

STAKEHOLDERS FORUM



*Nantahala and Pisgah
National Forests
Forestry/Timber management*

Dale Remington – Sales Forester/Contracting Officer

WHY WE SELL TIMBER AND REASONS IT SELLS.



Timber tends to be of a higher quality and larger due to the length of time between harvests, when compared to private land.

All harvesting is conducted under strict contract requirements and administered by highly trained foresters and technicians

Harvesting timber and supporting local communities is part of the mission of the Forest Service

All harvesting is conducted on a sustained basis, using the highest standards.

WHY WE HARVEST TIMBER



Wildlife Openings

09/27/2011 22:24



Road daylighting

08/12/2005



Regenerating Oak



Diverse habitat



Jobs

9.30.2002

Opening Views



Support Local Economy



Mast Production



Plywood production

WHY WE HARVEST TIMBER



Forest Products



Grouse Habitat



Thinning Forest Health



Age class

VEGETATION PROJECT PLANNING TIMELINE

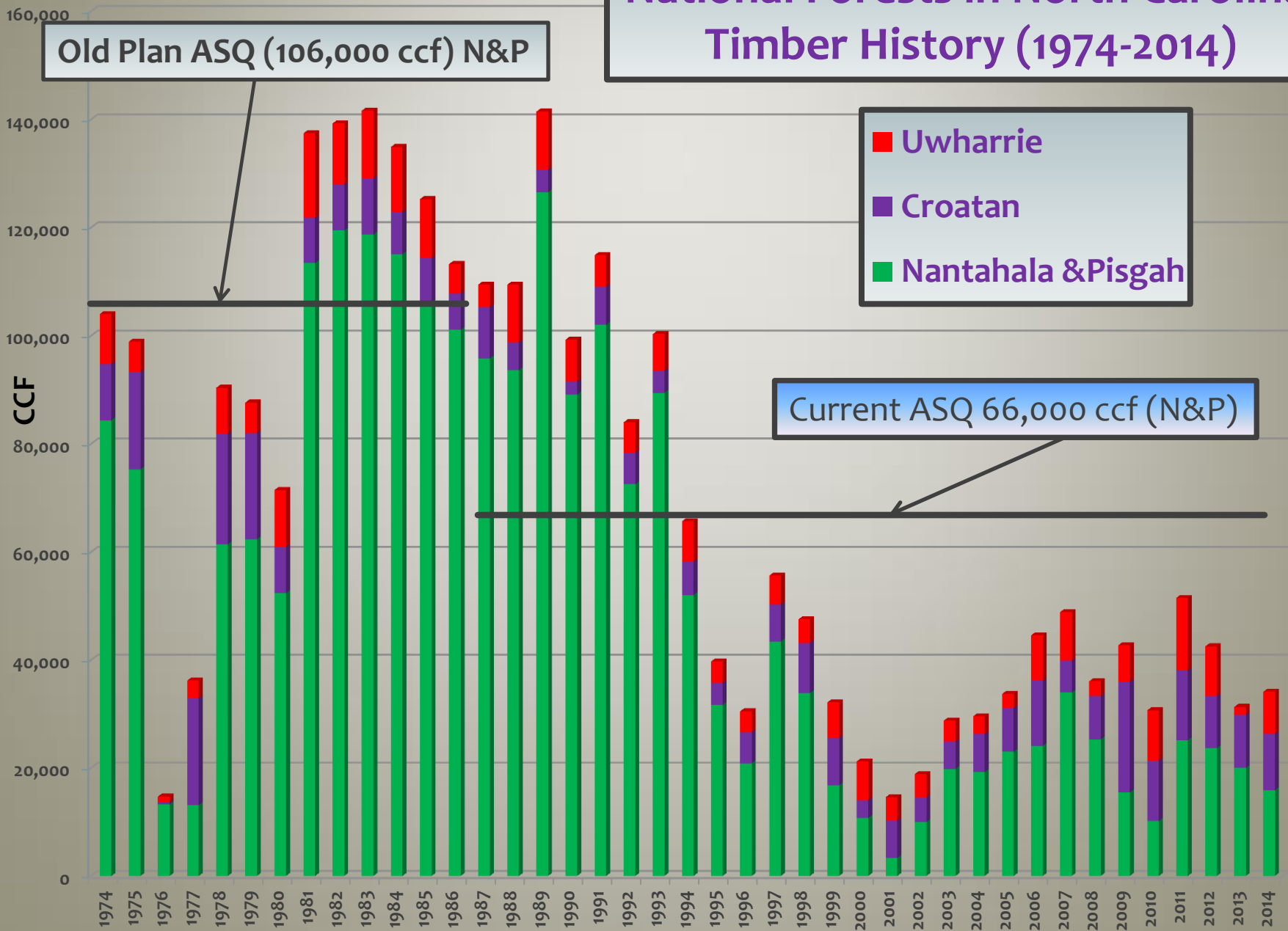
- *Gate 1 – Prescription - Focused Public input FY 2010*
- *Gate 2 – NEPA - Full Public Input – FY 2011 – 2012*
- *Gate 3 – Layout and Timber Marking – FY 2013*
- *Gate 4 – Contract preparation – FY 2014*
- *Gate 5 – Contract Advertisement – FY 2014*
- *Gate 6 – Contract Award – FY 2014*

