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FOR CONSERVATION

# National Forest Certification Study





## Certification Studies, 1998 - 2004

(1998 . . .)

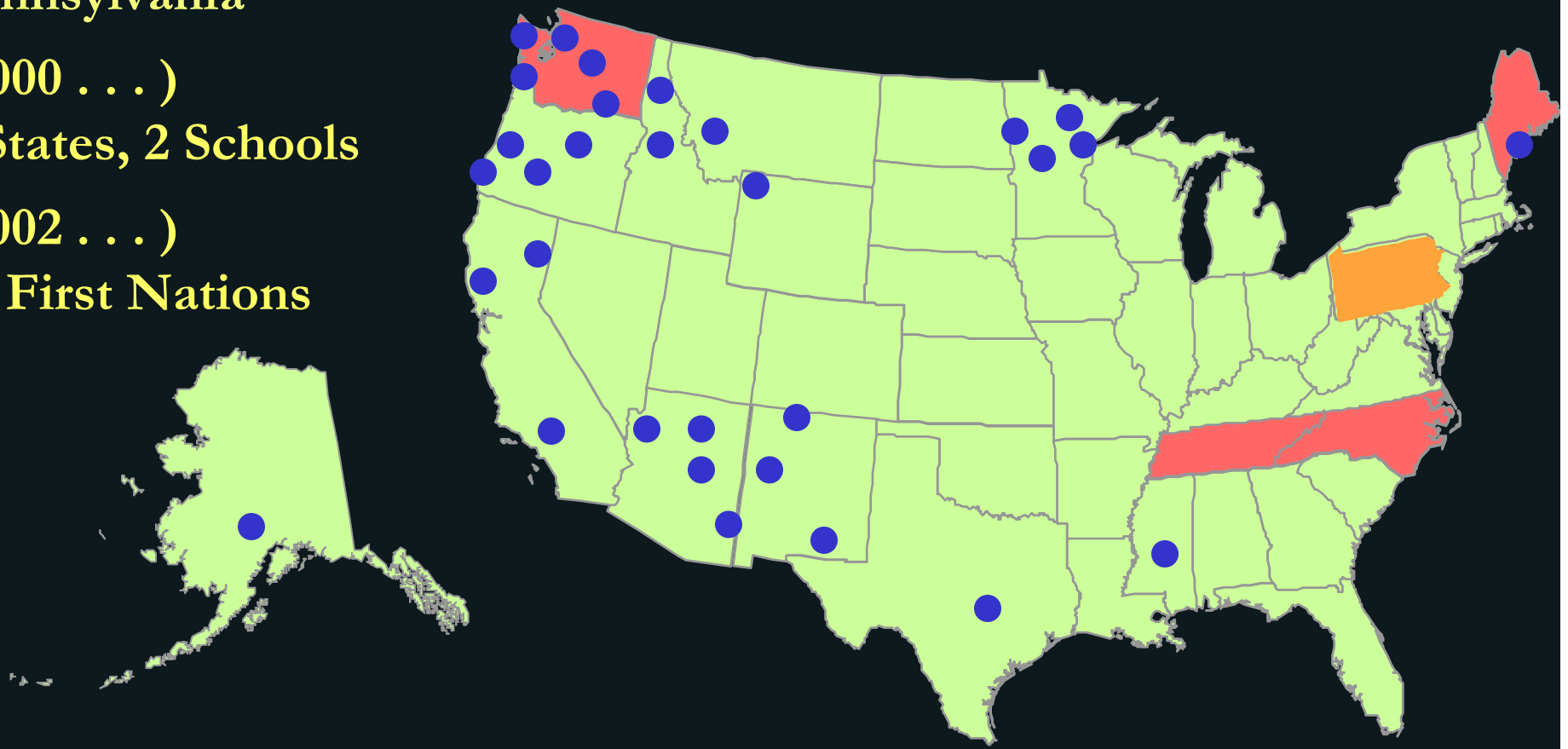
# Pennsylvania

(2000 . . . )

## 4 States, 2 Schools

(2002 . . . )

