



Rhode Island's Forest Resources, 2006

Research Note NRS-14

This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for Rhode Island based on an annual inventory conducted by the Forest Inventory and Analysis 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 regarding past inventory reports for Rhode Island, inventory program information, and sampling/estimation procedures, please refer to the citations at the end of this report.

Table 1.—Annual estimates, uncertainty, and change

	Estimate	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2005 (%)
Forest land estimates			
Area (1,000 acres)	365	4.5	2.5
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	181	10.0	-1.4
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	24,202	6.2	0.4
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	700	7.2	5.3
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	659	7.7	3.2
Annual net growth of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	22,443	10.6	NA
Annual mortality of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	2,290	31.4	NA
Annual removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	4,687	50.1	NA
Timberland estimates			
Area (1,000 acres)	361	4.6	2.8
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	180	10.1	-1.3
Biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	23,970	6.3	0.7
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	696	7.3	5.5
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	657	7.8	3.3
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	20,915	13.4	NA
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	1,731	35.8	NA
Annual removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	3,849	54.5	NA

NA - not available

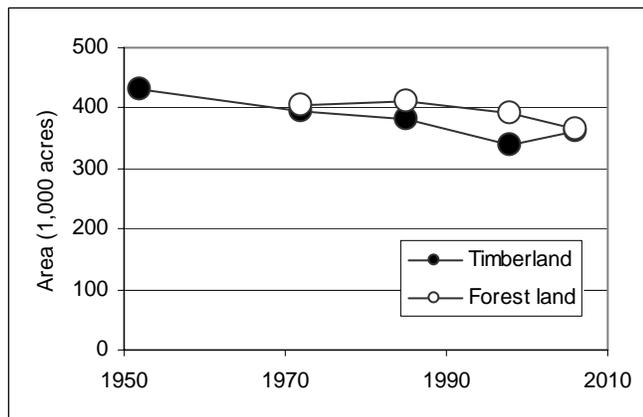


Figure 1.—Area of timberland and forest land by year.

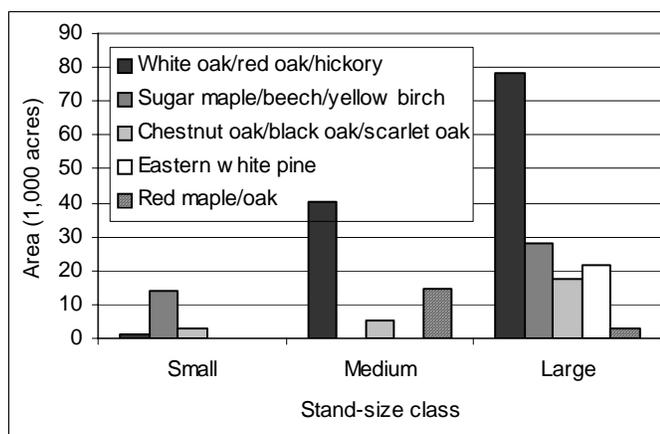


Figure 2.—Area of timberland of top five forest types by stand-size class.



Table 2.—Top 10 species by statewide volume estimates

Rank	Species	Volume of live trees on timberland (1,000,000 ft ³)	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2005 (%)	Volume of sawtimber trees on timberland (1,000,000 bdf)	Sampling error (%)	Change since 2005 (%)
1	Red maple	153.5	12.6	18.4	239.6	20.9	2.70
2	Eastern white pine	131.2	28.7	32.9	515.8	31.4	38.30
3	Northern red oak	92.8	18.8	-4.0	276.8	20.5	-4.50
4	Black oak	63.6	19.7	-7.6	189.0	22.3	-5.50
5	Scarlet oak	54.5	18.6	4.4	127.0	22.2	8.00
6	White oak	48.5	19.8	3.0	133.0	24.9	5.00
7	Pitch pine	23.7	49.6	-15.1	79.3	56.3	-20.40
8	Sweet birch	20.9	34.7	-21.7	37.3	46.4	-18.60
9	White ash	16.8	32.6	6.3	41.0	44.5	10.80
10	Blackgum	11.8	41.2	4.4	30.7	55.3	1.00
	Other softwood species	16.8	44.7	320.0	34.9	57.9	1,242.3
	Other hardwood species	61.8	14.3	135.9	134.8	17.7	130.4
	All species	696.0	7.3	5.5	1,839.1	11.0	5.8

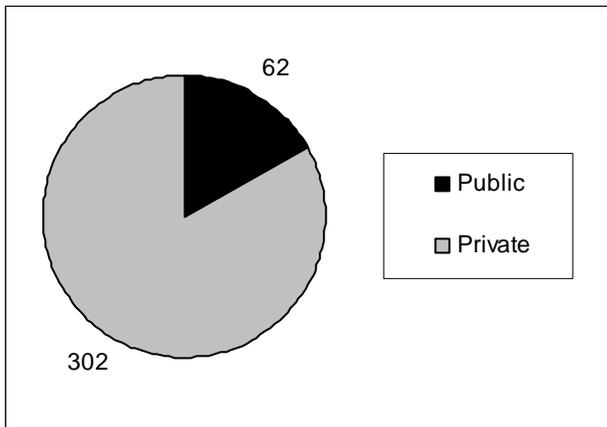


Figure 3.—Area of forest land (1,000 acres) by ownership group.

