

Rhode Island's Forest Resources, 2008

Research Note NRS-49

This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for Rhode Island 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)	348	4.1
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	174	8.1
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	21,985	5.2
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	786	6.0
Annual net growth of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	16,807	30.5
Annual mortality of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	6,819	33.2
Annual removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	682	98.9
Timberland Estimates		
Area (1,000 acres)	341	4.2
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	172	8.2
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	21,633	5.3
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	773	6.2
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	712	6.7
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	18,836	27.3
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	4,907	40.4
Annual removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	599	98.9

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

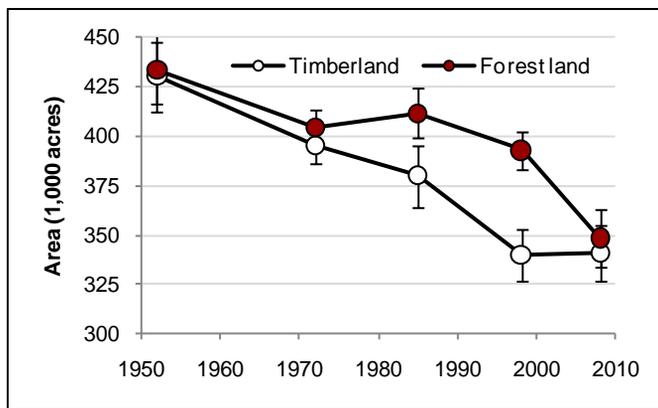


Figure 1. – Area of timberland and forest land by year.

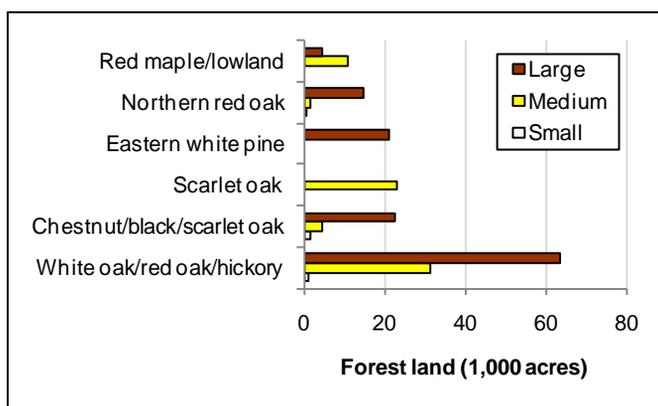


Figure 2. – Area of forest land by top six forest types and stand size class, 2004-2008.

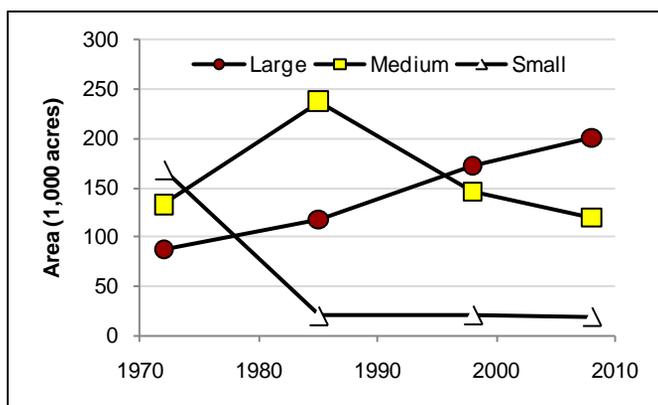


Figure 3. – Area of timberland by stand size class and year.



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	196	12.1	359	19.0
2	Eastern white pine	144	23.1	637	24.7
3	Black oak	85	18.1	294	20.7
4	Northern red oak	84	17.7	279	23.7
5	Scarlet oak	72	17.7	166	19.3
6	White oak	55	16.1	178	21.5
7	Pitch pine	21	47.7	68	56.4
8	Sweet birch	17	30.8	21	51.7
9	Atlantic white-cedar	15	88.6	35	91.9
10	Eastern hemlock	12	49.8	38	54.3
	Other softwoods	3	80.4	3	95.6
	Other hardwoods	83	13.8	183	20.4
	All Species	786	6.0	2,260	9.2

