



Vermont Forest Future - Strategic Roadmap

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) is embarking on a robust public engagement process through 2022/2023 to identify opportunities to help Vermont chart a path forward to protect the long-term viability of forest-based businesses – and the many benefits they provide to the state's environment, economy, and quality of life.

The outcome of this process will be the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap which will identify actionable strategies to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect Vermont's forest products sector and the broader forest economy.



Vermont Forest Future

Strategic Roadmap Development

STEP 1 Explore Perceptions

- Review research
- Industry Roundtables
- Stakeholder Survey #1
- Interviews

Current Conditions

November – February

STEP 2

Future Scenarios and Implications

- Future Think Tanks
- Agency Roundtables
- Engagement sessions
- Stakeholder survey #2
- Identify Preferred Future

Scenarios of the Future

December - April

STEP 3 Develop Draft

Strategic Roadmap

- Build strategic framework
- Identify key themes
- Focus Groups
- Draft Recommendations

Draft Recommendations

April – May

STEP 4 Forest Future Strategic Roadmap

Future Summits

Final Roadmap

June - November



The Importance of Future Thinking

Key Drivers:

What key drivers do you think are most important for the future of the Vermont forest economy (and forest products sector)?

(Key drivers are events, trends, developments, catalysts or forces that actively influence or cause change.)





Key Drivers Identification

- 1. Forest conditions
- Adaptations to climate change impact
- 3. Role of land use regulations
- 4. Consumer interest in wood products
- 5. Changes in workforce availability
- 6. Social environmental awareness
- 7. Generational shift in values
- 8. Changes in land ownership (& parcel size)
- Cost of energy needed for production
- 10. Owner attitudes toward forest management

- 11. Outside pressures on Vermont
- 12. Supply chain dynamics and changes
- 13. Changes in forest economy transportation
- 14. Public investment in forest economy
- 15. Impact of emergent carbon markets
- 16. Vermont culture for community scale
- 17. Societal polarization
- 18. Industrial cross sector innovation
- 19. Departure of younger generation
- Technical innovation
- 21. Global market pressures
- 22. Outdoor recreation

Future-splitting clusters of drivers

VERMONT FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Forest conditions
- Technical innovation
- Role of land use regulation
- Adaptations to climate change
- Owner attitudes toward forest management
- Changes in land ownership (&parcel size)

INDUSTRY ADAPTATION

- Technical innovation
- Consumer interest in wood products
- Industrial cross-sector innovation
- Public investment in forest economy
- Supply chain dynamics and changes
- Global market pressures
- Social environmental awareness

Plausible Scenario Matrix 2035

Invest in proactive adaptation

Proactively invest public and private resources, to build strong cross industry linkages, and spur new ideas and innovation. Build regional supply chains and promote the environmental credentials of new wood products. Boost brand awareness of VT forest products.



Hands-off approach

The forest landscape and land use patterns are allowed to freely follow prevailing market and economic demands, with little to reduced public policy intervention. The forest resource and landscape is allowed to evolve, driven by landholder priorities and attitudes, and is shaped by the long-term impacts of climate change.

Scenario Scenario adaptation

Vermont forest

management

Scenario

Scenario

B

D

Focus on traditional strengths

ndustry

Focus is on existing industry strengths and proven approaches. Allow market forces and existing forestry programs to shape the industry trajectory and investments. Publicly promote the economic value and contribution of the forest industry. Focus on the traditional forest products and workforce.

Intentional intervention

There is intentional policy intervention, and public investment, to optimize conditions for healthy forests and products. The overarching forest management approach focuses on maintaining forests that are resilient to climate change and support a viable and diverse forest economy.



Create Future Intelligence™





VISION SURVEY AND SCENARIO HEAT MAPS

Expected and Preferred Futures











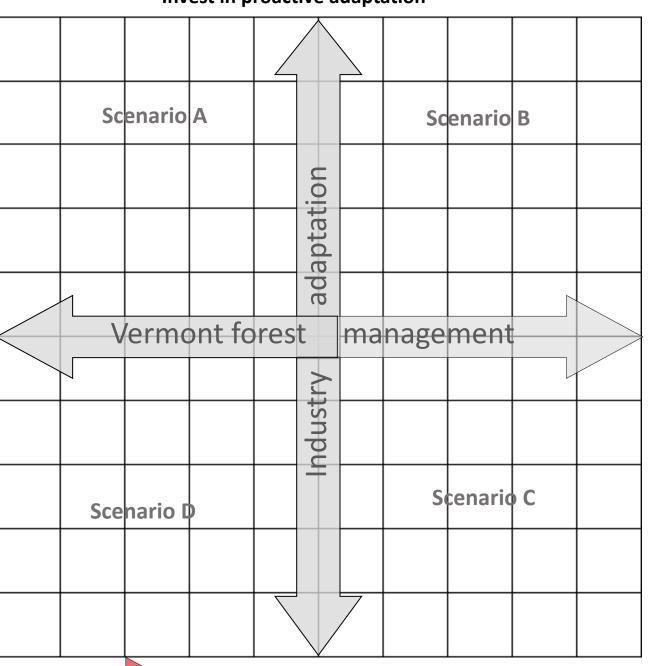
Vermont Forest Future Expected, Preferred and Least Desirable Futures Scenario Survey



Expected, Preferred and Least Desirables of the Future – What do you think?

