisconsin
3. Lakeview Federal Stewardship Unit, Oregon
4. Mount Hood NF, Oregon

2004 - Present
Common Strengths

- Forest **planning** and operations.
- **Monitoring** and impact assessment.
- Stakeholder **consultation**.
- Coordination with **First Nations**.
- Extent of **reserve systems**.
- Protection of **threatened and endangered species**.
- Control of **invasives** and exotics.
Common Weaknesses

- **Forest health** issues arising from backlogged management activities.
- The backlog of **road maintenance** and decommissioning.
- Monitoring of **non-timber forest products**.
- **Old-growth** protection and management issues.
- Inadequate **logger safety and training**
Feedback from Forest Service

- Processes explored range of issues affecting National Forests
- Systems tested staff ability to perform their responsibilities
- An opportunity for interest groups to provide input
- A way to communicate with the public on what they do well and what issues they face
- May impose additional burdens

Feedback from Auditors

- Would need to find ways to streamline the process
- Not sure if appropriate in all settings
- Impressive in many aspects of management, but some systemic issues
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2004 - Present