

West Virginia's Forest Resources, 2008

Research Note NRS-61

This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for West Virginia 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 and uncertainty

	Estimate 2008	Sampling error (%)
Forest Land Estimates		
Area (1,000 acres)	11,974	0.7
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	6,196	1.6
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	785,478	1.1
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	27,102	1.2
Annual net growth of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	697,512	2.4
Annual mortality of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	225,715	4.5
Annual harvest removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	336,536	8.5
Annual other removals of live trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	14,283	27.0
Timberland Estimates		
Area (1,000 acres)	11,721	0.7
Number of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (million trees)	6,065	1.7
Dry biomass of live trees 1-inch diameter or larger (1,000 tons)	766,234	1.2
Net volume in live trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	26,408	1.3
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft ³)	25,037	1.3
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	609,306	2.4
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	168,603	4.5
Annual harvest removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	286,179	8.6
Annual other removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft ³ /year)	35,537	26.2

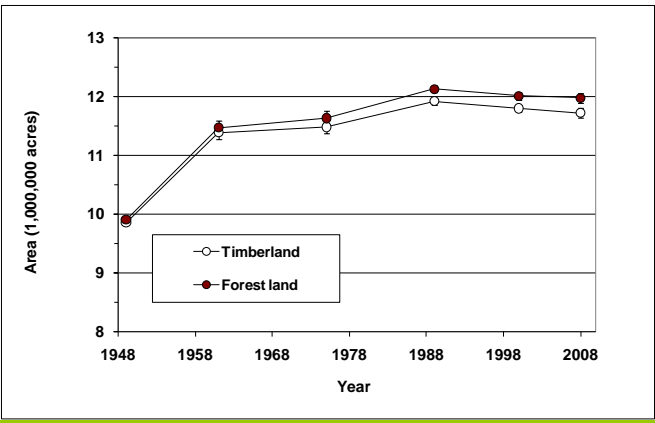


Figure 1. – Area of timberland and forest land by year.

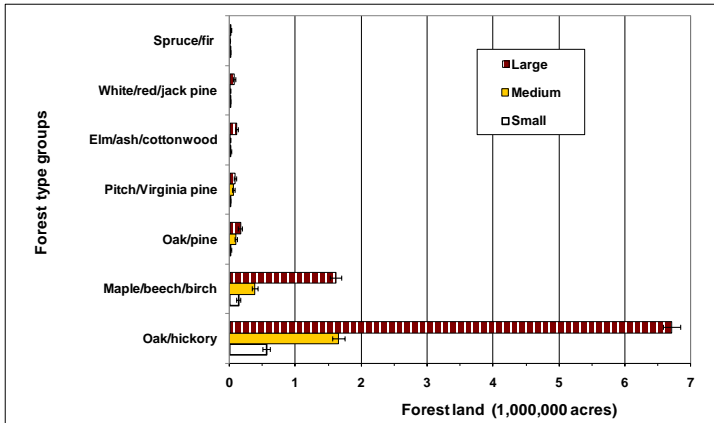


Figure 2. – Area of forest land area by top seven forest type groups and stand size class, 2004-2008.

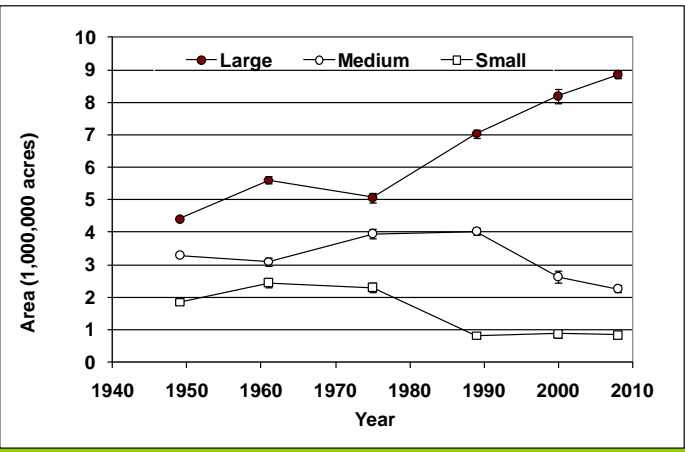


Figure 3. – Area of timberland by stand size class and year.

