

# ***The Forest Service and Horses***

*Yesterday, Today and  
Tomorrow*

Southeast Equestrian Trail Conference,  
Charleston, SC  
July 2008



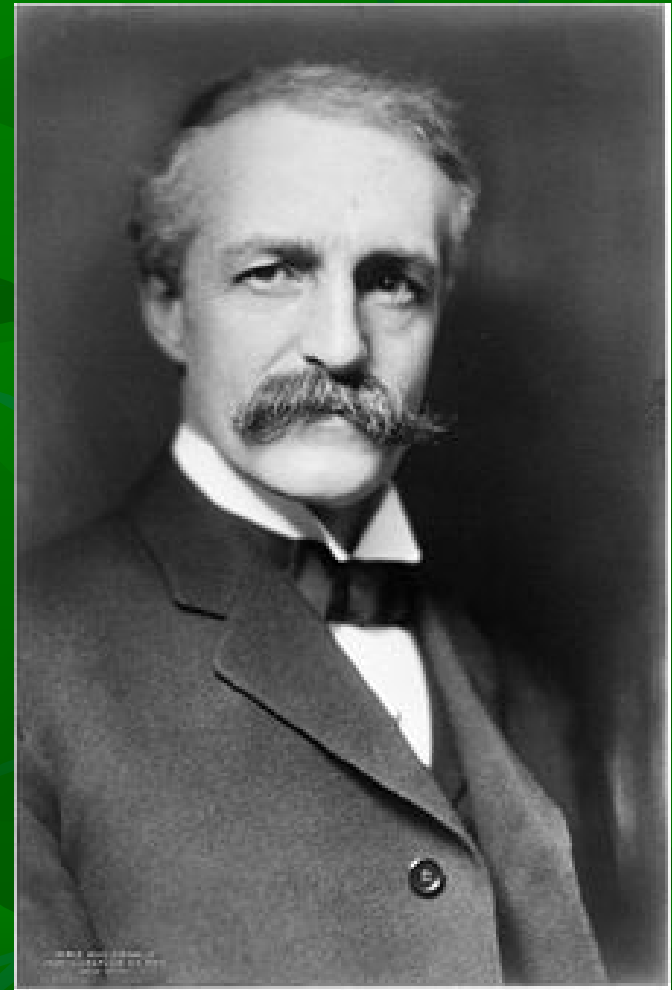
# The Forest Service Yesterday

## Agency History

- Gifford Pinchot
- Forest Reserves
- National Forests
- Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act
- NEPA
- Mission

# Father of Conservation

- Father James made his fortune from timber
- Decided Gifford would become a Forester
- Pinchot coined the term conservation ethic as applied to natural resources



**Gifford Pinchot**

# Gifford Pinchot's Grey Towers



PHOTO BY: D. WARNER.

THE GREY TOWERS  
AMPHITHEATER

Gifford Pinchot wrote: "When I came home not a single acre of Government, state, or private timberland was under systematic forest management anywhere on the most richly timbered of all continents....When the Gay Nineties began, the common word for our forests was "inexhaustible." To waste timber was a virtue and not a crime. There would always be plenty of timber....The lumbermen...regarded forest devastation as normal and second growth as a delusion of fools....And as for sustained yield, no such idea had ever entered their heads. The few friends the forest had were spoken of, when they were spoken of at all, as impractical theorists, fanatics, or "denudatics," more or less touched in the head. What talk there was about forest protection was no more to the average American than the buzzing of a mosquito, and just about as irritating." (From *Breaking New Ground*)



# Creation of the Forest Service

- 1876 – Congress directed assessment of the state of the forests
- 1881 – Division of Forestry's primary mission was information
- 1891 – The Forest Reserve Act created "forest reserves" managed by DOI
- 1905 – Transfer Act transferred lands to the Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Forest Service
- 1907 – National Forests

# James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture

## *Letter To Gifford Pinchot*

"In the administration of the Forest Reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies."



# James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture (cont'd)

## *Letter To Gifford Pinchot*

"And where conflicting interests must be reconciled the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."



