

Conserving Penn's Woods

South Mountain Partnership Lecture Series

Current Conditions and Future Outlook of Penn's Woods

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www.dcnr.state.pa.us

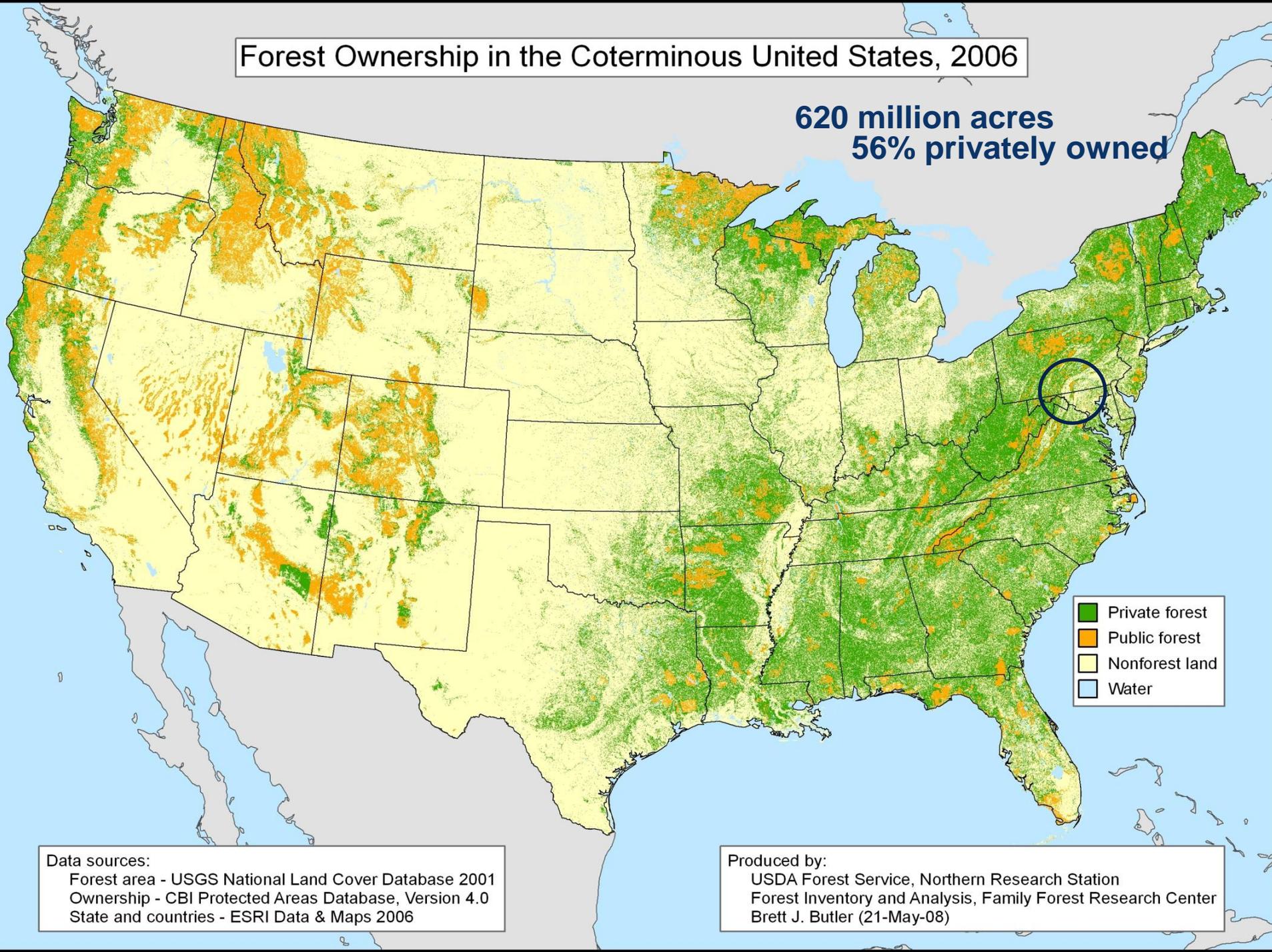


Future Outlook

1. Connecting people with forest values & services
 - Awareness, perseverance, and investment
2. Finding solutions
 - Knowledge and understanding, innovation, and partnerships

Forest Ownership in the Coterminous United States, 2006

620 million acres
56% privately owned



Data sources:

Forest area - USGS National Land Cover Database 2001
Ownership - CBI Protected Areas Database, Version 4.0
State and countries - ESRI Data & Maps 2006

Produced by:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station
Forest Inventory and Analysis, Family Forest Research Center
Brett J. Butler (21-May-08)

Pennsylvania's Forests

- Translates from Latin to “Penn’s Woods”
- 16.7 million acres (58% of the state)
- Provide a suite of uses, values, and services
- Vital part of our heritage, culture, economy and environment

