

## INTEGRATING SILVICULTURE, FOREST MANAGEMENT, AND FOREST POLICY

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**Abstract:** Much progress has been made in developing and implementing individual silvicultural operations such as regeneration, thinning, and harvesting by various means. Similarly, foresters have made progress at managing flows of timber and other commodity values. Present concern that forests provide an even greater variety of commodity and non-commodity values can be accommodated by integrating management at the various levels—silvicultural operations, silvicultural regimes, landscape patterns, forest management, and policy. Using modern, systems management approaches, the integration can be done without the inefficiencies of central planning, regulations, or a “command-and control” approach. Especially important are the landscape and policy levels. Management at the landscape level will generally attempt to maintain a diversity of stand structures across the landscape; therefore, a variety of silvicultural operations and regimes will be done to different stands. Computerized tools are allowing management at this level to be done very effectively, by coordinating the stands and treating the landscape as a “portfolio” in which the forest in each stand is an “asset” which matures at a specific time for a specific market, this landscape management can actually be more profitable. Policies to encourage different landowners—small and large, private and public—to provide the many commodity and non-commodity values at the different levels can be developed. The values can best be achieved using incentive-based policies without imposing restrictions on individual landowners. The result of such organization and policies can be a greater provision of nearly all values to society and greater profit to the landowners.

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