# The Use of the National Forests – Gifford Pinchot

## What they are for

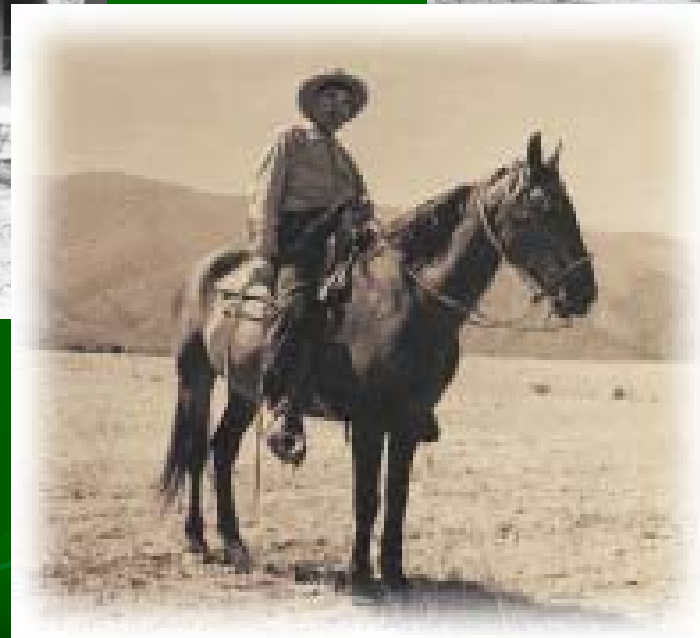
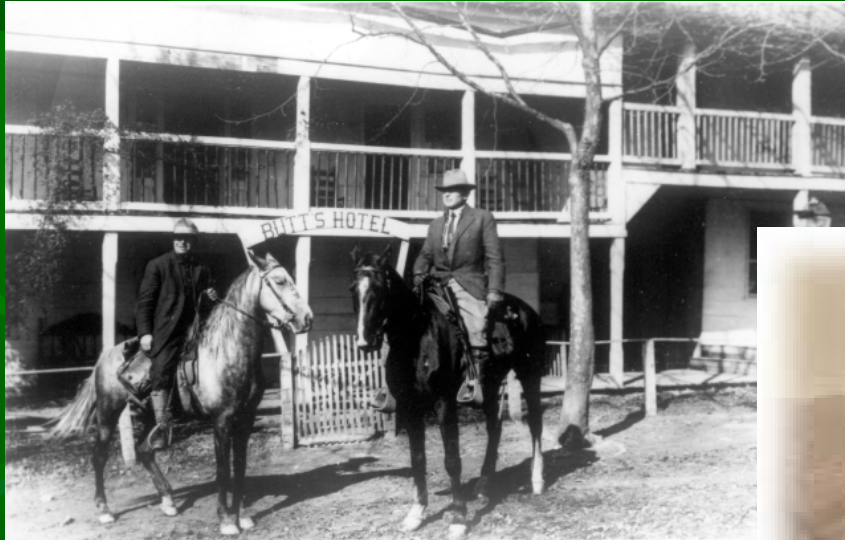
- In general
  - Use
  - Production
  - Homes
- To protect and grow wood for use
- To keep the water flow steady
- To keep the range in good condition
- To use well all the land
  - Playgrounds, Game

# **"1905 Use Book"**

## **HISTORY AND OBJECTS OF FOREST RESERVES**

Forest reserves are for the purpose of preserving a perpetual supply of timber for home industries, preventing destruction of forest cover which regulates the flow of streams, and protecting local residents from unfair competition in the use of forest and range. They are patrolled and protected, at Government expense, for the benefit of the community and the home builder.

# Early Forest Service



**Horses were it!**

# Early Ranger Jobs

To be eligible as ranger of any grade the applicant must be, first of all, thoroughly sound and able-bodied, capable of enduring hardships and of performing severe labor under trying conditions. Invalids seeking light out-of-door employment need not apply. **No one may expect to pass the examination who is not already able to take care of himself and his horse in regions remote from settlement and supplies. He must be able to build trail and cabins and to pack in provisions without assistance. He must know something of surveying, estimating, and scaling timber, lumbering, and the live-stock business.**

