



Sustaining Ecological and Economic Diversity Among Limited Resource Landholders by Expanding Opportunities for Management of Productive Woodlands

NC STATE UNIVERSITY



A joint project of North Carolina State University and
North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University

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Combining productive and sustainable woodlands with farming systems raises both

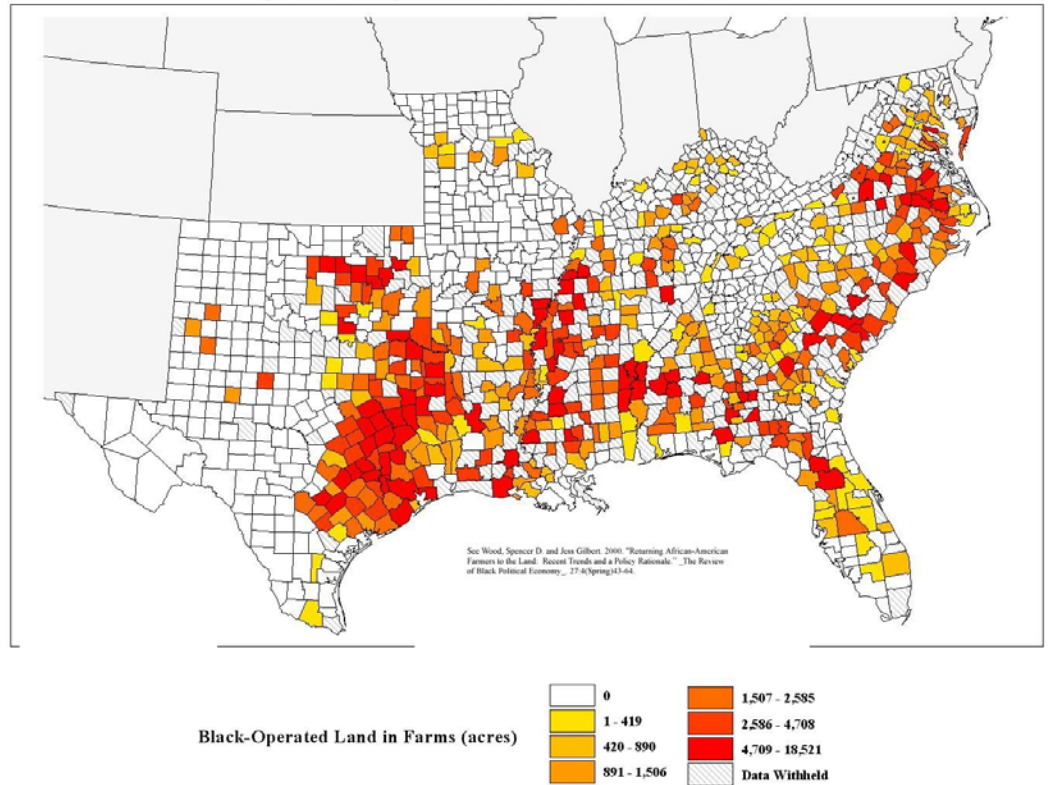
- ***Quality of life*** and
- ***Diversity in rural landscapes***

This is especially true for landowners who have not always been able to take full advantage of forest management opportunities.



