

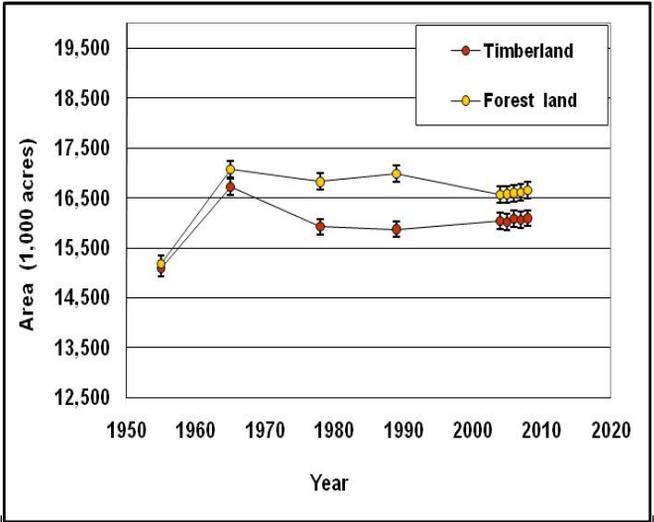
Pennsylvania's Forest Resources, 2008

Research Note NRS-89

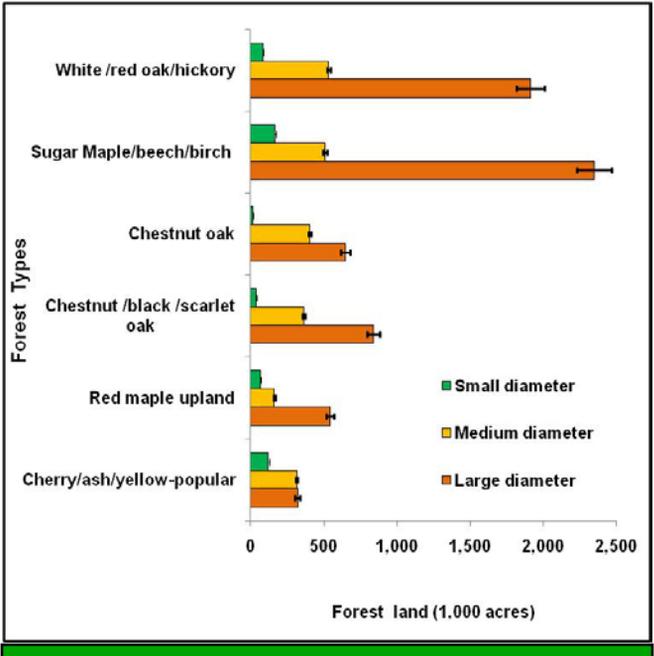
This publication provides an overview of forest resource attributes for Pennsylvania based on an annual inventory conducted by the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program at the Northern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service. These annual estimates, along with web-posted core tables, will be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

**Table 1. - Annual estimates, uncertainty, and change.**

	Estimate (2008)	Sampling error (%)	Change(%) since 2004
<b>Forest Land Estimates</b>			
Area (1,000 acres)	16,652	0.7	0.5
Number of live trees > 1-inch diameter (million trees)	8,349	1.7	-1.3
Dry biomass of live trees > 1-inch diameter (1,000 tons)	1,014,815	1.0	4.5
Net volume of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000,000 ft <sup>3</sup> )	35,388	1.1	4.8
Annual net growth of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	854,459	3.0	N/A
Annual mortality of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	325,704	4.6	N/A
Harvest removals of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	426,564	7.9	N/A
Other removals of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	21,720	43.2	N/A
<b>Timberland Estimates</b>			
Area (1,000 acres)	16,097	0.8	0.4
Number of growing-stock trees > 5-inch diameter (million trees)	6,933	1.8	-5.0
Dry Biomass of live trees > 1-inch diameter (1,000 tons)	979,986	1.1	4.2
Net volume of live trees > 5-inch diameter (1,000,000 ft <sup>3</sup> )	34,160	1.2	4.4
Net volume of growing-stock trees (1,000,000 ft <sup>3</sup> )	32,026	1.2	3.6
Annual net growth of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	742,597	2.7	N/A
Annual mortality of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	237,388	5.1	N/A
Harvest removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	360,157	7.9	N/A
Other removals of growing-stock trees (1,000 ft <sup>3</sup> /year)	53,900	30.7	N/A



