

Forest Dilemmas

Name: _____

Background

In North Carolina, 50 million tree seedlings are planted annually and nature plants millions more. It is a 6 billion dollar industry for our state. Forest management by all landowners (public and private) is changing to reflect an understanding of the forest as an ecosystem that contains many interacting parts, all of which need to be considered to have a healthy forest. One tool of forest managers is fire. Instead of trying to put out every fire, foresters now know that fire is part of the forests' natural cycle, and may use it in managing the forest.

North Carolina's forests have a variety of owners and managers, including the federal governments (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management), state government (North Carolina Forest Service), private industry, and private non-industrial landowners. Each of these land managers must work with the others to sustain the best possible management of North Carolina's collective forests. Best Management Practices are used to protect water quality and maintain healthy forests to sustain the many benefits desired from our forests, not just now, but for hundreds of years to come.

Procedure

1. Each student begins with \$100,000 (one \$50K, one \$25K, one \$10K, one \$5K, and five \$1K) and one game token. One die and game board needed per table.
2. Each student has just been promoted to the head of a private forest products company, but their backgrounds are very different.
 - Each student will take a "character card" to determine their background/perspective as they approach all of the management decisions that lie ahead.
 - The student will represent the interests of their particular background as they try to guide their company to success.
3. Each company will complete a 25 year forest management cycle (each trip around the board counts as one year). The goal is to have healthy forest lands and money left at the end of the twenty-five years.

Guidelines

- A Community Bank should be set up for each table. Unless designated to the \$TimberVault\$ (middle of the board), funds come and go from the bank. One person on the team should conduct transactions with the bank. Companies may go in debt up to \$750,000, but must pay the bank back immediately as they receive the funds.
- Play the game. Students should keep a running tally of their money and the "years" that have passed.

Outcome

	PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2	PLAYER 3	PLAYER 4	PLAYER 5
Beginning Balance (\$\$)					
Balance at the End of 25 Years (\$\$)					

1. How many players experienced at least 1 year of debt? _____ 5 years of debt? _____
2. Did any players experience more than \$750,000 debt (aka declare bankruptcy)? _____
3. What was the greatest profit made by anyone at your table? _____ Greatest total debt? _____
4. What choices had the greatest impact on your profit margins? EXPLAIN.

5. Describe at least two of the challenges faced by forestry corporations when the desire for profit conflicts with the need for conservation.

Taken from excerpts of *Forestry and Tree Planting in North Carolina*

1. Create a list of 5 best facts from the Abstract.

2. What percent of NC Forests is owned by private landowners?

3. Why are public holdings highest in the western part of our state?

4. Discuss EACH of the four main challenges (make sure to cover at least 3 of the insects/diseases).

5. What is our state's most planted tree?

And our 2nd most planted?

6. Discuss EACH of the three restoration projects currently underway in NC.

7. Summarize the future outlook for tree planting in NC.