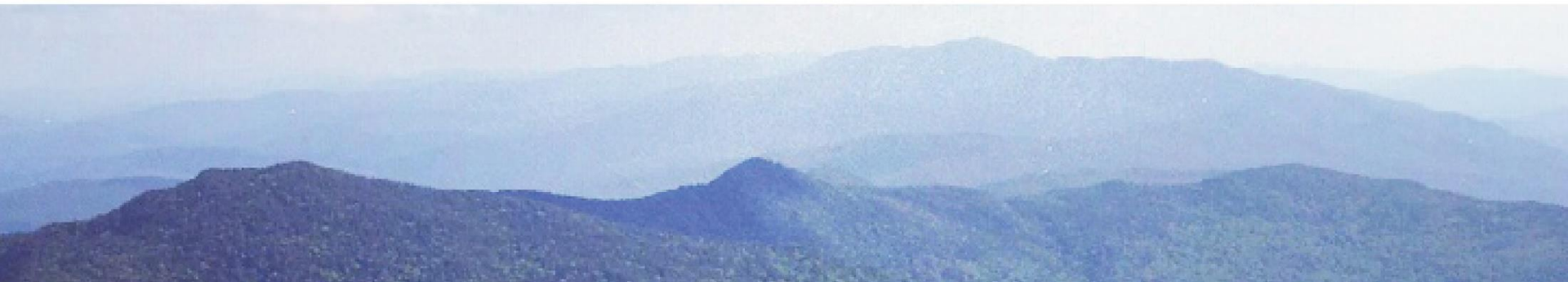




Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

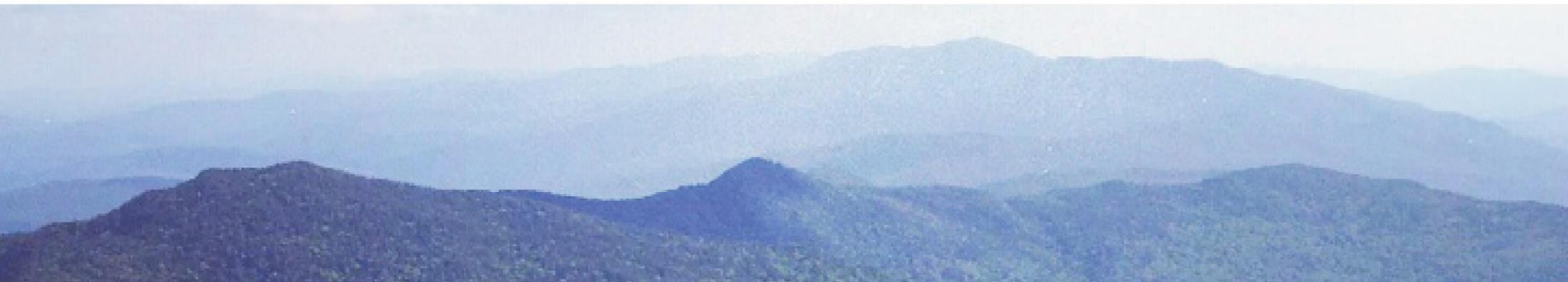
**Vermont Forest Products Development Program  
Testimony for the House Committee on Agriculture,  
Food Resiliency and Forestry**

