

Regulation and Commercialization of Mycological Resources in the USA

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International Conference on Silvicultural Management
for Forests Producers of Edible Mushrooms

FINAL SEMINAR OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

www.micosylva.com

Consejería de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de
Castilla y León, Valladolid, Spain

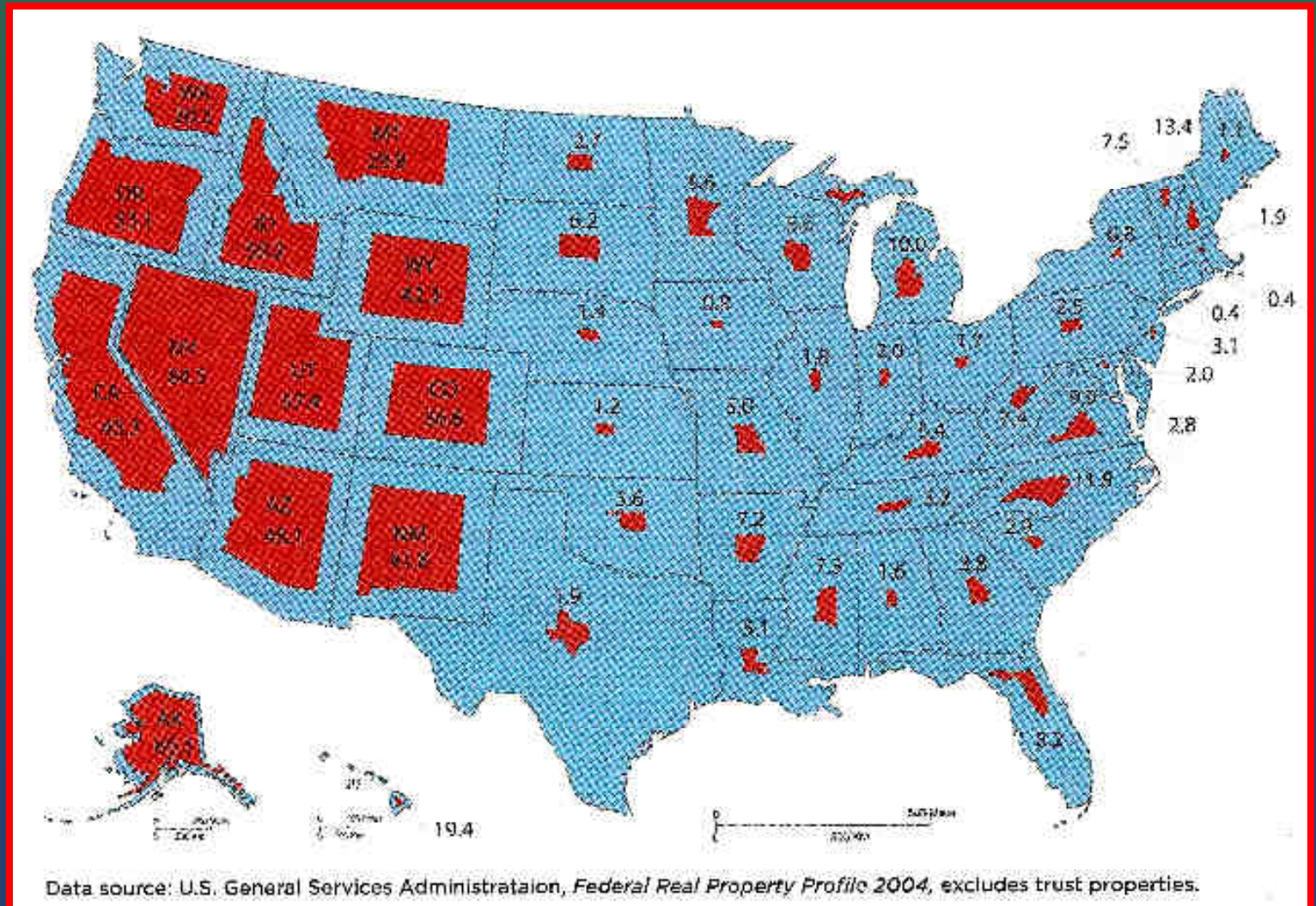
Outline of Presentation

1. Context
 - a. Land Ownership Patterns
 - b. Mushroom Markets
2. Mushroom Popularity
3. Commercialization
 - a. Eastern US
 - b. Western – International competition
 - c. Western – New demand and markets
 - d. Mycotourism – 2 examples
 - e. Cultivation
4. Regulations
 - a. Federal – Harvesting
 - b. State – Commerce
5. Public/Private Partnerships
6. Conclusions – European Models

Context of Commercial Harvesting and Regulation in the US

Eastern versus Western Land Ownership Patterns

Percent of Federal Land Ownership (in Red) by State



Context of Commercial Harvesting and Regulation in the US

Eastern versus Western Mushroom Markets

Mostly
morels in
the East

Many
commercial
species in
the West



Trends in Mushroom Popularity in the US

- 👉 Anglo-Saxon immigrants mycophobic
- 👉 Slavic, Russian, Asian, African and Mexican immigrants mycophilic
- 👉 Cultural traditions mixed over multiple generations
- 👉 Growing interest in culinary use of mushrooms
- 👉 Growing interest in harvesting wild mushrooms

North American Mycological Association
www.namyco.org



74 Affiliated Mushroom Clubs and Societies in the US

Hundreds of Mushroom Festivals (Some for more than 50 years.)