Most sales are 2 to 3 years in length - FY 2014 – 2016

Stands visited to certify stocking after 3rd growing season

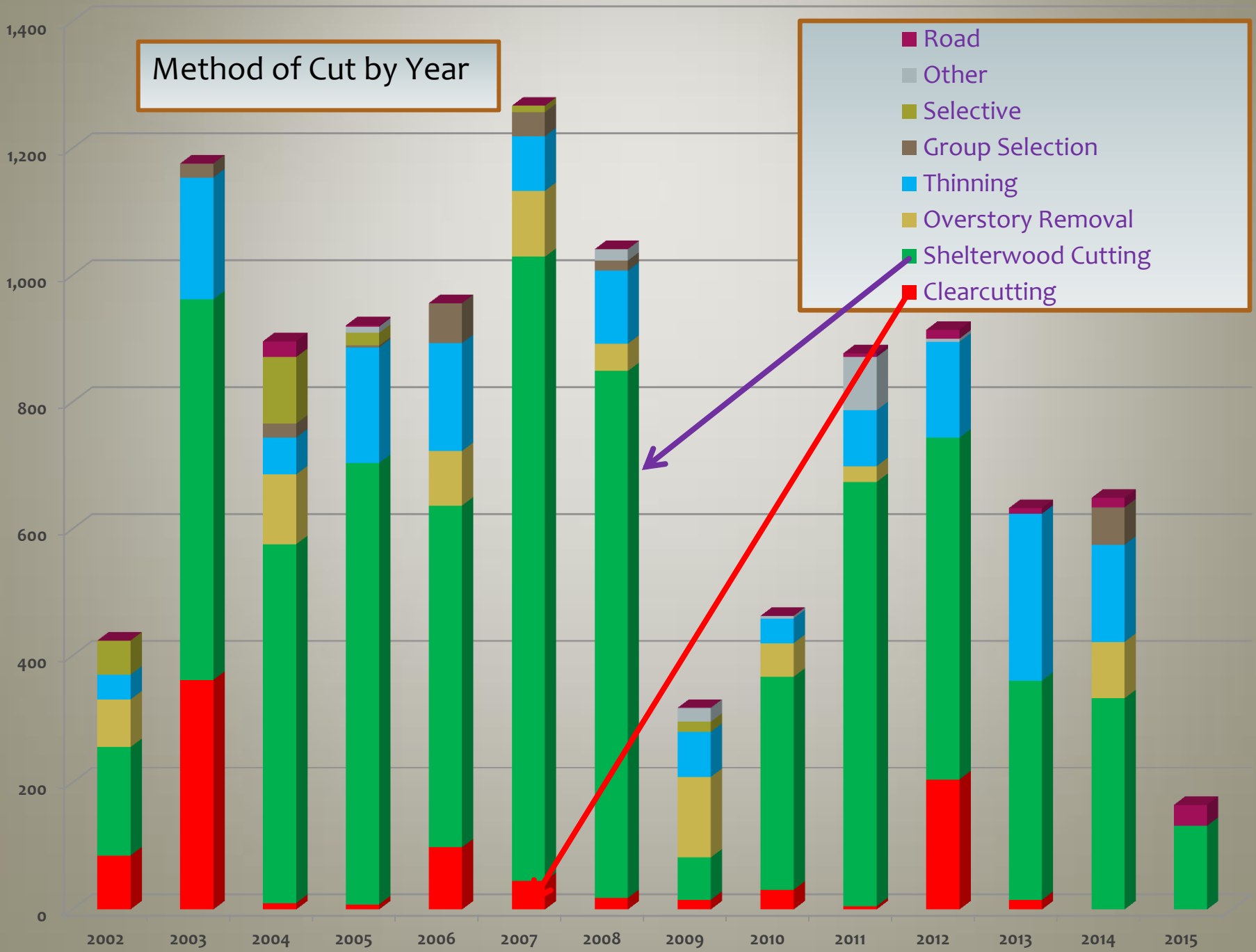
2017-2019

National Forests in North Carolina Timber History (1974-2014)