**Christine McGowan, Director  
February 1, 2023**



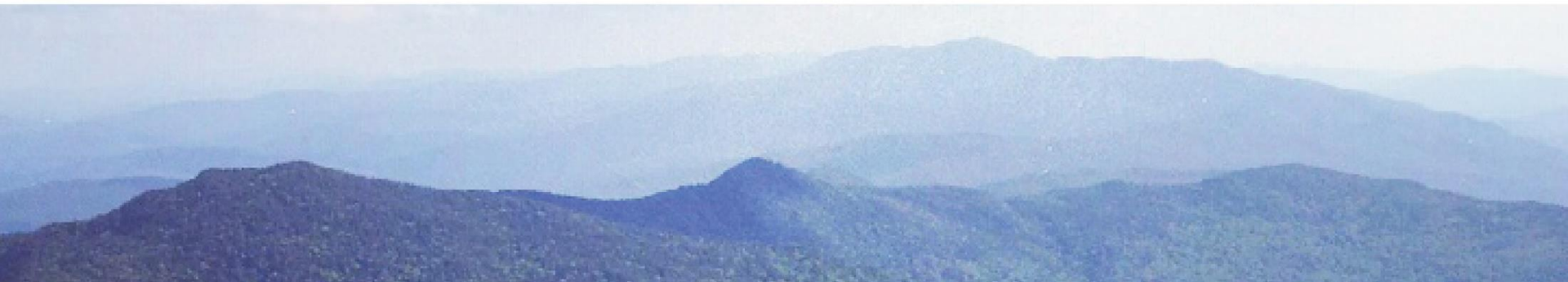
## Vermont Forest Economy

- Ecosystem Services (clean water, oxygen, wildlife habitat, etc.)
- Carbon sequestration and storage
- Recreation and tourism
- Maple and other non-timber products
- Timber



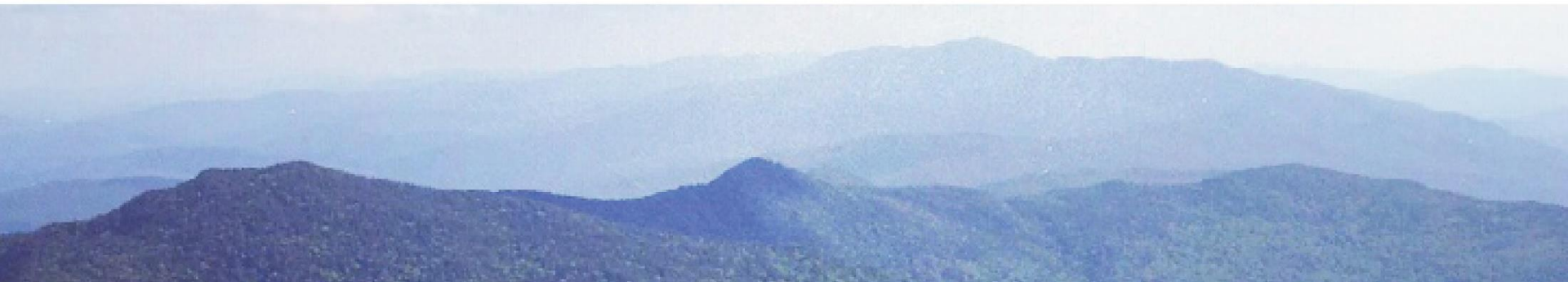
## Vermont Forest Economy

- 75% of Vermont is forested
- 80% percent of the forested land in Vermont is privately owned
- The majority of those acres are owned by small, individual woodlot owners.
- The majority of these landowners are older than 55.



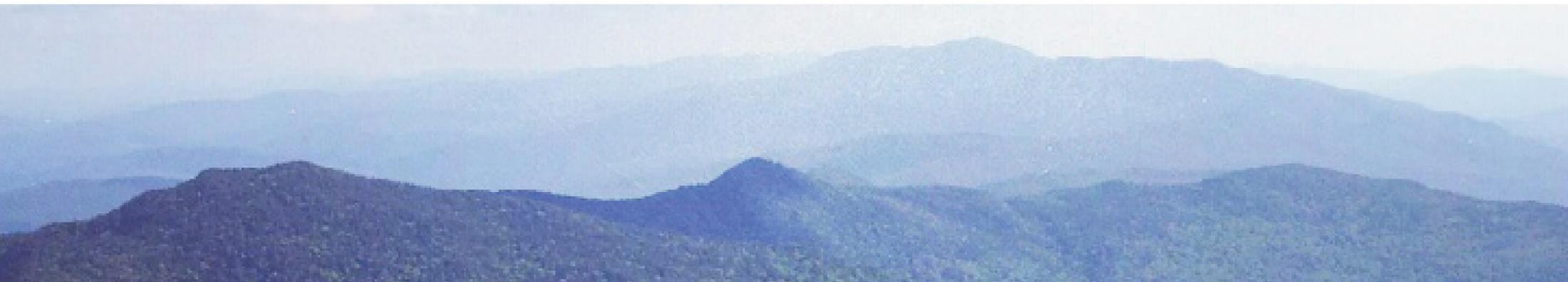
## Vermont Forest Economy

- Our forests are growing at more than twice the rate of harvest and mortality every year
- We are losing between 2,500 – 11,000 acres of forest permanently every year to non-forest development



