Historical Context and Contemporary Snapshots of Pacific Northwest Forest Industries: Highlights from the Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade Report, 1958-2023

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Western Forest Economists Meeting
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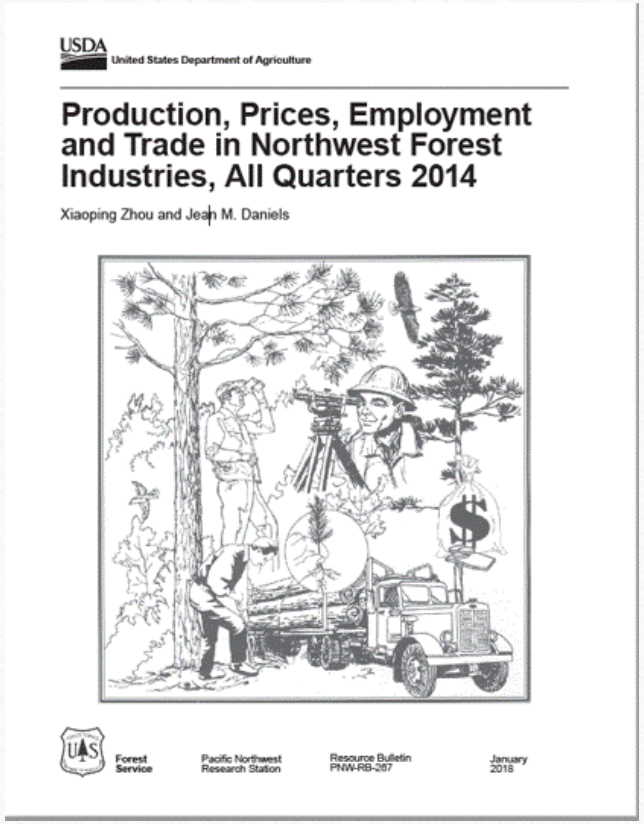
PPET Report

What is the Production Prices Employment and Trade Report (PPET)? History

- First published in 1962
- Has grown to over 100 tables -- annual compilation of forest industry (secondary) data
- Now consists of several historical datasets for AK, OR, WA
- Last hardcopy of the report in 2014


USDA United States Department of Agriculture

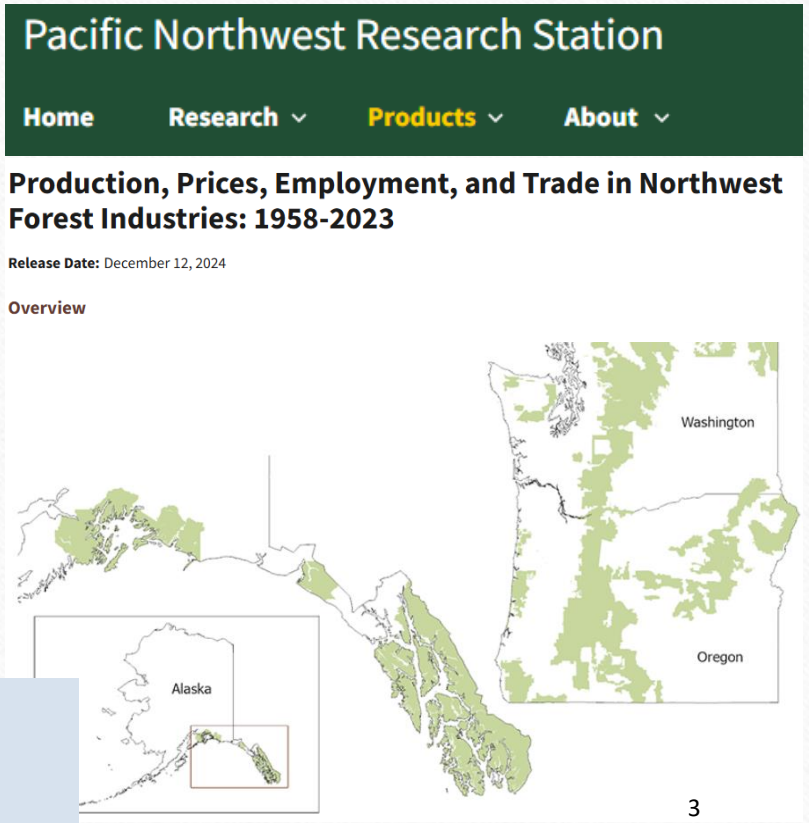
Production, Prices, Employment and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries, All Quarters 2014

Xiaoping Zhou and Jean M. Daniels

Forest Service | Pacific Northwest Research Station | Resource Bulletin PNW-RB-287 | January 2018