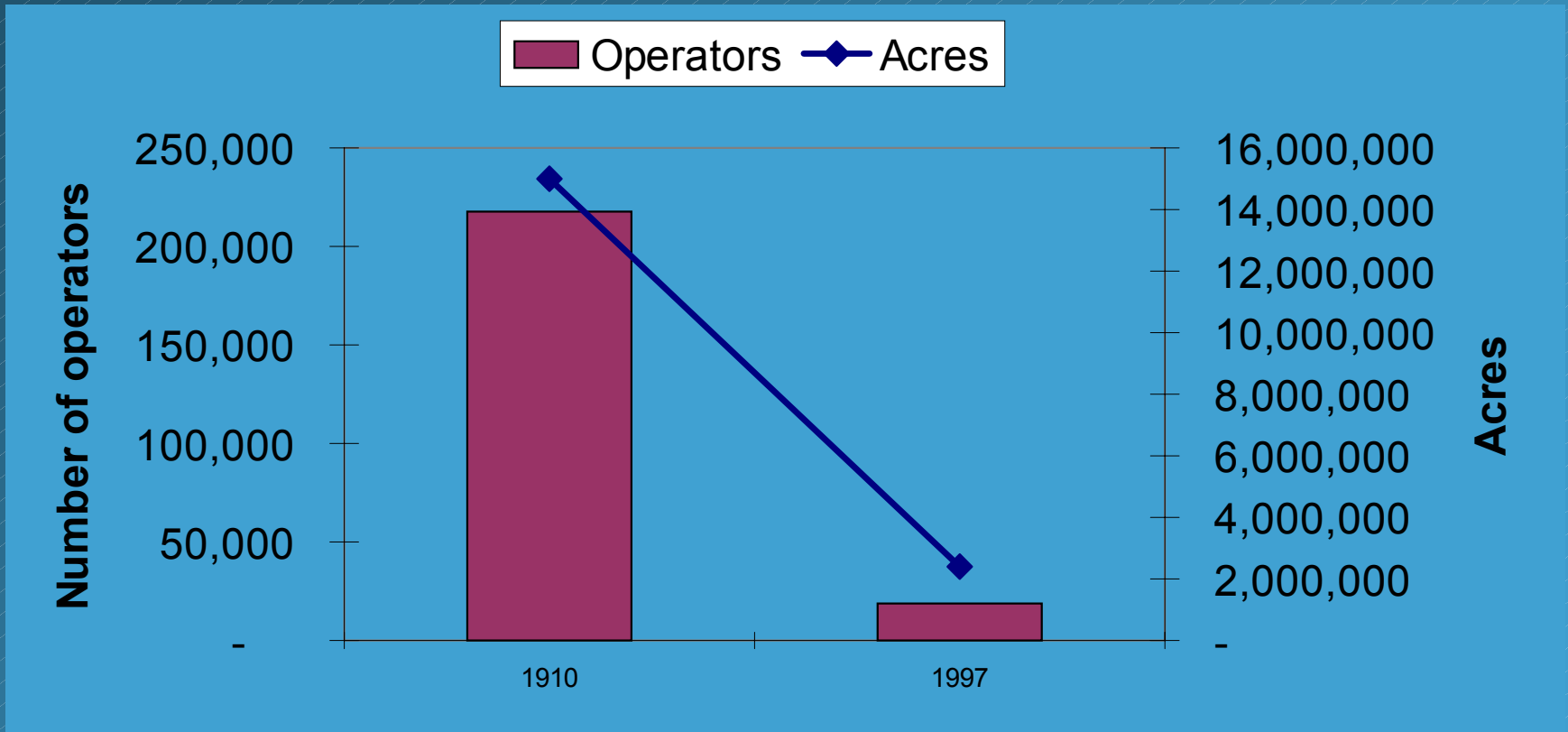
- Most black farmers are located in the southern “black belt”

Figure 2: Black-Operated Land in Farms, 15 Southern States, 1997





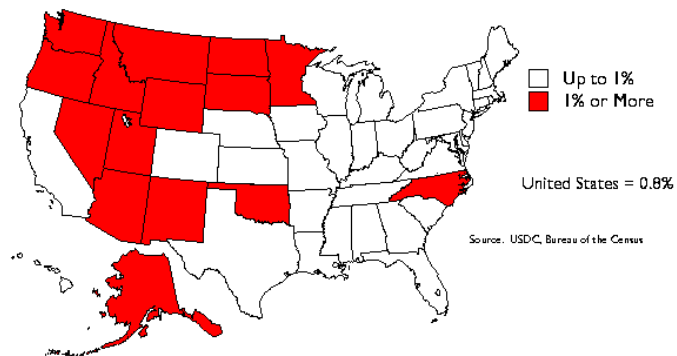
Black farm land loss in the U.S., 1910-1997



