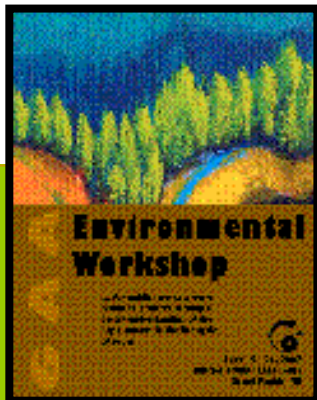


Forest Certification and Family Forests: What Can We Expect?

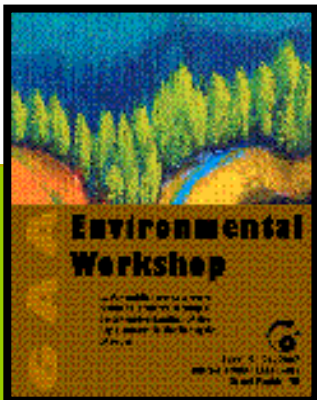
Michael A. Kilgore
Associate Professor
Dept. of Forest Resources
University of Minnesota



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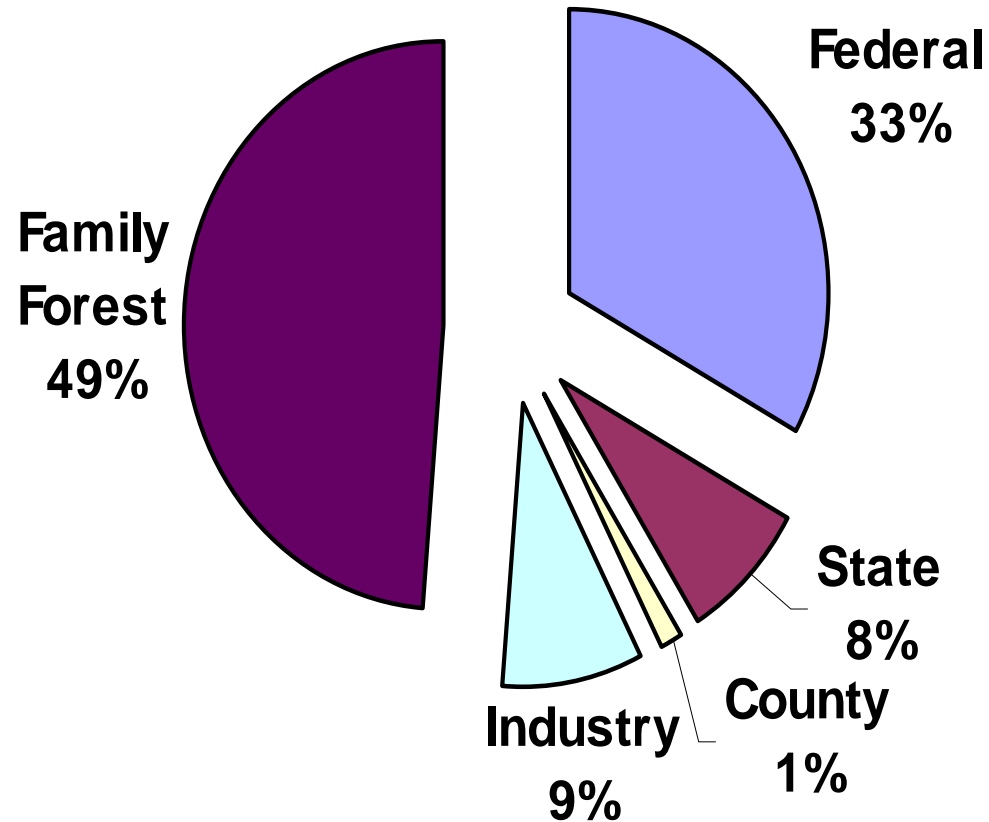
Presentation Outline

- **Profile of MN Family Forests & Their Owners**
- **MN Family Forest Owner Perceptions of Forest Certification**
- **Major Certification Challenges and Opportunities**