What is the Production Prices Employment and Trade Report (PPET)? Today

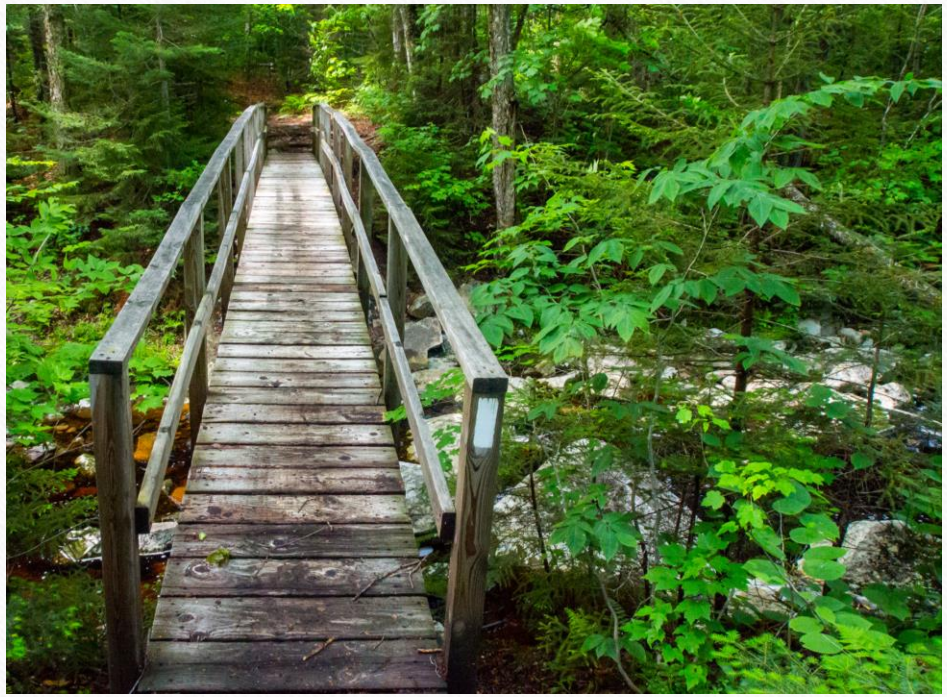
- Now available on the U.S. Forest Service Research and Development page https://research.fs.usda.gov/, “Data and Tools”
- Portland State University partnership to **modernize** report and update data sets



Modernize = opportunity to shape the report, making the data most accessible and relevant for decision-making

PPET Strengths and Opportunities

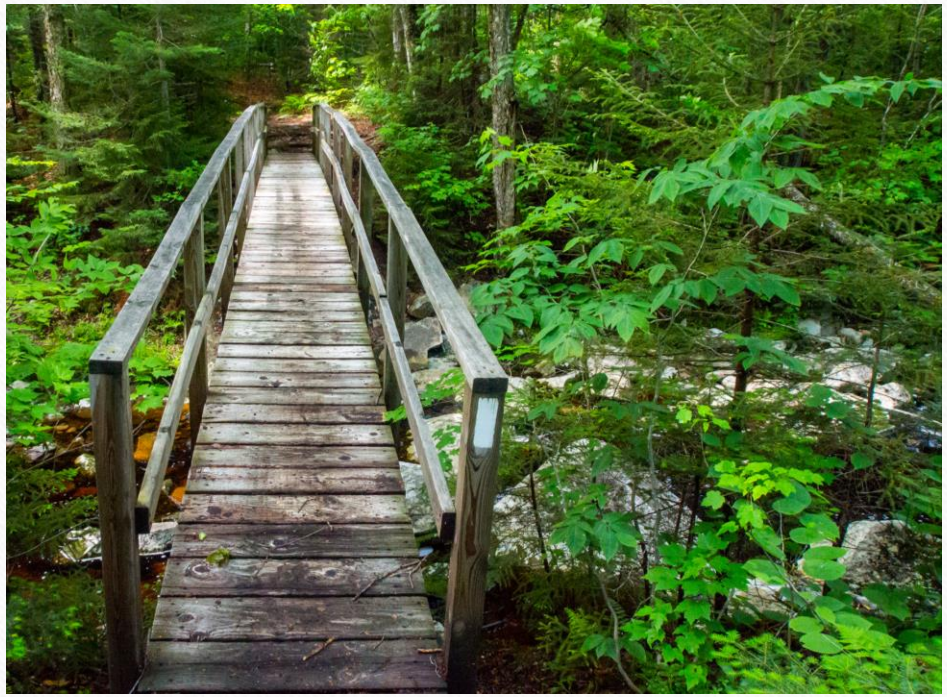
- Different from other reports
- Annually updated
- Fine scale spatial resolution, for multiple U.S. States
- Historical data
- Presents data from multiple sources



PPET Strengths and Opportunities (cont'd)

Can be tailored to address today's:

- Research questions
- Higher Education needs
- Management planning and monitoring goals

