



The Council of
**FOREST
RESOURCE**
Organizations

2015

The Council of Forest Resource Organizations is a coalition of groups that work together to provide elected officials with a cohesive sustainable forest management agenda, one that is supported by every Council member without reservation. Collectively the Council represents over 100,000 citizens and businesses that work together for the health and productivity of our public and privately owned forest resources.

Summary of New York Forests:

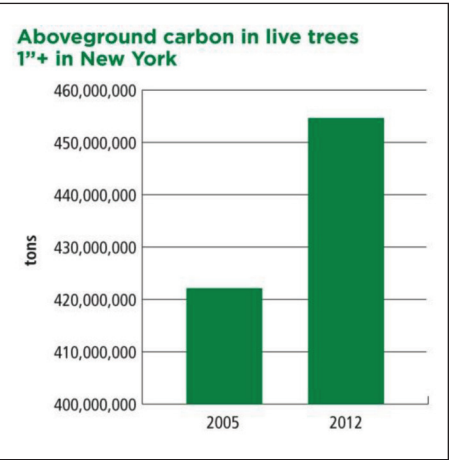
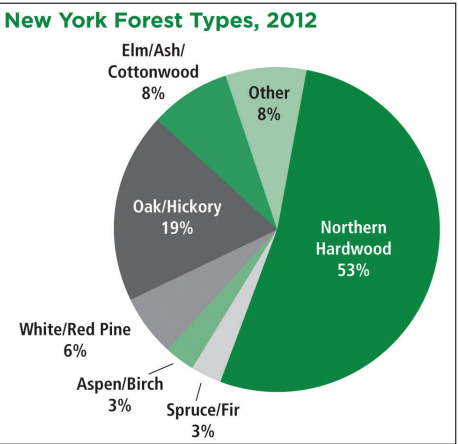
Gross Output, Forest-based Manufacturing & Recreation, New York, 2011

	millions of	jobs*
Forestry, logging & trucking	\$470	2,300
Wood products manufacturing	\$1,100	8,866
Furniture and related product manufacturing	\$2,500	14,500
Paper manufacturing	\$5,700	16,500
Wood energy	\$137	700
Christmas trees and maple syrup	\$24	1,046
Sub-total direct	\$9,931	43,912
Sub-total with multipliers	\$12,362	61,171
Forest Recreation	\$8,200	31,926
Total	\$20,562	93,097

GSP, Forest Products Manufacturing	\$3,171
GSP, All Manufacturing, New York	\$63,088
GSP, Total for New York	\$1,205,930

*full-time equivalent jobs

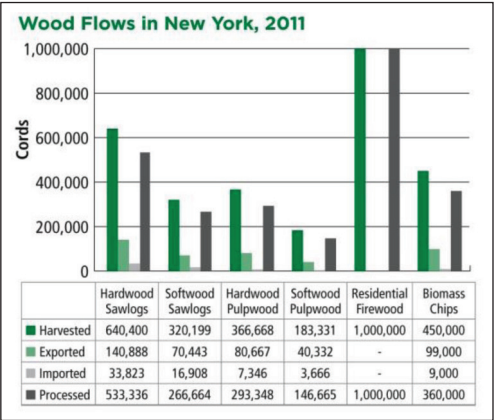
- Forest ownership – New York’s forests continue to be largely privately owned by **individuals/families and business who together own over 76% of the forest.**
- Forest inventory: growth vs. harvest – The forests of New York continue to add to the inventory of tree volume as net growth exceeds harvest annually by a ratio of nearly 2.5 to 1. Currently, **New York’s forests grow 716 million cubic feet per year while approximately 331 million cubic feet of timber is harvested annually.** New York’s standing forest contains 52 billion cubic feet (652 million tons) of timber 5 inches in diameter or larger which includes reserve lands. For timberland acreage, the forest contains 38 billion cubic feet.



New York’s forests have experienced tremendous changes over the past four centuries. The rich, diverse forests we see today stand as a testament to nature’s resilience. In 1770, approximately 90% of the State was covered by forests. By 1870, following decades of clearing for new farms, heavy cutting, and burning, forests were reduced to just 22% of the total area. Today, forests are back.

However, today’s forests are under new threats; these include: invasive pests and diseases that are threatening entire species of trees such as Northern White Ash; parcelization and fragmentation of the forest; and timber harvesting that does not use the best scientific methods for sustaining a healthy supply of fiber to the forest products industry and society as a whole. Urban forests also make a major contribution to our quality of life, providing beauty, cleaner air, green spaces and, overall, healthier environments. Also, urban and suburban street trees are susceptible to fast spreading pests and diseases.