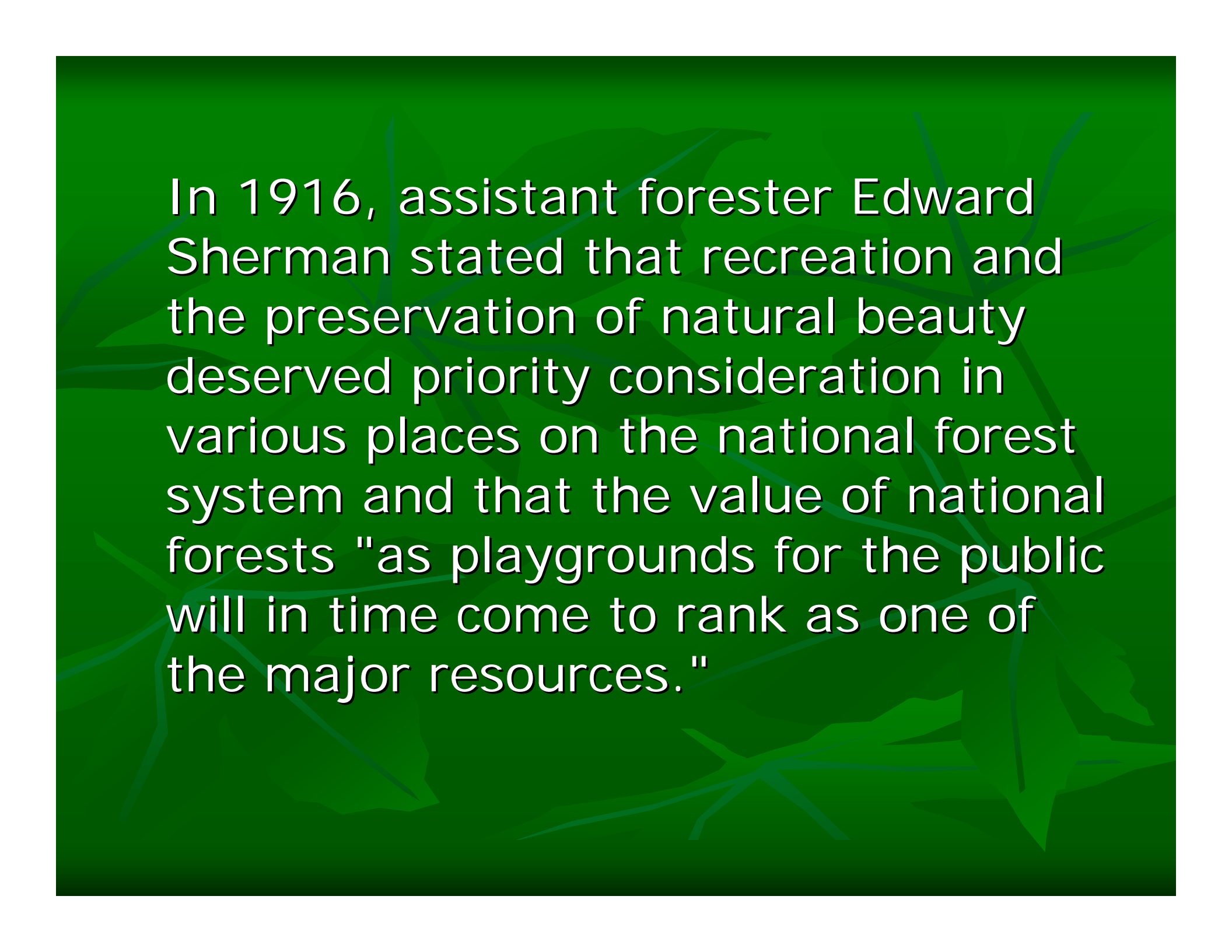
On some reserves the ranger must be specialist in one or more of these lines of work. Thorough familiarity with the region in which he seeks employment, including its geography and its forest and industrial conditions, is usually demanded, although lack of this may be supplied by experience in other similar regions.

The examination of applicants is along the practical lines indicated above, and actual demonstration, by performance, is required. Experience, not book education, is sought, although ability to make simple maps and write intelligent reports upon ordinary reserve business is essential.