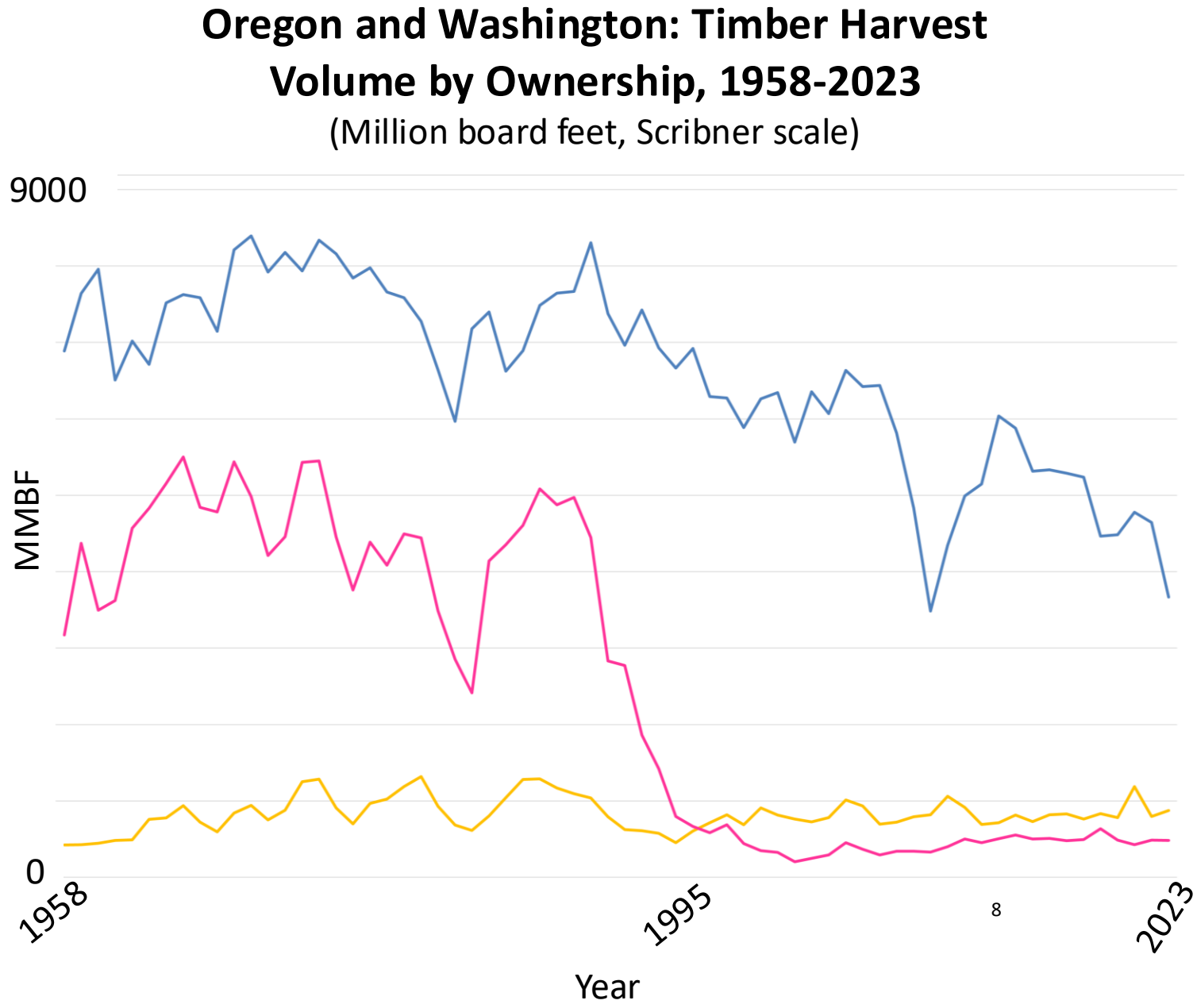


What is the Production Prices Employment and Trade Report (PPET)? Data

- **Lumber and Plywood Production and Prices** +
- **Timber Harvest** +
- **Employment in Forest Products Industries** +
- **Log, Pulpwood, and Chip Exports** +
- **Lumber, Plywood, and Veneer Exports and Imports** +
- **Timber Cut and Sold By Public Agencies** +

