

“Open Space” Break-out session – Career Changes for NE Foresters

(Daniel Simonds – group leader)

1. Issue: Career changes for New England Foresters -- Significant and important change for career/employment; what are the drawbacks and opportunities.

2. Discussion:

Typical career path degree in forestry, first job is a field forester with a flannel shirt and suspenders, who eventually move into leadership role, such as staff silviculturist. However, as the companies changed from a vertically integrated company to a flat organization with out-sourcing. Foresters will have to change, but forestry will not have to change. Training we receive in forestry is translate-able to other careers. E.g. Field to systems analysis; public to private sector. Way too little trans-movement from field, management, education, public service.

Changes in the organizations that manage timber is occurring from vertically integrated firms to specialist organizations that interact. Drawback: Where does a flattened organization tap into expertise? If out-sourcing Growth & Yield, e.g., will you be satisfied with the background of the people conducting the work? In the de-verticalization of companies, opportunities are lost to foresters. E.g. easement monitor will not be able to oversee the contracting of a logging job.

Opportunity: Using technology and web-based system to be on top details. Knowledge of forestry does not have to reside with a forest management company. Staff knowledge that would normally reside with the company is now with this different entity, the easement holder. Use technology to take care of the details so that more people can get out on the ground. Foresters need to be able to get on the ground and look at things.

Forestry knowledge that used to be vertically integrated is being divided out into different organizations, and resulting in a familiar product. The job is transferring to auditing.

3. Conclusions: Change is not new, which means we have to have a foundation (forestry education) but be able to adapt to the future jobs.

SAF can act as a Professional Safety net by offering a network with the SAF community. And promote itself as such.