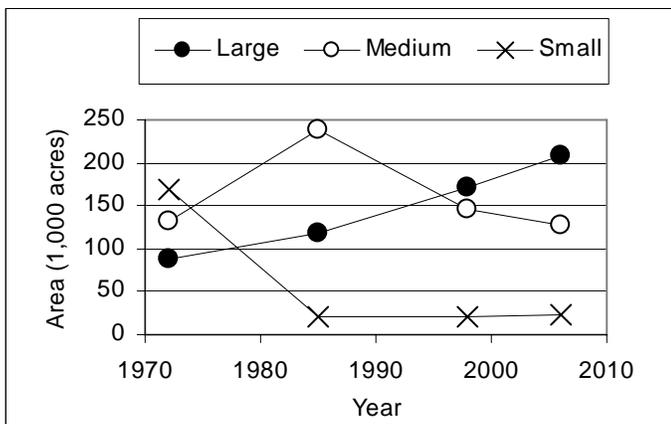


Figure 4.—Area of timberland by stand-size class and year.



Rhode Island Issue Update – Land Use Changes

Forest land covers 55 percent of Rhode Island (Fig. 5). The area of forest land in Rhode Island has decreased from 404,000 acres in 1972 to 365,000 acres in 2006 (Fig. 1). This is a 10 percent net reduction in the area of forest land. Forest loss will continue to be one of the major issues facing the forests of Rhode Island for the foreseeable future.

These net changes represent only part of the land-use change story. Between 1998 and 2006, 54,000 acres of forest land were lost to residential, commercial, and other developed uses; another 27,000 acres were converted to other uses, such as rights-of-way and recreational fields (Fig. 6). During this period, no FIA plots in Rhode Island reverted to forest and no forested plots were converted to agricultural uses.

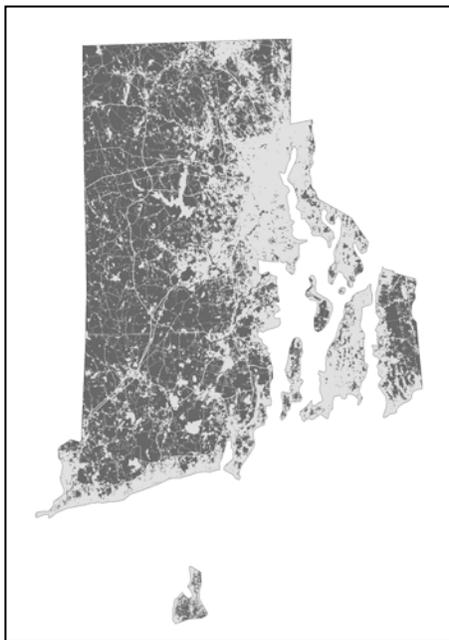


Figure 5.—Forest land distribution

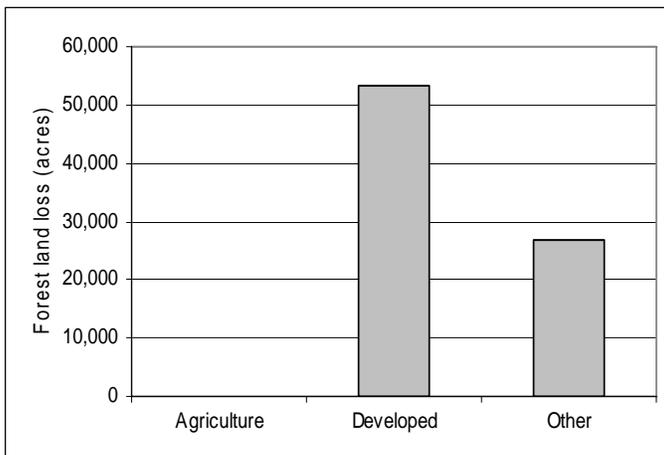


Figure 6.—Estimated area of forest land lost between 1998 and 2006 by current land use



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FIA Program Information

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Additional Rhode Island Inventory Information

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