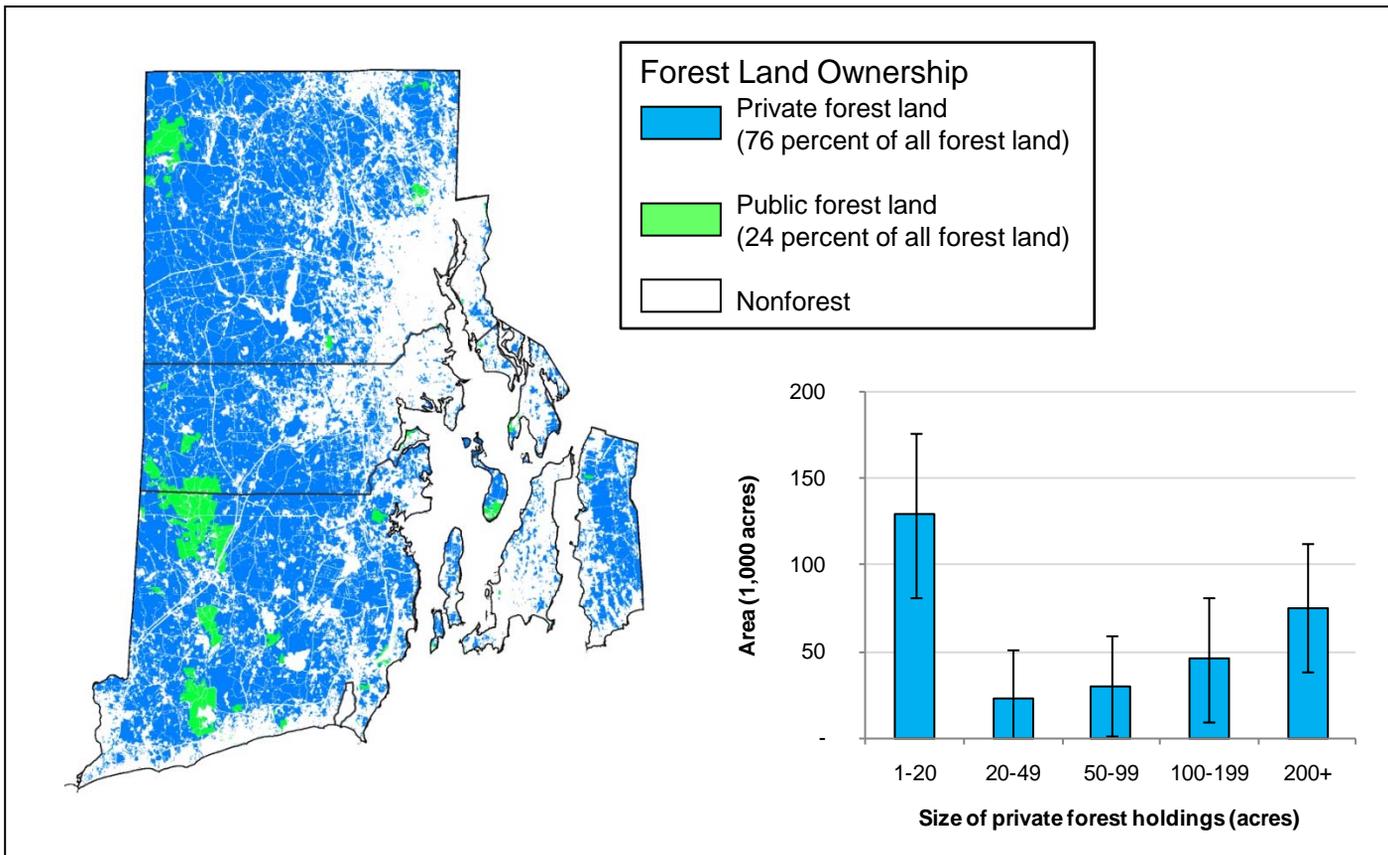


Figure 4. – Area of forest land by major owner group and size of private forest landholding, 2002-2006.

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.

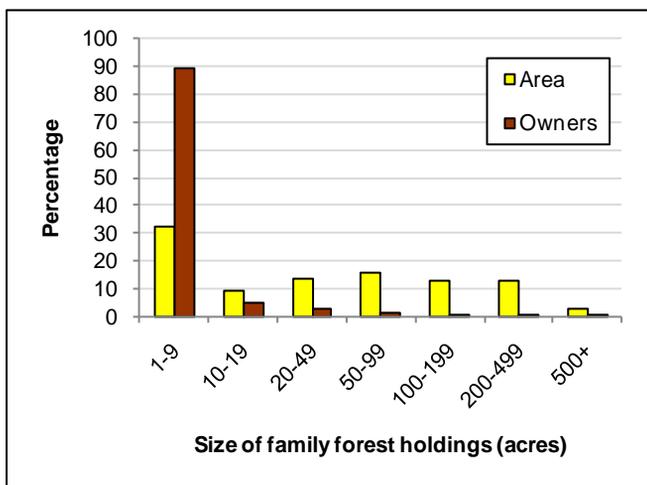


Figure 5. – Area and number of family forests in southern New England by size of forest landholdings, 2002-2006.

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

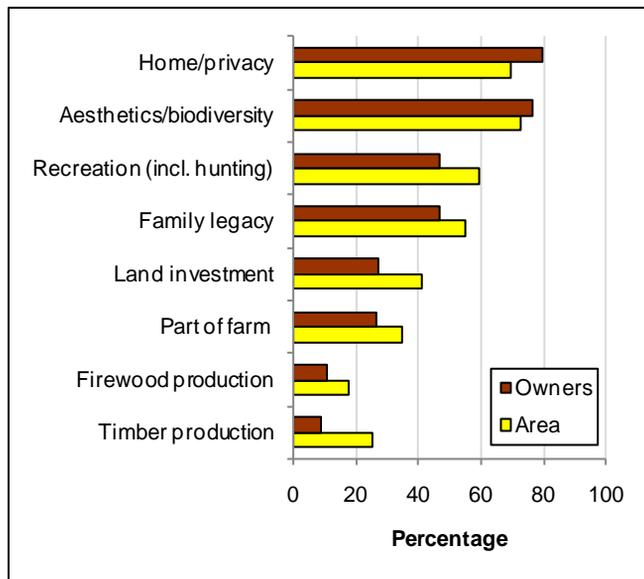


Figure 6. – Area and number of family forests in southern New England by reason for owning forest land, 2002-2006. Numbers include landowners who ranked each objective as very important (1) or important (2) on a seven-point Likert scale.

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FIA Program Information

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Additional Rhode Island Inventory Information

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

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