- 1. LEAST DESIRABLE FUTURE The Least Desirable Future is the future that you think will be most undesirable (or least optimal or least desired) future in 2035.
- **2. EXPECTED FUTURE**: The Expected Future is the future you expect most likely to eventuate by 2035, if existing trends and trajectory persists.
- **3. PREFERRED FUTURE**: The Preferred Future is the future you think is optimal and creates the best outcome for Vermont forest economy in 2035.

Invest in proactive adaptation





Intentional intervention

Vermont Forest Future

- LEAST **DESIRABLE FUTURE (L)**
- EXPECTED **FUTURE (E)**
- PREFERRED **FUTURE (P)**

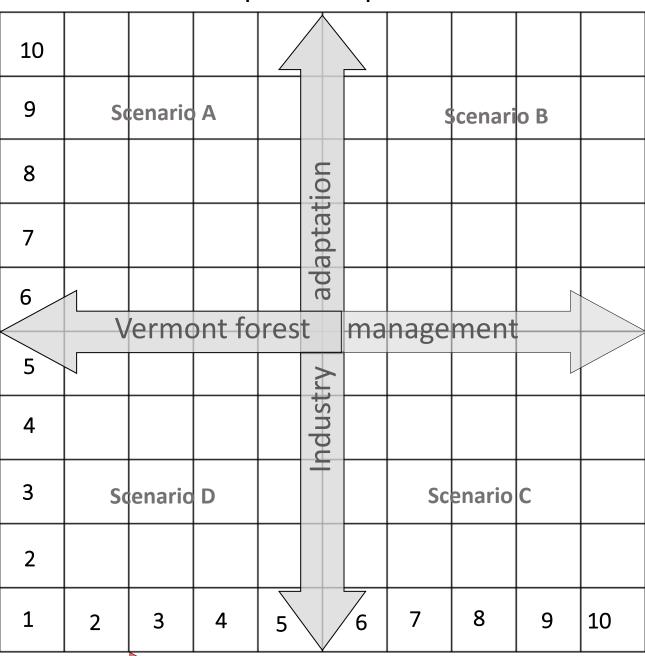


Focus on traditional strengths

X AXIS

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Invest in proactive adaptation





Intentional intervention

Vermont Forest Future

- LEAST
 DESIRABLE
 FUTURE (L)
- EXPECTED FUTURE (E)
- PREFERRED FUTURE (P)



Focus on traditional strengths

X AXIS

Y AXIS

Hands-off approach



Intentional intervention

Vermont Forest Future

- LEAST DESIRABLE FUTURE (L)
- EXPECTED FUTURE (E)
- PREFERRED FUTURE (P)



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Focus on traditional strengths

X AXIS



Vermont Forest Future Expected, Preferred and Least Desirable Future Scenario Survey

7. LEAST Desirable Future (least optimal or desired future in 2035)	LEAST DESIRABLE FUTURE -
X-Axis (Horizontal)	The Least Desirable Future is the future that you think will be
Y-Axis (Vertical)	most undesirable (or least optimal or least desired) future in 2035.
8. EXPECTED Future (assume current trajectory until 2035) ♀ 0	EXPECTED FUTURE: The
X-Axis (Horizontal)	Expected Future is the future you expect most likely to
Y-Axis (Vertical)	eventuate by 2035, if existing trends and trajectory persists.
	PREFERRED FUTURE: The
9. Most PREFERRED Future (most optimal or desired in 2035) ♀ 0	Preferred Future is the future
X-Axis (Horizontal)	you think is optimal and created the best outcome for Vermont
Y-Axis (Vertical)	forest economy in 2035.



10. YOUR PICTURE of the on your preferred future. W			ont forest economy in 2035,	based
11. WHAT NEEDS TO HAPP	PEN? What do you think ne	eds to happen in orde	to make this future a realit	y?
♀ 0				
			What do you	

think?



Take survey:

https://www.research.net/r/VFFSurvey2Online













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Look for e-newsletter update of survey data and reports – posted to portal