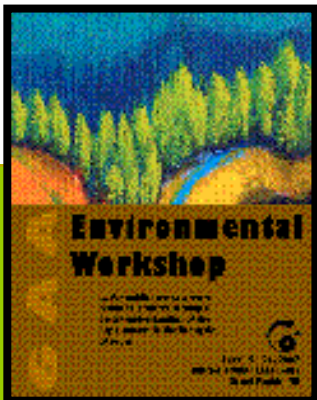


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US Forest Land Ownership

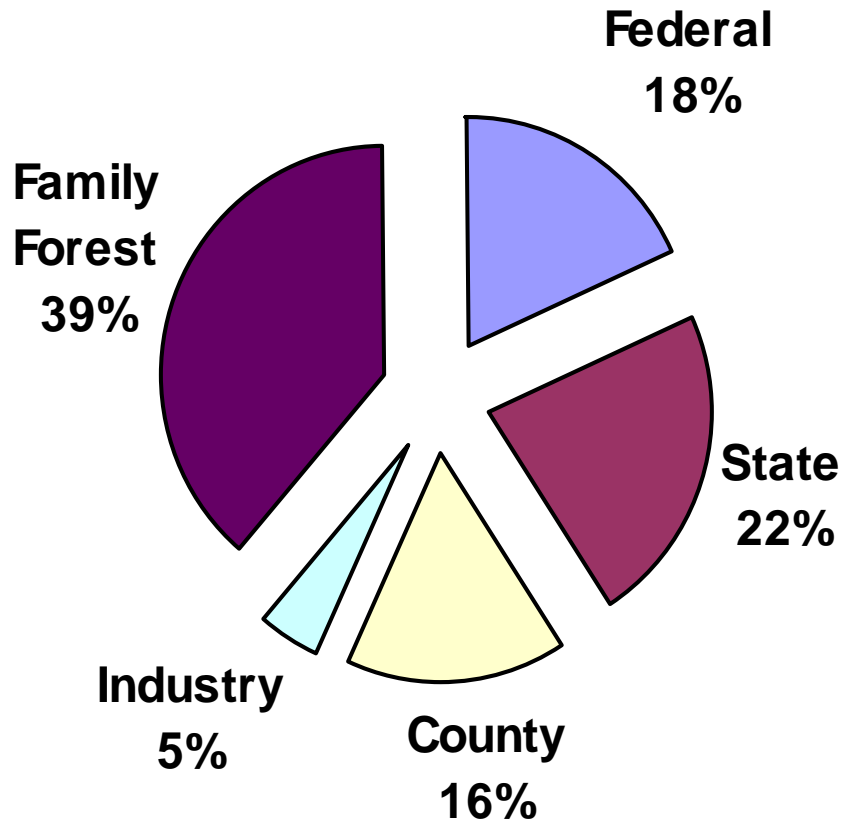


Source: USDA-Forest Service

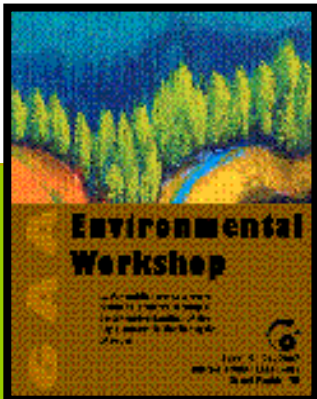


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MN Forest Land Ownership

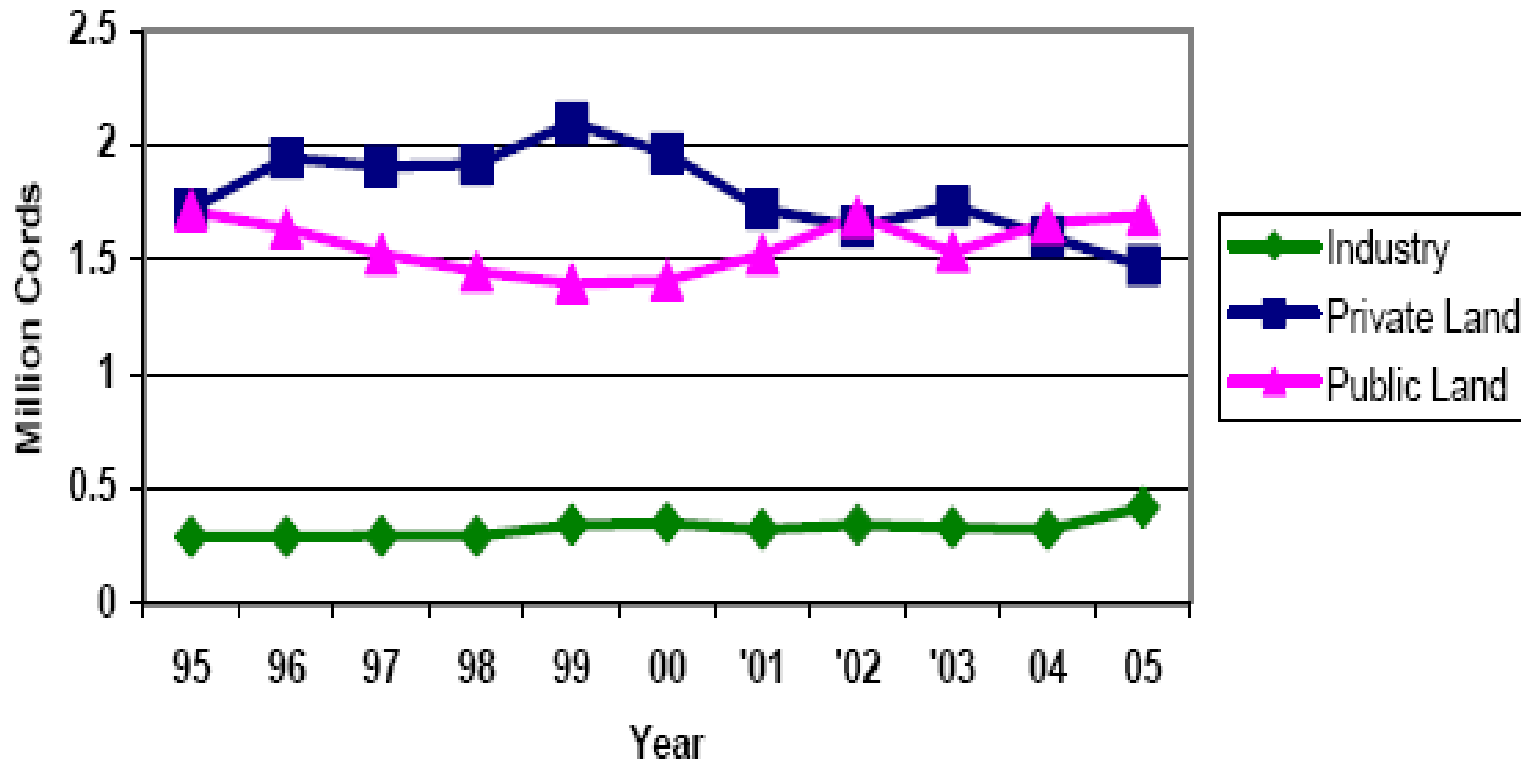


Source: USDA-Forest Service

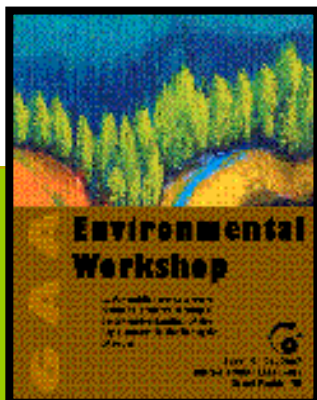