**Figure 1. - Area of forest land and timberland by year.**

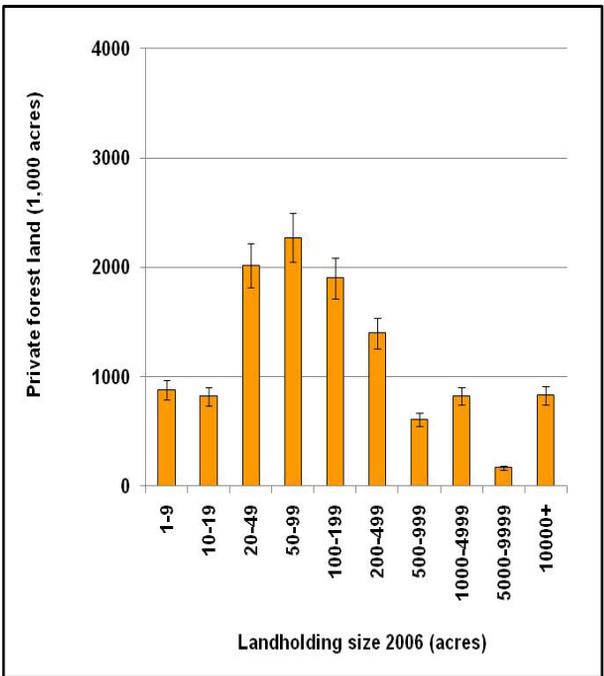
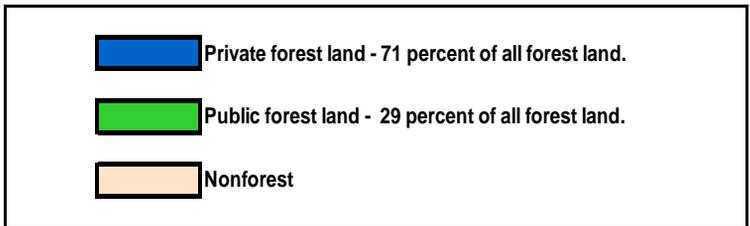
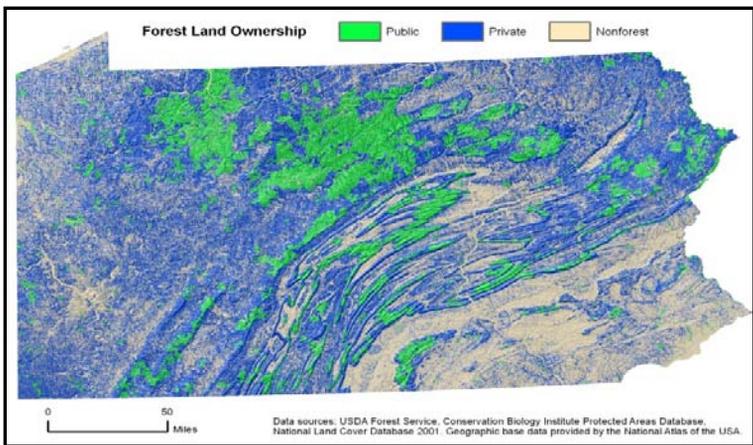


**Figure 2. - Area of forest land of the top six forest types/by stand-size class.**

Note: When available, sampling errors/bars provided in Figures and Tables represent 68 percent confidence interval.

**Table 2. - Top 10 species by statewide volume estimates 2008.**

Rank	Species	Volume of live trees on forest land (1,000,000 ft <sup>3</sup> )	Sampling error (%)	Change (%) since 2004	Volume of sawtimber trees on timberland (1,000,000 bdf <sup>t</sup> )	Sampling error (%)	Change (%) since 2004
1	Red maple	6,572	2.6	5.6	15,632	3.8	11.2
2	Black cherry	3,602	4.0	2.1	11,138	5.3	2.4
3	Northern red oak	3,446	3.9	8.8	13,249	4.7	10.4
4	Chestnut oak	2,670	4.1	8.3	7,040	4.9	14.4
5	Sugar maple	2,545	4.8	1.6	7,206	6.1	4.5
6	Eastern hemlock	1,752	5.9	1.6	4,901	6.9	2.9
7	White ash	1,722	5.2	6.9	5,318	7.0	9.6
8	White oak	1,648	5.1	2.0	5,369	6.6	4.7
9	Yellow-poplar	1,598	7.6	12.0	6,612	8.8	16.6
10	Sweet birch	1,462	4.7	5.1	2,729	6.6	10.8
	Other hardwoods	6,797	2.4	1.6	18,077	3.4	6.1
	Other softwoods	1,574	6.6	10.2	4,990	7.6	14.6
	<b>All species</b>	<b>35,388</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>102,261</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>