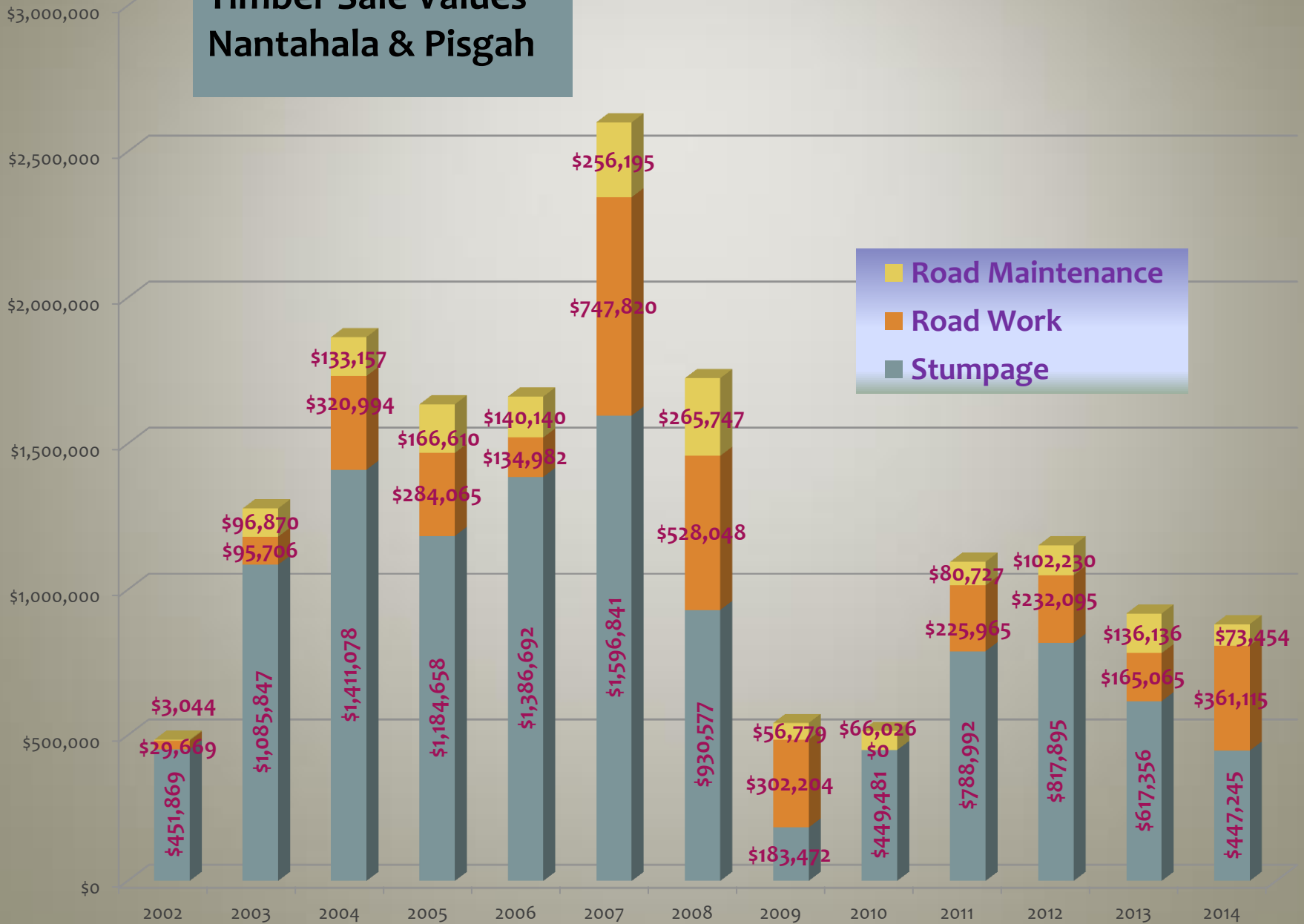


Method of Cut by Year

- Road
- Other
- Selective
- Group Selection
- Thinning
- Overstory Removal
- Shelterwood Cutting
- Clearcutting