## 30 First Nations

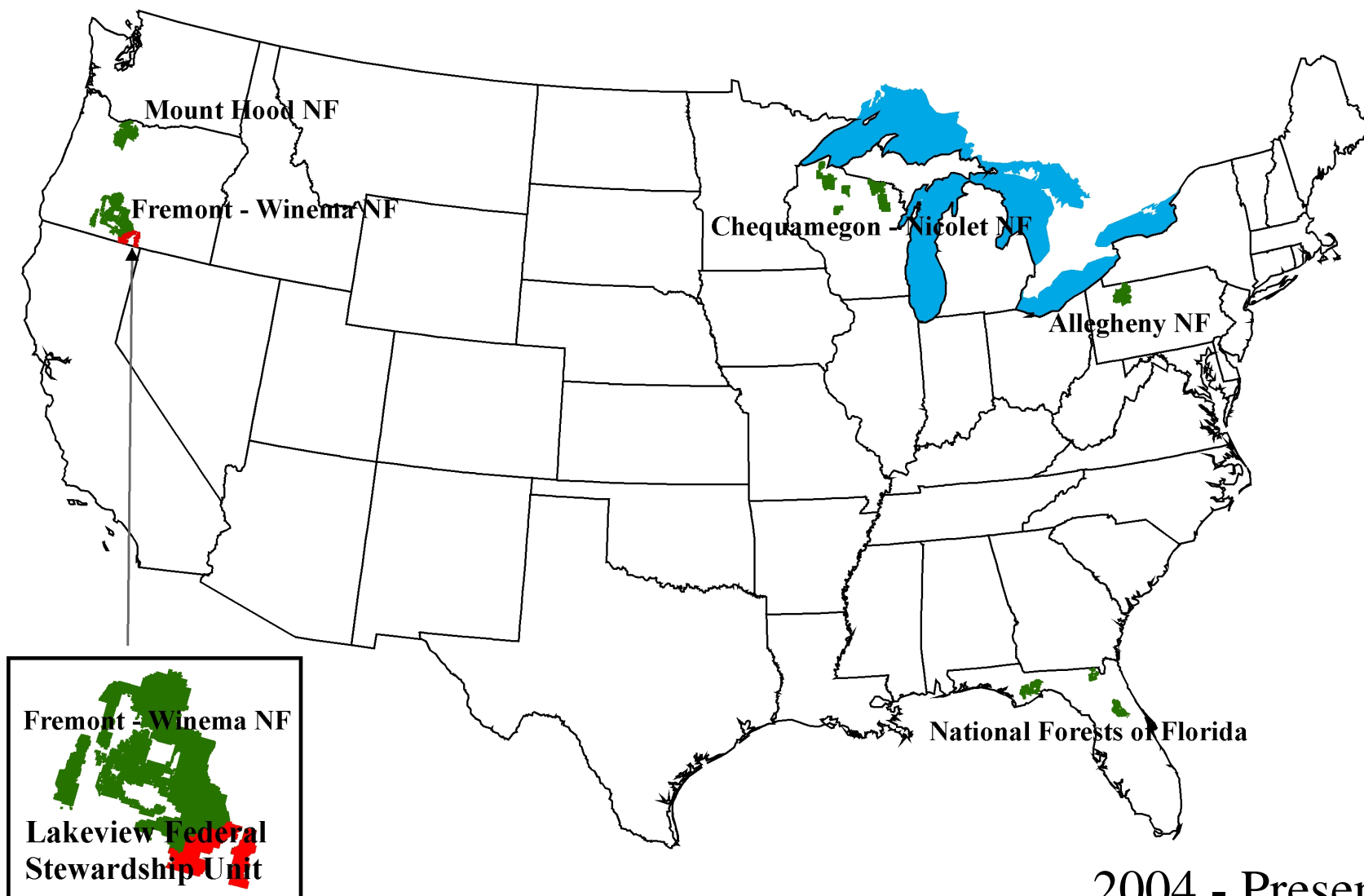


# Process & Timeline



- Crosswalk ~ paper study (2005)
- Orientation with Forests ('05 – '06)
- Auditor Selection ('05 – '06)
- Pre-evaluation ('06)
- “Additional Considerations” ('06)
- Full Evaluation ('06 – '07)
- Final Reports ('07)

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2004 - Present

# Common Strengths

- Forest planning and operations.
- Monitoring and impact assessment.
- Stakeholder consultation.
- Coordination with First Nations.
- Extent of reserve systems.
- Protection of threatened and endangered species.
- Control of invasives and exotics.





## Common Weaknesses

- Forest health issues arising from backlogged management activities.
- The backlog of road maintenance and decommissioning.
- Monitoring of non-timber forest products.
- Old-growth protection and management issues.
- Inadequate logger safety and training





## Feedback from Forest Service

- Processes explored range of issues affecting National Forests
- Systems tested staff ability to perform their responsibilities
- An opportunity for interest groups to provide input
- A way to communicate with the public on what they do well and what issues they face
- May impose additional burdens

## Feedback from Auditors

- Would need to find ways to streamline the process
- Not sure if appropriate in all settings
- Impressive in many aspects of management, but some systemic issues



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