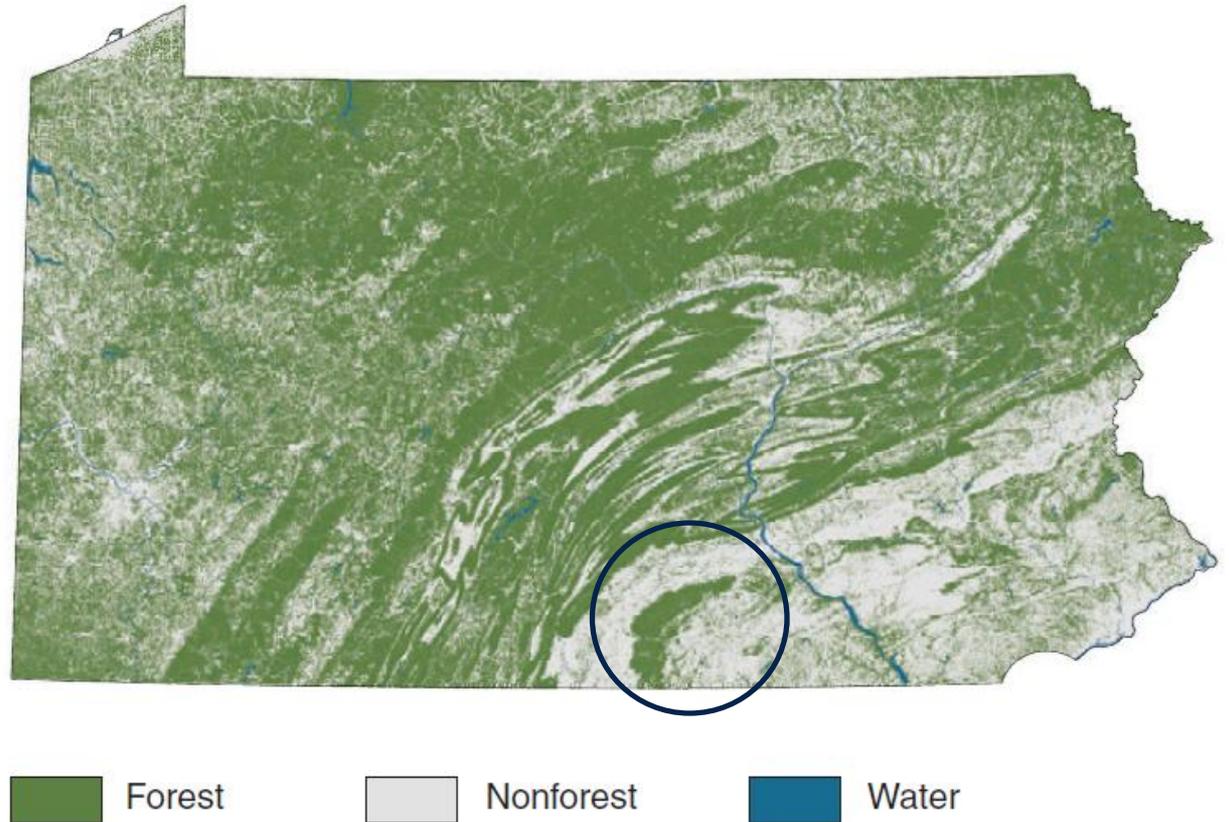
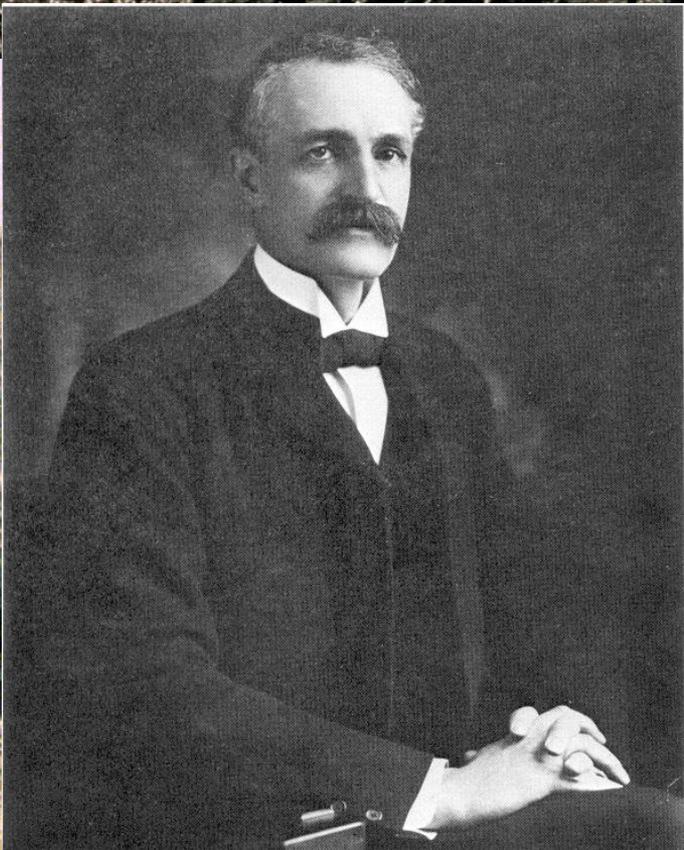
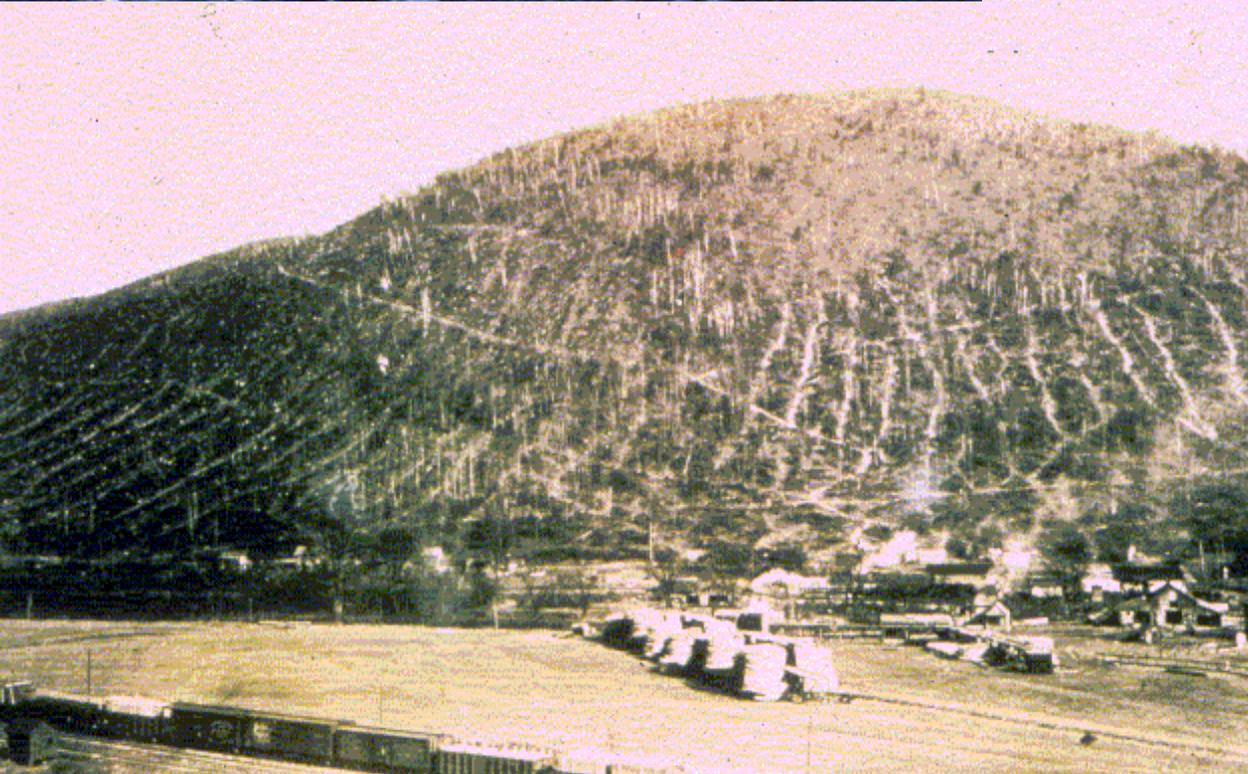


Figure 1.—Distribution of forest land, Pennsylvania, 2001 (National Land Cover Dataset [Homer 2007]).



