

# Conserving Penn's Woods

Upper Delaware River Council

April 26, 2015

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DCNR Bureau of Forestry

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



# Topics

- PA forests
- Current forest conservation efforts
- The Governor's themes



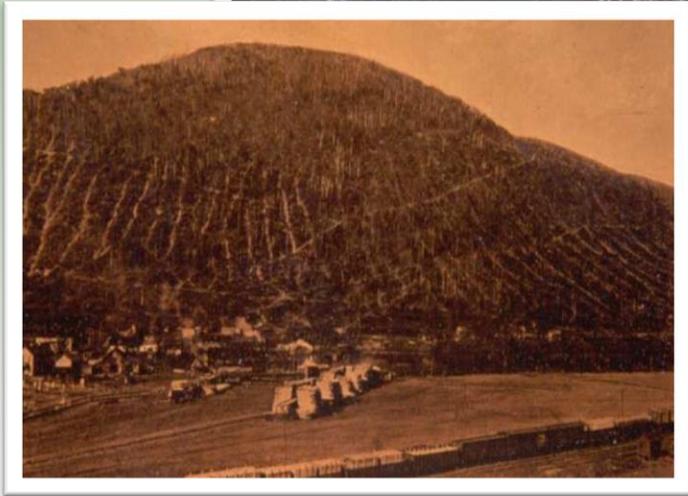
# Forests once covered 95 percent of Pennsylvania



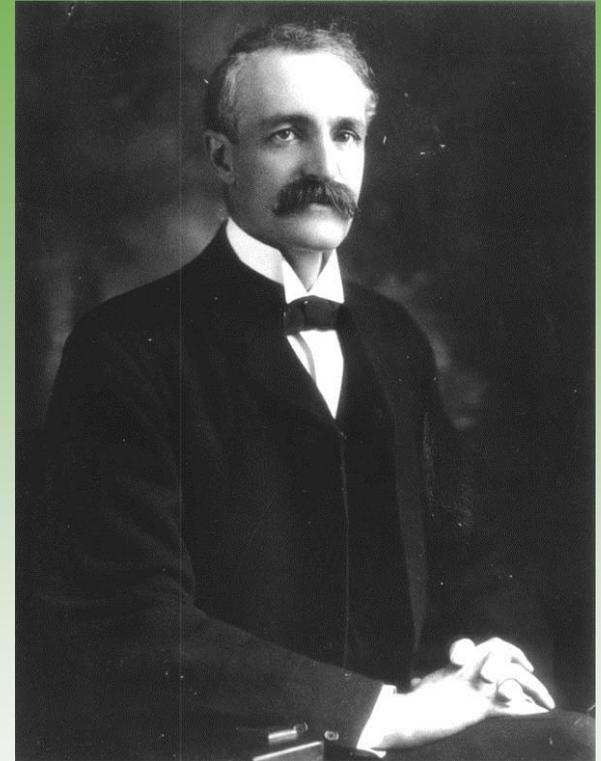
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# Looking back

