

DEFINING OUR WORK AND THEORY OF CHANGE

Our mission sets the context for promoting forest and community health in working forest landscapes:

The Endowment works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation’s working forests and forest-reliant communities.

The basis of the Endowment’s Theory of Change recognizes that forest-reliant communities differ from other communities in their existence within the richness of a forested environment. One cannot easily separate the fortunes of such communities from that of the forests. The Endowment envisions a future where healthy working forests provide multiple forest value streams that, when captured, lead to healthy forest-reliant communities. Healthy forest-reliant communities in turn steward their forests in sustainable ways that maintain healthy working forests. Communities may desire assistance in any number of areas and ways with intervention in any one areas potentially leading to a strengthening of the others.



KEY DEFINITIONS

Healthy Working Forests: Many types of forests exist. While the Endowment is interested in the health and vitality of all types of forests, our focus is on *healthy working forests*. The Endowment defines a healthy forest as *one that maintains the function, diversity, and resiliency of all its components, and can either produce or has the potential to produce a range of wood-based products, while also serving a broad range of societal needs including recreation, water, wildlife and other ecological services.*

Forest Value Streams: The forest has a number of potential value streams, which are *potential or realized chains or webs of connected economic activity derived from a forest product or forest-related activity.* Wood and all the possible derivative products made from it are the most obvious and remain important to society and forest-reliant communities. In many cases, recreation and non-timber forest products can yield viable forest value streams. Ecosystem services have been the least appreciated and economically valued elements of a forest, but are coming to be viewed in new ways as the importance of clean water, clean air, and climate issues climb in public understanding. Aesthetics (views of mountains, lakes, and trees) are generally associated with forest amenity communities and can be exceptionally valuable as well.

Healthy Forest-Reliant Communities: These communities promote forest stewardship and are positioned to capture the multiple benefits afforded by healthy working forests locally and regionally. The work of the Endowment will focus in “working forests” and in communities that are reliant on those forests. We define a forest-reliant community rather broadly as one that *relies significantly on forestry, wood products, and related activities.*

SPECTRUM OF FOREST TYPES

WILDERNESS		WORKING FORESTS	AGRICULTURE	
Statutory Wilderness	Preserves (Public & Private)	Timberland Natural Forests Plantations/Tree Farms	Agroforestry Silvopasture	Short Rotation Woody Crops