- Forest area and species – **New York’s forests cover just over 19 million acres of land or 63% of the State land area** and have increased rapidly beginning in early 20th century and largely been at current levels since the 1980s. **Northern hardwood forests, dominated by beech, birch and maple, make up over 53% of the forest cover.**

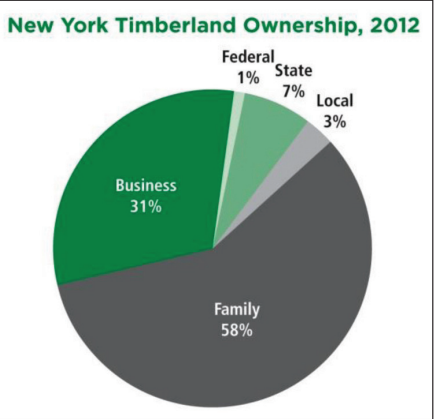
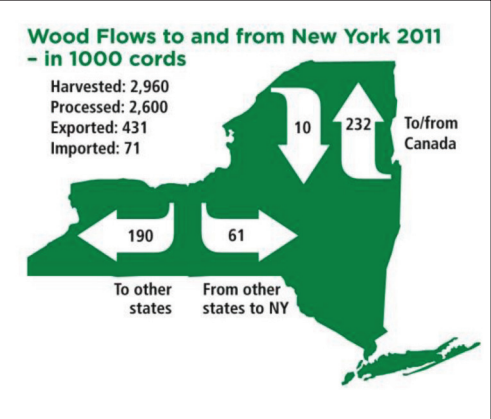


- Value of forest industry economic sectors – The annual value of sales or output of **New York’s forest products industry totals over \$ 9.9 billion while the forest-based recreation economy is worth \$8.2 billion.** Approximately **43,912* workers are employed in the forest products, maple and Christmas tree sectors** while another **31,926 jobs are found in the sectors that include and support the forest recreation economy.** Approximately one-half of all timber growing, harvesting and forest products manufacturing jobs and economic output value are related to the use of timber products harvested from New York’s forests.

- **Using multipliers** generated through IMPLAN, an economic model, **it is estimated that the forest products sector has \$12.4 billion in economic output and 61,171 jobs** when taking into account the rippling effect this industry has on the other parts of the economy.

- **Economic output and number of jobs in the forest products sector have been reduced since peaks in the 1990s and early 2000s.** This has mirrored similar trends in other manufacturing sectors in the U.S. as more and more manufacturing has moved to other parts of the world.

- While most of the timber harvested in New York is processed in New York, timber products flows freely in the regional economy. In 2011, **2,960,000 cords of timber were harvested in New York, 2,600,000 cords were processed in New York while 431,000 cords were exported, mostly to Canada, and 71,000 cords were imported.**



“Source (all charts): USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and North East State Foresters Association (NEFA)”

CFRO 2015 Issues Summary

Council of Forest Resource Organization’s Issue Summary

Without attention to the business climate in a State where many forest industry firms are located, the viability of many communities, in particular our-rural communities is in jeopardy. Without correction of some land use and taxation policies, many forest owners will lose their lands and forests and many of these will be converted to less desirable uses that degrade our environment.

The Council of Forest Resource Organizations urges executive and legislative branches to act now to protect the health of the economy of New York’s rural communities and the forests that provide us with “Open Space,” clean water and recreation. Specifically:

Forest Property Taxation

Reform property tax and assessment programs to encourage landowners to maintain their forest land as forest land, and reduce pressures on landowners that may cause parcelizing, liquidating and/or converting land to non-forest uses.



Photograph courtesy of Kristen Pechacek

Wood Energy/Biomass Energy

Modify state renewable energy policies to prioritize and incentivize the use of sustainable in-state wood supplies to meet New York’s clean energy needs, create jobs in rural economies and reduce the use of imported heating oil.

Forest Health

Modify State policies to protect and improve the health of our public and privately owned forests, ensuring a productive and biologically diverse forest which currently cover nearly two thirds of New York State. This will enhance the economic and environmental benefits they provide.

Urban Forestry

To promote the appreciation and understanding within all New York State (NYS) communities regarding the environmental, economic and social benefits of each municipality’s valuable Urban Forest. Also, we look to encourage appropriate planning efforts within these communities to insure a diverse, healthy urban tree canopy and green infrastructure.



White Ash photograph courtesy of Andy Hillman

The Council of Forest Resource Organizations consists of the following organizations:

- **Adirondack Landowners Association**
- **American Forest and Paper Association**
- **Audubon New York**
- **Catskill Forest Association**
- **Empire State Forest Products Association**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **New York Biomass Energy Alliance**
- **New York Farm Bureau**
- **New York Forest Owners Association**
- **New York Society of American Foresters**
- **New York State Tree Farm**
- **New York State Urban Forestry Council**
- **New York SFI State Implementation Committee**
- **SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry**
- **Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program**

Contact us!

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Members of The Council of Forest Resource Organizations are here to answer your questions on:

- **Clean Air & Water**
- **Job Creation**
- **Replacing Dependence on Outside Energy**
- **Providing Dependable, Renewable Energy Sources**
- **Better Recreational Opportunities**
- **Enhanced Wildlife Habitat**