Source: Census of Agriculture 1997 and preceding years

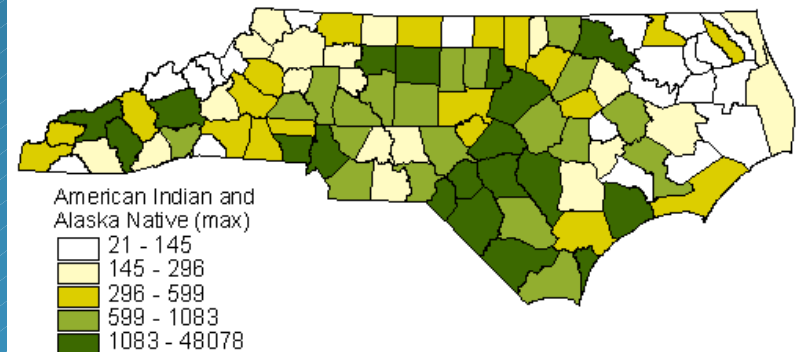
Native Americans

American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts as a Percent of Total Population, 1990



Produced by: University Extension—Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis

American Indian and Alaska Native Population, 2000



The count of American Indian and Alaska Native includes those who indicated only this race and those who indicated multiple races, one of which was American Indian and Alaska Native.

Produced by the NC State Data Center

Native Americans



- The Lumbee tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi, and the ninth largest tribe in the U.S. There are more than **40,000 Lumbee** in Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties.

