

## OUR FOREST OVERSIGHT



In Pennsylvania, primary oversight of timber harvesting is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under the Clean Streams Act and other laws and regulations.

Several other state agencies – such as PennDOT, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission – also have jurisdiction over various industry activities. Landowners and harvesters must often also meet the requirements of local township regulation.

Forestry activities on public land are managed and regulated by government agencies. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources oversees activities on state forests. The Game Commission manages activities on state gamelands.

The United States Forest Service, a Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has primary responsibility for activities on national forests, such as the Allegheny National Forest in Northwest Pennsylvania.

The forest products industry's emphasis on logger training and its utilization of erosion and sedimentation Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other voluntary measures ensure that timber harvesting has a negligible impact on water quality.

## OUR FUTURE ENSURED

With active forest management, our forests will be there to provide future generations the products they need. Forest will also be there for wildlife, recreational opportunities and to foster our air and water quality.

Our forests are growing at more than twice the rate of harvest and there is more timber volume in Pennsylvania's forests now than fifty years ago.

Pennsylvania's entire 2.1 million acre State Forest system is certified as "well-managed" according to the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council, an internationally recognized group of environmental organizations and other interests. Pennsylvania is a leading producer of FSC-certified lumber and forest products.

The forest products industry has a key stewardship role and an economic interest in protecting our forests for the future. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>SM</sup> (SFI<sup>SM</sup>) program is a national voluntary effort developed by industry to promote comprehensive forestry and conservation practices. The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association administers SFI<sup>SM</sup> through a State Implementation Committee, which conducts logger training, landowner education and public outreach to achieve continuous improvement in forest management practices, resulting in healthy, productive and sustainable forests for future generations.



## SUPPORTING OUR FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

### *Pennsylvania Forest Products Association*

301 Chestnut Street, Suite 102  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 901-0420  
[www.paforestproducts.org](http://www.paforestproducts.org)

The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA) represents the individuals and companies that process our sustainable and renewable forest resource into the products we need and use each day.

PFPA educates public officials and the general public on forest management and other issues impacting the state's forest products industry. It also keeps the industry on the forefront of emerging policy issues related to forest health, responsible forest management and manufacturing.

PFPA also assists in the promotion and marketing of Pennsylvania-produced forest products through initiatives such as its biennial Timber Show and its monthly *Pennsylvania Marketing Bulletin*.

### *Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

2301 North Cameron Street, Room 308  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408  
(717) 772-3715  
<http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us>

The HDC is the state office charged with the promotion, development and expansion of Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry. The council that includes representatives of industry, government and development organizations advises the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the industry.

The HDC's goals include promoting timber access on public and private lands; developing domestic and international markets; developing value-added wood processing and technologies, and educating the public about the importance of the state's forest products industry.

In addition to its economic development and other promotion activities, the HDC has partnered with industry to administer the Pennsylvania WoodMobile initiative.

# PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS AND YOU



# OUR FORESTS

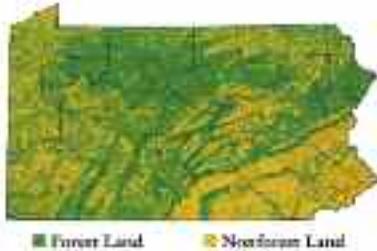
We enjoy more forestland today than we had a century ago when our state's population was just half of what it currently is.

More than half of Pennsylvania – nearly 17 million acres – is forest.

Our forests are dominated by hardwood species, such as red oak, black cherry, red and sugar maple, and poplar. More than 70 different tree species grow in Pennsylvania forests.

A majority of the forests in Pennsylvania are privately owned by families and individuals. Forest product companies own less than five percent of the forest. About 30 percent of the forest in Pennsylvania is government owned.

Pennsylvania forests are growing at more than twice the rate of harvest. We have more sawtimber volume in our forests now than fifty years ago.



# OUR PRODUCTS

The average person uses and relies on hundreds of forest products everyday.

Examples exist everywhere ... your furniture, doors and cabinets ... your paper products, books and newspapers ... the walls surrounding you and the roof above your head. Less obvious products containing wood include adhesives, cosmetics, solvents and deodorants. Even medicines, such as aspirin, began with a tree.

The trees used to make our wood and paper products are a renewable resource. Most wood and paper consumer products can also be recycled into new products.



Modern technology and innovative marketing ensure that virtually nothing is wasted when a tree is harvested in Pennsylvania. During processing, bark is converted into mulch for gardeners and landscapers. Scrap wood and sawdust is utilized in products such as paper and fiberboard or used for energy production.

Wood is a viable alternative energy source. Mill byproducts are already used for thermal and electric energy production or processed into wood pellets for residential heating. Additional opportunities can come from greater utilization of mill wastes and poor quality trees for community-based energy production or the potential production of cellulosic ethanol. Small scale projects are the most economically viable way to utilize this material with a minimal impact on future forest sustainability and existing industry.



# OUR JOBS AND BUSINESS

The forest products industry is an essential element of Pennsylvania's economy.



From center city Philadelphia to the world famous black cherry forests of Northwestern Pennsylvania, you'll find nearly 2,500 forest product processing and manufacturing operations located across the state.

About 80,000 Pennsylvanians make their livelihood from the manufacturing of lumber, wood and paper products, accounting for about 12 percent of the state's manufacturing workforce.

Pennsylvania's forest product companies produce more than \$16 billion of lumber, paper and finished wood products annually, generating more than \$27 billion in total annual economic impact across the Commonwealth. Nearly three-quarters of this output and impact is directly attributable to the utilization of locally harvested hardwoods.

Pennsylvania is the nation's number one producer of hardwood lumber, accounting for about ten percent of the total hardwood lumber output in the U.S. Pennsylvania produces about one billion board feet\* of hardwood lumber annually. That's enough lumber to circle the globe more than seven times.

The purchase of timber provides private landowners and government agencies with hundreds of millions in revenue annually.



\* A board foot is a unit of volume equal to a board one foot wide, one foot long and one inch thick.

# OUR OTHER FOREST BENEFITS

Forests provide a wide range of benefits for Pennsylvanians and most of these benefits are enhance or sustained by proper forest management, including harvesting trees.

Forests provide recreational opportunities and help to support local tourism. Hardwood harvesting can encourage these benefits and provide access to the forest for hikers, bikers and other enthusiasts.

Hardwood harvesting produces and sustains diverse and unique habitats necessary to support certain species for wildlife viewing or hunting.

Forests can help address greenhouse gas emissions, as trees naturally consume CO<sub>2</sub> during photosynthesis. The conversion of trees into wood products extends the sequestration of this carbon. Using woody biomass for energy displace the carbon emissions from non-renewable fuels resulting in reduced net carbon emissions.

# OUR FOREST HEALTH

Managing and harvesting trees helps our forests flourish.

Natural forest regeneration fosters future growth so that replanting isn't necessary. Naturally grown seed and seedlings create healthier hardwood trees.

In much of our forests, the trees are about the same age. Without active management, the trees get old and the forest becomes stagnant and decays. Harvesting some older trees offers room and sunlight so a young, healthy forest can establish and expand.

Several non-native, invasive pests and diseases – like gypsy moth, hemlock wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer - threaten the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's forests. Exotic and invasive vegetation also pose a threat to native plant diversity.

In some forested parts of the state, there are more deer than the forest can properly sustain. In these areas, deer are forced to overbrowse on tree seeds and seedlings, impacting regeneration and forest sustainability.