Trends in Commercialization

Eastern morels and cultivated truffles



Amish Farmer's Market
in Ohio

Photo by Edsel L.

First commercial scale
truffle production in the
United States



www.tennesseetruffle.com



Tennessee Truffle
Welcome to tennesseetruffle.com



East Asia

Himalayas

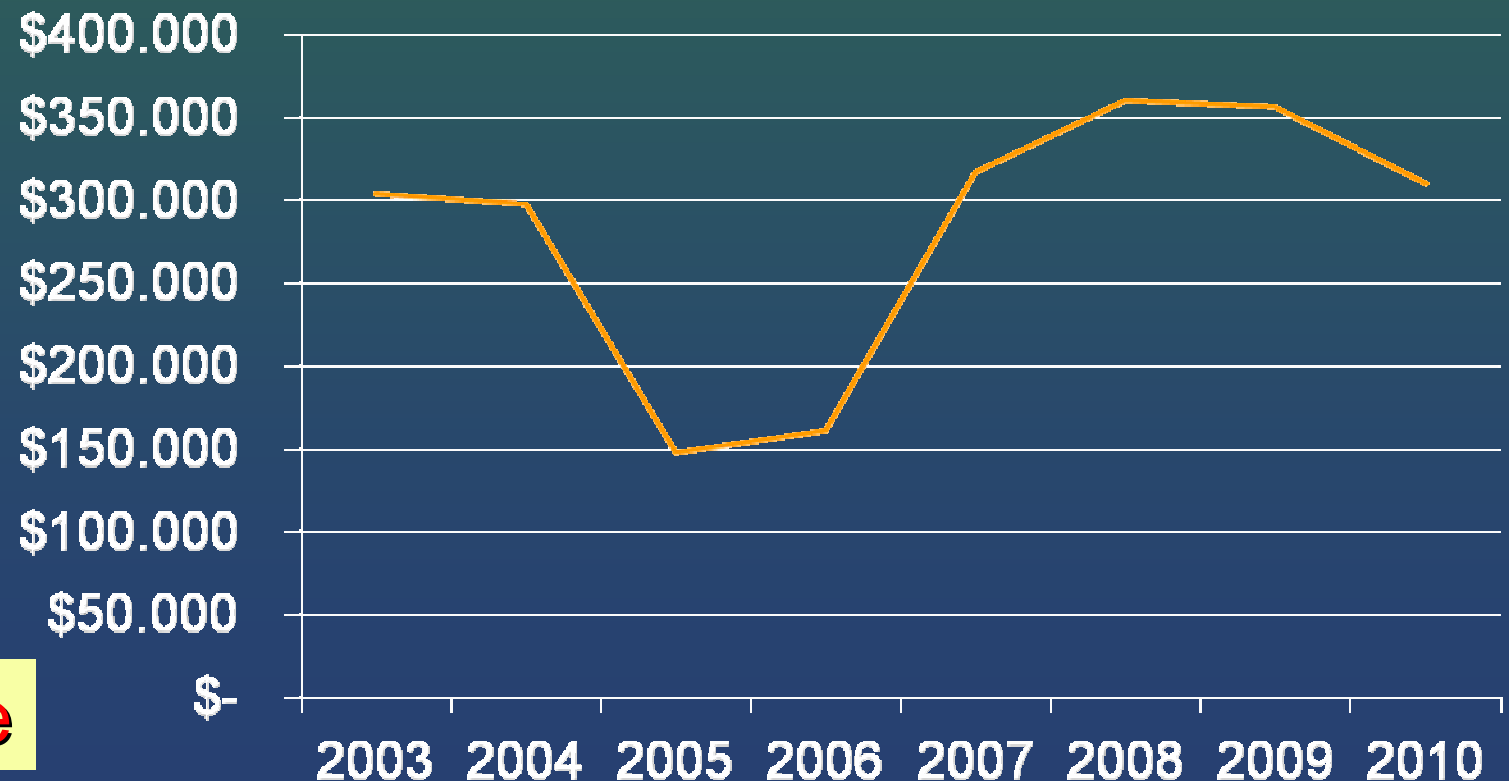
Central Asia

Eastern Europe

Trends in Commercialization

Western – International competition

Commercial Mushroom Permit Sales
US Forest Service, Oregon & Washington



Trends in Commercialization

Western – New demand and markets

1. Mushroom Festivals
 2. Farmer's Markets
 3. Food Cooperatives
 4. Restaurants
 5. Specialty Food Markets
 6. Local Grocery Stores
 7. National Supermarkets
 8. McDonalds?
- Value-Added
 - Organic
 - Family Farms
 - Sustainable
 - Healthy
 - Gourmet
 - Wild