Individual trees



The Big Woods

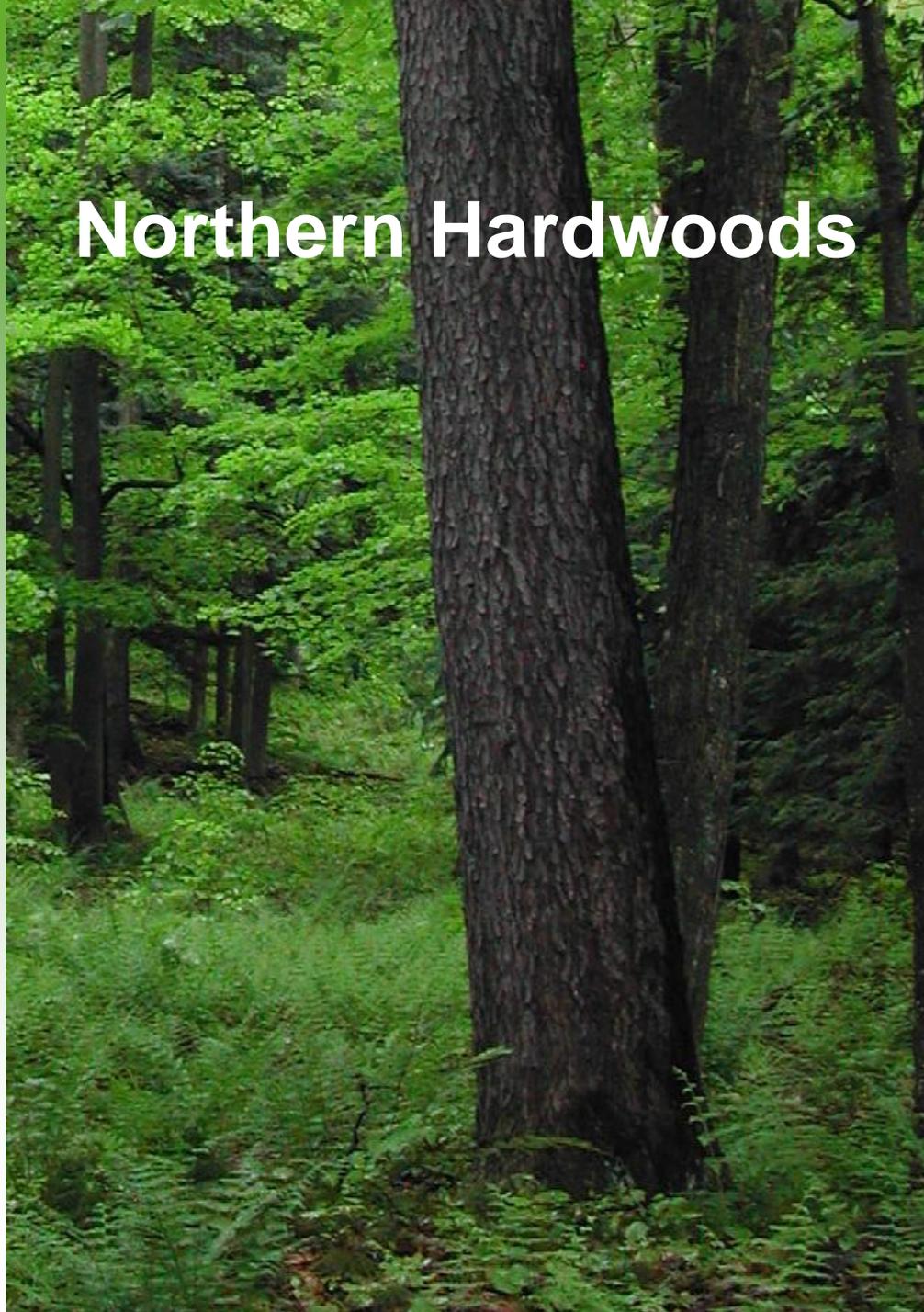


Wooded neighborhoods



Farms & Forests

Northern Hardwoods



Oaks



Most Common Species

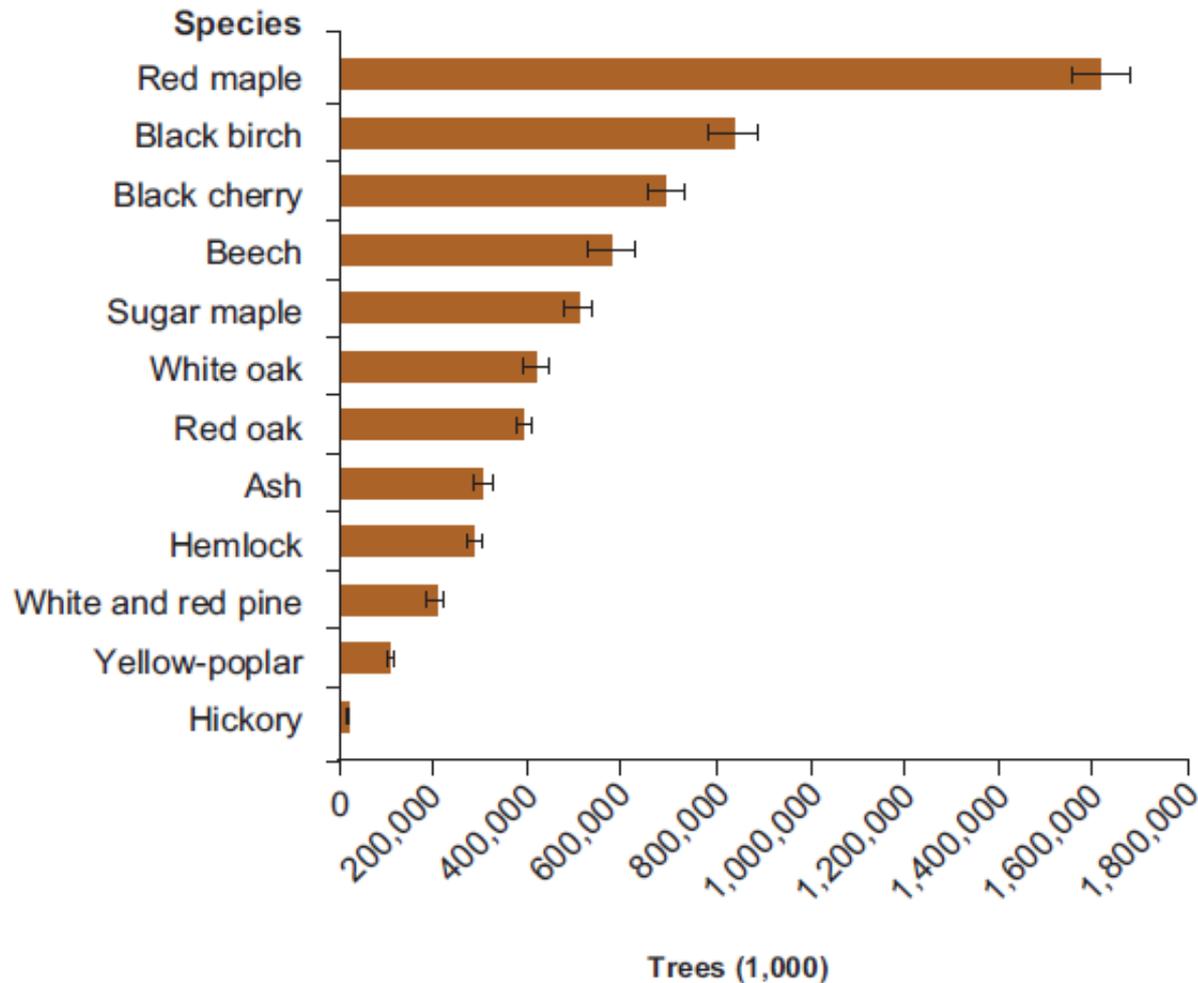


Figure 16.—Number of live trees on forest land for selected species or species groups, Pennsylvania, 2009. Sampling error bars are for 68-percent confidence level.

