

# Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities: Linking the Biophysical and Socioeconomic Goals of the Northwest Forest Plan



- ◆ The Northwest Forest Plan aimed to provide "... a sustainable level of human use of the forest resource while still meeting the need to maintain and restore the late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem" .



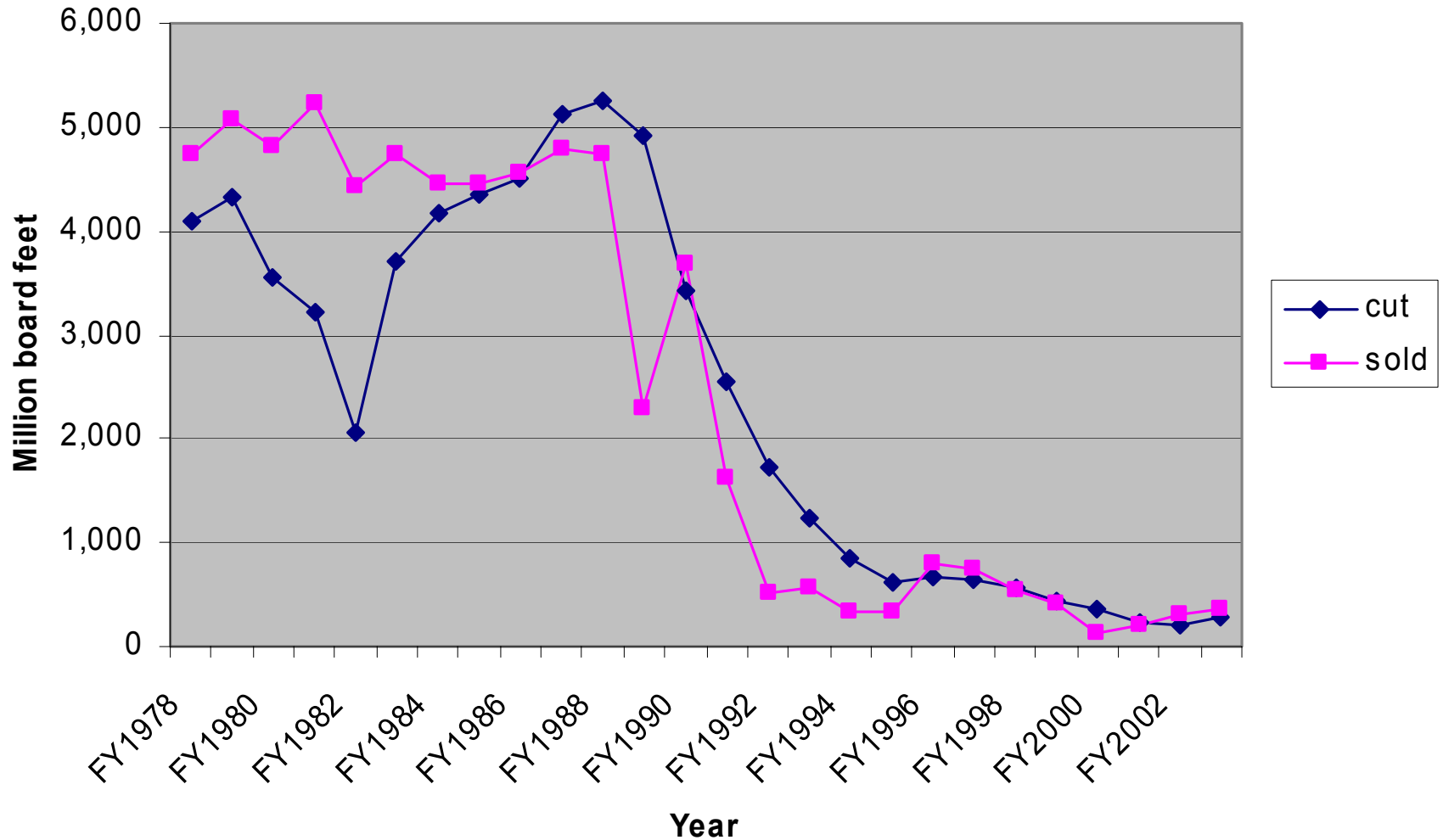
# Trends in resource and recreation outputs