Examples of Data Available Through This Report

Timber harvest Ex. Historical context



Sold and harvested
Ex. Pacific NW Region
U.S. Forest Service

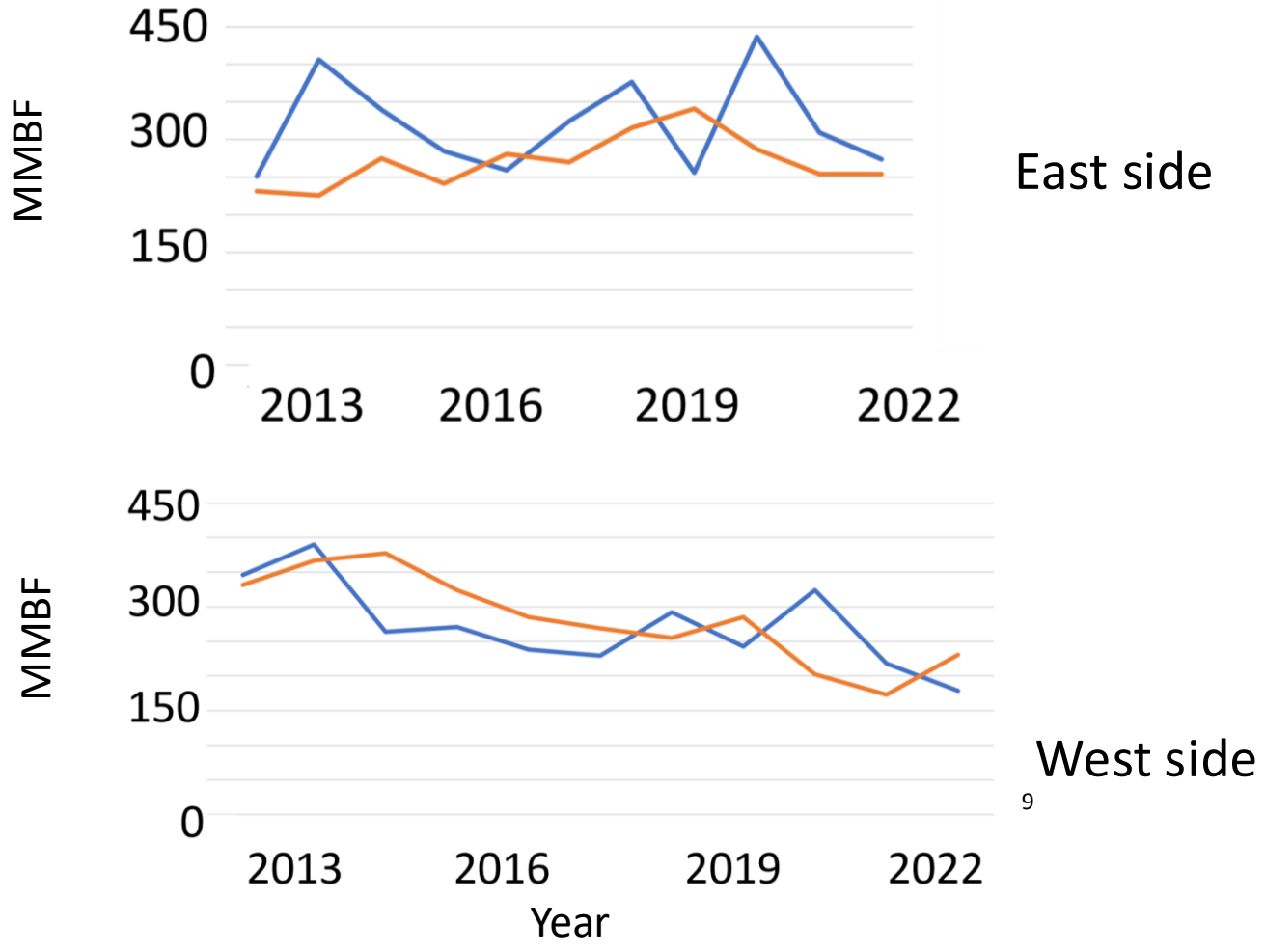
Sold

Harvested

West and East comparison

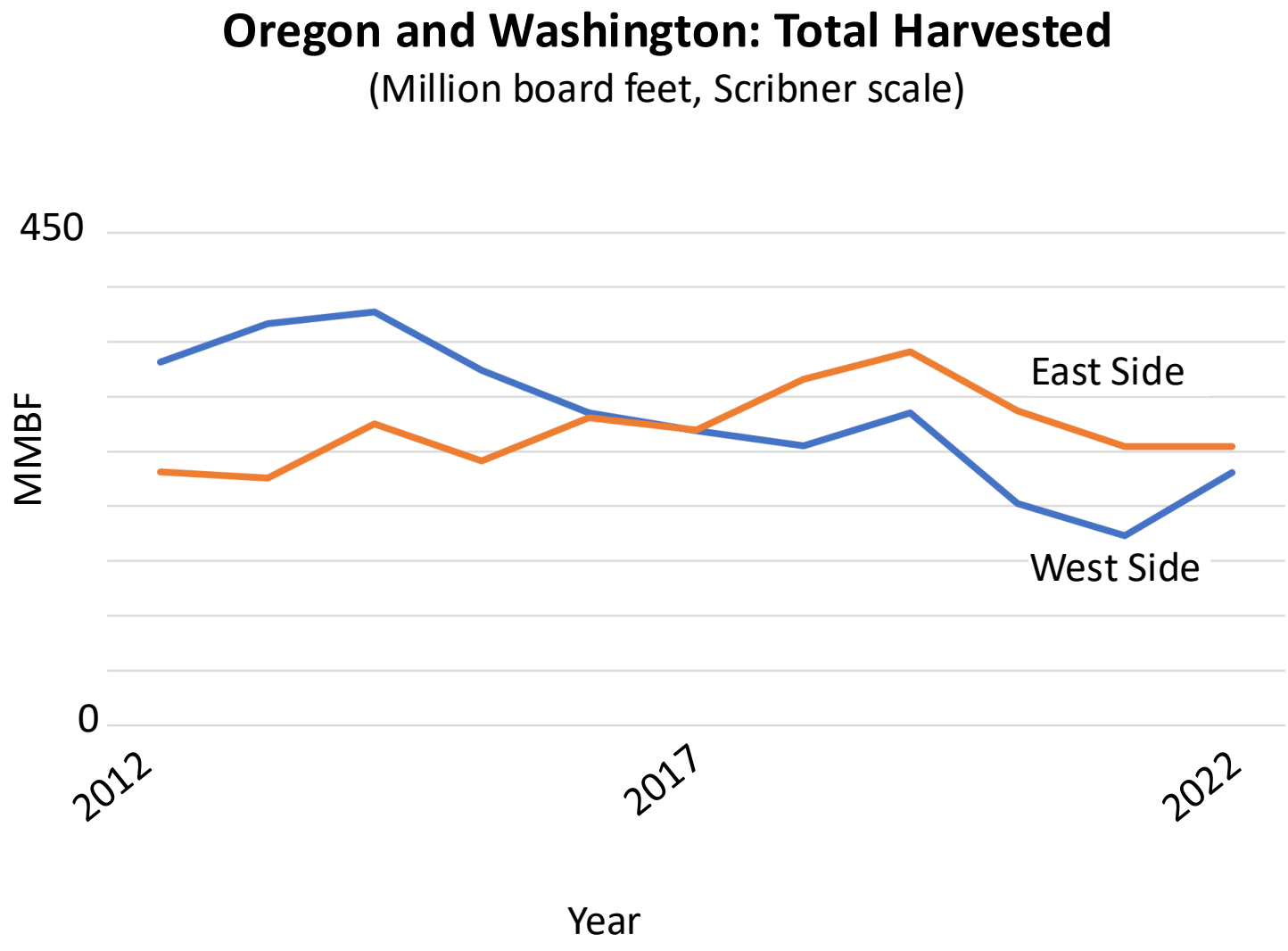
Oregon and Washington: U.S. Forest Service, Total Sold and Harvested

(Million board feet, Scribner scale)



Timber harvested
Ex. Pacific NW Region
U.S. Forest Service

Harvest W
Harvest E



Cut and sold data
Pacific Northwest Region
Ex. by Forest
Ex. by species

Table 93—Volume and average value of timber harvest on the National Forest, 1988-2023 (Million board feet, Scribner scale)

	Colville		Deschutes	
Year	Volume	Average value	Volume	Average value
1988	128.2	59.29	177.9	145.32
1989	128.5	74.86	229.3	92.03
1990	96.5	69.64	179.7	116.47
1991	90.6	87.24	167.4	90.97
1992	82.6	91.53	146.4	117.21
1993	58.8	121.76	147.8	103.87

Table 92—Average stumpage prices for sawtimber sold on National Forests by selected species, 1959-2022b (Dollars per thousand Board Feet)

	Douglas-fir			Ponderosa and Jeffrey pines
Year	West side[d]	East side[d]	Total	
1959	36.80	11.50	24.15	22.00
1960	32.00	10.30	21.15	23.90
1961	27.60	9.10	18.35	15.60
1962	24.80	6.90	15.85	15.60
1963	28.00	5.80	16.90	14.20
1964	38.10	10.90	24.50	18.80