Age of Our Forests

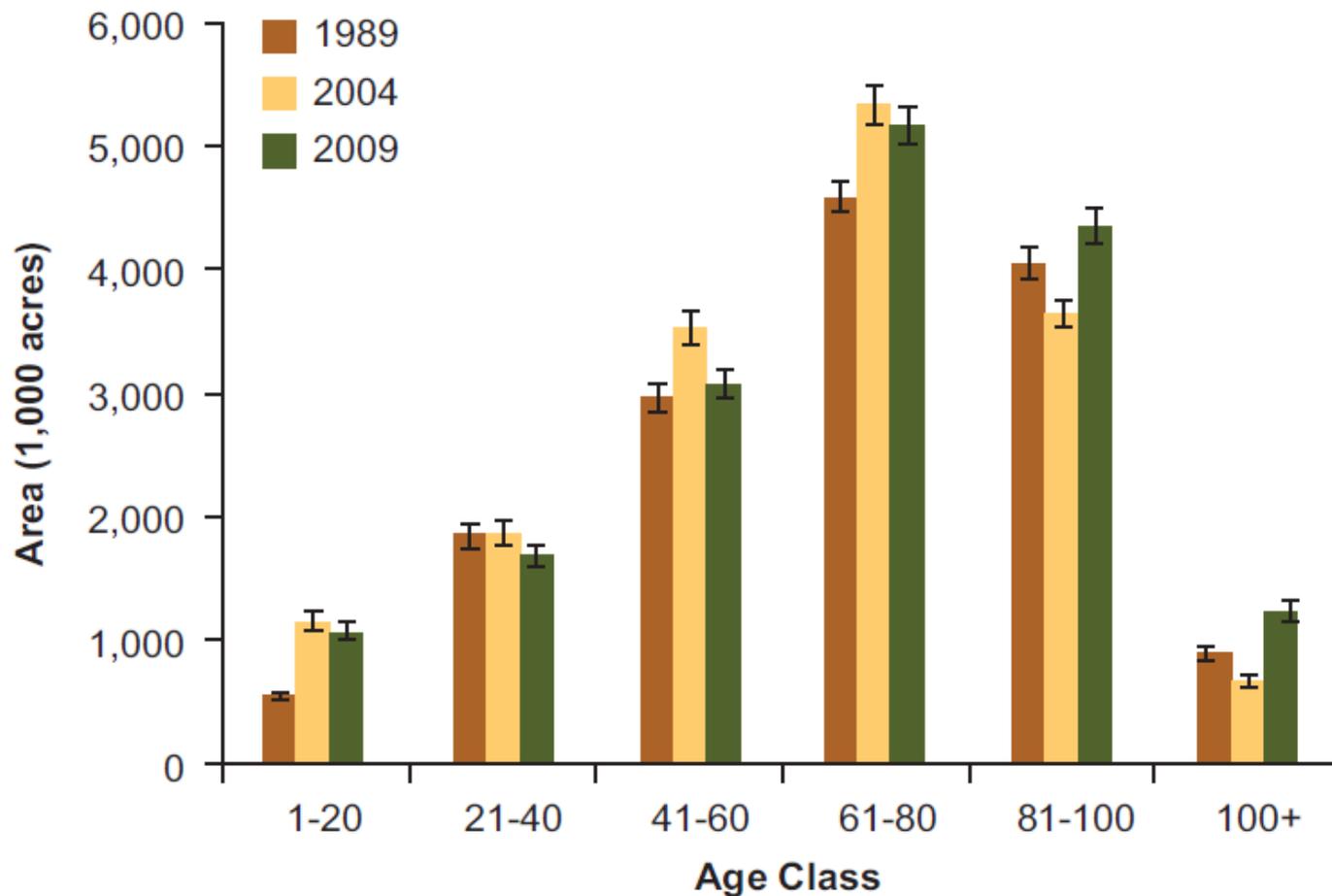
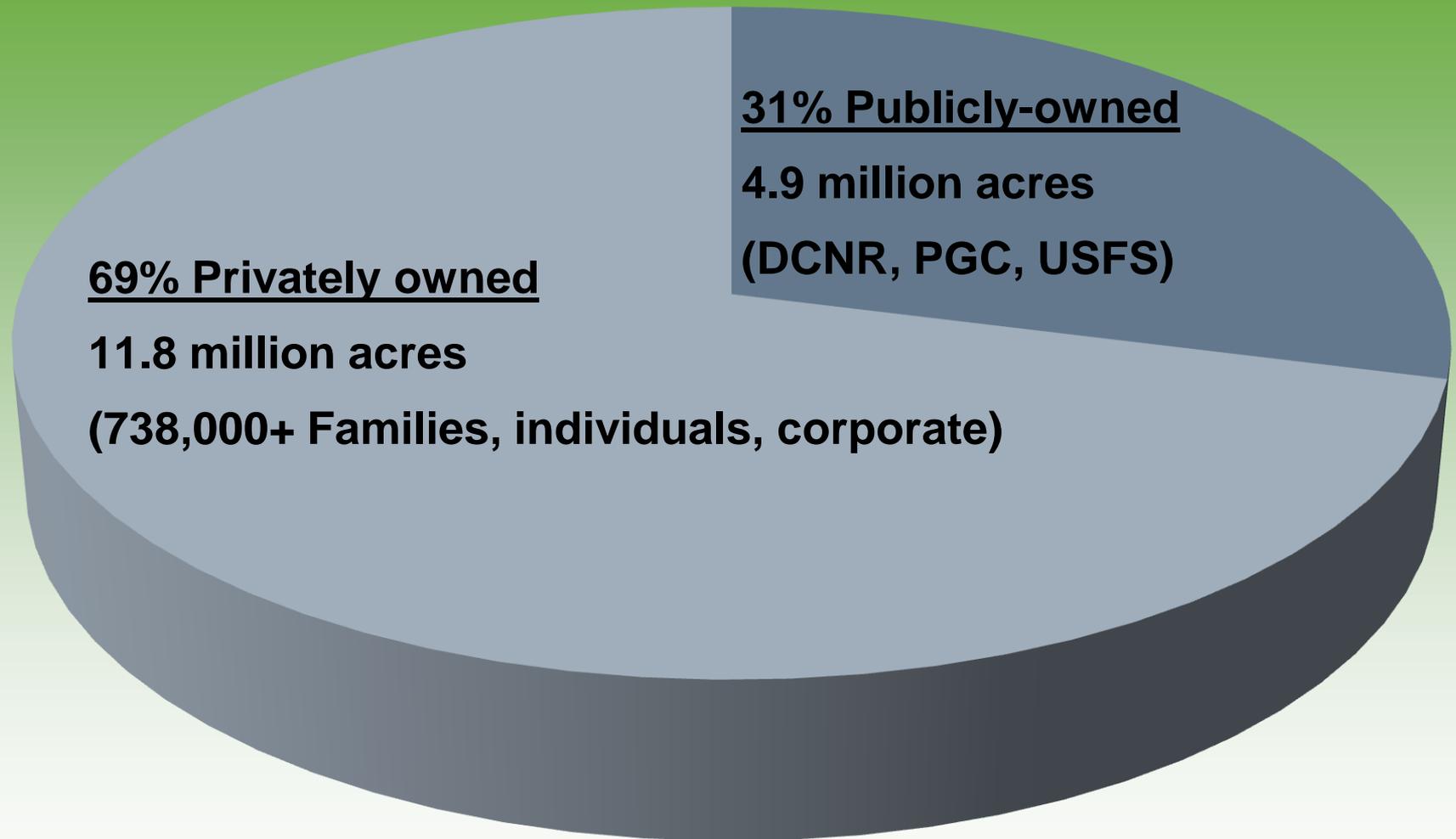


Figure 11.—Area of timberland by age class of dominant trees Pennsylvania, 1989, 