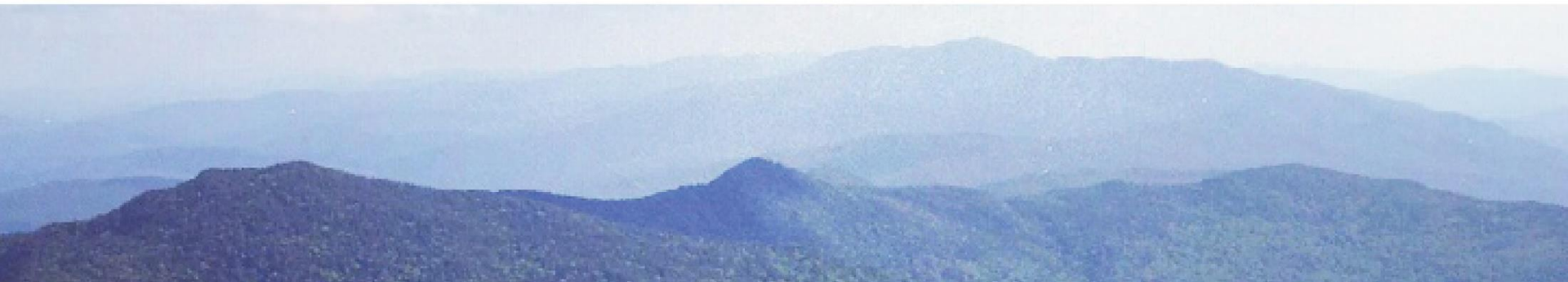
## Vermont Forest Economy

- Vermont's forest economy provides more than 13,000 jobs, more than \$2 billion in direct economic output, and supports the growing outdoor recreational and tourism sectors.



## Vermont Forest Economy

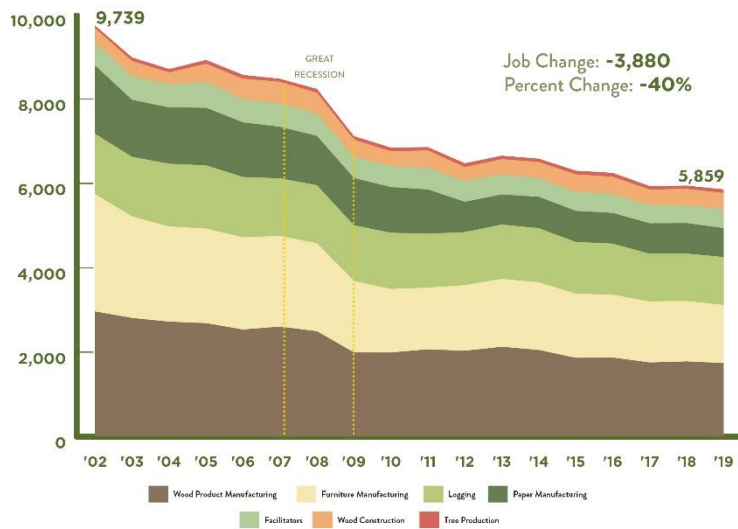
- Climate change is expected to continue to exacerbate the threats that invasive plants, insects, and diseases already pose to the health of Vermont's forests. (Vermont Climate Assessment, 2021)
- As climate change impacts forest ecosystem function, there is a need for management to increase forest adaptive capacity. (Vermont Climate Assessment, 2021)





