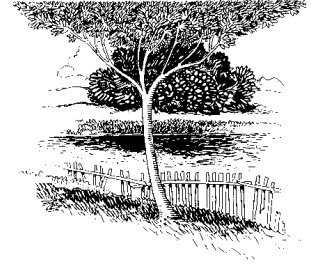


FOREST OWNERSHIP



Pennsylvania is unique in its forest ownership pattern, with more private forest landowners than any other state. Most of the 17 million acres of forestland in the state, almost 70 percent, is owned by non-industrial private landowners, and most have relatively small holdings:

- An estimated 512,000 private owners hold an average of 23 acres each, for a total of nearly 12 million acres.
- Over 30 percent of forest acreage is owned by some level of government. State forests, game lands and other state, county and municipal forest land equal nearly 3.6 million acres.
- Federal ownership, mostly in the form of the Allegheny National Forest, is over 500,000 acres.
- Private forest industry ownership accounts for less than 1 million acres.

Private forest landowners manage their resource for a variety of purposes, including financial gain, recreation, wildlife management and aesthetic values. Pennsylvania's timber industry obtains approximately 80 percent of its raw material needs from private forest landowners and is inextricably tied to the goals and desires of private land management. Helping landowners manage their forests for revenue as well as forest health and productivity is the primary goal of the industry.

Typically, forest resource professionals, either self-employed forestry consultants or foresters working for a sawmill, work one-on-one with private landowners to develop a timber harvest plan and negotiate a buying/selling price. Landowners may solicit several bids for the timber sale. Once the sale is made, logging crews, either independent contractors or sawmill employees, harvest the timber and deliver it to the mill.

Landowners also may use forestry professionals to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan for their resource. This investment is designed to help the landowner achieve his/her management goals and acts as a roadmap for future timber harvests.

Payments from industry to Pennsylvania landowners for their timber amounts to about \$380 million annually. For industrial and non-industrial private landowners, the ability to generate income from timber sales helps offset the taxes and other costs they incur in maintaining their land.

Several programs are available in Pennsylvania for landowner assistance, including:

- The Sustainable Forestry Initiativesm (SFIsm) is an industry-led comprehensive program of principles, guidelines, and performance measures that integrate the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, air, and water quality. The SFI of PA has been recognized by the state General Assembly and is supported by participating companies, the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council. The voluntary program features landowner outreach and education, promotion of landowner stewardship, logger training and promotion of Best Management Practices.

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- The federal Forest Stewardship program is administered in Pennsylvania by the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry to educate and encourage landowners to develop a comprehensive, long-term forest management plan for their land. To participate in Forest Stewardship, a landowner must hold at least five acres, agree to work with a resource manager, and develop a written plan for 10-year implementation. The Stewardship Incentive Program provides cost sharing assistance.
- The American Tree Farm System was established in 1941 to encourage private landowners to manage wood lots. The program requires a 10-acre minimum for participation.
- The Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the oldest state forestry organization in the country, holds meetings, tours and seminars, and administers the Tree Farm program in Pennsylvania.
- The Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry program offers community assistance.
- Environmental certification programs ("green" certification) offer independent auditing to determine conformance with a comprehensive set of standards that may include environmental, economic, public health and social criteria.

For information on logger and landowner education, contact:
Sustainable Forestry Initiative of PA
Toll-free: 888.734.9366
www.sfiopa.org