



FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

VERMONT



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VT FOREST FUTURE STRATEGIC ROADMAP

House Agriculture & Forestry Committee Briefing

January 24, 2025



WELCOME

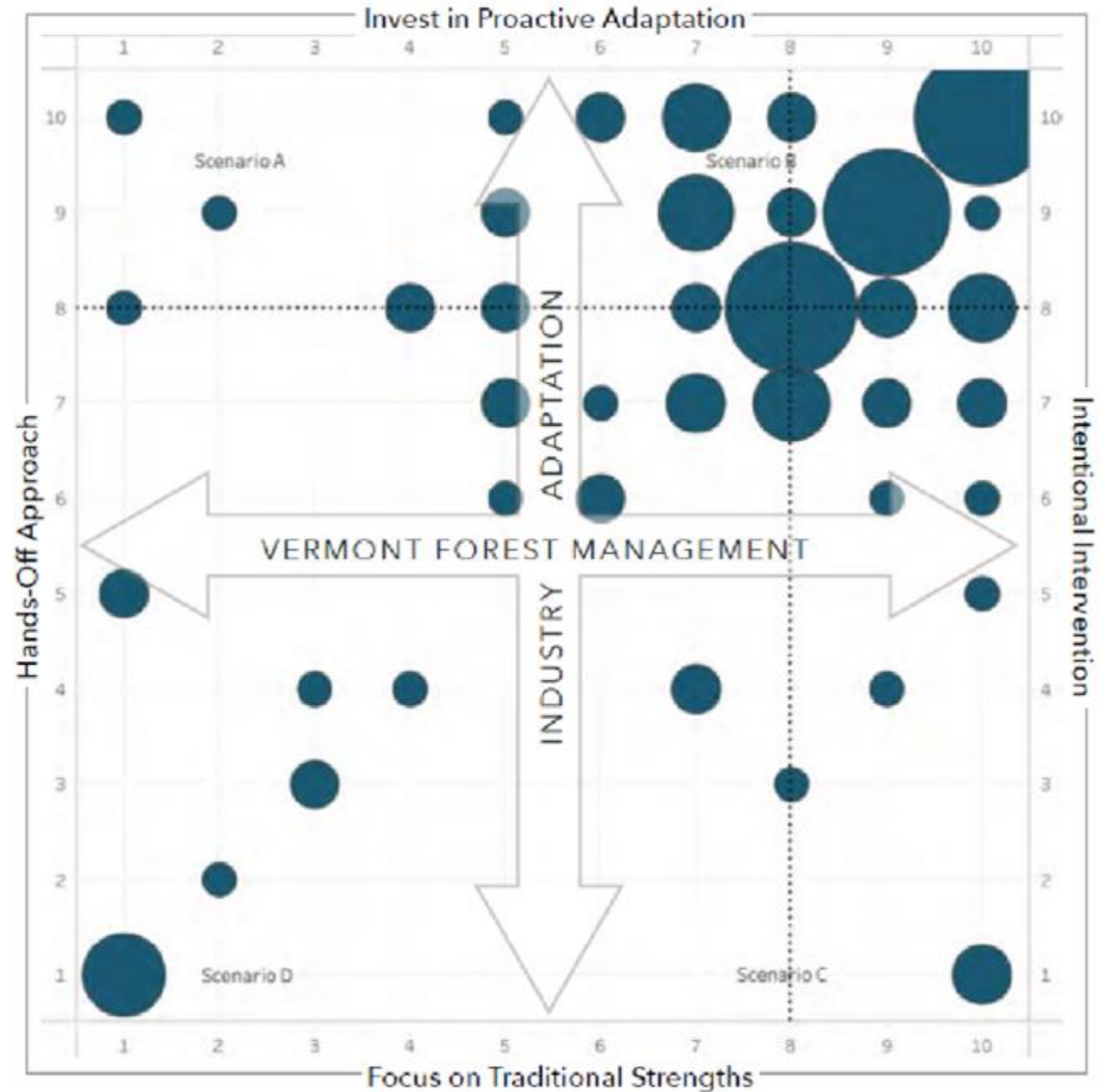
Roadmap Development

- Act 183 of 2022
- Engaging Perspectives: Insights from Tours, Presentations, and Direct Conversations
- Advisory Panel: Wide range of perspectives and voices, took a “big tent” approach
- Roadmap Finalized in March 2024



Preferred Future

- Intentional forest management and proactive industry adaptation
- Public and private capital investing in innovation, technology, & marketing
- Forest health & management increase via policy to maintain working forests, mitigate threats to forest health.
- Demand for skilled workforce increases as wood products sector becomes more technologically advanced.
- Industry changes rapidly, greater focus on regional supply chains, innovation networks, and new products.