2004 and 2009. Sampling error bars are for 68-percent confidence level.

Who Owns PA's Forests?



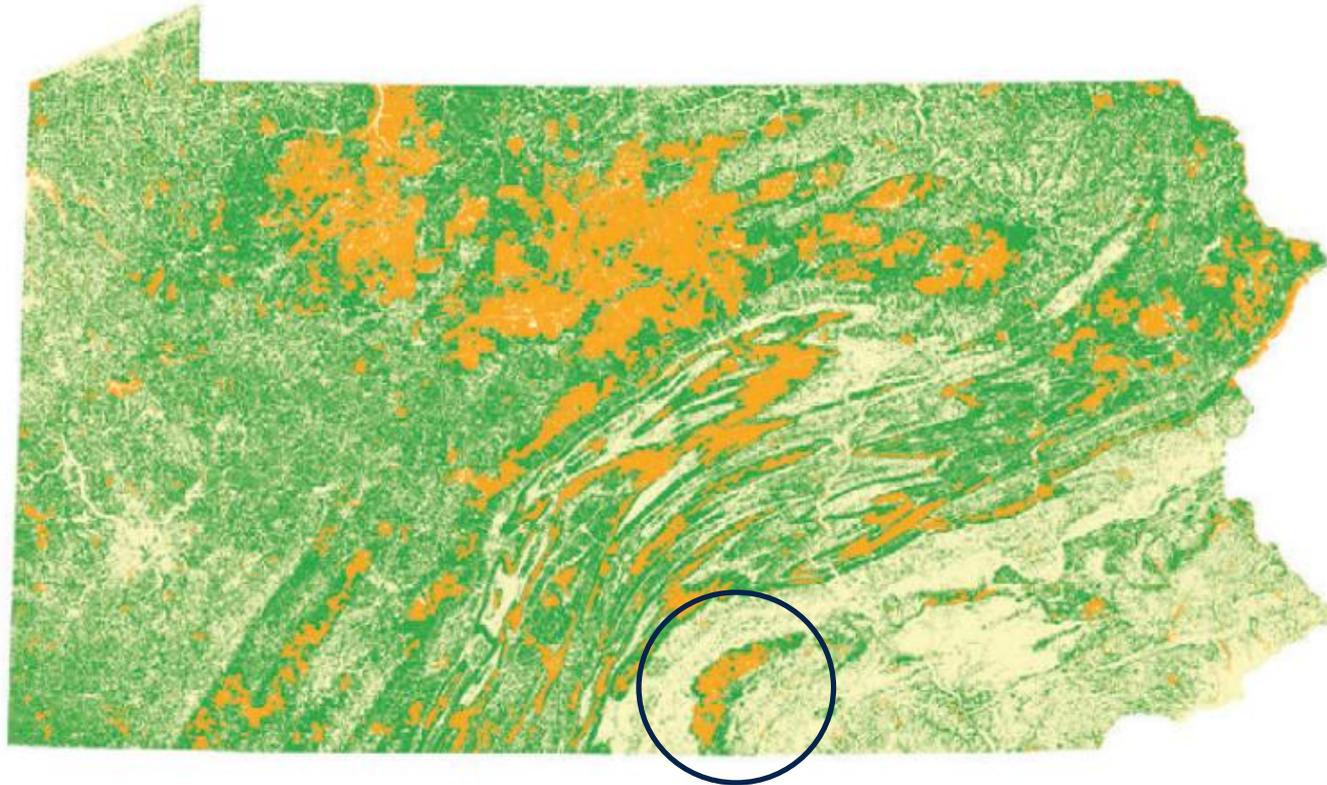
Pennsylvania Forests, 2009 (U.S. Forest Service)

