

Ohio's Forest Resources

Forest Highlights

- Ohio's forests have doubled in area since the 1942 inventory to now total 7.9 million acres and cover 30 percent of the State's land.
- Ninety-seven percent of Ohio' forest land is classified as productive timberland and potentially available for timber harvesting.
- Public ownership of forest land has steadily increased, tripling since 1952. Publicly owned forests now total 952,500 acres or 12 percent of the State' forest land.
- Representing the largest ownership category, family forest owners hold 5.8 million acres—accounting for 73 percent of the State's forest land.
- Ohio' forests are accumulating substantial amounts of biomass. These stores of carbon will receive more attention as we seek sources for renewable energy and ways to offset carbon dioxide emissions.
- During the last 50 years in Ohio, the growth of trees has greatly outpaced mortality and removals. The growth-to-removals ratio averaged 2:1 for 1991-2006.



Forest Concerns

- Trends in land use change indicate that the area of forest land in Ohio may be near a peak.
- The large amount of forest land in small private holdings makes the delivery of government programs difficult and forest management less economical.
- These difficulties will likely be exacerbated by further parcelization of Ohio' forest land, which is indicated by increasing numbers of owners and increases in acreage in holdings of fewer than 50 acres.
- The turnover of forest land to an increasing number of new owners will create a need for more education, advice, and other services to family forest owners.
- Invasive species pose an ever increasing threat to the health and functionality of Ohio's forests.

Data from:

USFS
Resource
Bulletin
NRS-36,
2009 'Ohio
Forests
2006'

Forest Landowners



- Ohio has approximately 340,00 family forest owners. This category includes individuals, farmers, and small family corporations and partnerships.
- Ninety-three percent of these owners hold fewer than 50 acres. These small holdings total 3.2 million acres and make up 55 percent of the family forest land in the State.
- Written management plans exist on just 8 percent of the family owned forest land, and only 13 percent of the owners holding 21 percent of the family forest acreage have sought management advice.
- Those 55 and older own 61% of the forest land. This along with the large amount of land held by owners who are planning to transfer ownership in the next 5 years foretells a large turnover of forest land.
- Publicly owned forests represent a relatively small portion of Ohio's forests - just 13.6 percent.

- The Federal Government holds 287,900 acres, amounting to 4 percent of the forest land in the State. Included in this are 227,800 acres of forest land in the Wayne National Forest.
- The State of Ohio holds 423,000 acres (5 percent) in various state agencies including state parks and forests, and local governments hold 241,600 acres (3 percent).
- 32 percent of woodland owners have purchased their woodland within the last 10 years.

Forest Industry

- Forest product companies are classified as primary (harvest timber, produce lumber & veneer), secondary (process raw material into furniture & cabinets etc.) or tertiary (suppliers & manufacturers of forest & wood products, including furniture retailers).
- Ohio's forest products industries contribute \$22.4 billion, including \$9 billion in value-added, to the state's economy.
- 114,500 people in over 300 sectors of Ohio's economy are employed because of forest products-related activities, earning a total labor income of \$5.58 billion.
- For every one job created in the forest products industry, 1.4 more jobs would be created in other sectors.



- For each newly created job in forest products, total economic impacts of \$118,000 in labor income, \$191,000 in value-added and \$476,000 in industrial output are realized.

Industry estimates based on 2009 data supplied by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group and modeled using IMPLAN software (Minnesota IMPLAN Group).