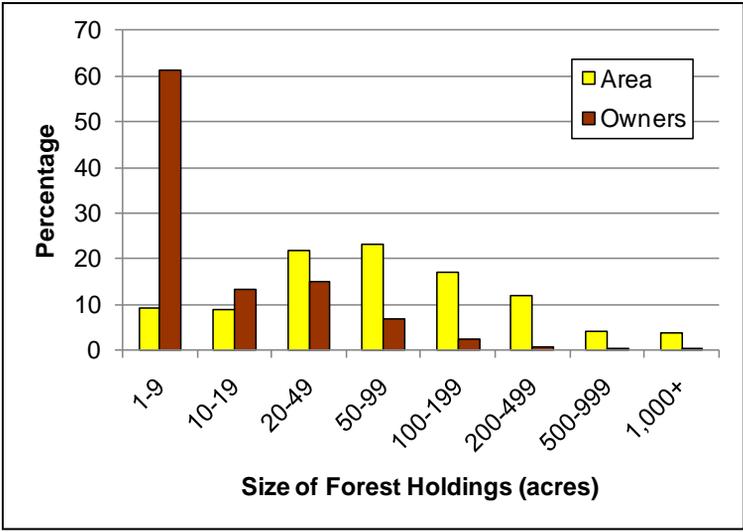


**Figure 3. - Area of forest land by major owner group (2007) and size of family forest landholding (2006).**



# Pennsylvania's Family Forest Owners

Most of Pennsylvania's forests are privately owned (Fig. 4) and of this private forest land, most is owned by families and individuals. There are an estimated 469,000 family forest owners in Pennsylvania who own a total of 8.9 million acres of forest land or 54 percent of the State's total forested area. Along with an inventory of the biophysical characteristics of the forest, the USDA Forest Service conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) to assess the forest holding characteristics, ownership histories, ownership objectives, forest uses, forest management practices, preferred methods for receiving information, concerns, future intentions, and demographics of the people who own forest resources. Below are some of the key findings for Pennsylvania. For additional information about Pennsylvania's family forest owners, see Butler (2008) or visit [www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos).



**Figure 5. - Area by size of forest landholdings and number of family forests by percent in Pennsylvania, 2006.**

**New Owners**  
29% have purchased their forest land within last 10 years

**Absentee Owners**  
22% do not live on or near (within 1 mile) their land

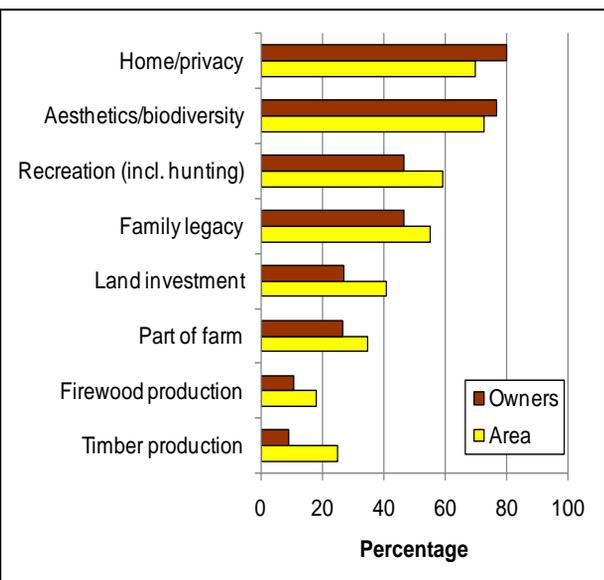
**Farmers**  
18% have a farm associated with their forest land

Demographics

**Age**  
19% are <45 years old  
47% are between 45 and 64  
34% are 65 or older

**Education**  
31% have a college degree

**Annual Household Income**  
42% under \$50,000  
38% \$50,000 - \$100,000  
20% \$100,000 or more



**Figure 6. - Area and number of family forests (percent) by reason for owning forest land, Pennsylvania, 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

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