

## **Spatially Locating Threats to the Environmental Contributions of Forest Land in the USA (1)**

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Forest lands in the USA contribute in a myriad of ways to the economic and social well-being of the nation. However, these forest lands are increasingly threatened from a variety of sources such as conversion to urban and suburban uses, wildfire, insects and disease, and pollution. The Forests on the Edge project conducts analyses of threats to forest lands and their impacts on specific contributions such as timber supply, water quality, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. The context of the analyses is the framework of the criteria and indicators of the Montréal Process and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Forests in Europe (MCPFE). Geographic information system techniques are used to identify the spatial locations of the threats with the greatest potential impact to selected contributions. An Internet-based assessment tool has been developed to permit users to select contributions and threats and to construct maps depicting the outcome of analyses. The focus of the presentation will be twofold: (1) the criteria and indicators framework of the Montréal Process and the MCPFE, and (2) spatially locating the greatest impacts of the predicted conversion of forest land to urban and suburban uses on the contributions of forest lands in the USA.

The presentation relates to the conference Background and Purpose by addressing the question of the impacts on commerce and society of the predicted conversion of forest land to urban and suburban uses. The Approaches and Methods rely on database and geographic information techniques, model-based predictions of land use change, and an Internet-based tool that can be used for education purposes, all in an environmental and natural resources context.