

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION "FACTS" FROM THEIR WEBSITE

<http://www.affoundation.org/Facts/>

Timberland Ownership

About one third of the United States -- 737 million acres -- is forested. About 490 acres are classified as timberlands -- forests capable of growing commercial wood.

Approximately 59% (9.9 million acres) of the timberland in the United States is owned by 7 million private owners.

Altogether, federal, state, and local governments own 27% (132 million acres) of timberland in the United States.

The forest products industry owns about 14% (69 million acres) of commercial timberland in the United States.

Land Management

More than 270 million acres of federal land are set aside for use as wildlife refuges, parks and wilderness areas.

Only 5% (495,000) of private forest landowners have a written plan to manage their land for water and soil conservation, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and timber production. These individual own approximately 39% (152 million acres) of the 390 million acres of land in private ownership.

That leaves about 9.4 million private landowners, who own approximately 136 million acres, without written management plans.

Land Fragmentation

The number of private ownerships with fewer than 10 acres of forestland increased from 5.5 million to 5.8 million between 1978 and 1994.

The number of ownerships with 10-49 acres of forestland increased from 1.2 million in 1978 to 2.8 million in 1994.

The implications of changing ownership patterns are significant. The yearly transition to many new forest owners makes the communication of information difficult. Not to mention the amount of land being subdivided to build homes and loss of productive forest land.

Primary Reason for Land Ownership

Nearly 40% of private landowners primary purpose for owning forest land is because it is simply part of the farm or residence.

Another 8% own forest land for farm or domestic use.

Approximately 23% own forest land for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.

Only 3% of private forest landowners state timber production as their primary purpose of ownership.

Tree Harvest

Nation wide 32% of owners expect to harvest some trees in the next ten years.

They control 63% (256 million acres) of the private forest land.

An estimated 34 percent of owners never intend to harvest trees, they control only 12% (47 million acres) of the private forest land.

Tree Planting

In 1995, some 1.6 billion seedlings were planted in the U.S. -- more than 5 new trees for every American.

The forest industry plants 43% of the trees planted annually in the United States.

Private non-industrial owners plant 42% of the trees planted annually in the United States.

Government plants 16% of the trees planted annually in the United States.

Growth and Harvesting

In 1992, our nation's timberlands a net annual growth of more than 21 billion cubic feet of timber. When compared to an annual timber harvest of 16 billion cubic feet, net growth is surpassing harvest by 33 percent.

Fun Facts

The average single-family home (2,000 sq.ft.) can contain 16,900 board feet of

lumber and up to 10,000 square feet of panel products.

Inch to inch, wood is 16 times more efficient as an insulator than concrete, 415 times as efficient as steel, and 2,000 times as efficient as aluminum.

Each person uses wood and paper products equivalent to what can be produced from one 18" in diameter 100-foot tree every year.

A large tree in full leaf can "lift" well over a ton of water a day from the soil and carry it along an elaborate system of pipelines to every leaf. Most of this water is returned to the air through a process called transpiration. On that same day, the same tree may transpire several hundred gallons of water into the air, cooling as much air as would six window-unit air conditioners.

A typical tree uses nearly a pound-and-a-half of carbon dioxide and gives off more than a pound of oxygen to grow one pound of wood. An acre of trees might grow 4,000 pounds of wood a year, use 5,880 pounds of carbon dioxide and give off 4,280 pounds of oxygen in the process.

An average, large healthy tree could have about 2,000 leaves. During 60 years of its life, such a tree could grow and shed approximately 3,600 pounds of leaves. Those leaves return about 70 percent of the nutrients to the soil.