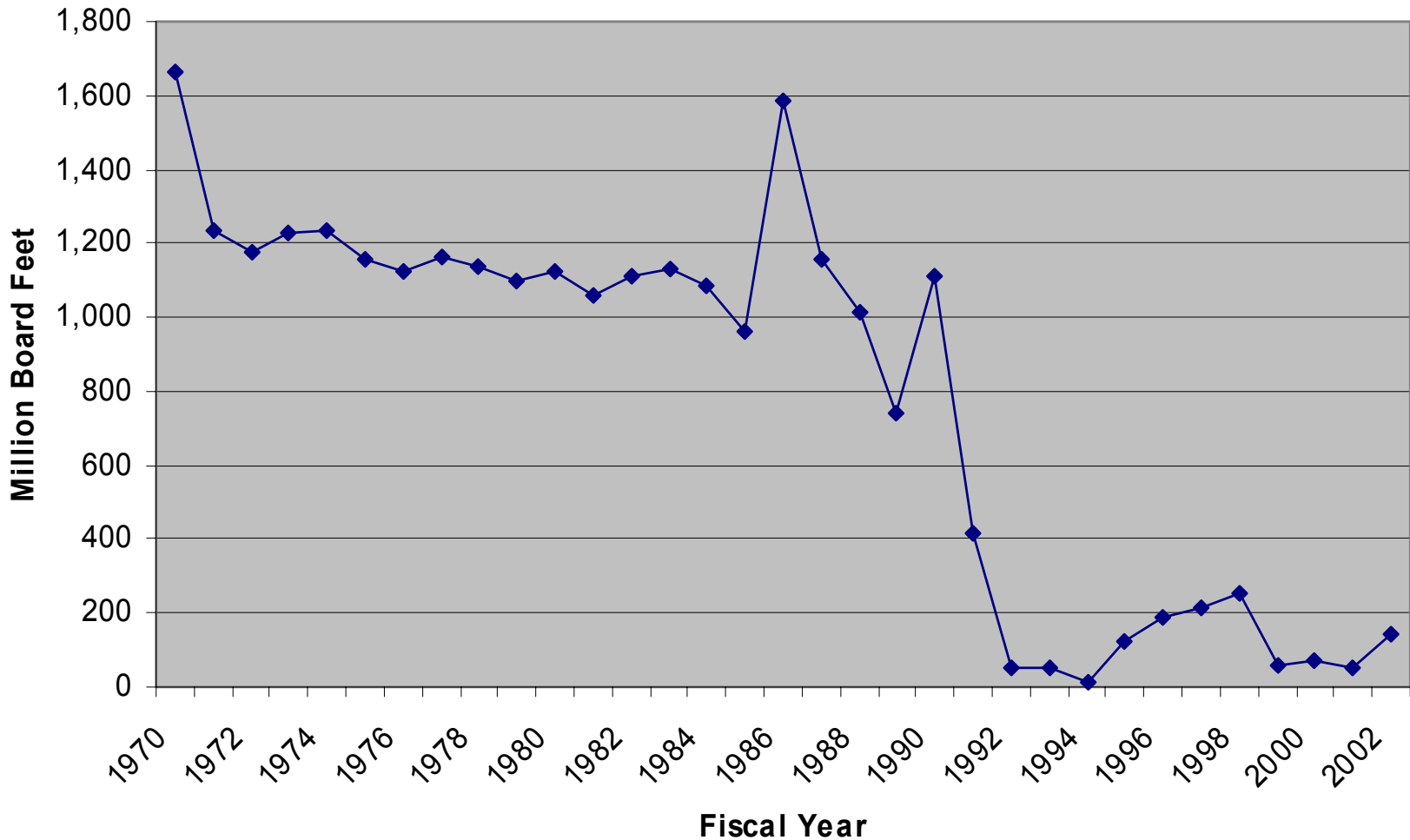
- ◆ Contribution of federal timber to the total timber supply dropped from 25% in 1990 to <5% by 2000