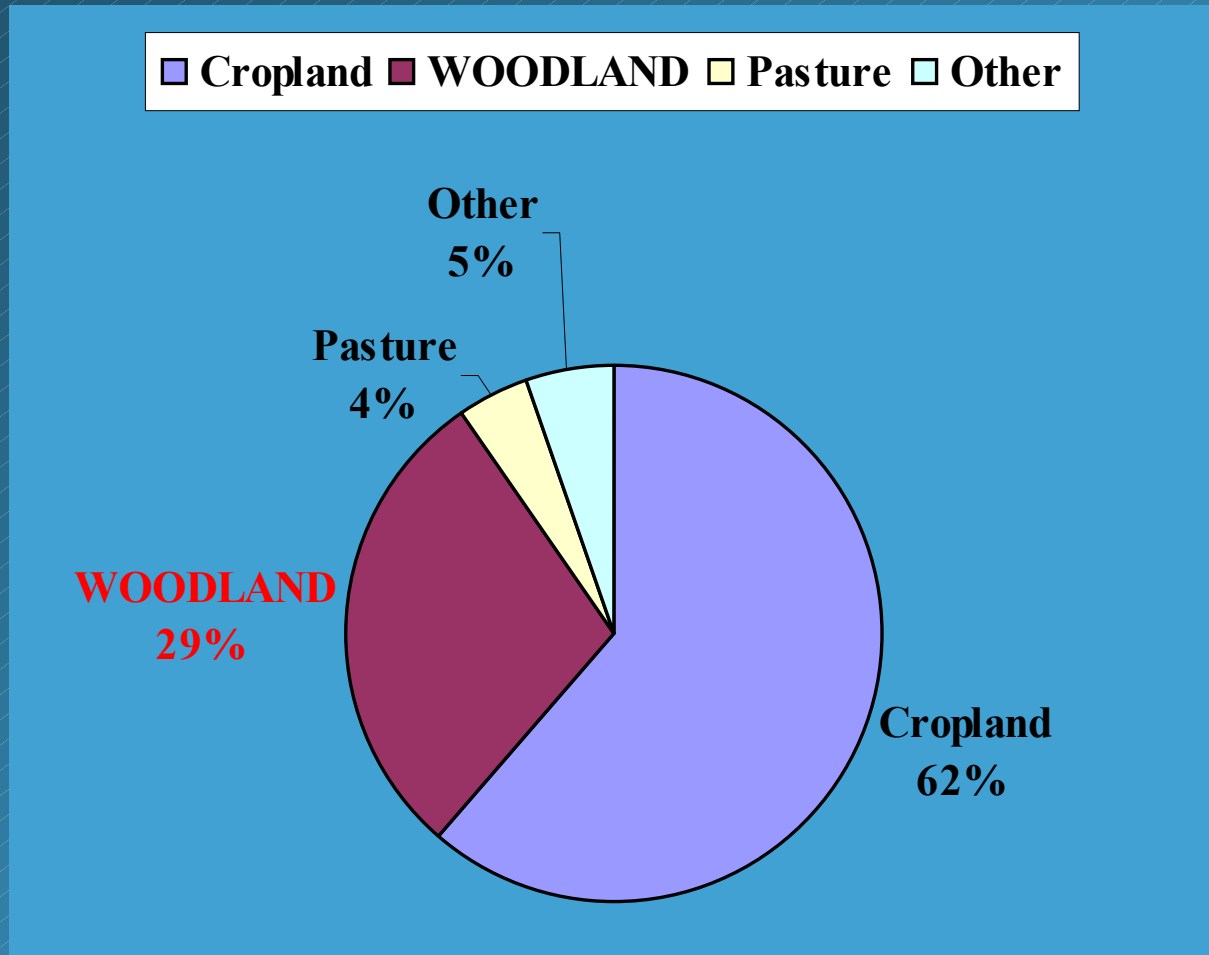
Native Americans

- In Halifax and Warren Counties, there are approximately **3,800 Haliwa-Saponi** tribal members who are direct descendants of the Saponi, Tuscarora, Tutelo and Nansemond Indians.



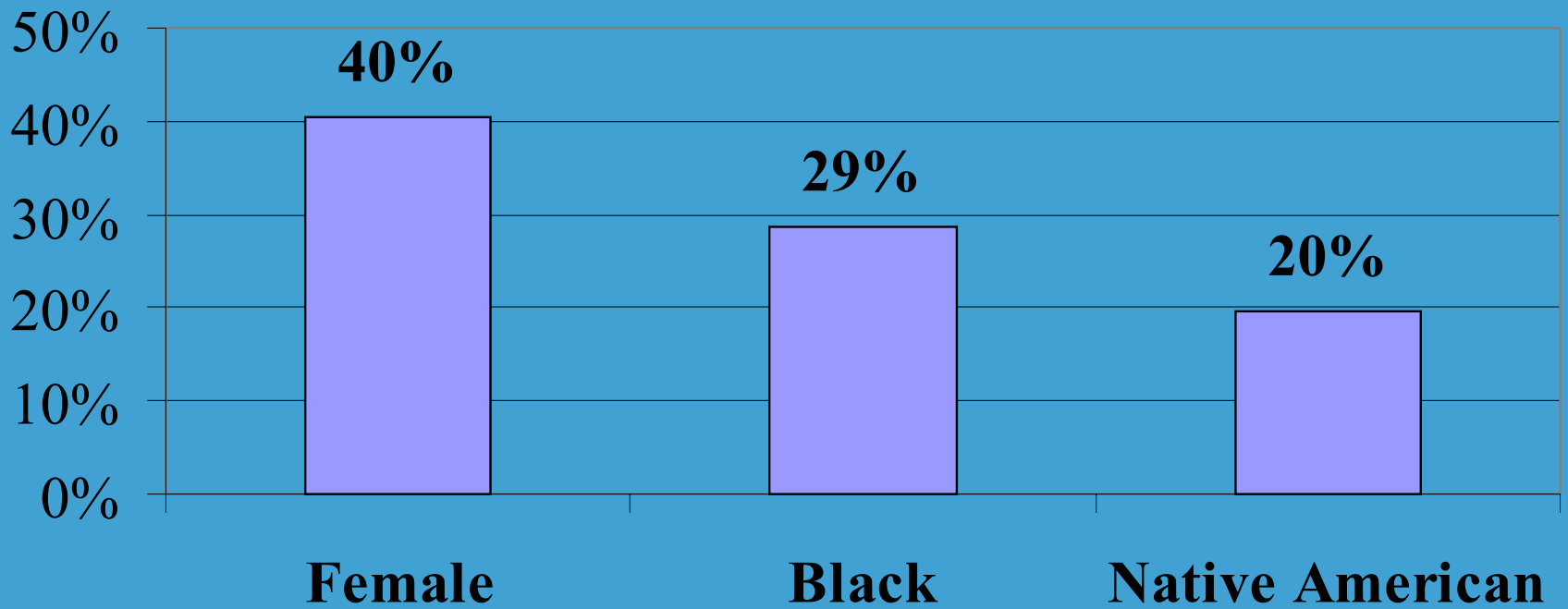
There are approximately **1,700** members of the **Coharie** tribe in Sampson and neighboring counties