5 Interconnected Pillars





Photos Erica Houskeeper, VSJF

Pillar 1: Forest Management and Land Use

- Manage for increased forest health
- Promote land use policies to maintain working forestlands
- Empower landowners to maintain working forests by reducing barriers and creating incentives



Photo: Erica Houskeeper, VSJF

Pillar 2: Business Environment and Conditions

- Enhance capacity for industry adaptation.
- Build strong connections to the next generation workforce.
- Create a “problem-busting” approach focused on the forest economy.



Photos Erica Houskeeper, VSJF

Pillar 3: Research, Innovation, and Technology

- Pursue new development opportunities and innovative uses of Vermont forest products.
 - Accelerate the adoption of technical innovation.



Photo: Erica Houskeeper, VSJF

Pillar 4: Industry Reputation and Market Profile

- Strengthen and maintain the social license of the forest products sector.
- Encourage the demand, use, and appreciation for Vermont forest products.



Pillar 5: Forest Economy and Vermont Communities

- Build stronger linkages between forest users and the forest products sector.
 - Imagining the forest community of tomorrow.



Short-Term High Priority Actions

- **Action 1:** Provide robust data on forest health trends.
- **Action 4:** Promote working forests in land use planning.
- **Action 9:** Adopt climate resilience strategies.
- **Action 12:** Boost the next generation of forest workers.
- **Action 18:** Invest in accelerating innovation.
- **Action 19:** Promote forest industry's critical role as ecosystem manager.
- **Action 22:** Elevate the importance of modern and efficient wood energy.
- **Action 26:** Connect recreational uses and the forest products sector.
- **Action 30:** Promote the economic contribution of forest economy to VT



Implementation Progress to Date

- Created Implementation Steering Committee
- Socialization
- Fundraising & Financing efforts
- Legislative Engagement (Reports, Tours & Funding)
- Areas of Focus for 2025:
 - Workforce Development
 - Accelerating Innovation (CONFIR)
 - ISC Organization and External Communication (Data)
 - Securing funds, tracking & sharing results

Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap Implementation Steering Committee



Committee Members

- **Trevor Allard**, Allard Lumber Company*
- **Chris Brooks**, Vermont Wood Pellet Company*
- **Tony D'Amato**, University of Vermont
- **Scott Duffy**, Rockledge Farm Woodworks*
- **Jamey Fidel**, Vermont Natural Resources Council*
- **Chris Fife**, Weyerhaeuser*
- **Liz Gleason**, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board*
- **Steve Hardy**, Green Mountain Forestry*
- **David Lane**, Farm Credit East*
- **Elizabeth Lesnikoski**, Burlington Electric Department*
- **Chris Lindgren**, UVM Extension*
- **Jed Lipsky**, Blue Hill Land + Timber LLC
- **Abby Long**, Kingdom Trails Association
- **Matt McAllister**, Matt McAllister Logging
- **Christine McGowan**, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund*
- **Luke McNally**, Ruffed Grouse Society*
- **Joe Short**, Northern Forest Center*
- **Allan Thompson**, Vermont Woodlands Association*
- **Danny Fitzko**, Commissioner, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation*
- **Oliver Pierson**, Director of Forests, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation*
- **Katharine Servidio**, Forest Economy Program Manager, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation*
- **Molly Willard**, Wood Energy and Forest Products Specialist, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation*
- **Charlie Hancock**, Franklin and Grand Isle County Forester, Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation*

**indicates previous participation on the Advisory Panel*



Roadmap Implementation



- Implementing a 10 Year Vision and Set of Actions is a marathon, not sprint
- Roadmap provides a great framework for forest sector, state and partners to revitalize and grow the forest-based economy
- Open to your ideas, participation, and support!



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