Example



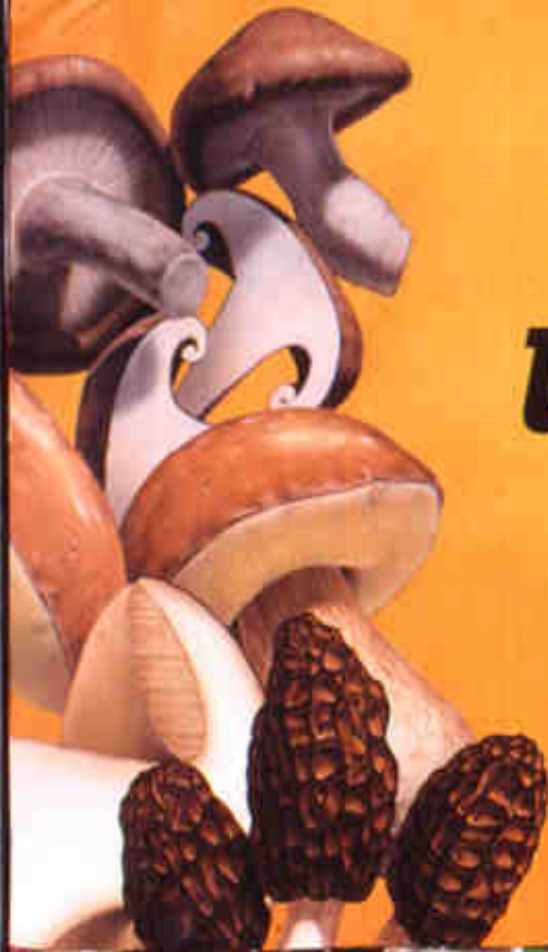
www.mycological.com

MYCOLOGICAL
WILD AND ORGANIC GOURMET MUSHROOMS



Well, maybe not McDonalds, but.....

AK MEDIA



***Foreign-sounding
local mushrooms
sure do taste good.***

OREGON MUSHROOM BURGER



Trends in Commercialization

Myco-Tourism

Chris Matherly's
Morel Mushroom
Club Forays



More than
40 Forays
since 2004



www.morelmushroomhunting.com

Trends in Commercialization

Tibetan Myco-Tourism (but based in Washington)



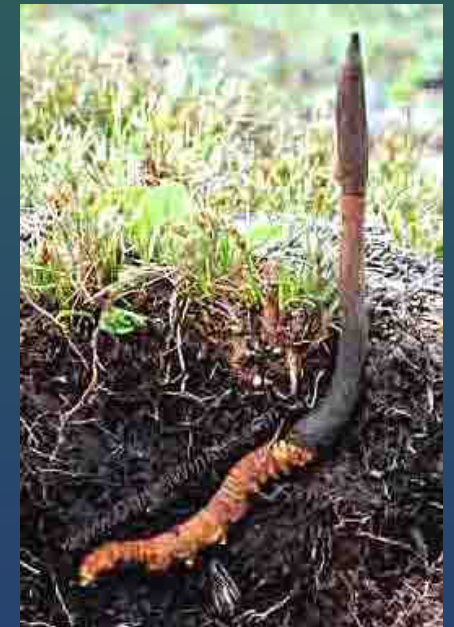
Tricholoma matsutake



www.mushroaming.com



Caterpillar
Fungus



*Cordyceps
sinensis*

Trends in Commercialization Truffle Cultivation



NEW WORLD TRUFFIERES, INC.
'Truffle Cultivation Specialists'

www.truffletree.com

www.oregontrufflefestival.com

www.oregontruffles.org



Oregon Truffle Festival



Regulations

Federal Harvesting Permits



- Each jurisdiction a separate permit
- Variable specifications
- Personal use free but very limited quantities
- Commercial permits allow unlimited quantities (estimated 10% of value)
- Cumbersome to obtain permits

Regulations

States – Transportation & Commerce



WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

OregonLaws.org

Permits required from landowners to transport and sell wild mushrooms

§ 2175. Maine Wild Mushroom Harvesting Certification Program

Harvesting and Selling Wild Mushrooms in Minnesota

Verification of species by trained individual

Public – Private Partnerships

- Very Few Examples
- Mostly towns and cities
- Rarely an educational component
- None focused on managing forests for fungi



Town on Oregon Coast
Lecture series and
guided walks

Conclusions – Integrated Conservation/Development Models



...contributing to the promotion in Europe of a multifunctional and sustainable forest management integrating and enhancing ecological and socioeconomic functions of edible wild mushrooms



CUSSTA - Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Mushrooms and Truffles in Andalusia

UNESCO and IUCN Myco-Parks — Declaration of Córdoba

Conclusions – Integrated Conservation/Development Models

The Next Challenge:

Developing *financially self-sustaining* integrated models of fungal conservation, research, education, management, promotion, and economic development.

Congratulations on excellent work!

Questions?

