

Connecticut's Forest Resources, 2008

Research Note NRS-45

This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for Connecticut based on an annual inventory (2004-2008) 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 the last page of this report.

Table 1. – Annual estimates, uncertainty, and change, 2004-2008.

	Estimate	Sampling error (%)
Forest Land Estimates		
Area (1,000 acres)	1,724	2.6
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	795	5.0
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	119,856	3.4
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	4,127	3.6
Annual net growth of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	70,106	24.9
Annual mortality of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	42,612	33.4
Annual removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	69,645	52.9
Timberland Estimates		
Area (1,000 acres)	1,689	2.7
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	783	5.1
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	118,951	3.4
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	4,097	3.6
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	3,793	3.8
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	79,165	24.3
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	32,196	35.5
Annual removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	53,742	58.2

Note: When available, sampling errors/bars provided in figures and tables represent 68 percent confidence intervals

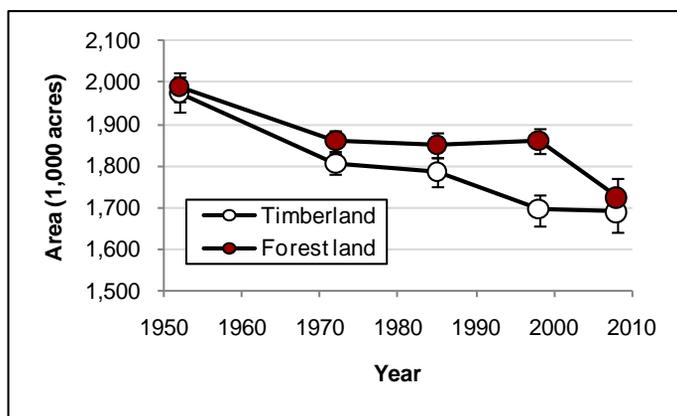


Figure 1. – Area of timberland and forest land by year.

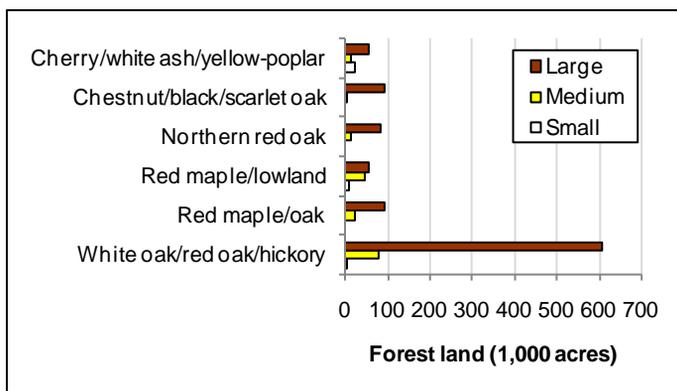


Figure 2. – Area of forest land by top six forest types and stand size class, 2004-2008.

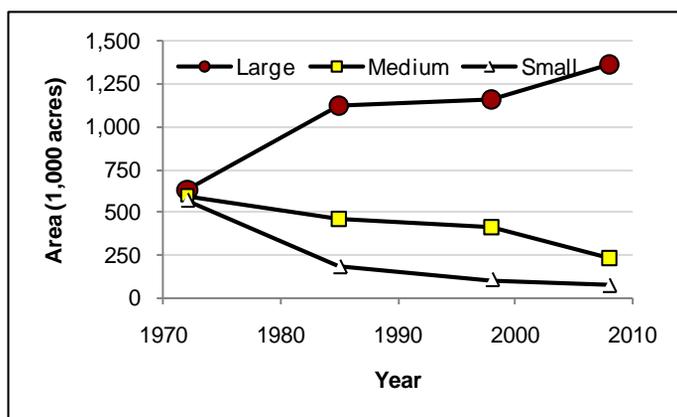


Figure 3. – Area of timberland by stand size class and year.



Table 2. – Top 10 tree species by statewide volume estimates, 2004-2008

Rank	Species	Volume of live trees on forest land (1,000,000 ft ³)	Sampling Error (%)	Volume of sawtimber trees on timberland (1,000,000 bdf)	Sampling error (%)
1	Red maple	876	8.6	2,268	11.7
2	Northern red oak	580	10.0	2,229	10.7
3	Eastern white pine	350	21.7	1,533	24.6
4	Black oak	301	13.7	1,195	15.2
5	Sweet birch	284	9.8	635	14.3
6	White oak	282	10.7	1,004	13.1
7	Eastern hemlock	198	17.9	552	20.3
8	White ash	192	16.4	664	20.9
9	Sugar maple	170	16.8	527	22.5
10	Scarlet oak	166	14.7	548	15.9
	Other softwoods	28	40.5	72	61.2
	Other hardwoods	700	8.0	2,144	11.7
	All Species	4,127	3.6	13,370	4.7