**Where boats, saddle horses, or pack horses are necessary in the performance of their duty, rangers are required to own and maintain them.**

# Early Rangers

- Timber was not issue
- Grazing was where money was made
- Questions about FS ability to regulate access
- Recreation was not a major consideration
- HOWEVER.....



In 1916, assistant forester Edward Sherman stated that recreation and the preservation of natural beauty deserved priority consideration in various places on the national forest system and that the value of national forests "as playgrounds for the public will in time come to rank as one of the major resources."

# Changing Times

After World War II Americans began to have more leisure time

- The Forest Service began to get into the Recreation business
- 1960's legislation
  - Wilderness Act
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
  - Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act
  - Others



# Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960

It is the policy of the Congress that the national forests are established and **shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.** The purposes of this Act are declared to be supplemental to, but not in derogation of, the purposes for which the national forests were established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 475)

# USDA Forest Service Today

## Mission:

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

# Motto: Caring for the Land and Serving People

The phrase, "CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE," captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people

# Agency Missions

- NPS - preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.
- FWS - administers a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

# The Forest Service Today

## Changing Times



Photo: James Headley  
Buffalo Bulletin (WY)

Greatest  
Good?



# Issues Facing the Agency

- The 4 Threats (Fire, Invasive Species, Unmanaged Recreation and Loss of Open Space)
- The Big 3 (water, Kids and Climate)