Woodland in NC farms





NC Woodland as proportion of farm land operated by black, Native American, and female farm operators



Long-term goals

1. To strengthen the capacities of limited-resource, traditionally underserved farm and forest landholders so that they can sustainably and profitably manage their forest resources



Long-term goals

2. To identify opportunities for and constraints on participation by these landholders in timber and alternative forest products



SARE generally defines limited-resource farming as

- agriculture on smaller-than-average holdings
- with no, or limited, access to substantial amounts of capital or off-farm income.
- ***Additional considerations could be:***
- beginning farmers;
- farmers producing for emerging or alternative markets;
- and individuals and groups, such as minority farmers, traditionally under-served by credit and other farm service institutions.



Definition

- Our focus
 - smaller-than-average holdings
 - no, or limited, access to substantial amounts of capital or off-farm income
 - farmers producing for emerging or alternative markets
 - minority landholders (e.g., African American, Native American)
 - women
 - heir-property owners
 - the elderly



Site Selection

- Large populations of minority landholders
- Considerable forest and woodland acreage on farms
- High numbers of non-corporate private forest landowners



Study Counties



- **Brunswick County, VA**
- **Warren County, NC**
- **Halifax County, NC**
- **Northampton County, NC**

- **Sampson County, NC**
- **Duplin County, NC**
- **Robeson County, NC**



Black and Native American operated farms in NC

	Operators	Land in Farms	Average Farm Acres
Duplin	101	6,584	65
Halifax	66	10,976	166
Northampton	52	5,928	114
Robeson	386	68,793	178
Sampson	69	5,079	74
Warren	46	6,995	152
Total	720	104,355	125

Source: Census of Agriculture 1997

1. To develop and apply methods for identifying and contacting limited resource landholders



2. To describe and analyze the preferences, opportunities, and constraints that influence woodland management decisions





Objectives

3. To analyze and select technically proven options for woodland and forest management that are sustainable and appropriate for family goals and economic systems