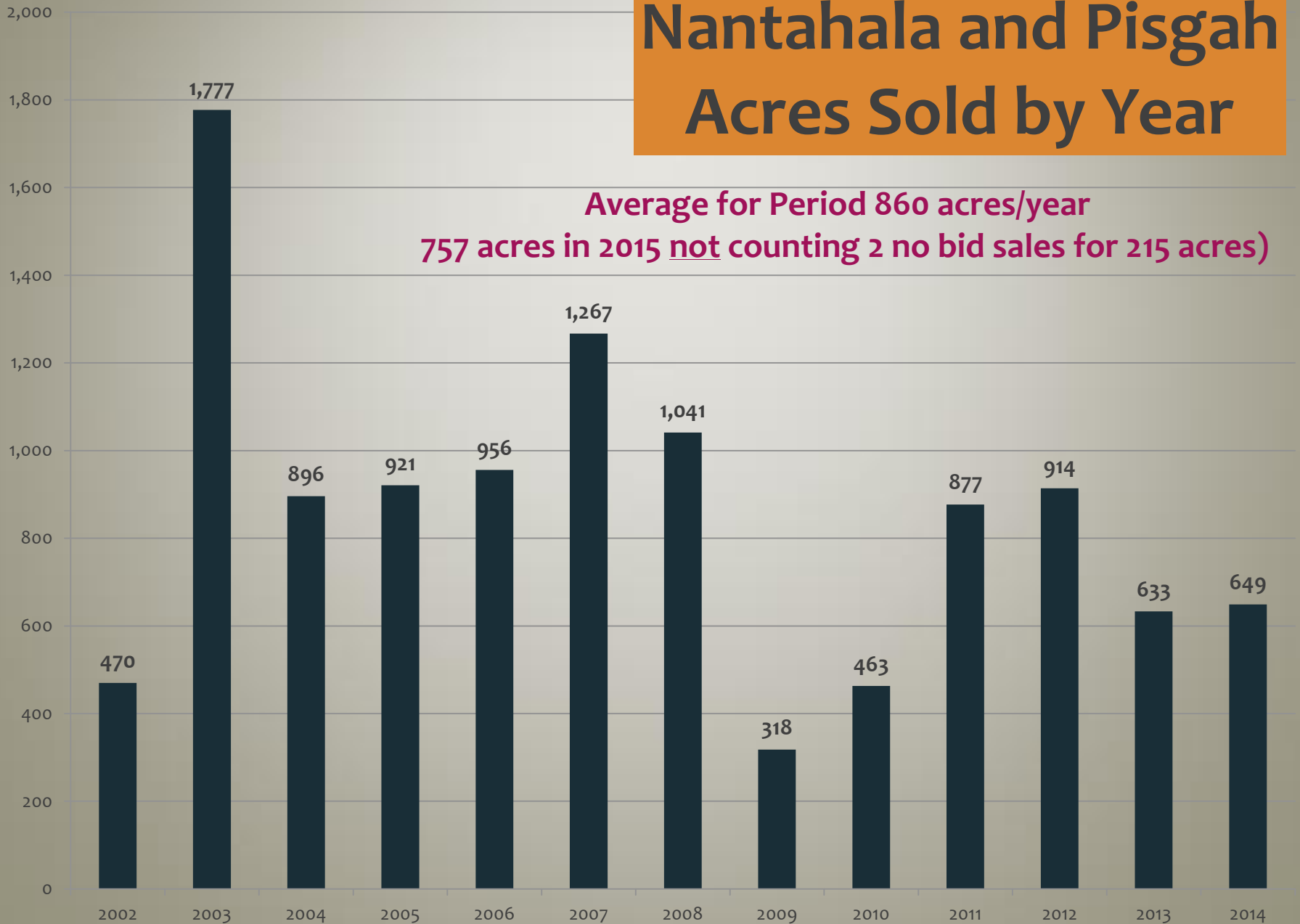


Timber Sale Values Nantahala & Pisgah



Nantahala and Pisgah Acres Sold by Year

Average for Period 860 acres/year
757 acres in 2015 not counting 2 no bid sales for 215 acres)



EACH TIMBER SALE IS GIVEN ONE OF THREE OBJECT CODES.

In my 13 years in NC
all sales have been
coded (FS) and none
have been coded (TC)

- Forest Stewardship (FS) –
*least net cost way to achieve
the vegetation management
objective.*
- Timber Commodity (TC) –
*primary object is for the
purpose of providing forest
products as a raw material to
contribute to the Nation’s
Timber supply.*
- Personal Use (PP)–
*Purchaser will use the
material for personal use
rather than for manufacture
or resale.*

**EXAMPLE OF FOREST
STEWARDSHIP (FS)
CODED SALE
PROPOSAL.
(BBQ PROJECT)**

Proposed management activities include;

- Tree harvesting through a commercial timber sale.
- Site preparation for forest regeneration.
Timber stand improvements.
- Wildlife and fisheries habitat improvements.
- Temporary road reconstruction.

The project is designed **to improve or maintain wildlife habitat, species diversity of stands, soil and water resources, and forest health through vegetation management**, prescribed burning and other treatments designed to provide **high quality early successional habitat**. The project would implement direction set forth in the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Nantahala/Pisgah National Forests (USDA, March 1987) as amended in 1994, in a manner which moves the existing natural resources toward desired future conditions.

Nothing about the projects land base (suitable or unsuitable).

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2015-2020

Strategic Goals

SUSTAIN – *Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands*

Objective A – resilient, adaptive ecosystems to mitigate climate change.

DELIVER *Benefits to the public*

Objective E – Strengthen communities

APPLY – *Knowledge Globally*

Management Goal