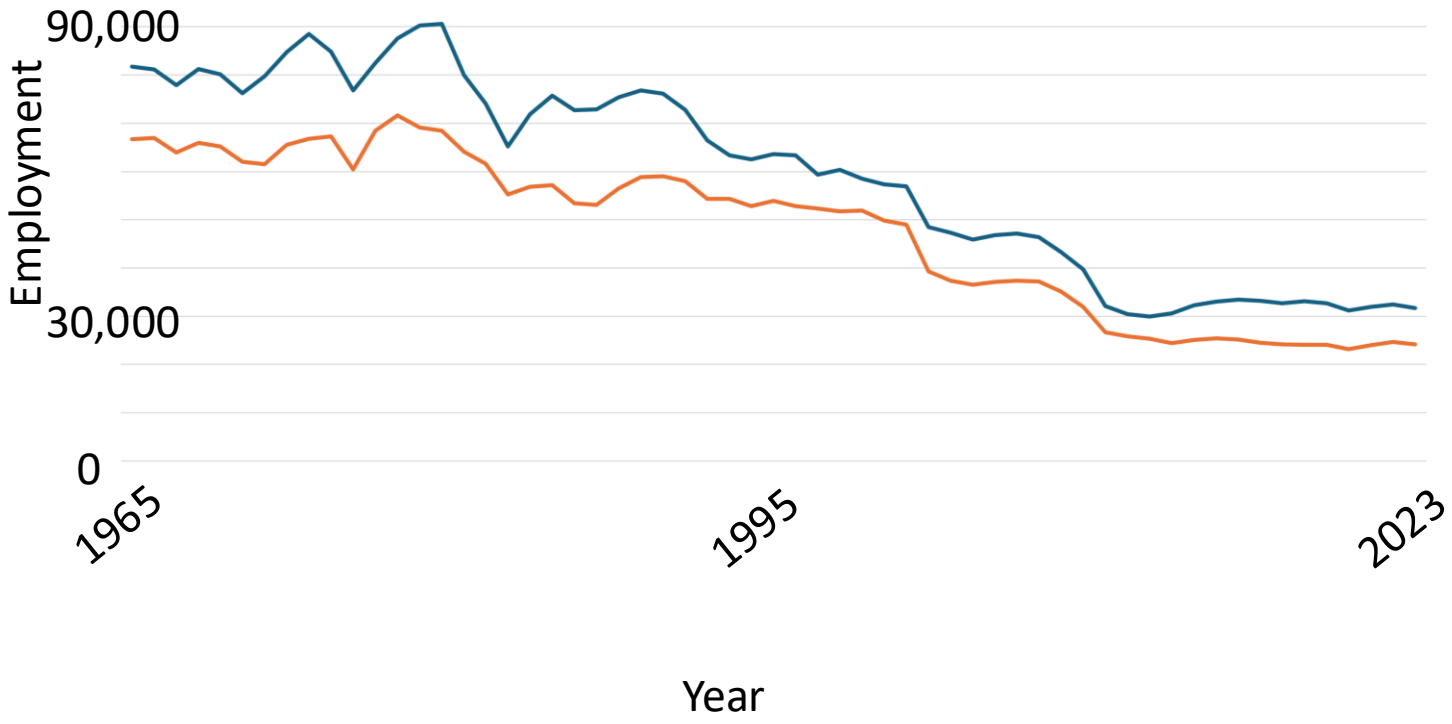
Employment over time
Ex. Forest industries jobs

Oregon

Washington

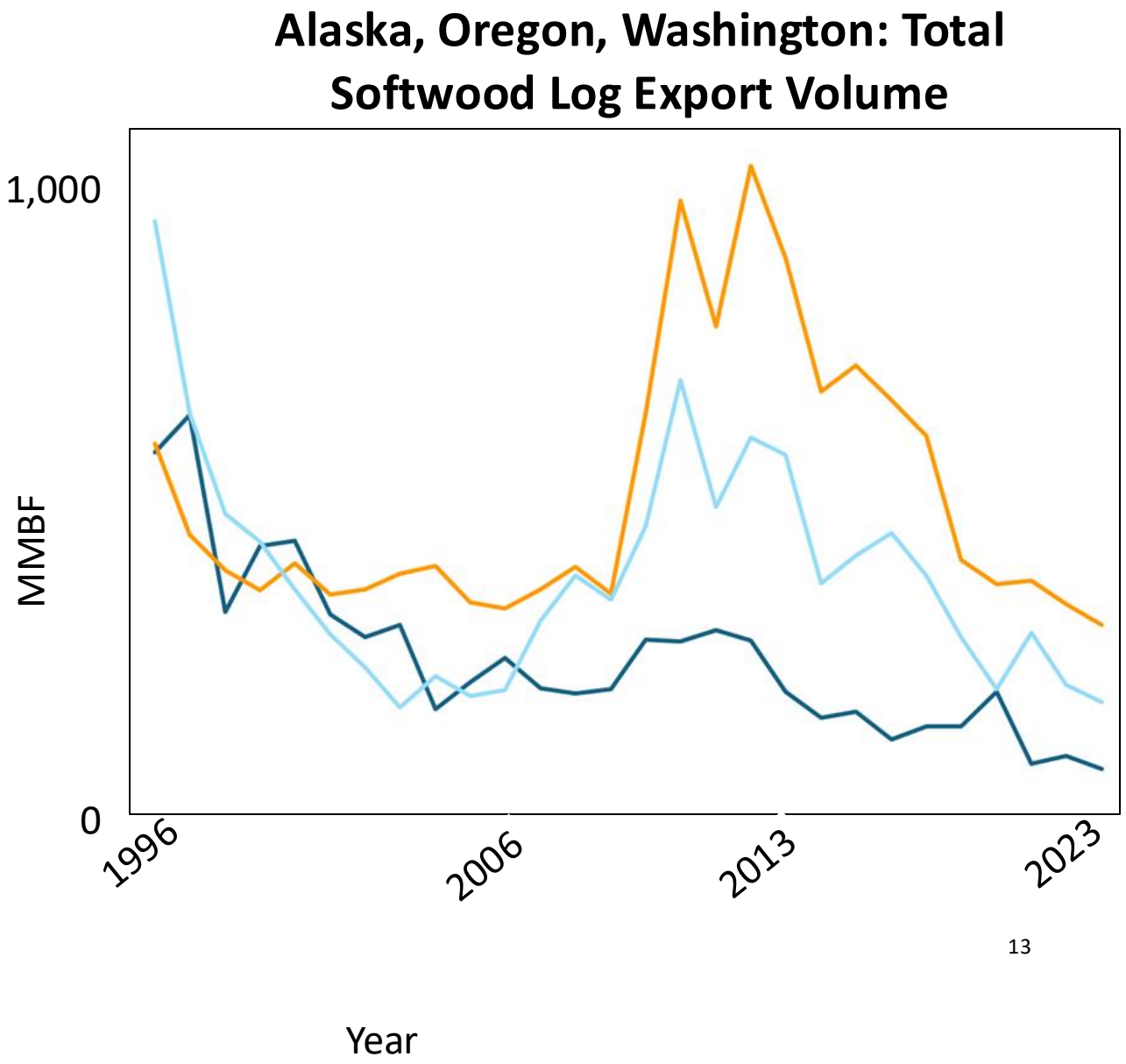
- Forestry and logging
- Wood product manufacturing
- Paper manufacturing