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Public and Private Forest Owners



Ownership

-  Private forest
-  Public forest
-  Nonforest

Sources: CBI Protected Areas Database, ver. 4.0 and USGS National Land Cover Database (Homer 2007)

Figure 4.—Location of forest land by ownership, Pennsylvania, 2006.

Keys to Maintaining Forest Values and Services

1. Keep forests in forests
2. Address threats to forest health
3. Make sustainable management decisions



Keys to Maintaining Forest Values and Services

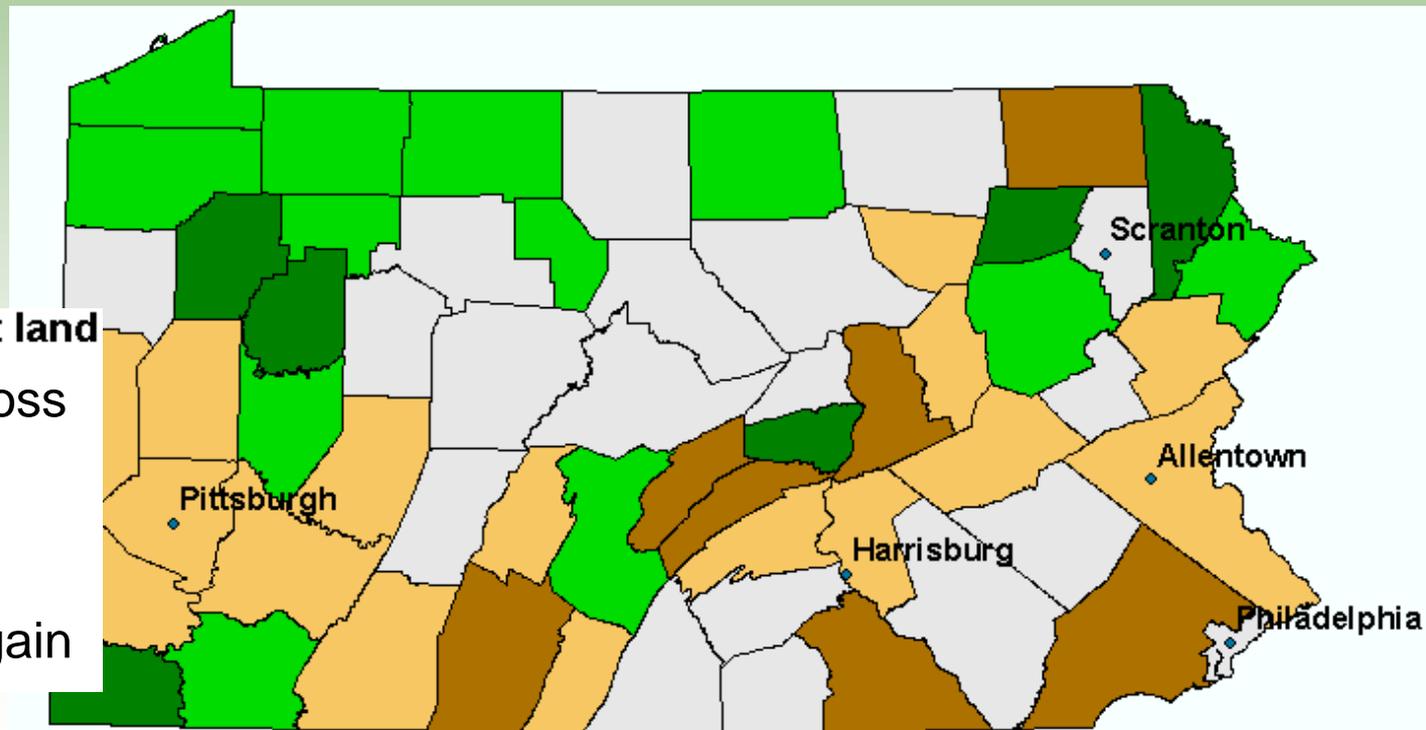
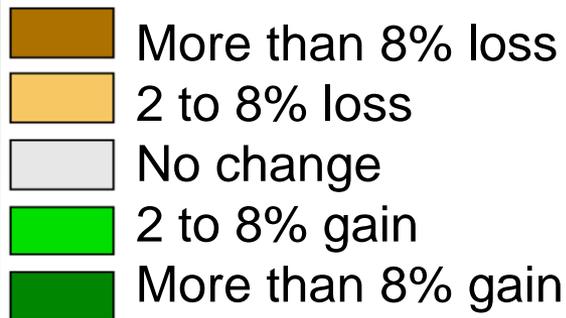
1. Keeping forests in forests

- Planning for growth and development
- Energy development
- Forestland/property taxes
- Estate planning and taxes
 - “Legacy Planning”

Change in Amount of Forest

- Generally stable in recent decades
- Slight decline from 1989 to 2004
- Slight increase from 2004-2009
- Long-term USFS projections show increasing population and decreasing forests

Percent change in forest land



Sources of new forests?