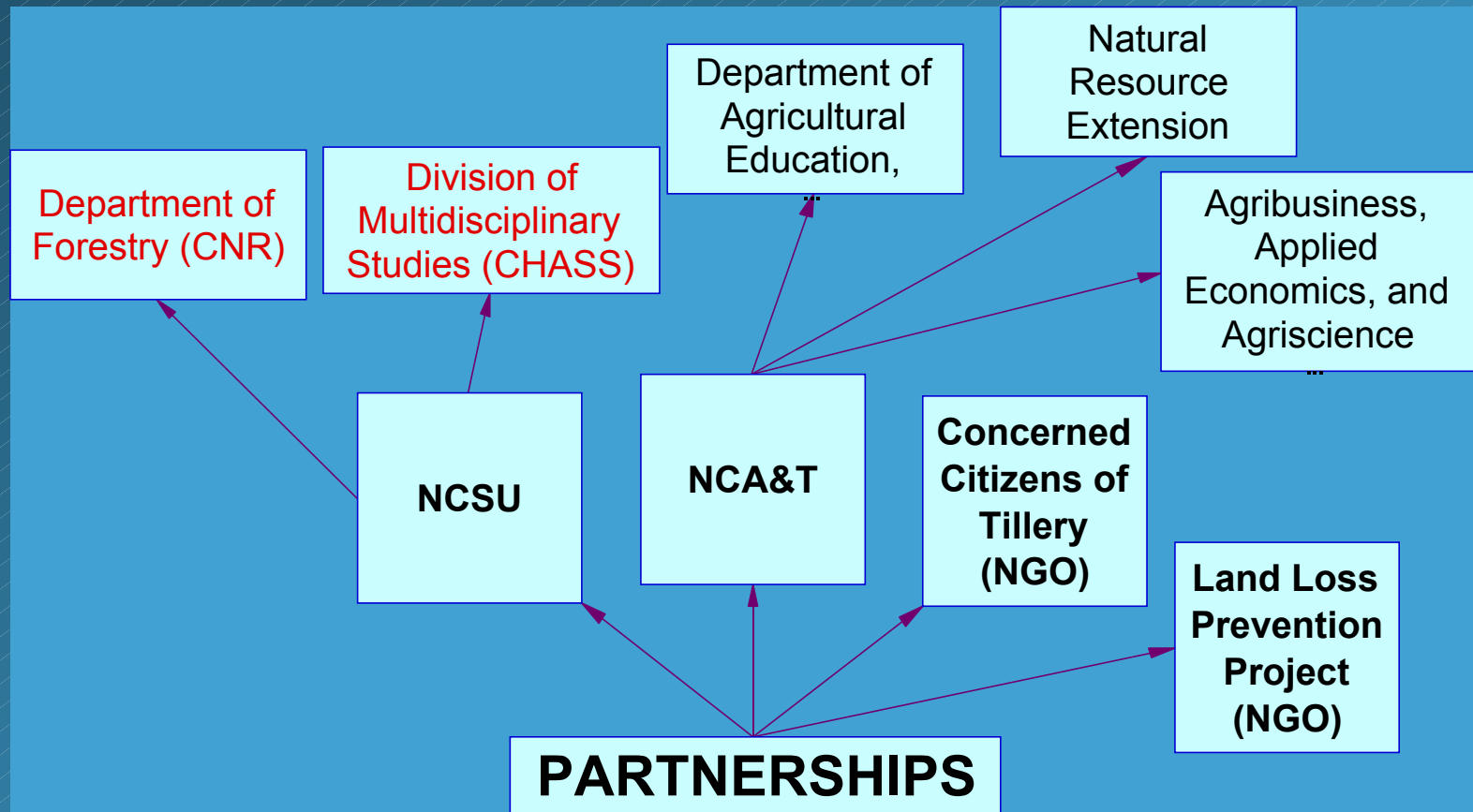


4. To extend these options to landholders



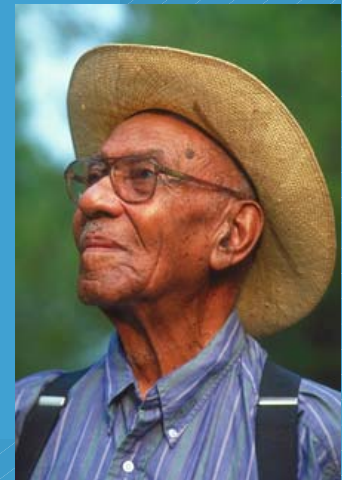


Partnerships



Identifying informants for

- Interviews/Focus groups
- Survey
- Case Studies





Identification of landholders

- NGO partner membership & contacts
- Federal agencies (FSA, NRCS, CES)
- State agencies (DFR)
- Local informants
- Tax and probate records

Survey to determine preferences, opportunities, and constraints that influence woodland management decisions

•Methods

- Late fall/winter
- N = 325
- Local enumerators
- Conduct face to face questionnaires
- Information packet



Focus groups

Lumbee Regional Development Association (Robeson)

- 75 acres with naturally regenerated pine & mixed stands
- half had sold timber; checked with forester, extension agent, or consultant; accepted first bid offered
- also sold: pinestraw, cones, game lease, firewood
- half specify heirs in will; most heirs aware but not active

CES in Brunswick County, VA

- critical of forestry consultants
- own multiple woodland parcels



Interviews

Key informants

Semi-structured interviews

Inform survey design

Enrich survey information by illustrating how, when, where and why certain opportunities and constraints exist

Purpose:

- richer information on motivations,
- financial and silvicultural decisions,
- land-use history,
- inheritance patterns
- host field days and on-farm demonstrations



Objective 3

To analyze and select technically proven options for woodland and forest management that are sustainable and appropriate for family goals and economic systems

- Market canvass
- Literature review
- Expert input



Objective 4

Outreach and education

Field days

Information sessions

Revised extension materials

Policy recommendations



Lessons

Difficulty of assembling useful databases on limited-resource farmers

Names, addresses, contact numbers

Amounts of land owned

Land use

Contact with agency and agency programs

Concern with elderly, particularly widows

Unexpected importance of forests to small landholders (family history – the homeplace, alternative incomes)



Lessons

Positive feedback from agencies and informants

Human face on the decline of small farms in NC



Thanks to

International Paper

NC Division of Forest Resources & County Rangers

USDA agencies

Key informants and focus group participants

Work-study/graduate students: Beth Salmon, Nevin Dawson