Oregon and Washington: Employment in Forest Product Industries, 1965-2023



Log, Pulpwood, and Chip Exports
Ex. Softwood Logs

- Oregon is the largest exporter out of the three
- Volume declined over the last decade



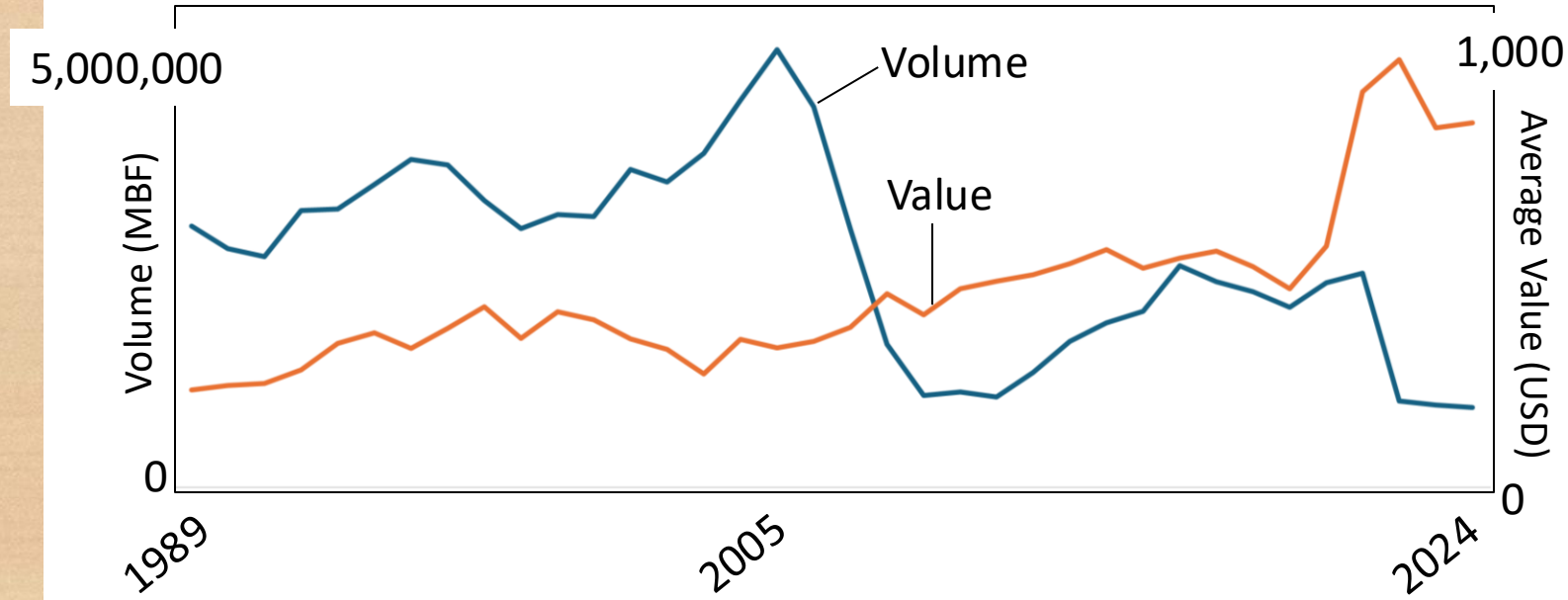
Log, Pulpwood, and Chip Exports
Ex. Softwood Lumber Imports

Import Volume

Import Value

- Volume remains low
- Average value increasing over time
- Canada comprises 95%+ softwood lumber imports to the Northwest