# Volume of timber sold and harvested, FS



# Volume of timber sold, BLM



# Special Forest Products





- ◆ Quantity of convertible products sold declined



- ◆ Quantity of nonconvertible products sold was mixed



# Grazing




- ◆ Declines in grazing occurred on FS lands
- ◆ Declines in grazing appear to have occurred on BLM lands, though data are less reliable

# Minerals




# Trends in minerals production, FS

- ◆ Leasable minerals production remained stable
  - ◆ Locatable minerals activity declined; unknown if a decrease in production occurred
  - ◆ Volume of salable minerals produced declined
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# Recreation



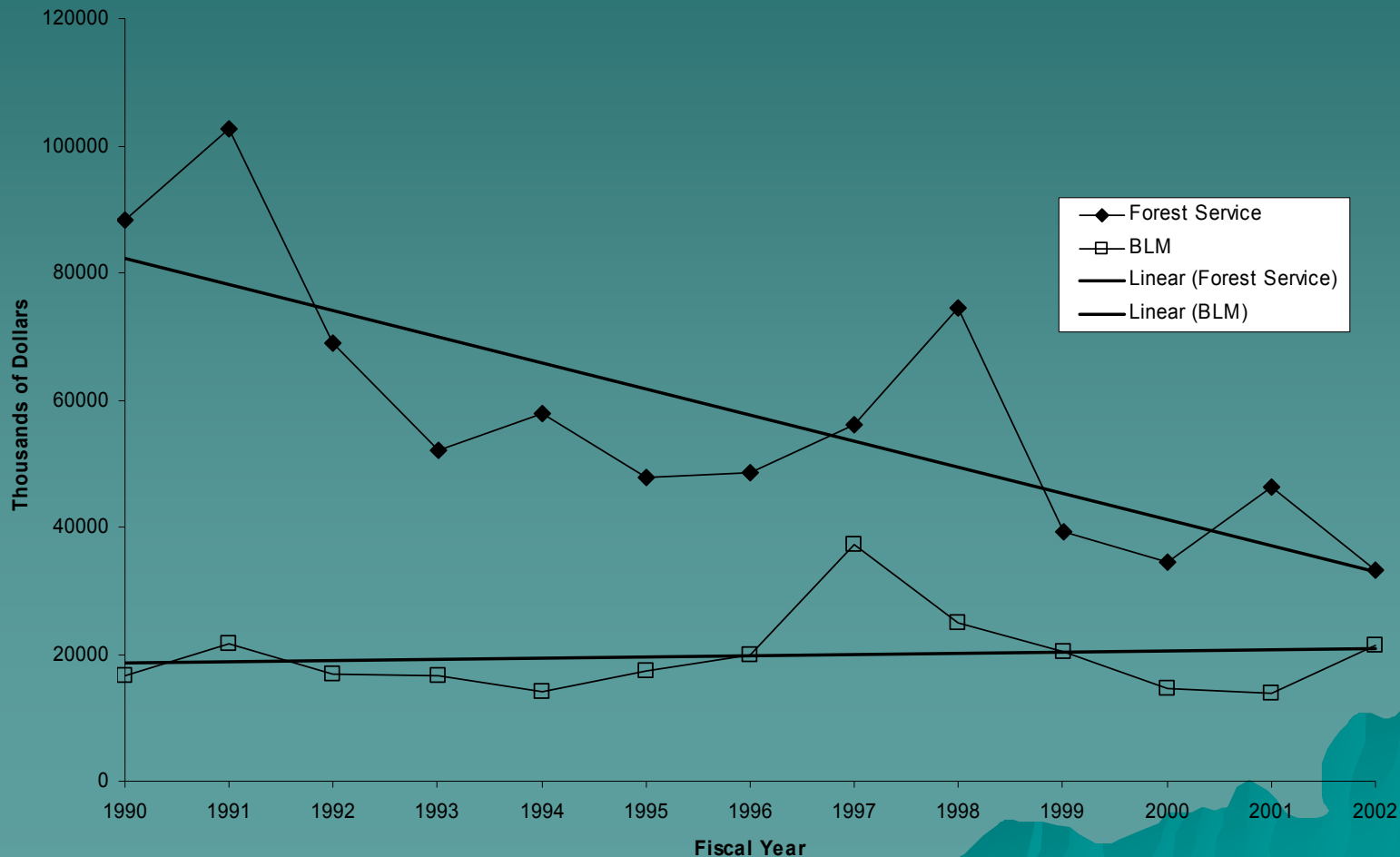
- ◆ Some recreation opportunities decreased:
    - Roaded recreation, passenger car access
    - Some restrictions in riparian areas
  - ◆ Some recreation opportunities were stable or increased:
    - Wilderness acres
    - Unroaded & nonmotorized experiences
    - Downhill skiing
    - Recreation residences
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# Jobs and Income