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, 2004-2008

Rank	Species	Volume of live trees on forest land (1,000,000 ft ³)	Sampling Error (%)	Proportion of total live tree volume (%)	Volume of sawtimber trees on timberland (1,000,000 bdf)	Sampling error (%)	Proportion of total sawtimber volume (%)
1	Yellow-poplar	3,896	4.1	14.4	15,729	4.8	17.9
2	Red maple	2,441	3.8	9.0	5,823	5.5	6.6
3	Chestnut oak	2,408	4.4	8.9	7,609	5.2	8.7
4	White oak	2,349	4.2	8.7	8,535	5.0	9.7
5	Northern red oak	2,140	5.0	7.9	9,160	6.0	10.4
6	Sugar maple	1,893	4.5	7.0	5,157	6.5	5.9
7	Black oak	1,248	5.7	4.6	5,030	6.9	5.7
8	American beech	1,062	6.2	3.9	3,460	8.4	3.9
9	Black cherry	1,023	8.0	3.8	3,267	10.7	3.7
10	American basswood	798	8.6	2.9	3,143	10.0	3.6
	Other softwoods	1,414	6.2	5.2	4,171	7.9	4.7
	Other hardwoods	6,430	2.1	23.7	16,842	3.1	19.2
	All Species	27,102	1.2	100.0	87,926	1.7	100.0