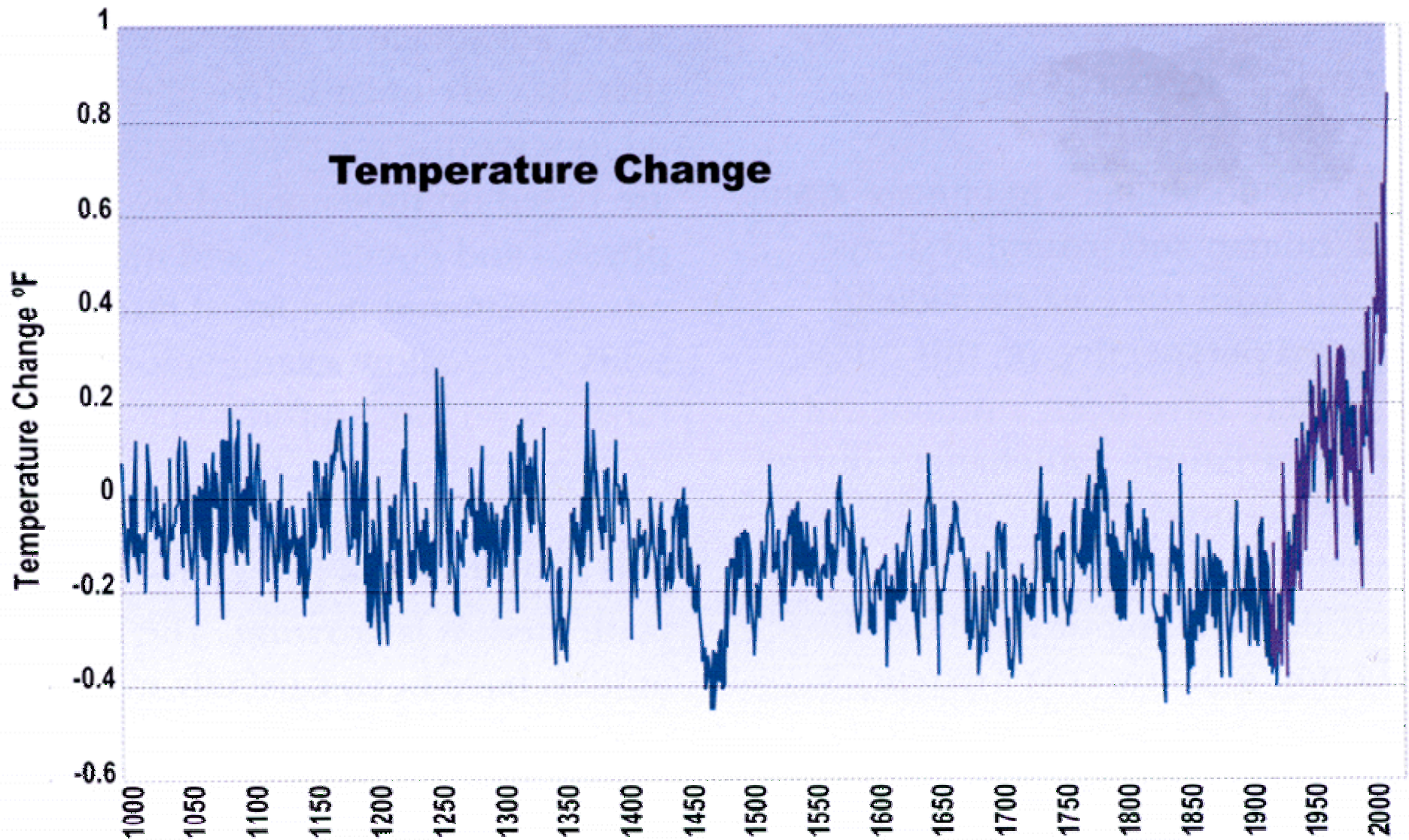
# Climate Change

## Expected Changes

- Water and Air Temperature Increases
- Rising Sea Levels
- Changes in Wildfire Occurrence
- Precipitation Variability/Soil Loss
- Changes in Productivity/Economic Value
- Increasing Water Shortages