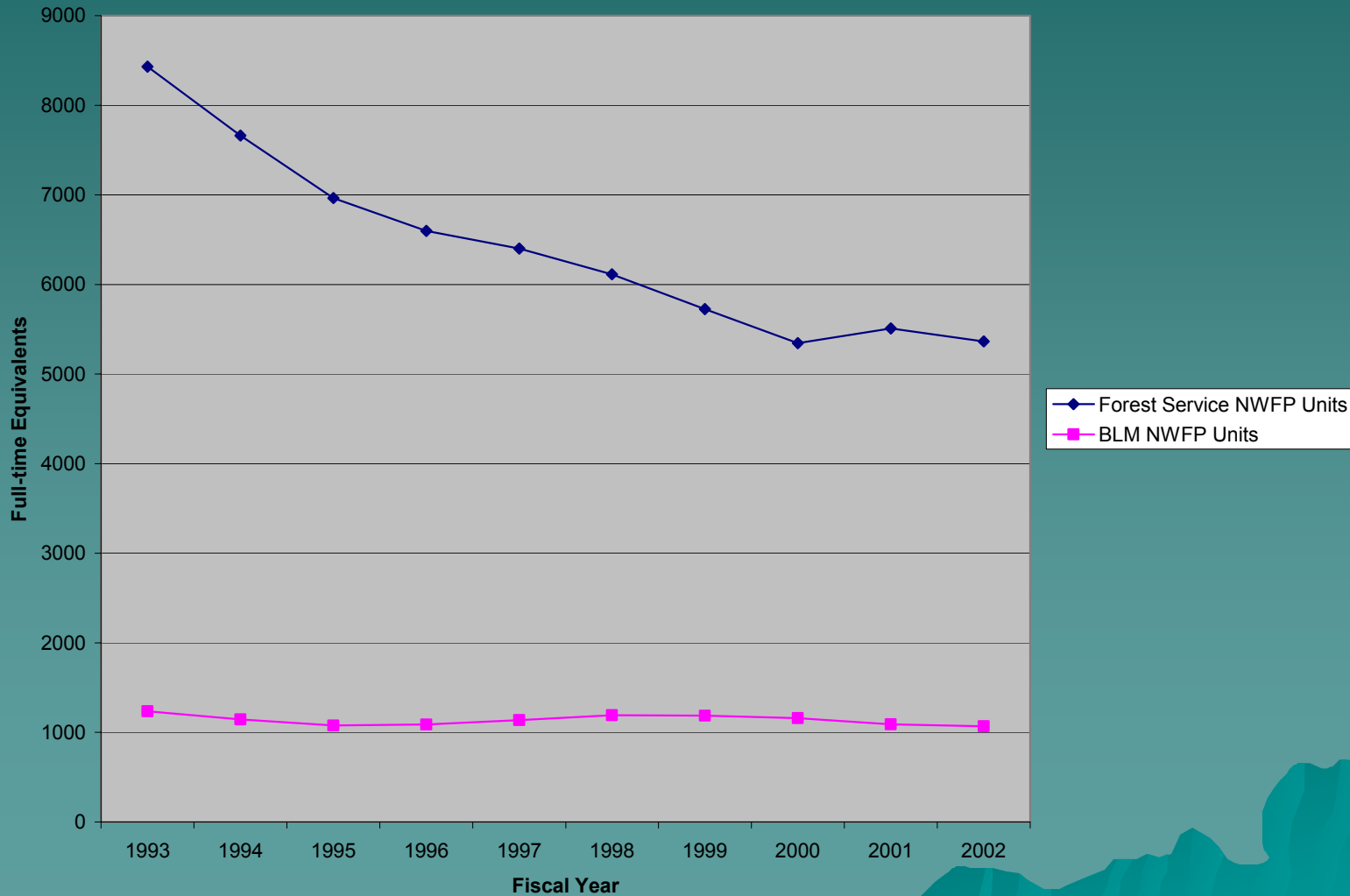
- ◆ Primary wood-products employment decreased by 30,000 jobs between 1990 and 2000
- ◆ Early 2000s: FS lands supported 17,500 direct and 25,500 indirect jobs associated with recreation
- ◆ Impossible to measure jobs and income associated with grazing, mining, and special forest products