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Estimated Volume of Timber Sold by Ownership -Minnesota-



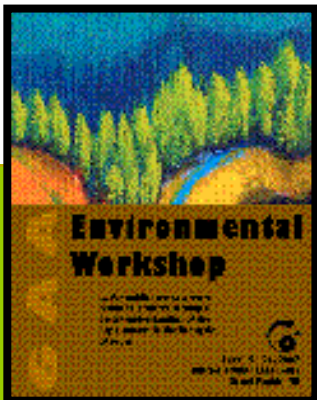
Source: MN DNR



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Profile of MN Family Forest Owners

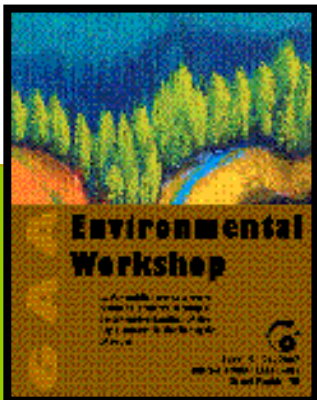
Absentee Landowners:	70%
Contacted Forester for Advice:	42%
Commercially Harvested Trees:	48%
Participated in Forestry Programs:	19%
Member: MN Forestry Association:	8%
Have a Forest Mgmt Plan:	23%



Source: Kilgore, et al. 2005.

