

New York's Forest Resources, 2009

Research Note NRS-101

This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for New York based on an annual inventory conducted by the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program at the Northern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service. These estimates, along with web-posted core tables, will be updated annually. For more information, please refer to page 4 of this report.

Table 1. – Annual estimates, uncertainty, and change

	Estimate 2009	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2007 (%)
Forest Land Estimates			
Area (1,000 acres)	18,964	0.7	0.1
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	12,141	1.3	-1.1
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	1,090,211	1.0	1.3
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	39,903	1.1	1.2
Annual net growth of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	720,768	4.2	NA*
Annual mortality of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	500,645	4.3	NA*
Annual harvest removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	339,775	10.4	NA*
Annual other removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	17,842	67.9	NA*
Timberland Estimates			
Area (1,000 acres)	15,874	0.8	0.0
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	9,781	1.5	-1.9
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	883,861	1.2	1.2
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	32,242	1.3	1.1
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	29,435	1.3	0.7
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	604,495	3.6	NA*
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	269,437	5.3	NA*
Annual harvest removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	276,279	10.4	NA*
Annual other removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	20,028	57.2	NA*

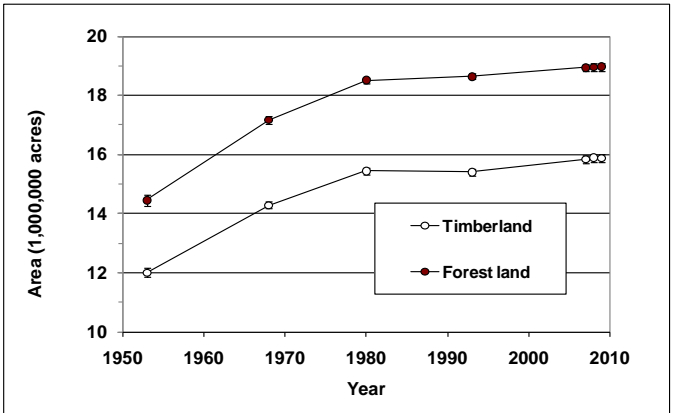


Figure 1. – Area of timberland and forest land by year.

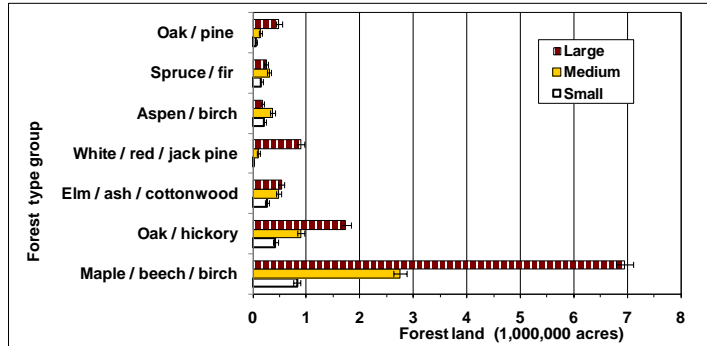


Figure 2. – Area of forest land area by top six forest type groups and stand size class, 2005-2009.

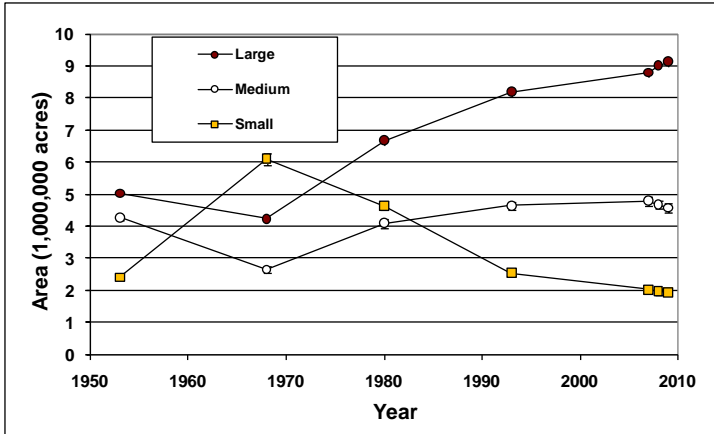


Figure 3. – Area of timberland by stand size class and year.

*Due to a change in data processing systems
 Note: When available, sampling errors/bars provided in figures and tables represent 68 percent confidence intervals.