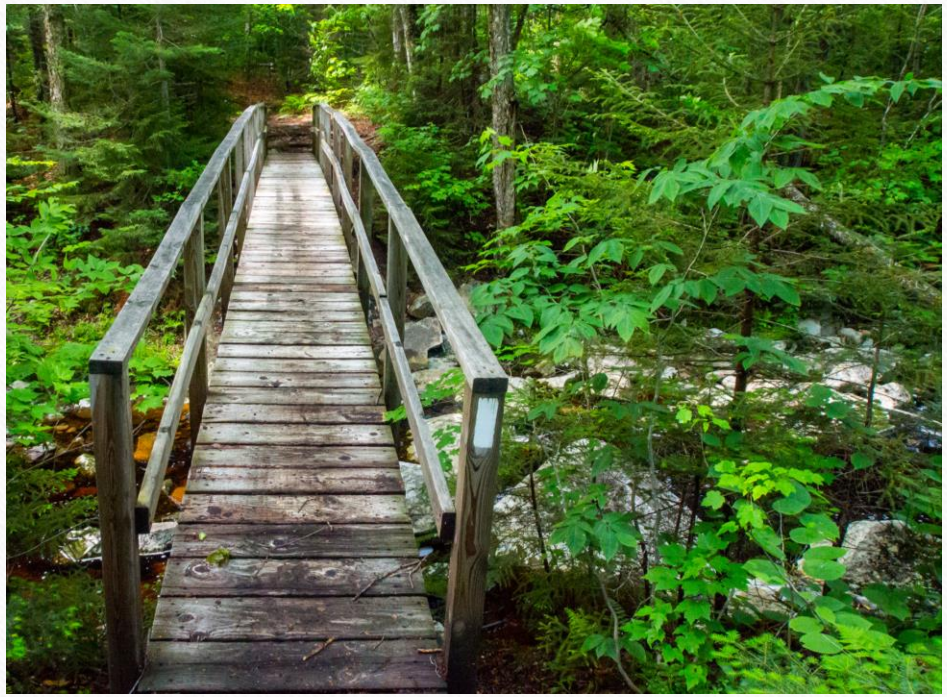
Washington: Softwood Lumber Imports from Canada



Next Steps

Identifying audiences and their needs:

- Public timber managers
- Public land planners
- Researchers
- Students
- Others?



Questions?

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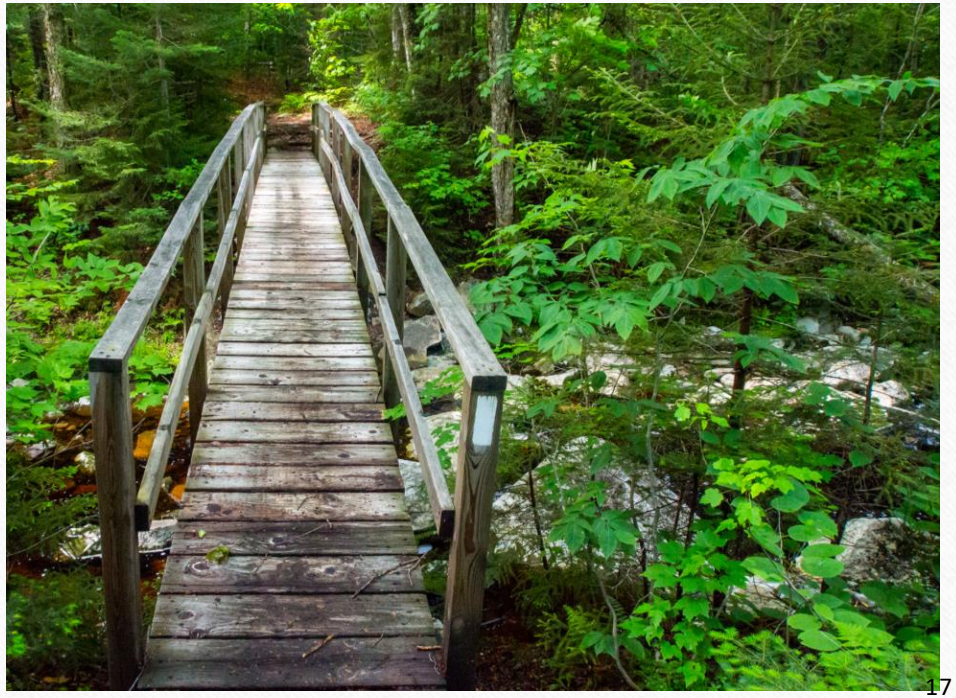
Discussion

Modernize = opportunity to shape the report, making the data most accessible and relevant for decision-making

- Who do you work with? How might they benefit from these datasets?
- Additional data needs?
- Data sources you prefer?
- What detail is helpful? County, forest, port, and/or species -level?
- What units? (e.g., MBF vs. cubic meters, average vs. total value)



https://research.fs.usda.gov/pnw/products/dataandtools/production-prices-employment-and-trade-northwest-forest-industries-1958

Questions?

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Additional Slides

PPET Data Sources

- American Plywood Association
- Western Wood Products Association
- Random Lengths Publications
- Bureau of Business and Economic Research at University of Montana
- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Statistics Canada
- U.S. International Trade Commission Dataweb Database
- U.S. Census Bureau USA Trade Database
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service