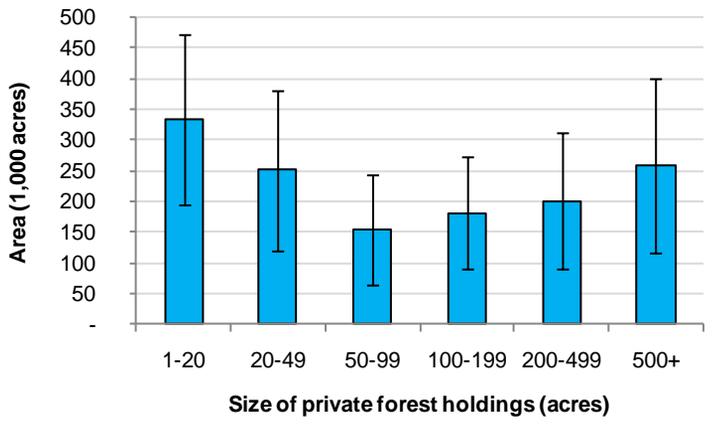
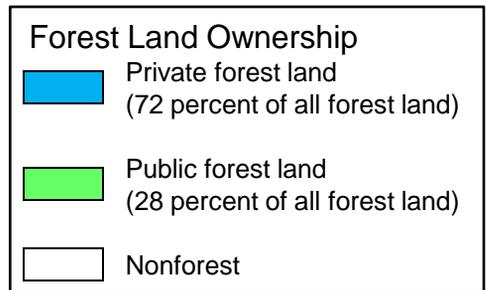
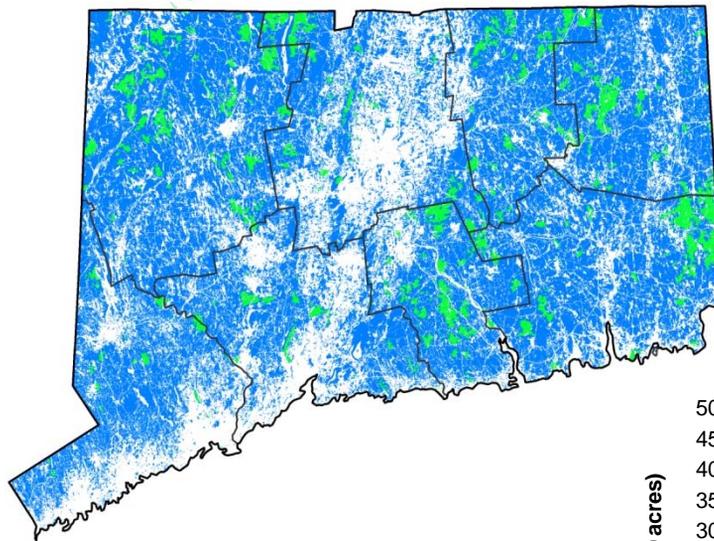


Figure 4. – Area of forest land by major owner group and size of private forest landholding, 2002-2006.

Family Forest Owners of Southern New England*

Most of the forests in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island are privately owned and of this private forest land, most is owned by families and individuals. There are an estimated 428,000 family forest owners in southern New England who own a total of 2.8 million acres of forest land or 52 percent of the region's total forested area. Along with an inventory of the biophysical characteristics of the forest, the U.S. Forest Service conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS; 2002-2006) to characterize the people who own these resources. The NWOS collects data on forest holding characteristics, ownership histories, ownership objectives, forest uses, forest management practices, preferred methods for receiving information, concerns, future intentions, and demographics. Below are some of the key findings for this region. Data are combined for Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island due to the relatively small, statewide sample sizes. For additional information about family forest owners, see Butler (2008) or visit www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos.

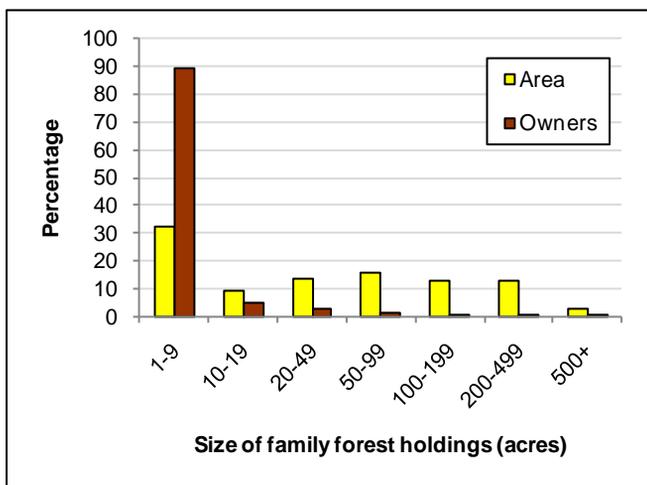


Figure 5. – Area and number of family forests in southern New England by size of forest landholdings, 2002-2006.