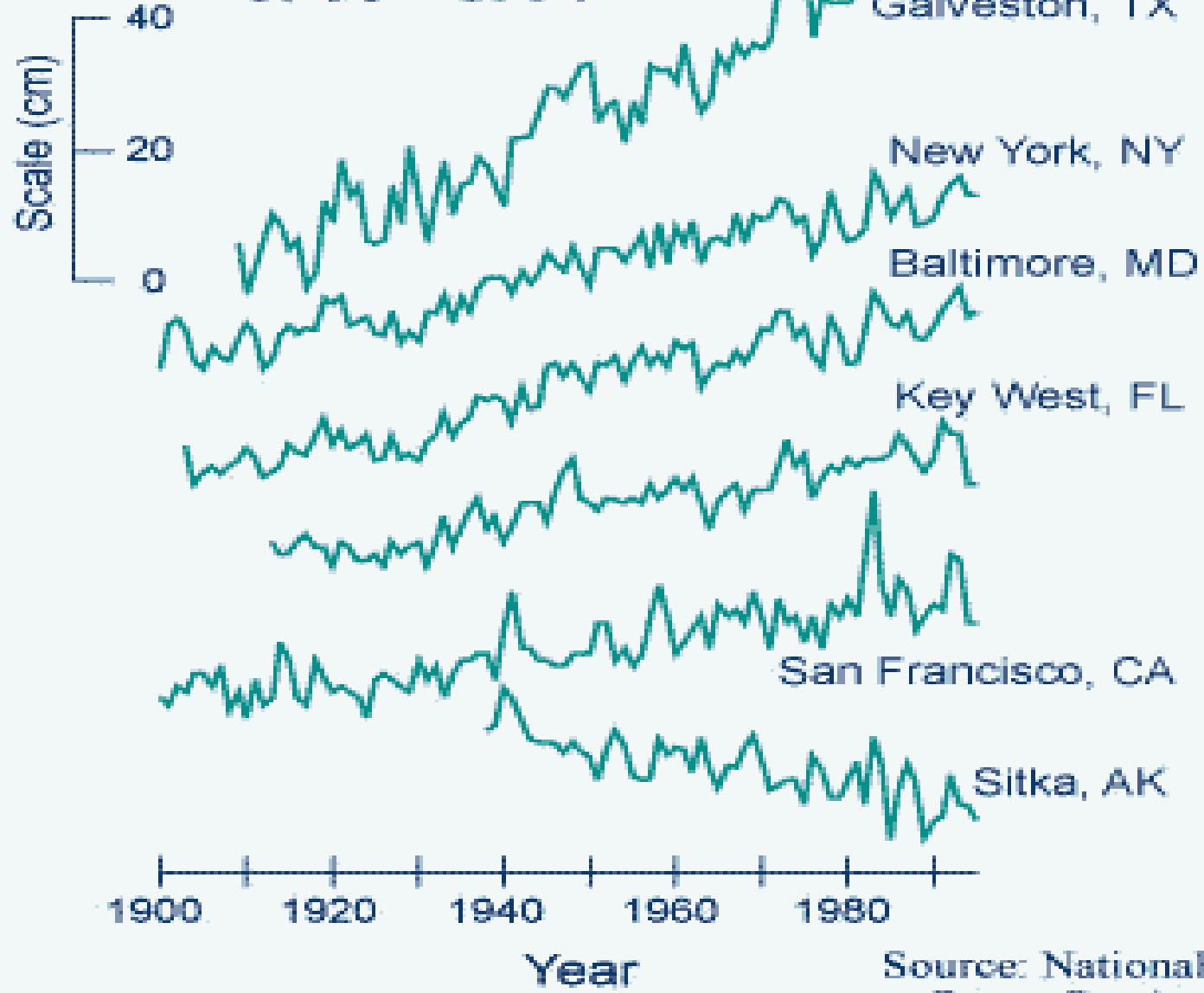


# Northern Hemisphere Surface Temperature



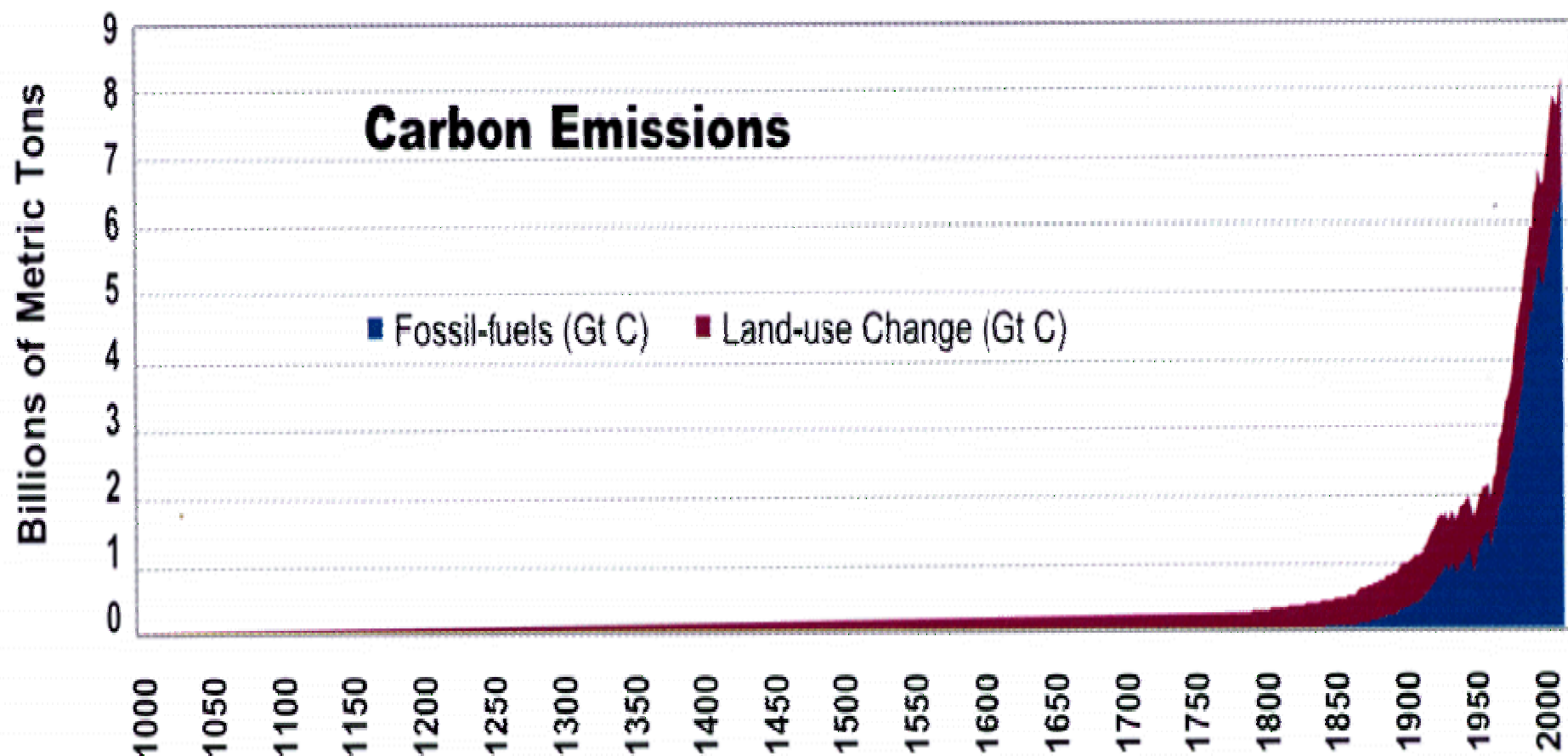
Source: *Climate Change Impacts on the US*, NAST, 2000