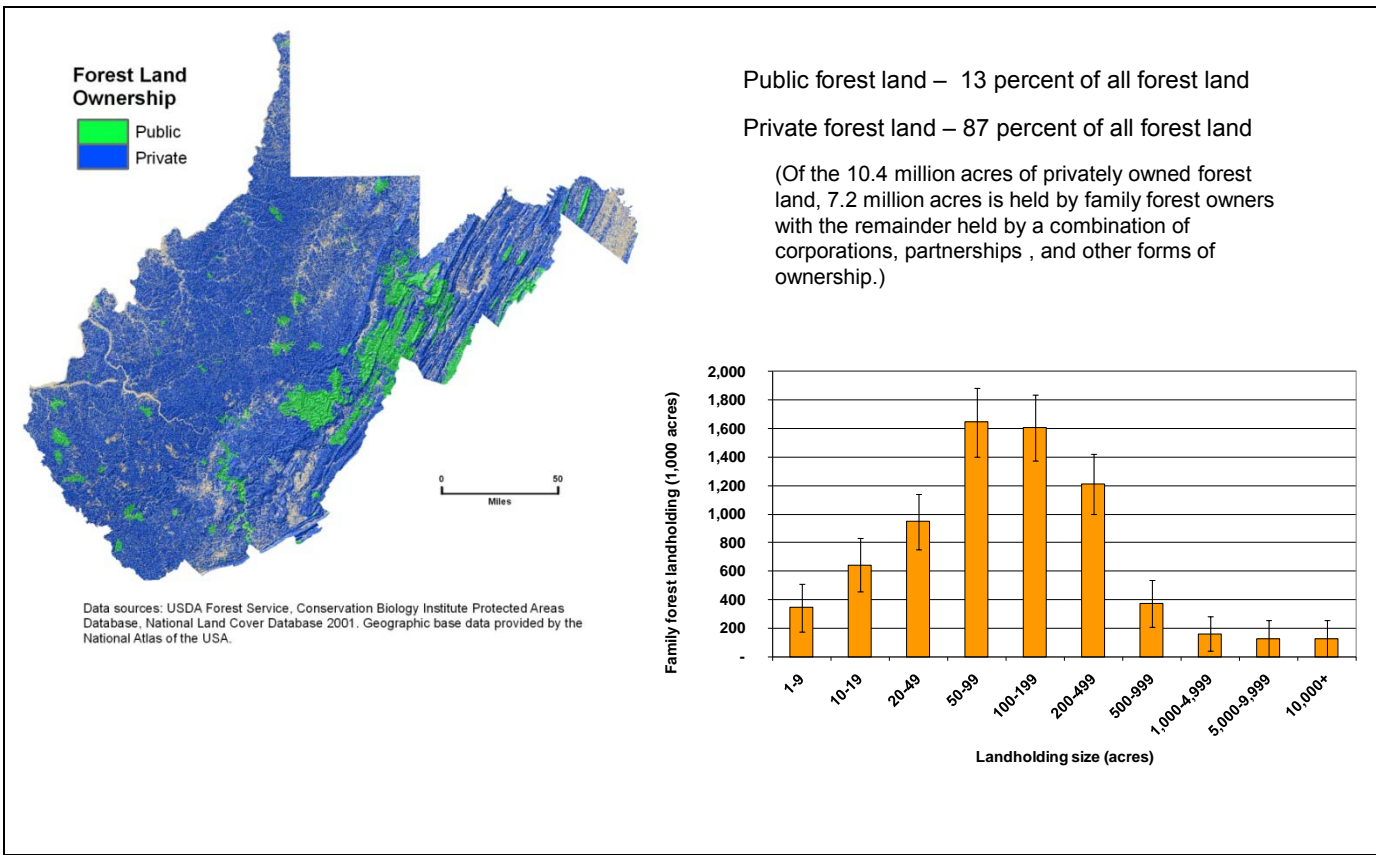


Figure 4. – Area of forest land by major owner group (2008) and size of private family forest landholding (2006).

West Virginia's Family Forest Owners

Most of West Virginia's forests are privately owned (Fig. 4) and of this private forest land, most is owned by families and individuals. There are an estimated 243,000 family forest owners in West Virginia who own a total of 7 million acres of forest land or 60 percent of the State'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) 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 West Virginia. For additional information about West Virginia's family forest owners, see Butler (2008) or visit www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos.

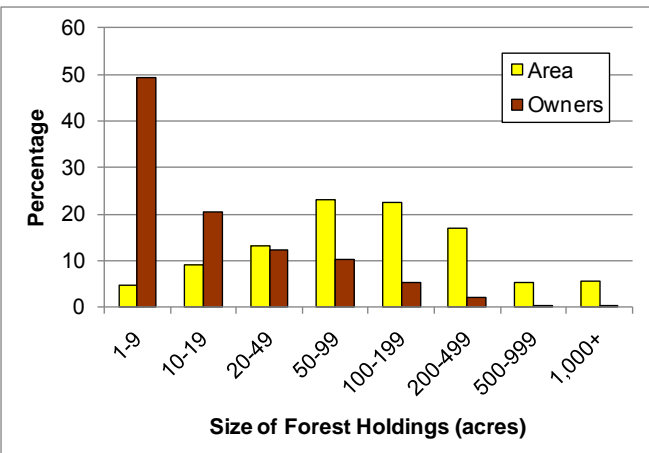


Figure 5. – Area and number of family forests in West Virginia by size of forest landholdings (2006).

Ownership

- **New Owners**
20% have purchased their forestland within last 10 years
- **Absentee Owners**
30% do not live on or near (within 1 mile) their land
- **Farmers**
15% have a farm associated with their forestland

Demographics

- **Age**
5% are <45 years old
75% are between 45 and 64
20% are 65 or older
- **Education**
12% have a college degree
- **Annual Household Income**
67% under \$50,000
24 % \$50,000 to \$99,999
9% \$100,000 or more

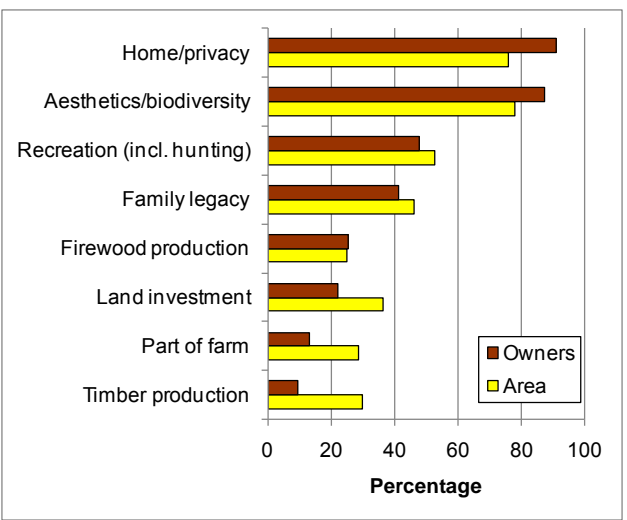


Figure 6. – Area and number of family forests in West Virginia by reason for owning forest land (2006). Numbers include landowners who ranked each objective as very important (1) or important (2) on a seven-point Likert scale.

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FIA Program Information

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.

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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).

Additional Information

Butler, B.J. 2008. Family forest owners of the United States, 2006. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-27. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station 73 p.

Additional West Virginia Inventory Information

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DiGiovanni, D.M. 1990. Forest statistics for West Virginia—1975 and 1989. Resour. Bull. NE-114. Radnor, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 172 p.

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