

Wildlife and Our Forests



Hardwood harvesting produces diverse and unique habitats. Wildlife, its habitat and its food sources benefit from the additional sunlight that reaches the forest floor.

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

Our Forest Oversight

While timber harvesting helps regenerate the forest, regulation of harvesting and the forest product industry is largely conducted by state and national agencies.

In Pennsylvania, primary oversight 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.

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 the state gamelands.

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

Our Future

We can meet today's consumer demands and be assured of future supplies.

With active forest management, our forests will be there to provide future generations the materials they need for building and furnishing homes, reading books and newspapers, writing letters and making life more convenient. Forests will also be there for wildlife, recreational opportunities and to foster our air and water quality.

The current Forest Inventory and Analysis being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service reports that our forest volume is growing at a robust rate and there is more timber in Pennsylvania's forests than at anytime since the late 1800's.

In 1998, Pennsylvania's entire state forest system was certified as "well-managed" according to the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council, an internationally recognized group of environmental organizations and other interests. Pennsylvania's 2.1 million acres of state forest is the largest tract of FSC-certified hardwood forest in the nation and the state is a leading producer of FSC-certified lumber and other forests products made from this resource.

The forest products industry has a key stewardship role in the economic interests in protecting our forests for the future. The Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM (SFISM) program is a voluntary, industry-driven effort developed by the American Forest and Paper Association to promote comprehensive forestry and conservation practices. The SFISM of PA program conducts landowner education, logger training and public outreach to achieve:

- Sustainable forests for future generations,
- Continuous improvement in forest management practices,
- Healthy and productive forests,
- Protection of special sites, and
- Compliance with environmental law and regulation.

SFISM of PA is endorsed by leading forestry and conservation groups nationally, as well as the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Supporting Our Forest Products Industry

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The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA) represents all sectors of the forest products industry - from foresters and loggers to sawmills, furniture manufacturers, paper mills, other value-added processors and the equipment and service suppliers to these companies. Its sawmill membership accounts for about three-quarters of the lumber produced in Pennsylvania.

PFPA educates public officials and the general public on forest management issues and the impact of the industry on the state's economy. It also keeps the industry on the forefront concerning responsible forest management and the government rules.

PFPA produces the Pennsylvania Marketing Bulletin, the leading publication for information on state forest timber sales, and the marketing of forest products, equipment and services in the state.

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So important is the forest products industry to Pennsylvania's economy that the state created the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council (HDC). The HDC is the state office charged with the promotion, development and expansion of Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry.

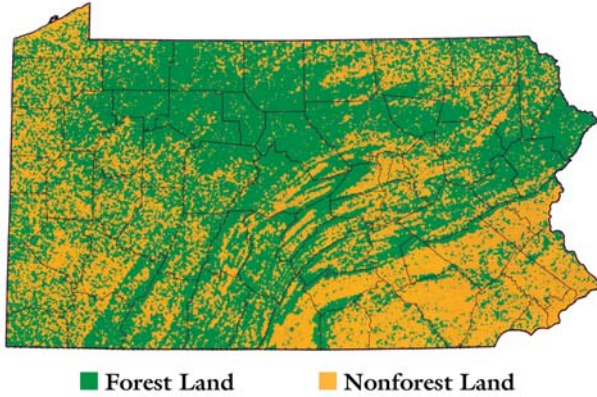
The HDC's goals include promoting and maintaining access to the timber resources on public and private land, developing domestic and international markets, promoting value-added wood processing and technologies, and educating the public about the importance of the forest products industry.

An advisory council that includes representatives of industry, government and development organizations guides the HDC on its objectives and activities.

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS AND YOU



Our Forests

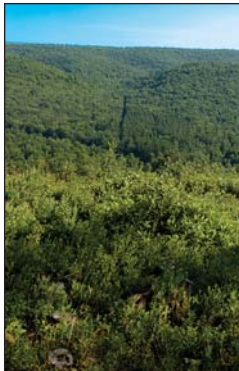


No matter where you live in Pennsylvania, you aren't far from a beautiful forest. And we enjoy more forestland today than we had a century ago when our state's population was just half of what it currently is.

More than half of Pennsylvania – about 17 million acres – is forest. Most of it is hardwood including stately red oak, beautiful black cherry, majestic red and sugar maple, walnut, hickory, and poplar to name just a few of the 70 tree species growing in Pennsylvania forests.

Our forests are increasing in size. According to the on-going federal Forest Inventory and Analysis, the volume of timber in the forest grew by over 20 percent in the past decade. These forests are growing at two times the rate that they are being harvested.

A majority of the forests in Pennsylvania are privately held, including about five percent owned by forest product companies. About 30 percent of the forests in the state are government owned.



Our Products

The average person uses and relies on hundreds of forest products everyday. Life wouldn't be the same without them.

Look around. Examples exist everywhere...your furniture, doors and cabinets...your paper products, books and newspapers...the walls surrounding you and the roof above your head.



Don't stop there. Look again. Adhesives, cosmetics, solvents, inks, deodorants, cork and shoe polish all have wood content. Even medicines, such as aspirin, began with a tree.

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 recycled into fuel for the manufacturing process or utilized in products such as paper and fiberboard.



Wood and paper consumer products are recyclable as well. Old newspapers can become cereal boxes. Even the interior of your car may contain recycled material.

Industry efficiency and community recycling save forest resources so that today's products – and many yet to be discovered – will be available in the decades to come.

Our Jobs and Business

The forest products industry is essential to Pennsylvania's economy.

Over 90,000 Pennsylvanians make a livelihood in the industry, employed as foresters, loggers and cabinetmakers - and working in sawmills, paper plants and furniture manufacturing facilities. Over ten percent of the state's manufacturing workforce is involved in the forest products industry.

From center city Philadelphia to the world famous black cherry forests of Northwestern Pennsylvania, you'll find a forest product processing and manufacturing operation nearby. The industry includes over 3,000 separate businesses and facilities in the state, with a presence in every county of the Commonwealth.

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 over 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 with hundreds of millions in revenue annually. And every dollar paid to a timber owner for trees ultimately generates, through manufacturing, more than \$17 worth of economic growth.

Revenue from Pennsylvania's forest products industry exceed \$5.5 billion annually.

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

Recreation and Our Forest

Forests also provide recreational opportunities and help to support local tourism. Hardwood harvesting can encourage these benefits. For example, logging paths provide access to the forest and can be used as trails for hikers, horseback riders, bikers and other enthusiasts. Harvesting also creates habitat and feed plots necessary to support certain popular game species.



Our Forest Health

Harvesting trees helps our forests flourish.

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

In most of our forestland, the trees are about the same age. Without active management, the trees get old and decline at about the same time. The forest becomes stagnant and decays.

Younger trees can't compete on a crowded forest floor. Harvesting some older trees offers room and sunlight so the young, healthy forest expands.

We also get more environmental benefit per acre for young trees which:

- Remove more carbon dioxide from the air;
- Produce more oxygen;
- Reduce pollution from rain by filtering out more nitrogen and phosphorous; and
- Provide unique habitat for certain birds and other species.