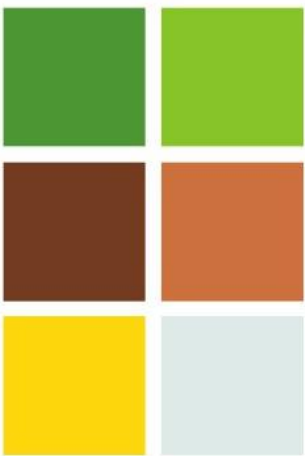
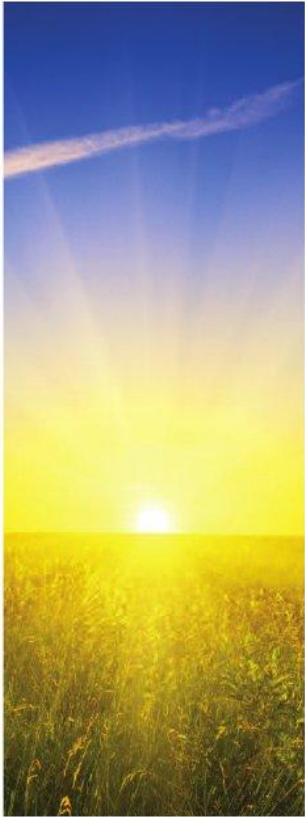




Solutions From the Land

Developing a New Vision
for United States
Agriculture, Forestry,
and Conservation



Solutions from the Land Vision

“In 2050, U.S. farmers, ranchers, and foresters manage land to produce the food, fiber and energy needed to support a growing population and economy, while simultaneously improving biodiversity and the health of our environment.”



SFL Outcomes:

- Productivity will increase in ways that allow landscapes to provide the full range of needed ecosystem services.
- Land owners and managers will make more efficient use of inputs, while reducing waste and overall consumption of natural resources.
- Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and other land managers will be supported and compensated for the ecosystem services the land provides.



SFL Outcomes:

- Communities will be engaged constructively at the policy level to participate with land owners and managers in resolving competing priorities in their own home landscapes.
- Policy decisions about land use and land management at all levels will reflect the results of multi-stakeholder assessment and negotiation so that regulatory frameworks support, rather than inhibit, sustainable land management.



Challenges for Land Management

- Loss of working lands
- Conflicting policies and inadequate rewards for ecosystem services
- Declining investments in research and innovation
- The changing climate
- Managing risks, market volatility, and multiple demands



Reaching the SFL Vision

- Short term- we need to promote integration, and implementation of the best solutions that we have.
- Long term- we need appropriate policies, investments, research and development, markets and measurement tools in place in order to ensure that resources are optimized – **we have to produce more with less.**



“The policies and practices of the past will not meet the needs of tomorrow”



5 Pathways to Achieving the SFL Vision

1. Landscape-scale solutions and partnerships

- Mobilize broad stakeholder coalitions
- Move beyond the “regulate or litigate” mindset
- Policy decisions reflect the results of multi-stakeholder assessment and consensus-driven solutions.



5 Pathways to Achieving the SFL Vision

2. Harmonize policy frameworks

- Reduce or eliminate overlapping and contradictory regulations.
- Adopt policies that promote public-private partnerships and optimize public and private investments.
- Develop “Certainty” or “Reasonable Assurance” processes and risk-mitigation tools to support or create market drivers for public goods.



5 Pathways to Achieving the SFL Vision

3. Reward stewardship of ecosystem services

- Harmonize ecosystem service market signals.
- Incorporate sufficient value into sustainable supply chains.
- Ensure that ownership of ecosystem services and other public good markets are adequately and efficiently accounted for.
- Strengthen verification processes for supply chain and ecosystem services markets.



5 Pathways to Achieving the SFL Vision

4. Energize and coordinate research

- The U.S. research apparatus of today is not equipped to meet the needs of tomorrow
- Adopt integrated research agendas
- Advance a systems approach with a focus on real-life application and decision makers.



5 Pathways to Achieving the SFL Vision

5. Transform and modernize information networks

- Improve access to information that we already have.
- Enable data, information, and knowledge gaps to be more easily collected from a spectrum of public and private sources.
- Develop and coordinate systems for communication for a spectrum of land owners and managers.



Turning Profit into Reforestation: Delaware Wild Lands' Atlantic White Cedar Restoration



- 10,500 acre track of what was once 50,000 to 60,000 acres of Bald Cypress and Atlantic White Cedar swamp
- Early restoration & preservation activities were “piecemeal”
- In 2006, the organization began harvesting timber, investing the profits into reforestation and habitat restoration projects, infrastructure, and future land acquisitions
- To date, profits have been used to reforest 88 acres of the swamp with natural Bald Cedar and Atlantic White Cedar
- Attracted partnerships from government and other NGO’s working on restoration
- Received certification from SFI as a Sustainable Forestry Operation



Ideas for Collaboration

- Create a nationwide inventory of integrated land management projects
- Identify conflicting policies and examples of successful solutions
- Hold regional dialogues on ecosystem markets and sustainable supply chains
- Develop a way to prioritize and streamline research processes
- Identify “meta-metrics” that can serve as broad indicators of sustainability



Path Forward

- Recruit partners to join the SFL dialogue
- Host national, regional and local forums
- Participate in the global dialogue around sustainable land management
- Highlight SFL success stories



Join the SFL Dialogue!



www.SFLDialogue.net