## U.S. Sea Level Trends 1900 - 1997



Source: National  
Ocean Service

# Northern Hemisphere Carbon Emissions



Source: *Climate Change Impacts on the US*, NAST, 2000

# Five Focus Areas

- Adapt to Climate Change
- Increase Capture of Carbon Dioxide by forests
- Reduce and Replace Fossil Fuels
- Maintain a Research Program
- Reduce our own Environmental Footprint

# Helping Forests Adapt to Climate Change

- Improve resilience of forest, range and aquatic ecosystems created by climate change
- Reduce overstocking that creates risks
- Control invasive species
- Restore wetlands and streams
- Assisting species migration
- Relocate, redesign, managing human use

# Role of our National Forests Continues to Change

- Rural and Forested Lands Disappearing
- Values are changing
  - Clean Water, Clean Air
- Pressure is building
- The “Greatest Good” continues to be debated (Forest plans, projects, court)

# The Agency Today (Southern Region)

## What's Working Well

- Partnerships and Collaboration
  - MOU with Alabama Horse Council
  - George Washington Forest Plan Revision
  - Cave Run Trail Analysis
  - Jake/Bull Mtn Trail Analysis
- Trying to focus on quality trail systems

The Trails in the best shape in our region have the strongest trail clubs



# Agency Today

## What's Not Working So Well

### 1. Internally

- Loss of experience/expertise
- Loss of time in the field
- Many Priorities/Competing Demands
- Lack of Understanding/Knowledge
- Poorly constructed/non-sustainable Trails

### 2. Externally

- Volunteer activities not counted/coordinated
- Clear communications
- User Created Trails
- Lack of understanding of Agency  
Regs/Processes

# Early Forest Supervisor

"One can get a heap more money out of a little old band of sheep, or something of that kind, even if his intellect does not average over 30%, with a whole lot less trouble, and retain some friends; but with this job the general public just naturally gets cross if you try to enforce the rules, and if you don't enforce the rules then you get cross; so the Supervisor gets the double cross whatever happens,..."

# What do we need to succeed in the Future?

- We need trail users who....
  - Recognize their environmental footprints and embrace Leave No Trace (wet weather closures)
  - Understand good trail etiquette
  - Understand trail stewardship and the need to volunteer and get involved

# What do we need to succeed in the Future?

- We need trail **volunteers** who.....
  - Understand sustainable trail design and layout
  - Trouble shoot problem trails
  - Report trail conditions
  - Participate in collaboration, forest planning, forest management projects

# What do we need to succeed in the Future?

- We need Trail Club(s) who....
  - Promote horseback riding, ethics, stewardship
    - Horse Clubs, Horse Trail Clubs, Trail Riding Clubs
  - Increase Volunteer Recruitment
    - People=Capacity
  - Increase demographic participation
  - Increase other riding opportunities/partnerships

Organizations are the key link! Strength in organization.