Table 2. – Top 10 tree species by statewide volume estimates, 2005-2009

Rank	Species	Volume of live trees on forest land (1,000,000 ft ³)	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2007 (%)	Volume of sawtimber trees on timberland (1,000,000 bdf)	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2007 (%)
1	Red maple	6,247	2.7	1.0	11,533	4.2	0.5
2	Sugar maple	6,245	3.1	-0.1	12,914	4.6	1.0
3	Eastern white pine	3,012	5.7	-2.1	10,518	6.5	-1.2
4	Eastern hemlock	3,007	4.9	1.5	6,875	6.0	2.5
5	White ash	2,416	4.2	3.6	5,652	6.2	8.6
6	American beech	2,340	3.9	1.0	3,567	6.9	4.1
7	Northern red oak	2,104	5.5	6.6	7,293	6.6	9.3
8	Black cherry	2,074	5.0	1.4	5,498	6.9	0.3
9	Yellow birch	1,979	4.6	1.2	2,091	8.7	1.3
10	Red spruce	1,064	6.9	2.3	988	11.1	4.2
	Other softwoods	2,222	6.1	1.9	4,687	9.1	6.8
	Other hardwoods	7,194	2.7	0.9	18,177	4.3	5.7
	All Species	39,903	1.1	1.2	89,794	1.8	3.2

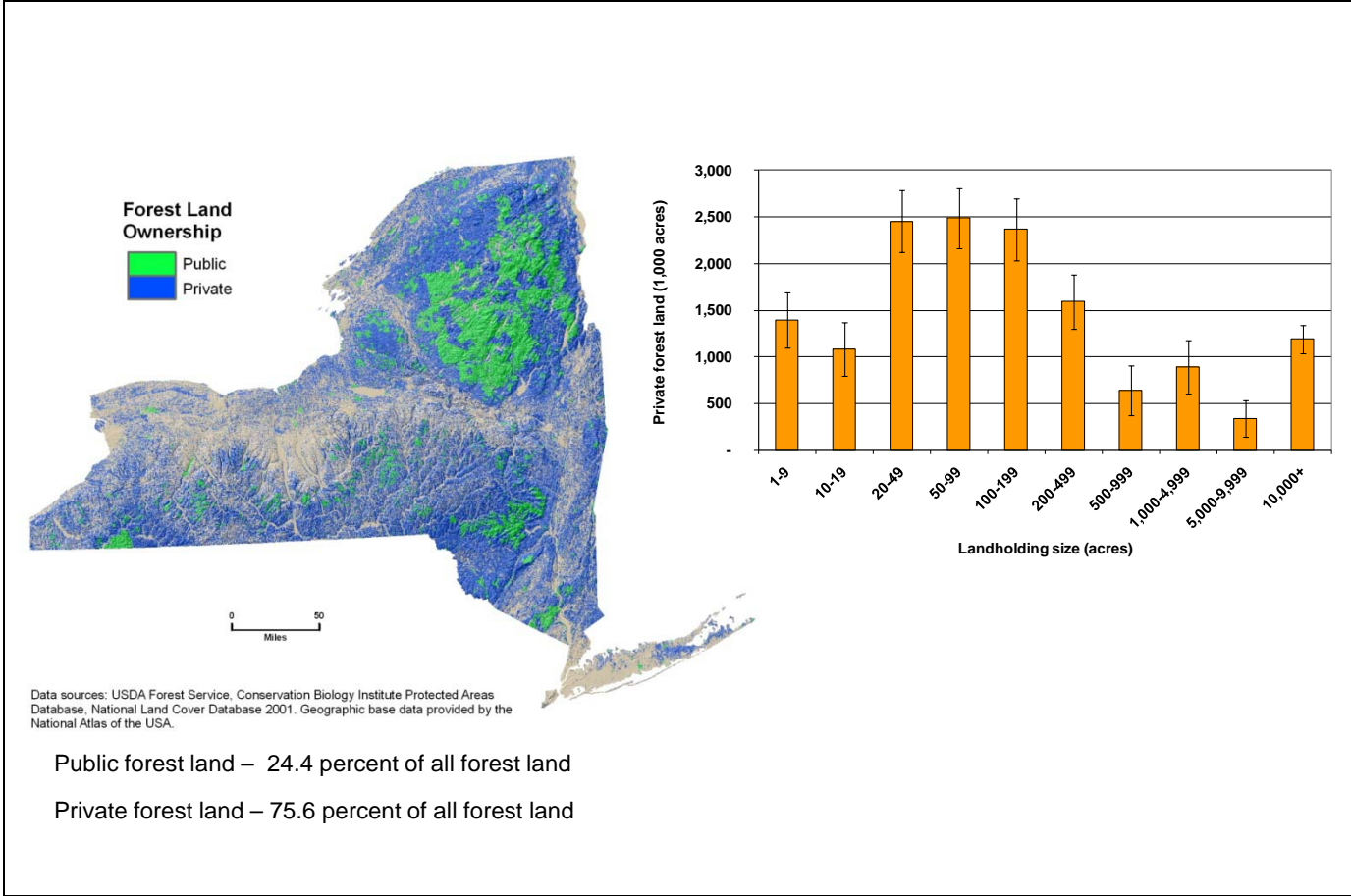


Figure 4. – Area of forest land by major owner group (2008) and size of private forest holding (2006).