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Most Important Ownership Reason	Percent
Hunting	46
Solitude and quiet	14
Real estate investment	12
Permanent or seasonal residence	8
Other non-hunting recreation	4
Close to areas of personal interest	4
Grow timber for income	3
Birds and other non-game wildlife	1
Other	8

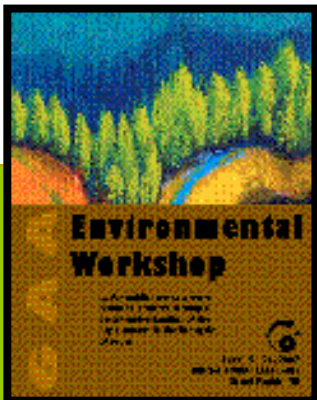


Source: Kilgore, et al. 2007.

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Minnesota Family Forest Landowners

Perspectives on Forest Certification

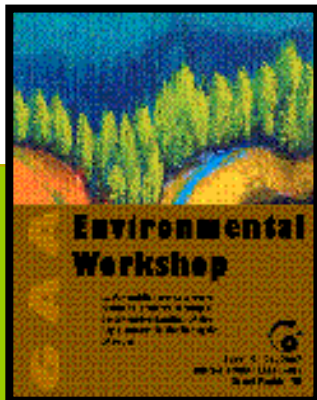


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Family Forest Owner Familiarity: Forest Land Certification

- **53% - Never heard of it**
- **27% - Minimal understanding**
- **17% - Some understanding**
- **3% - Extensive understanding**

Source: Kilgore, et al. 2005.



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Importance: Possible Certification Benefits

Most

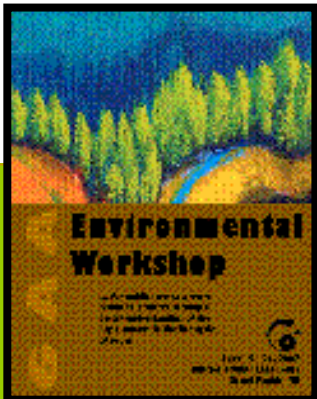
Important



Least

Important

- Improved wildlife habitat
- Increased timber growth
- Use sound harvesting practices
- Receive price premium
- Expanded markets for forest products
- Public recognition for good forestry



Source: Kilgore, et al. 2005.

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Importance: Possible Certification Costs