Demographics (2002-2006)

- Age
 - 13% are <45 years old
 - 64% are between 45 and 64
 - 23% are 65 or older
- Education
 - 54% have a college degree
- Annual Household Income
 - 27% < \$50,000
 - 41% \$50,000 to \$99,999
 - 32% \$100,000 or more

Ownership Characteristics (2002-2006)

- New owners – 19% have purchased their forest land within last 10 years
- Absentee owners – 8% do not live on or near (within 1 mile) their land
- Farmers – 4% have a farm associated with their forest land

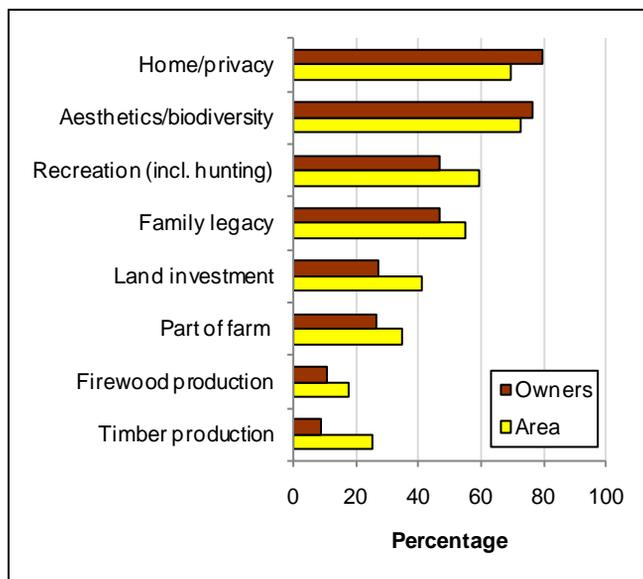


Figure 6. – Area and number of family forests in southern New England by reason for owning forest land, 2002-2006. Numbers include landowners who ranked each objective as very important (1) or important (2) on a seven-point Likert scale.

Citation for this Publication

Butler, Brett J.; Martin, Christopher; O'Connell, Barbara. 2010. Connecticut's forest resources, 2008. Res. Note NRS-45. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 4 p.

FIA Program Information

Bechtold, W.A.; Patterson, P.L. 2005. The enhanced forest inventory and analysis program: national sampling design and estimation procedures. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-80. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 85 p.

Smith, W.B. 2002. Forest inventory and analysis: a national inventory and monitoring program. Environmental Pollution. 116: 233-242.

USDA Forest Service. 2005. Forest inventory and analysis national core field guide, Vol. 1, field data collection procedures for phase 2 plots, Ver. 3.0. Available at <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/field-guides-methods-proc/> (verified Aug. 1, 2008).

Special Issue Citation

Butler, Brett J. 2008. Family forest owners of the United States, 2006. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 72 p.

Additional Connecticut Inventory Information

Alerich, Carol L. 2000. Forest statistics for Connecticut: 1985 and 1998. Resour. Bull. NE-147. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 104 p.

Dickson, David R.; Bowers, Theresa M. 1976. Forest statistics for Connecticut. Resour. Bull. NE-44. Upper Darby, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. 40 p.

Dickson, David R.; McAfee, Carol L. 1988. Forest statistics for Connecticut – 1972 and 1985. Resour. Bull. NE-105. Broomall, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. 102 p.

Griswold, Norman B.; Ferguson, Roland H. 1957. The timber resources of Connecticut. Upper Darby, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. 36 p.

Wharton, Eric H.; Widmann, Richard H.; Alerich, Carol L.; Barnett, Charles H.; Lister, Andrew J.; Lister, Tonya W.; Smith, Don; Borman, Fred. 2004. The forests of Connecticut. Resour. Bull. NE-160. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 35 p.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Chuck Barnett, Mark Hansen, Ted Goodnight, Dacia Meneguzzo, and Bryan Tirrell for contributing to this report. We are also grateful to Steve Broderick and Jeff Ward for reviewing earlier drafts of this report.

Contact Information

Lead Analyst: Brett Butler, (413) 545-1387, bbutler01@fs.fed.us

Data Processing/Access: Barbara O'Connell, (610) 557-4037, boconnell@fs.fed.us

Estimates, tabular data, and maps from this report may be generated at: www.fiatools.fs.fed.us

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.