Reverting field, Susquehanna County. Photo by Will McWilliams,
U.S. Forest Service.

Importance of trees in towns and cities!

Promoting conservation through restoring tree cover in communities



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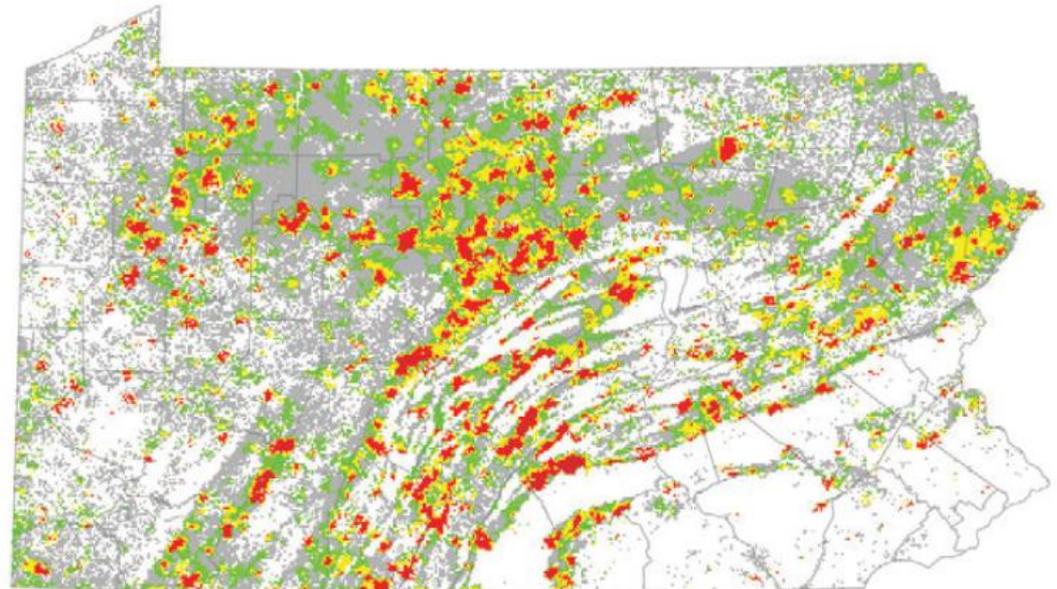




Keys to Maintaining Forest Values and Services

2. Addressing threats to forest health

Tree of heaven
Japanese knotweed
Mile-a-minute weed
Gypsy moth
Hemlock woolly adelgid
Emerald ash borer
Chestnut blight
Beech bark disease
Sugar maple decline
Dutch elm disease
Elm yellows
Thousand cankers



Projected Tree Mortality 2006-2020 (percent)

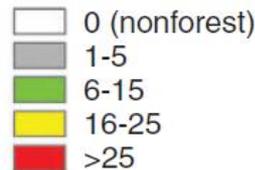
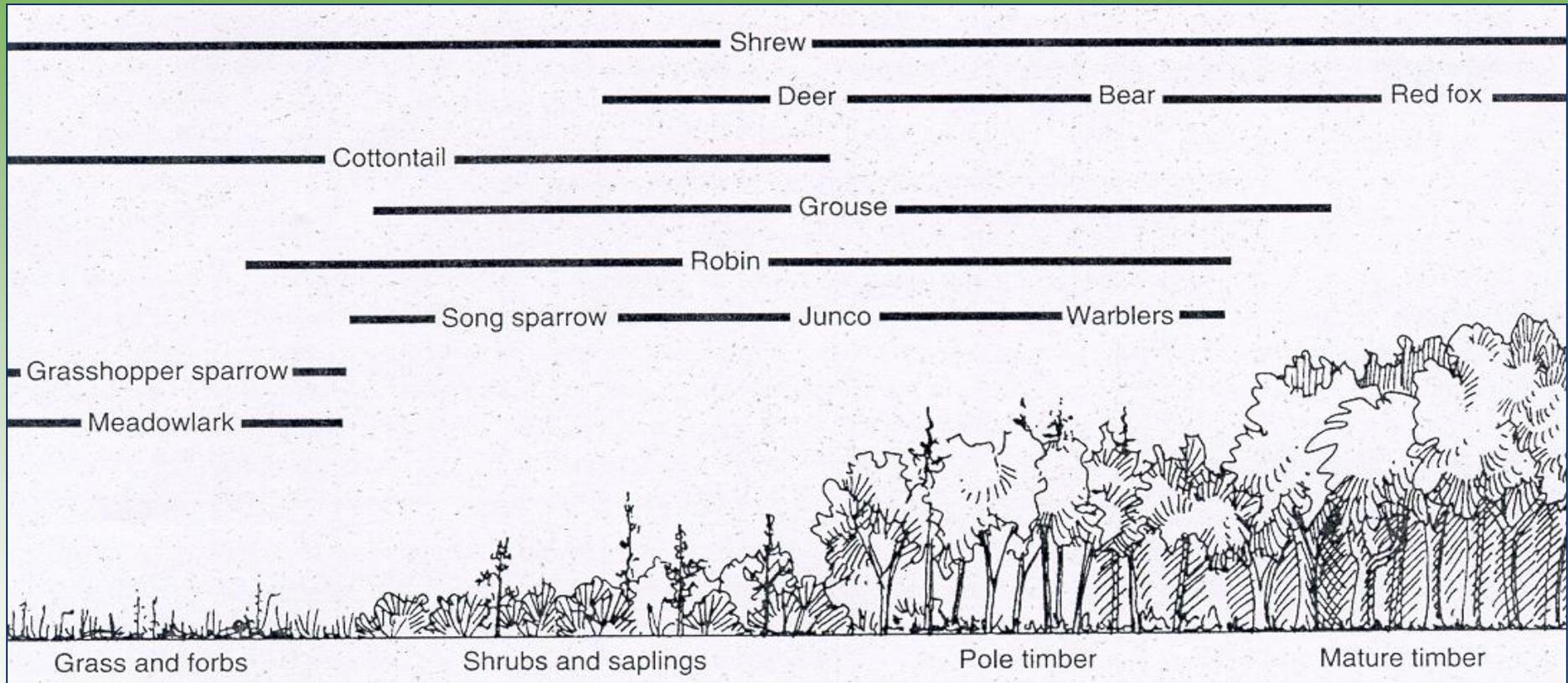


Figure 27.—Projected tree mortality, Pennsylvania, 2006-2020 (PA DCNRBF 2011).