Most

- Less control: who harvests my forest

Important

- Less control: harvesting practices used



- Increased cost of forest management

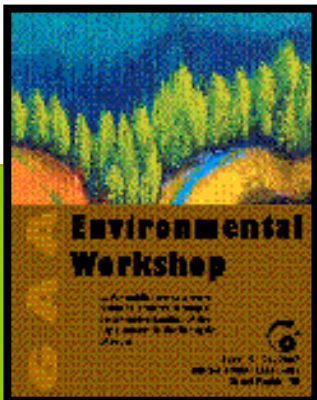
- Increased recordkeeping

Least

- Need to follow a forest mgmt. plan

Important

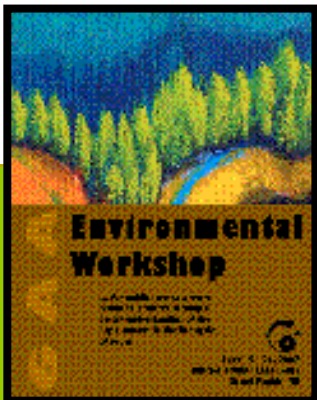
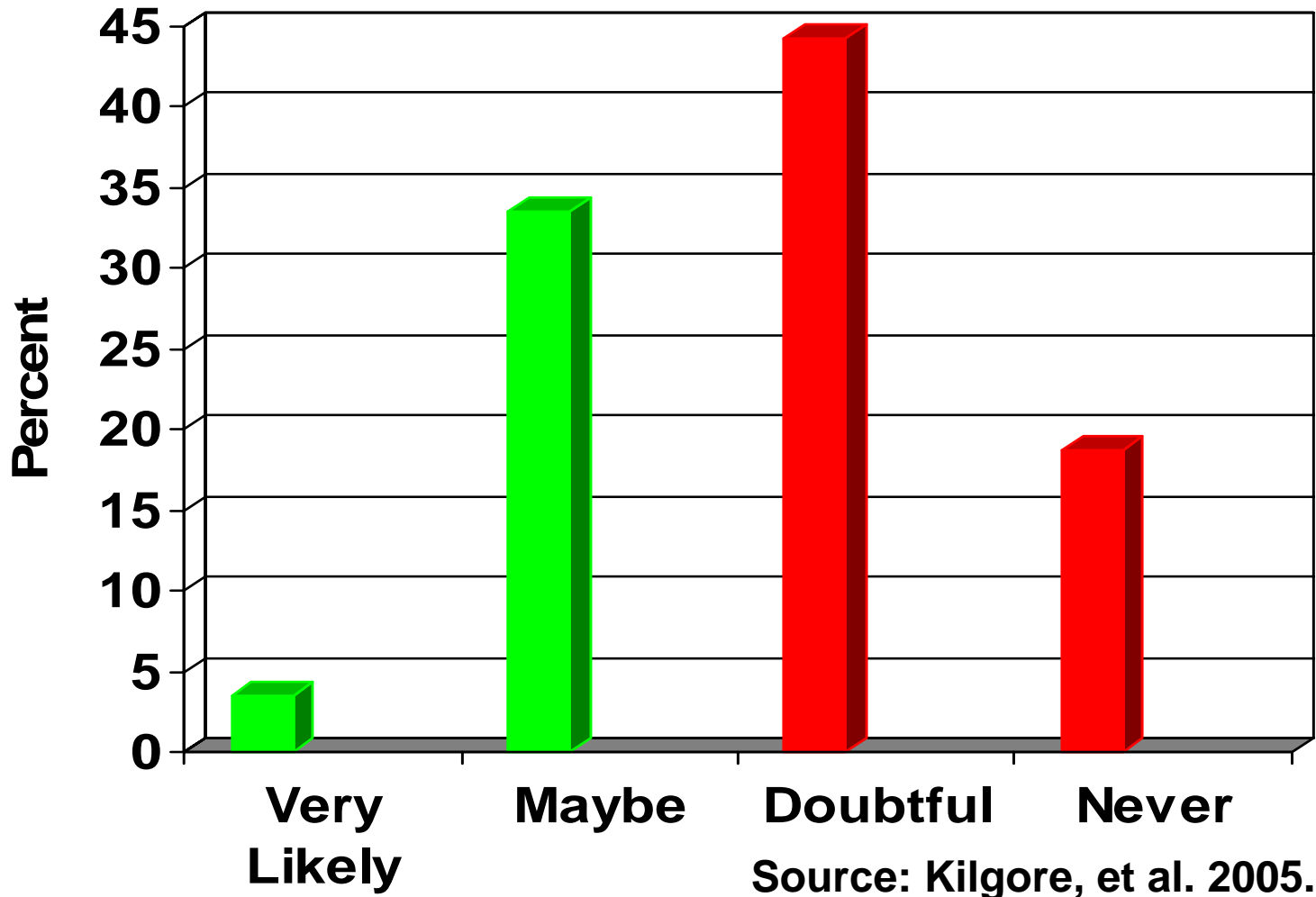
- Need for periodic on-site inspections



Source: Kilgore, et al. 2005.

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How Likely Are You to Have Your Forest Certified?

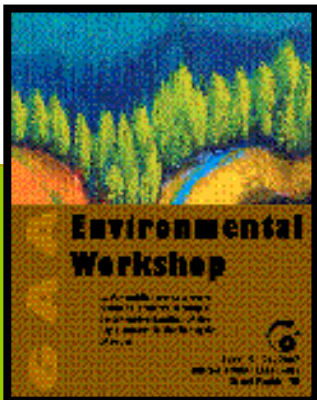


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Types of Family Forests/Owners

Larger forested tracts & owners with a forest management plan:

- More familiar with forest certification than other owners.
- Not more likely to certify their forest land.



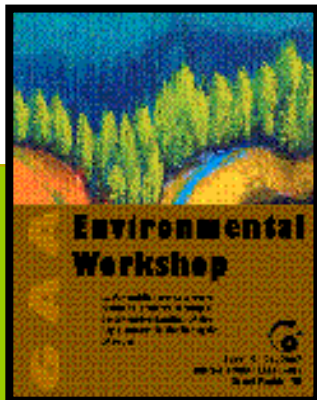
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Family Forest Owner Focus Group Findings

Considerable Concerns:

- The cost of participating.
- Lack of certification benefits (economic and non-economic).
- How forest certification will affect their control over land use and management decisions.

