

TIMBER ACCESS

The forest products industry is an important part of Pennsylvania's economy. Both private and public lands need to play an essential role in providing the sustainable supply of timber required to support the state's forest products economy.

Pennsylvania's forest products industry, and the jobs and economic benefits it creates, are dependent upon reliable and affordable access to the forest resource.

One billion board feet or more of timber and pulpwood is harvested in Pennsylvania each year. Annual growth of volume is still more than twice the volume harvested.

The timber needs of industry are primarily met from private lands. It is legal to purchase and harvest timber from private lands in Pennsylvania. Voluntary "Best Management Practices" and government oversight address issues such as soil erosion and sedimentation, stream crossings, wetland disturbance, threatened and endangered species and the transportation of timber.

Despite accounting for nearly a third of the forests in the Pennsylvania, federal and state-owned lands currently provide only about 5 percent of the timber needed to sustain the state's forest products industry.

Due to the limited access to public lands and the challenges to economically locate, purchase and harvest timber on private lands, most mills are forced to acquire as much as a quarter of their timber resource from outside their local area, including adjoining states.

Sources: U.S. Forest Service; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry; Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Hardwoods Development Council; Pennsylvania Forest Products Association; Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Pennsylvania State Implementation Committee



FOREST HEALTH ISSUES

Forest health and productivity is impacted by both natural and artificial influences.



Several non-native, invasive pests and diseases threaten the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's forests. Gypsy moth, hemlock wooly adelgid, beech bark disease and emerald ash borer are examples of invasives currently active in Pennsylvania.

Exotic and invasive vegetation poses a threat to native plant diversity and long-term forest health.

In some parts of the state, a continued overpopulation of deer is limiting the ability for the forest to regenerate. In areas of older forest, there is a limited source of food and deer are forced to overbrowse on tree seeds and seedlings, impacting regeneration.

Other stressors, including drought, acid deposition and air pollution also impact the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's forests.



FOREST SUSTAINABILITY

The forest products industry has an economic interest in protecting our forest health and productivity for use by future generations.

In Pennsylvania, our forest volume is growing at more than twice the rate of harvest and there is more timber in Pennsylvania's forests than anytime since the late 1800's.

The forest products industry has an economic interests in protecting our forests for the future. The Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM (SFISM) program is a national voluntary effort developed by industry to promote comprehensive forestry and conservation practices. The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association administers SFISM 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. More than 6,700 individuals have participated in SFISM logger training and more than 25,000 landowners have received packets on sustainable forestry.

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 made from the timber from this state land and FSC-certified private forests located in Pennsylvania.

Private forest landowners can access additional management assistance through the American Tree Farm System, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Cooperative Extension, local landowner groups, private and industrial forestry professionals and other organizations.

Produced by the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council

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PENNSYLVANIA FOREST FACTS



FOREST BENEFITS

The forests of Pennsylvania provide the citizens of the Commonwealth with a vast array of benefits.

The forests of Pennsylvania are a renewable resource. These forests support a forest products industry that is a key component of the state's economy.



About 80,000 Pennsylvanians work in the forest products industry, accounting for about one of every nine manufacturing jobs in the state. The state's forest products industry produces \$16 billion of lumber, paper and finished wood products annually - and most of this is directly attributable to the utilization of locally harvested hardwoods.



Pennsylvania's forests also provide habitat for a diverse variety of plants, animals, birds and fish. They are a source of beauty and a provider of recreational opportunities. Our forests help purify the air we breathe and the water we drink.

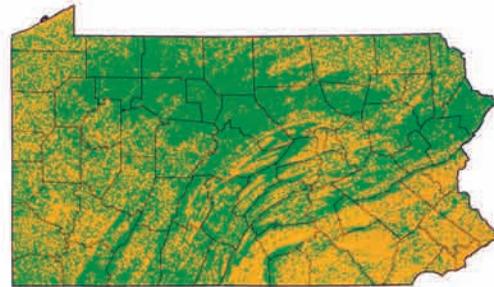


FOREST LAND BASE

Pennsylvania has had a stable forest land base for the past half century.

From colonial times to the early 1900's, agricultural land clearing and the nation's need for timber reduced Pennsylvania's forest cover to about 30 percent of the landbase. Since this time, forest land has increased steadily.

Today, Pennsylvania has 16.6 million acres of forest, covering 58 percent of the state's land area.



■ Forest Land ■ Nonforest Land

The total forested area in Pennsylvania remains essentially the same as in 1989. Although no significant net change in total area has occurred, there have been losses of acreage to development, agriculture and mining. These losses have been offset by agricultural and other lands naturally reverting back to forests.

Sawtimber Volume by Top Ten Species (billion board feet)



COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

Pennsylvania has one of the nation's largest concentrations of hardwood growing stock, with species such as red oak, black cherry, red and sugar maple, and poplar. Hardwoods account for about 90 percent of Pennsylvania's sawtimber volume.

The current sawtimber inventory is 89 billion board feet, the highest recorded since the inception of the U.S. Forest Service inventory. Sawtimber volume has increased 18 percent since 1989.

As a result of its industrial past, much of Pennsylvania's forests are even-aged (all trees in stand are generally the same age) and reaching a point of maturity. Pennsylvania's forests are predominately comprised of large, high-quality sawtimber trees. Since 1989, the state has more acres with stands of larger trees and fewer acres of stands of smaller trees.

Red maple, black cherry and northern red oak are the most prevalent species of sawtimber in the state. Statewide, the sawtimber volumes for all major species have increased since 1989.

Area of Forestland by Stand-Size (millions of acres)



FOREST OWNERSHIP

Pennsylvania's forests are predominately owned by private individuals and groups.

The largest share of Pennsylvania's forest is privately owned, accounting for more than 70 percent of the forested acres. There are over 530,000 private owners of forest in Pennsylvania.

Over one-half million families and individuals are forest owners, accounting for about 54 percent of Pennsylvania's forested acres. A majority of these owners own less than ten acres of forest. While only three percent of families own forest tracts of more than 100 acres, they represent 37 percent of the forest acres.

The reasons that families cite for owning their forests is diverse, including values such as aesthetics, privacy and family legacy. Twenty-three percent of families and individuals, who own 50 percent of the family forestland, have commercially harvested trees on their property since owning the land.

Only 3 percent of the forest is owned by either forest product companies or timber investment management organizations (TIMOs). The remaining private owners include corporate owners not engaged in forest product manufacturing and other organizations, such as clubs and land trusts.

Government owns nearly 30 percent of the state's forests. Public ownership of forest has increased by about 11 percent since 1989, primarily due to acquisitions by the Commonwealth. State ownership includes 2.1 million acres owned by the DCNR Bureau of Forestry and 1.5 million acres owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The 513,000 acres of the Allegheny National Forest comprises most of the federal forest ownership in Pennsylvania.

Forest Ownership in Pennsylvania

