

Conservation Strategies – Where We Were and Where We’re Going¹

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Abstract

Twenty years ago the Redwood region was dominated by the so called “timber wars”. On public lands the Northwest Forest Plan forced a new ecosystem management approach. On private lands, the Headwaters Forest initiative and Redwood Summer events were forcing state and federal regulators and landowners to rethink forest management strategies on private lands. The foundation for these debates focused on traditional views of public versus private ownership and to what degree environmental protection and intensive forestry could be applied.

Twenty years later, the Redwood region has become a leader in developing progressive forestry practices and, importantly, new governance structures that provide the financial flexibility to integrate environmental, social and economic attributes. This presentation will summarize a number of historic events that helped build a new forestry foundation along with new conservation strategies that are bringing people together as opposed to tearing them apart. Opportunities and challenges will also be discussed.

Keywords: Forest policy, redwood conservation strategies

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