Why are forest health and diversity so important?



Keys to Maintaining Forest Values and Services

3. Making sustainable management decisions

- Woodland planning
- Forest regeneration
- Species Composition
 - Oaks changing to red maple and birch
 - Economics and ecology
- Estate and “Legacy Planning”

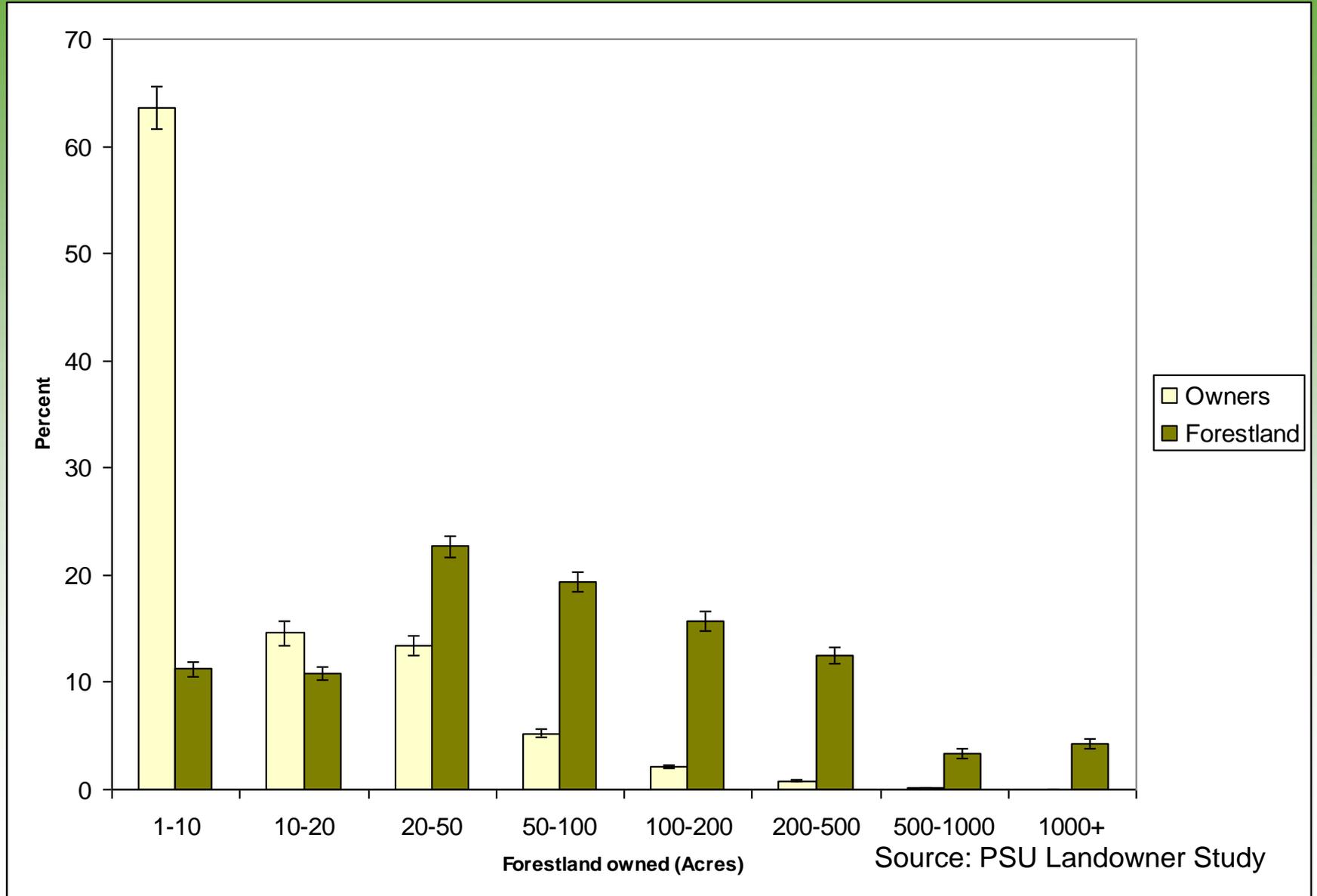


PA Private Woodland Owners

- 738,000 owners with 11.8 million acres
 - Average ownership = 20 acres
 - 1 in 6 households own woodland
- Aver. tenure 7-13 yrs
- Aver. Age 57 yrs old



Numbers of woodland owners and size of their properties



Woodland Owner Future Plans

738,000
owners

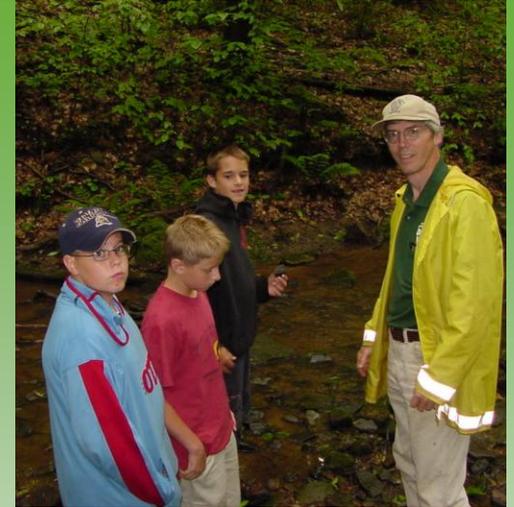
- 14% plan to sell forestland “as is”
- 12% plan to establish trusts
- 9% plan conservation easements
- 9% plan to subdivide
- 45% plan to let heirs handle it
- 21% plan to leave forestland to 1 child
- 36% plan to leave forestland to >1 child
- 57% - It is important to me that my forestland remain in the family



Source: PSU Landowner study

Review

- Why forests are important
- Basic forest statistics
- Keys to the future
 1. Keep forests in forests
 2. Address threats to forest health
 3. Make sustainable management decisions



Future Outlook

OPTIMISTIC!

1. Connecting people with forest values & services
 - Awareness, perseverance, and investment
2. Finding solutions
 - Knowledge and understanding, innovation, and partnerships