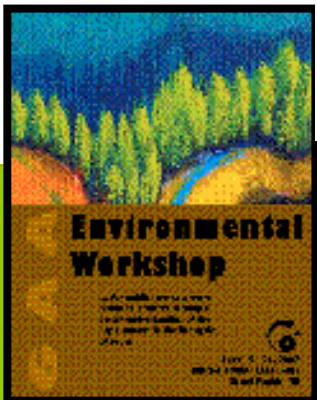
Source: Kilgore, et al. 2005.



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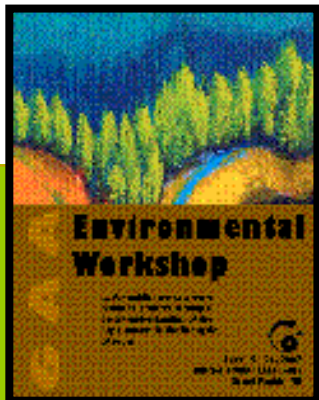
Summary: MN Family Forest Owners

- Unfamiliar with certification (80%)
- Don't own land for timber production
- Don't want to lose land mgmt control
- Aren't willing to pay for certification
- Don't have a forest mgmt plan (77%)
- Aren't interested in certification
(2 of 3 are doubtful / never certify)



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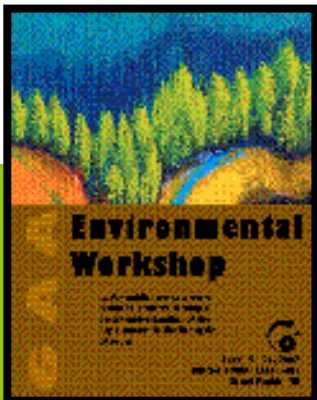
Logger Certification



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MN Master Logger Certification Program

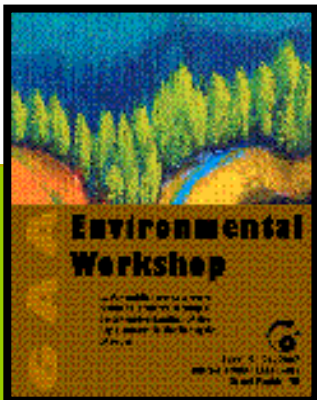
- Logging practices evaluated by 3rd party against specific standards.
- MN – one of three states (MN, WI, ME) with a recognized Logger Certification Program.
- Currently 25 certified Master Loggers in MN.
- MN Master Loggers account for 4% of the state's family forest harvest.



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Conclusions: Forest Forest Certification

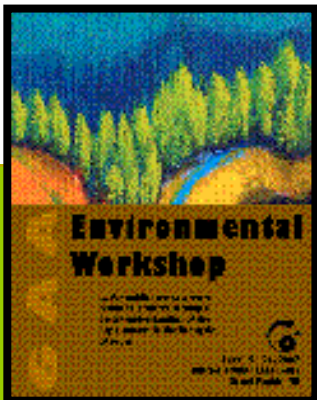
- Significant increase in family forest land certified? **Don't bet on it!**
- Certification is not on family forest owner radar screen – few have heard about it – fewer still are interested.
- Many believe certification is government run – skeptical about motives & impact.



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Conclusions (continued)

- **Other obstacles:**
 - Widespread lack of forest management plans
 - Landowner out-of-pocket costs
 - Transaction costs for small parcels
 - Lack of compelling case to become certified.
- **Logger certification**: the most feasible way to recognize certified harvesting practices.



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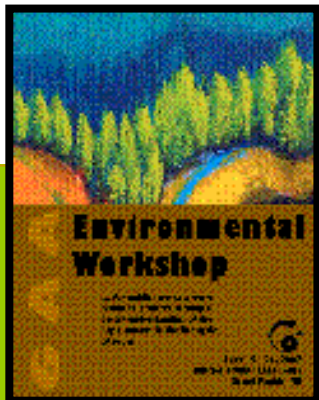
A Sobering Fact....