EXCEL – *as a High-Performing Agency*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE A. FOSTER RESILIENT, ADAPTIVE ECOSYSTEMS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

- Our investment in restoration work and managing the land will help ensure that forests and grasslands continue to deliver values, uses, products, and services that people want and need, such as clean air and water; high-quality recreation settings and opportunities; scenic character; forest products; cultural sites; and a full suite of habitats for plant, aquatic, and wildlife species (including threatened and endangered species). Working with our partners, the Forest Service's ecological restoration projects will support the growth and development of healthy ecosystems and vibrant, resilient communities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE E. STRENGTH COMMUNITIES

- Delivery of forest-related goods and services is integral to our mission at the Forest Service, stimulating tangible economic benefits to rural communities, such as private-sector investment and employment opportunities. The economic activity we support is directly attributable to the natural resource investments we make and the use of national forest and grassland resources that result in marketable products associated with outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, timber production, livestock grazing, mineral production, land stewardship, and other activities.

A FEW SLIDES ABOUT SUITABILITY

Things to keep in mind

- 1. Suitable acres do not equal the lands on which timber sales will occur.*
- 2. The non-suitable acres are not removed from consideration for timber harvest or are removed from management.*
- 3. All wilderness is unsuitable but all unsuitable is not wilderness.*

TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

Note: **Timber Production** = Purposeful growing, tending harvesting and regenerating a regulated crop of trees into logs, bolts or other round section for industrial or consumer use.

