



United States Department of Agriculture

Forests of North Carolina, 2020



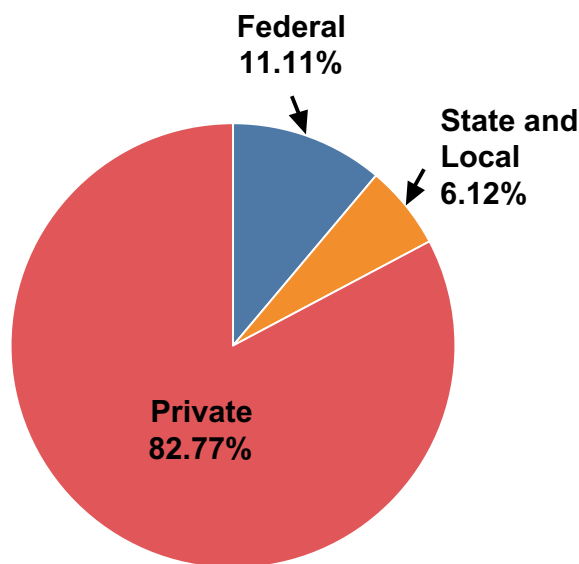
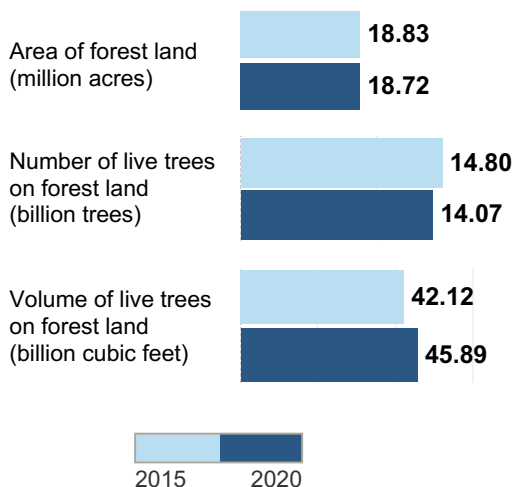
54% forested*

North Carolina has an estimated **18,724,887** acres of forest land.

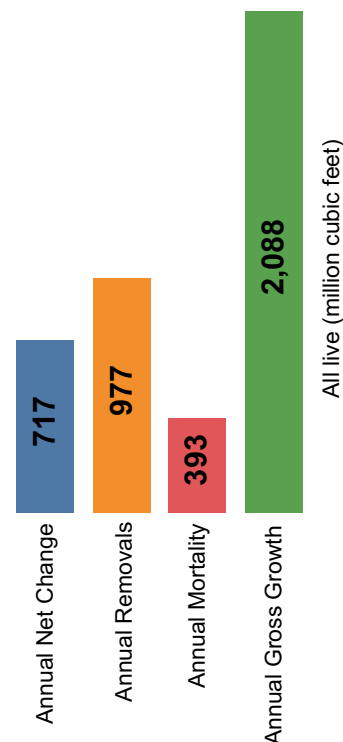
* Percent forest is forest area/total area. Percent forest with water removed from total area is 60%.

This resource update is a brief look at some of the basic metrics that describe the status of and changes to forest resources in North Carolina. This information is based on field data collected using the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annualized sample design, and it is updated yearly.

North Carolina has 5,723 sample plots across the State, of which 3,650 are currently forested. Each year, about 10-20 percent of these plots are visited and measured by field crews. Data used in this update were accessed from the FIA database on 09/08/2021.



Forest land ownership



All live (million cubic feet)



56,142 acres of nonforest revert back to forest annually*



67,129 acres of forest land convert annually* to nonforest



391,103 acres of forest land are treated by cutting (harvest, thinning, etc.) annually*



109,283 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by fire



92,754 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by weather events

USDA Forest Service - Forest Inventory & Analysis



The estimates presented are based on data retrieved from the FIA database (09/08/2021) and may not reflect the most recent data available from the FIA program. Note – this publication does not include estimates of uncertainty. The most current data and sampling error for the estimates above can be found by visiting <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>.

*Average annual estimates are based on data collected across 5-10 years and may not be indicative of the nominal year presented in the title by itself.



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How to cite this publication

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Archived Versions

This report and archived past versions can be found on the USDA Forest Service publication database, Treesearch using keywords "Forest Inventory" and "North Carolina" here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/>.

National Woodland Owner Survey

The National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) collects and reports on multiple attributes of forest land ownership. Details of the NWOS program can be found here: <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/>.

The most recent NWOS Factsheet for North Carolina can be found here: <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52411/>.

Additional Resources

The application that produced this resource update was developed using data from the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis database (FIADB): https://apps.fs.usda.gov/fia/datamart/datamart_excel.html.

Tables for North Carolina, 2020 can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.2737/FS-RU-315-Tables>

The FIA one-click application can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.2737/FIA-One-Click-State-Report-v1.2>

Bechtold, W.A.; Patterson, P.L., eds. 2005. The enhanced Forest Inventory and Analysis program—national sampling design and estimation procedures. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-80. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 85 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/SRS-GTR-80>.

NOTE: Some of the above links will not be active until the resource update has been approved for official publication.