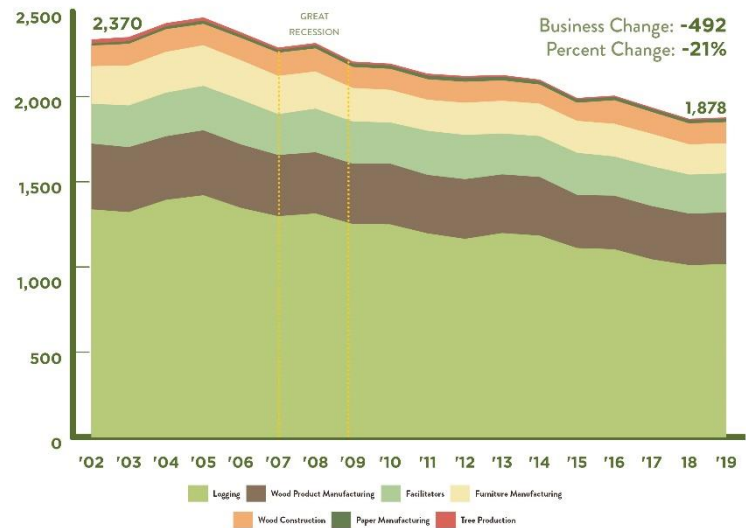


### Vermont Forest Products Jobs

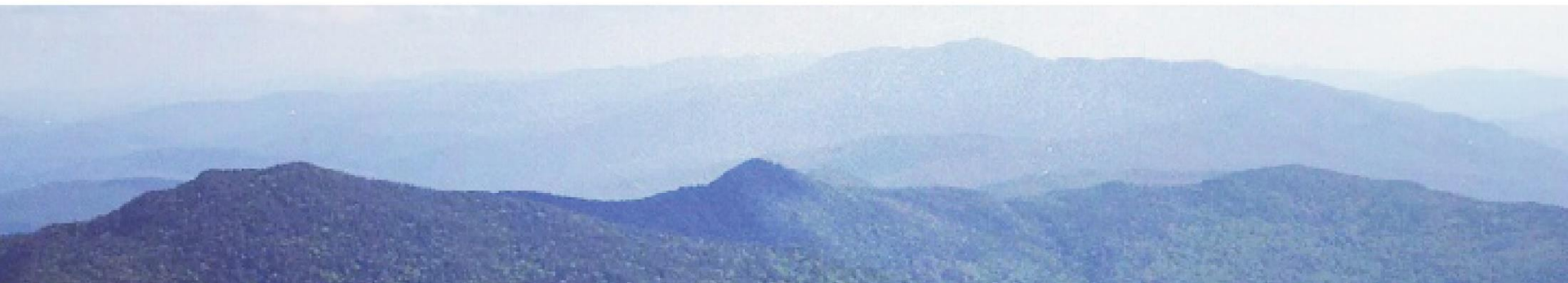


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau Nonemployer statistics.

### Vermont Forest Products Businesses

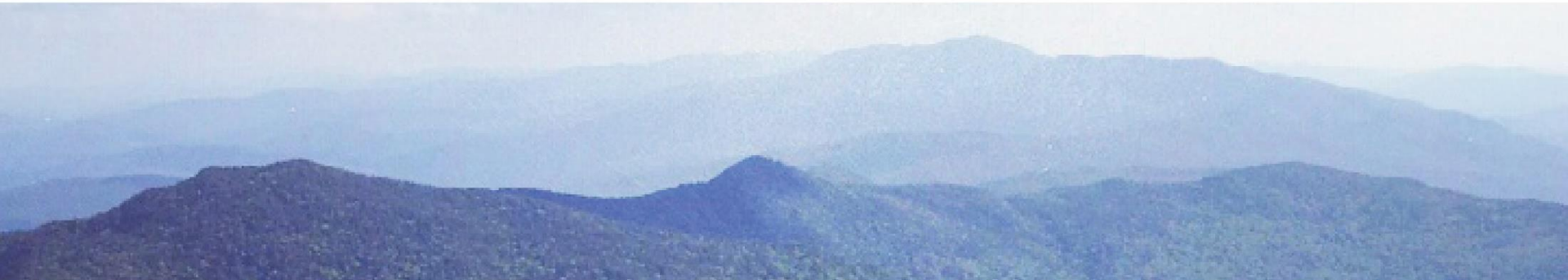


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau Nonemployer statistics.



## Vermont Forest Products Development Program

- Increase jobs and businesses in Vermont's forest and wood products industry
- Increase sales of Vermont wood products
- Increase acres of sustainably managed forests
- Build strong connections among forest economy stakeholders





## Vermont Forest Products Development Program

- Help navigating business assistance and capital provider opportunities
- Develop opportunities to learn about new products or markets
- Project Management on industry-level initiatives
- Connect forest economy stakeholders and raise awareness about its importance to Vermont's economy