# FS contract spending declined; BLM contract spending held steady



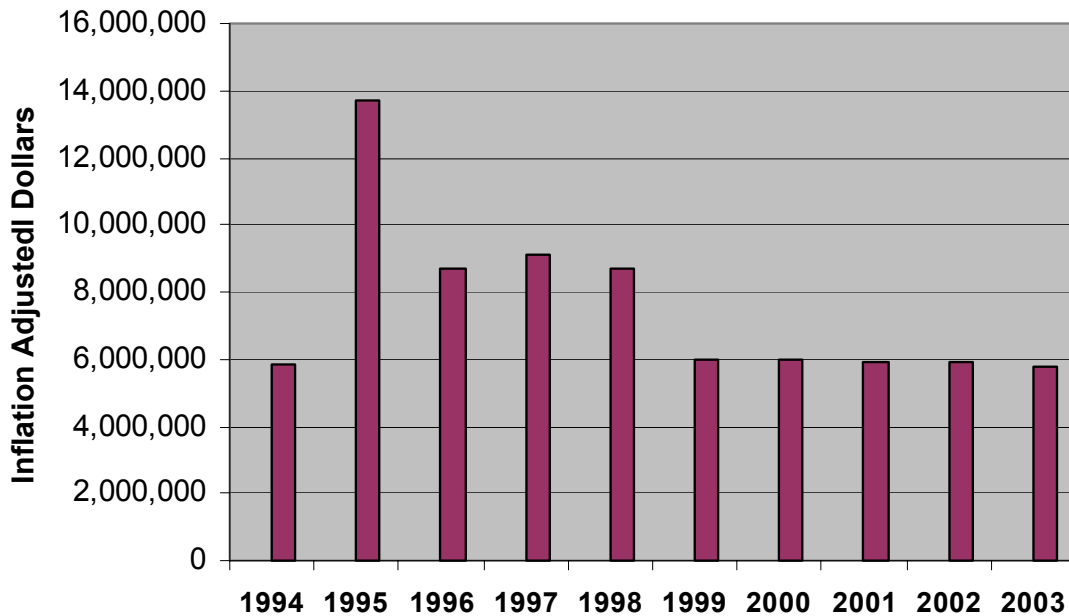
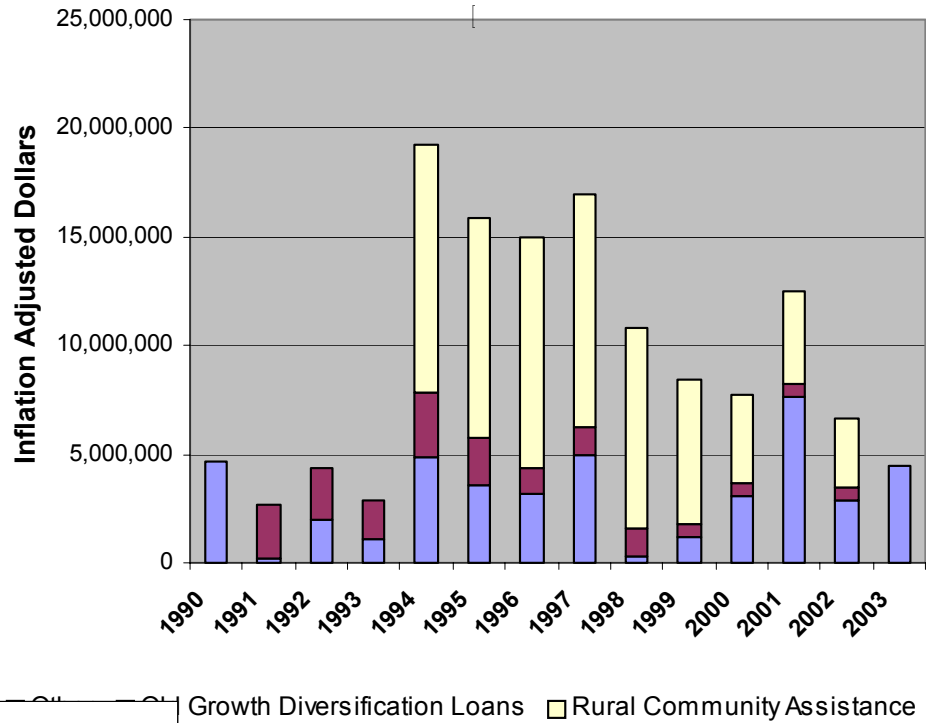
# FS lost 36% of its jobs BLM lost 13% of its jobs



FS closed, consolidated, or downsized 23% of its offices; no BLM offices closed




# FS economic assistance at pre-Plan levels



BLM still has  
a JITW  
program

# What do these changes mean?

- ◆ Economic ties between forests have weakened
  - ◆ FS in particular has reduced institutional capacity to maintain and restore forest ecosystems
  - ◆ New opportunities for year-round, family-wage, forest-based jobs are limited
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# Collaborative forest stewardship



Restoration forestry – thinning to reduce fuel loads, watershed restoration, managing road system, controlling invasive species, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat




# Volunteers

- ◆ Volunteerism is strong and helps achieve forest stewardship objectives
- ◆ Many volunteers are members of groups from nearby cities
- ◆ Local residents who are struggling economically are unlikely to volunteer
- ◆ Agencies must have capacity to organize, train, and coordinate volunteers



# Partnerships

- ◆ Reduced budgets and staffing have motivated forests to pool resources and increase partnerships
  - ◆ Partners aren't necessarily located in local communities
  - ◆ Recreation and restoration are beginning to replace timber as an arena for local collaboration
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# Challenges

- ◆ Requires local capacity and resources on the part of the partners
- ◆ Agency culture change required – notion that FS can do the work best by itself
- ◆ Incentives for creating local jobs to accomplish work

# Opportunities

- ◆ Increases community awareness of and interest in forest management issues
- ◆ Involves local residents in forest stewardship, building ties between communities, nearby forests, and agencies
- ◆ Provides local job opportunities
- ◆ Links Plan biophysical and socioeconomic goals