MN's SFIA Tax Program Requirements:

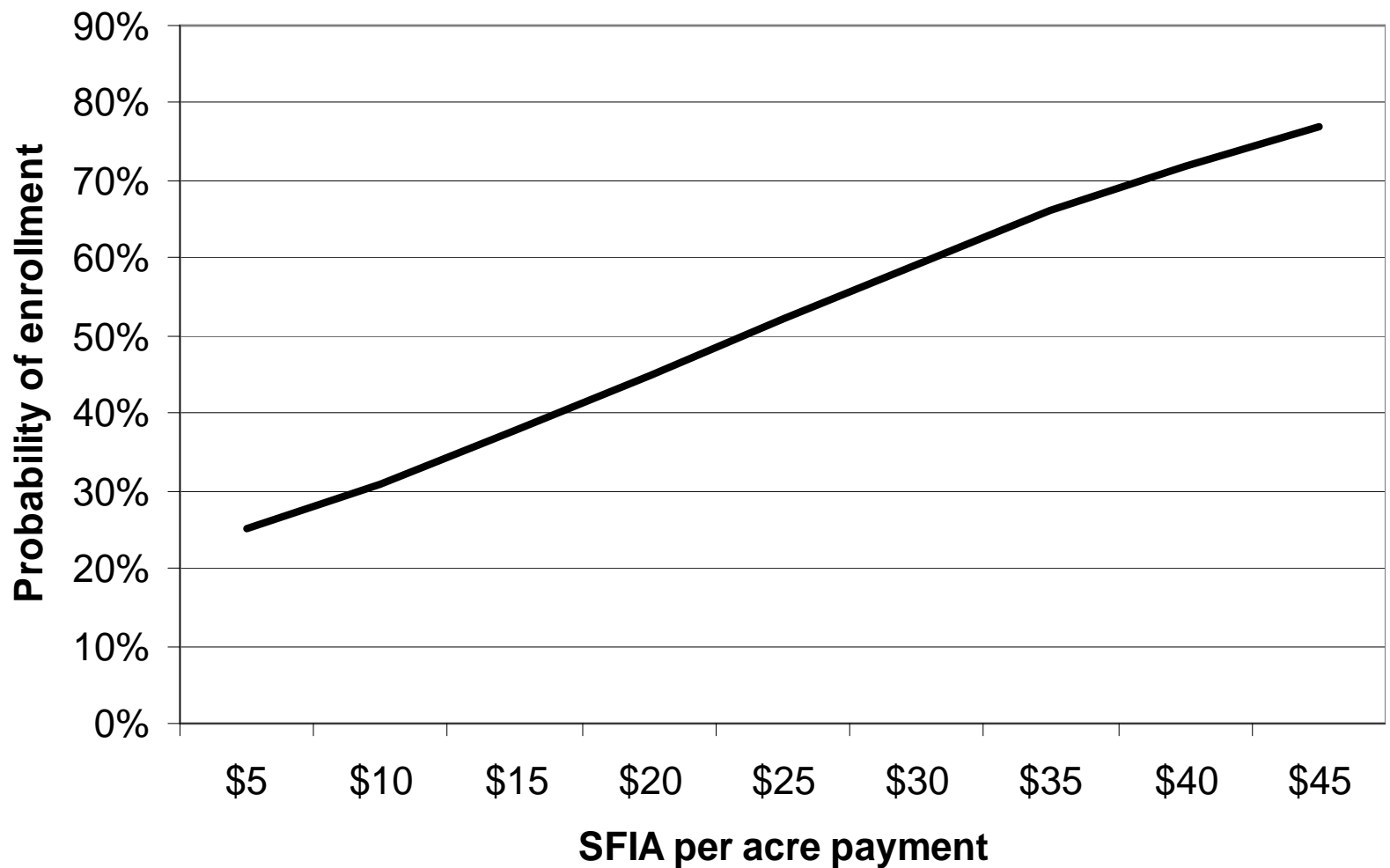
- Have and follow a forest mgmt plan
- Follow timber harvesting guidelines (BMPs)
- No development (keep the land forested)

Sound similar to forest certification requirements?

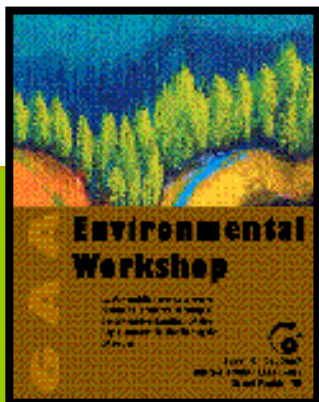
**SFIA participants receive \$\$ each year.
(Currently \$5+ / acre!)**



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Source: Kilgore, et al. 2007



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