Loss of Early Successional Habitat Continues

New York's forests have a variety of forest types and stand-size classes that provide diverse habitats for wildlife (Fig. 2). Over the last half century, New York's forests have continued to mature as shown by the steady increase in stands dominated by large diameter trees and loss in area of small diameter stands otherwise known as sapling/seedling stands (Fig. 3). Sapling/seedling size stands along with nonstocked* forest land provide early successional habitats. These young stands form a unique community that many wildlife species need for at least part of their life cycle. Because some wildlife species that are dependent upon these communities are declining, such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, and several neotropical migratory birds, resource managers have become concerned.

Declines in early successional habitats are not unique to New York and are occurring across the Northeastern States (Fig. 5 and 6). New York has a higher percentage of forest land in sapling/seedling size than many of its neighboring states, though in some areas of the State these stands are relatively rare, such as the Eastern Adirondacks and Lower Hudson/Catskill FIA units (Fig. 7). In New York, areas with large amounts of sapling/seedling stands correspond to the decline in agriculture and the subsequent reversion of this land to forest. Because the loss of farmland has slowed, declines in sapling/seedling class are likely to continue as more stands become dominated by large diameter trees.

To conserve ecosystem diversity, resource managers need to manage for early successional habitats at both local and regional scales. Besides offering diverse habitats, forests that contain all stand sizes can provide a steady flow of wood products and might be more resistant to devastating outbreaks of insects and diseases.

* Nonstocked forest land is a stand-size class of forest land that is stocked with less than 10 percent of minimum full stocking with live trees

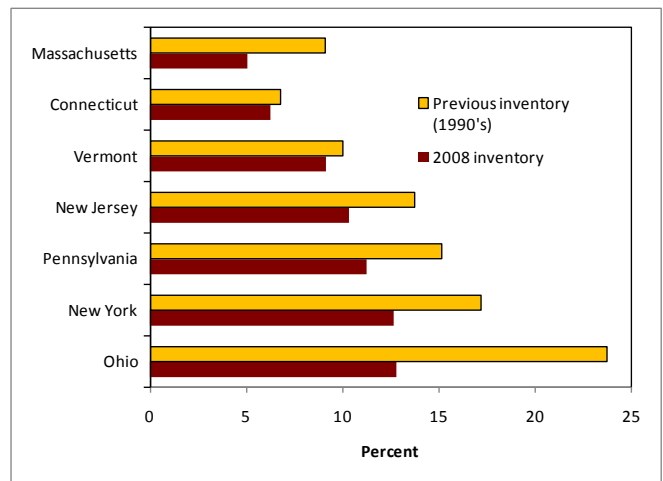


Figure 5. – Percentage of forest land area in the sapling/seedling / and nonstocked stand-size class, New York and neighboring states, 2008 and previous inventory (1990's).

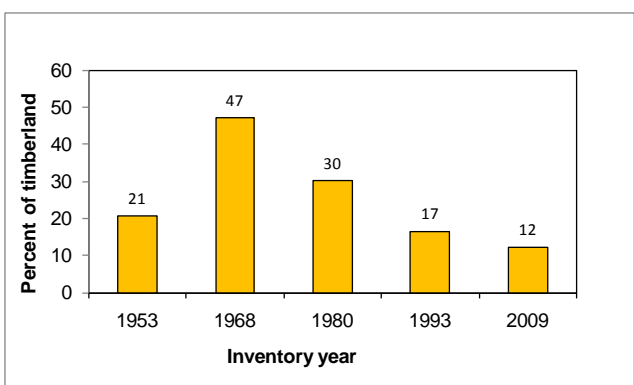


Figure 6. – Percentage of timberland in the sapling/seedling stand-size class by inventory year.

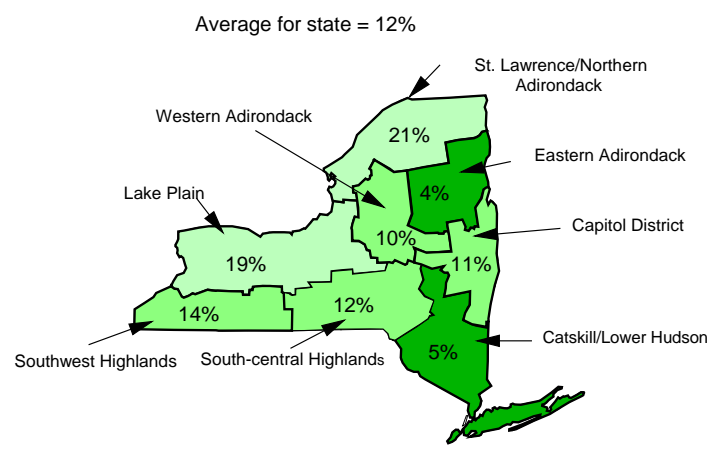


Figure 7. – Percentage of forest land in the sapling/seedling and nonstocked stand stand-size class by FIA unit, New York, 2008.

Citation for this Publication

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FIA Program Information

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Additional New York Inventory Information

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Estimates, tabular data, and maps from report may be generated at: www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data

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