- Lands suitable for **timber production** - A preliminary classification of determining lands that are suited for timber production. Lands not suitable for timber production based on factors such as;
- Statute / Executive Order
- Lack of Technology
- Withdrawn by Chief or Secretary
- Not Forested
- Cannot adequately restock in 5 years.
- Not compatible with Desired Condition (DC) stated in the plan.

Current Plan – 275,798 acres suitable

TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

TAKE HOME MESSAGE: You can have land that is found to be unsuitable for production, but you still can have a timber sale and harvest timber.

Lands suitable for timber production

- **Timber production** is primary or secondary use for these acres
- Timber production is planned to continue even after DFC is met.
- A schedule of harvests can be planned and is predictable
- Regeneration is intended
- Timber production is compatible with DC

TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

Note: **Timber Harvest** =
The removal of trees for
wood fiber use and other
multiple-use purposes. To
meet a desired condition for
the mix of vegetation.

- **Timber Harvest** = Considered a tool to protect or enhance other multiple use values. The use of timber harvesting for other than timber production may be the most cost effective method as long as plan components can be met. Can happen on suitable & unsuitable lands.
- Used to meet a DC.
- Coded as a Forest Stewardship sale rather timber commodity sale
- Also used for salvage, public safety, forest health
- Volume removed is considered a by-product of using the timber sale tool to move towards a DC, but helps local economies.

PLAN COMPONENTS (STANDARDS & GUIDES) THAT LIMIT TIMBER HARVEST

- Harvest for **timber production** only from suitable land base
- Timber Harvesting only where soil, slope or watershed conditions would not be damaged.
- Timber Harvesting only where protection is provided for streams, streambanks, lakes and wetlands.
- Harvests will protect fish, wildlife, recreation and aesthetic resources.
- Assurance that lands can be adequately restocked within 5 years
- Where the harvest system is not selected primarily because it will give the greatest dollar return or unit output.



TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

Note: Timber Harvest within organizational capacity.

Not considered a target or limitation

- **Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ)** – timber and other products expected to be sold in the planning period from all lands. Consistent with Plan components. (Commercial sales, Firewood, biomass)
- **Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ)** – A subset of Timber harvested that meets a utilization standard, from any land expected to be sold in planning period. (FS sets standards)
- **Sustained Yield Limit (SYL)** – timber that meets utilization standard that could be removed annually in perpetuity on a sustained yield based from the lands that may be suitable



TIMBER HARVEST CAN ONLY BE CONDUCTED ON THE SUITABLE LAND BASE.

False – Only timber harvested for production must be from the suitable land base.

We will harvest all suitable acres in time.

False – There are areas within the suitable land base that will not be harvested for many reasons, most of which are tied to plan components.

Timber harvesting on the lands not suitable will result in resource damage.

False - If all Forest Plan S&G are followed, there will be no significant impacts.

Timber companies are subsidized to harvest on National Forests

False – Timber is sold by sealed bid to the highest bidder with minimum bid set at fair market value for the timber.

Timber harvests impact the viewsheds.

False – The vast majority of harvest units are not seen or recognized by public.

Timber purchaser select the trees they will harvest and they work independently.

False – All stems to be harvest are marked or designated and they work under constant inspection by a highly trained Contract Administration Team

Timber sales on the National Forest cost the taxpayers.

False – Value of the stumpage removed, road work completed, and value of resource work conducted always totals to more than the timber budget.

Timber harvesting results in sedimentation of creeks.

False – BMP monitoring shows that in 98% of sales monitored visible sediment has reached a stream.

The Forest Service is cutting growth.

False – Estimated standing volume is 33,860,000 ccf (all Forests) Growth would be about 8% or 2,708,800 ccf

we cut 44,000 ccf or .02% of growth

More Important than the footprint of the suitable land base vs the unsuitable land base are the Desired Conditions (DC)

Desired Conditions control;

- **The integration of projects**
- **How the vegetation is altered**
- **Project development**
- **Logging systems**
- **What the area will look like after the project is done.**

The desired conditions help determine the suitable land base rather than the suitable lands determining the DC's

The DC's are more important and more controlling than the determination of suitability.



Questions?