# Can We Sustain This?

Do not go where  
the path may  
lead, go instead  
where there is  
no path and  
leave a trail.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*





# The Future?



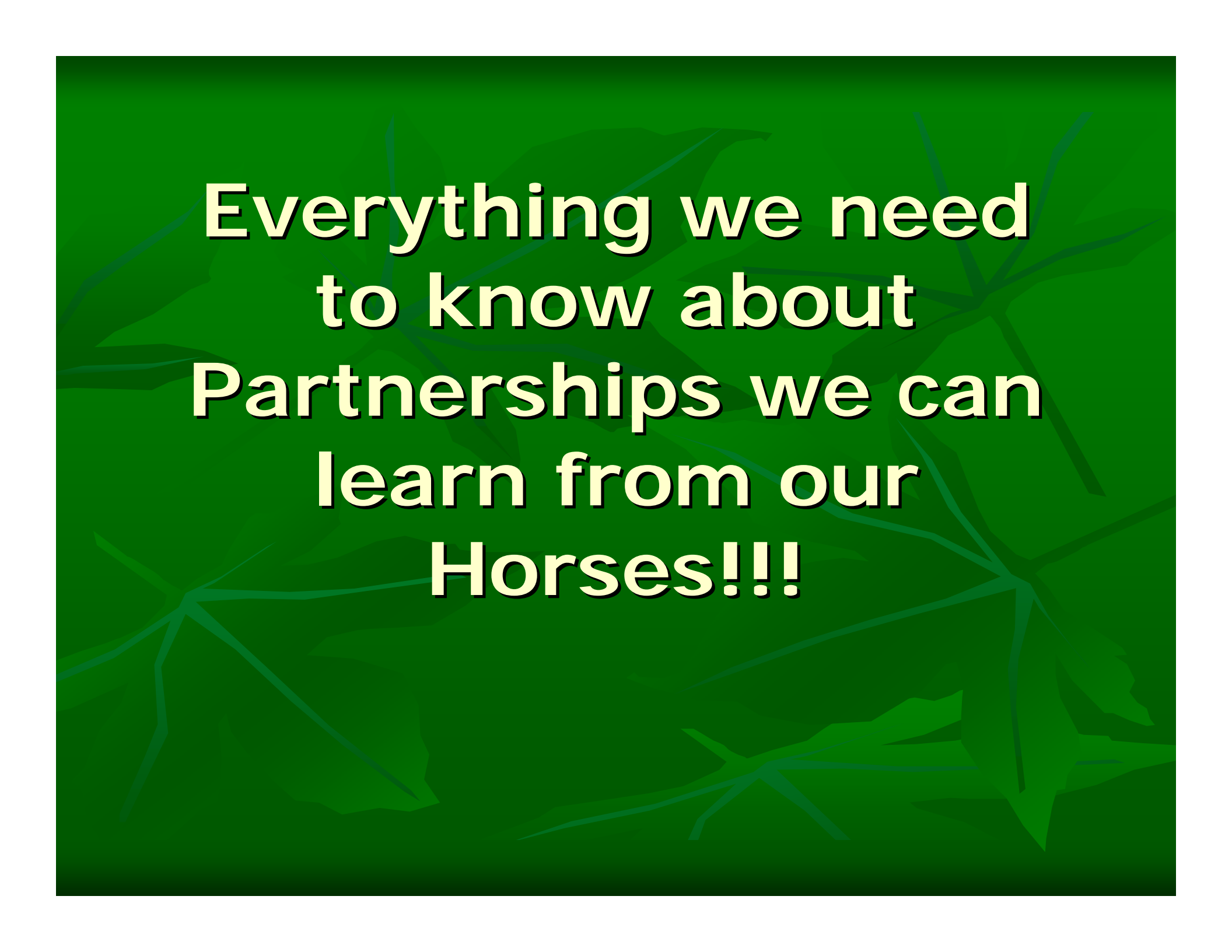
Virtual Horseback Riding



# The Future

## Changing Society

- Aging
- Shifting public demand and priorities (clean air, clean water, energy)
- Climate – drought, feed costs, etc
- Cost of Travel
- Cost to keep horses
- Availability of Land
- Forests on the Edge



**Everything we need  
to know about  
Partnerships we can  
learn from our  
Horses!!!**

# There can only be one Lead Mare!



**The Quality of Your  
Communication is Judged  
by the Response You Get!**



***“Excuse me M’am but you have a lot to learn about horses. You and he see things a lot differently.”***





**Always Look Where You  
Want To Go!**





# Confidence, Faith and Trust Go a Long way!



# Partnership Savvy: Acting Together to Get Things Done!



# Harmony is the Goal



# The Future is up to You!!