A history of resource extraction



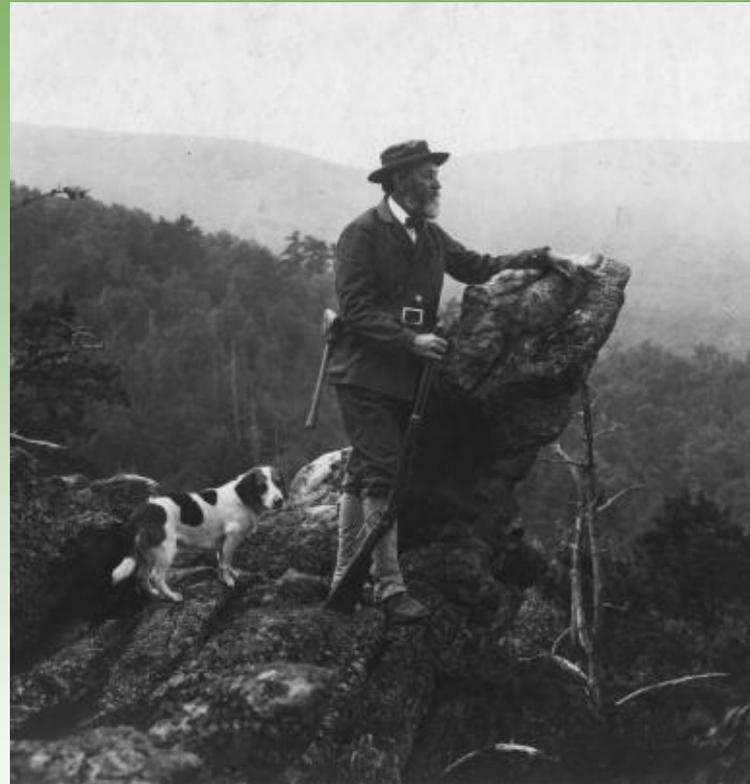
# Conservation Movement



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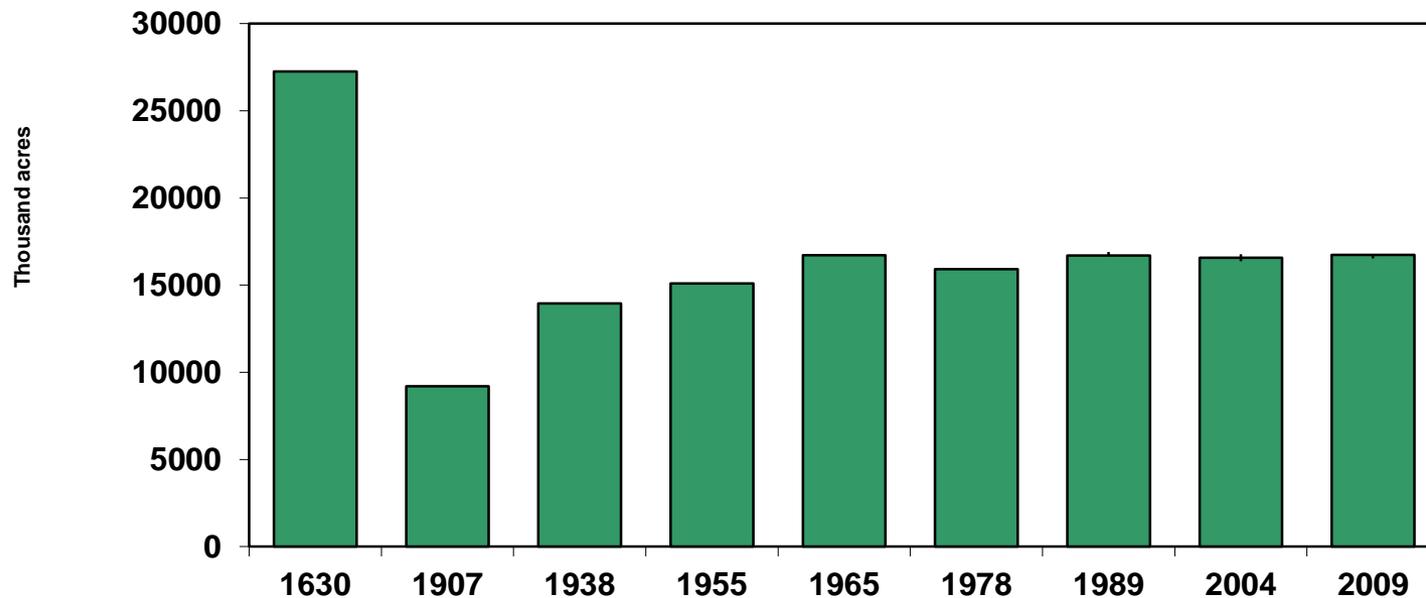
# Division of Forestry

- Created in 1895
- Gather information
- Protect from fires
- Buy land for reforestation and watershed protection



# Penn's Woods Today

Area of Forest Land 1630 to 2009



USDA Forest Service FIA 2009

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



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# 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



■ Forest      ■ Nonforest      ■ Water

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

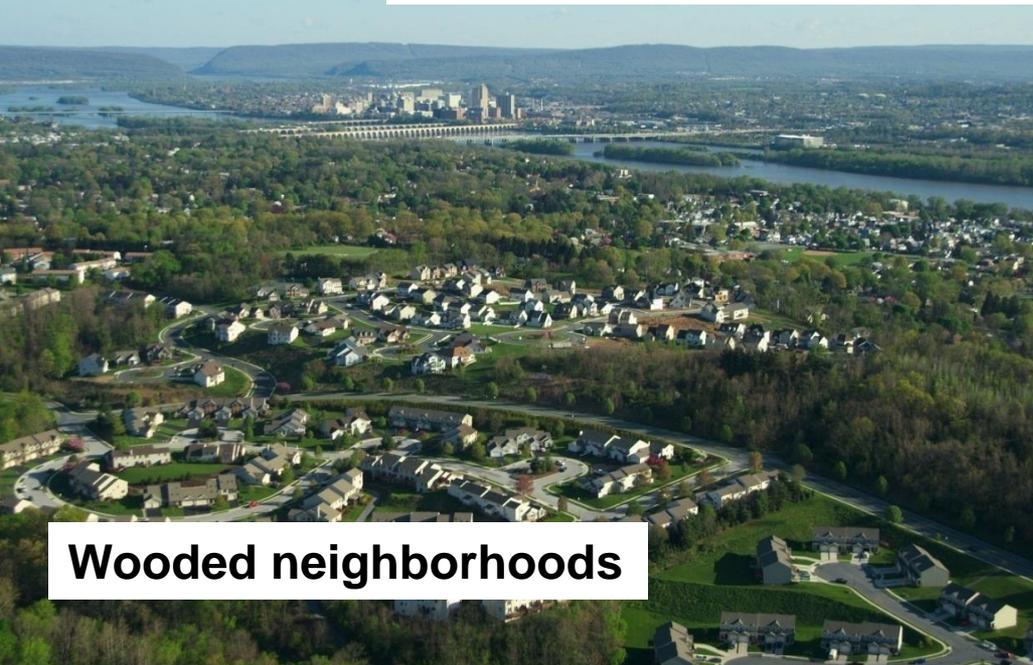
**Community forests**



**The Big Woods**



**Penn's Woods Today**



**Wooded neighborhoods**



**Farms & Forests**

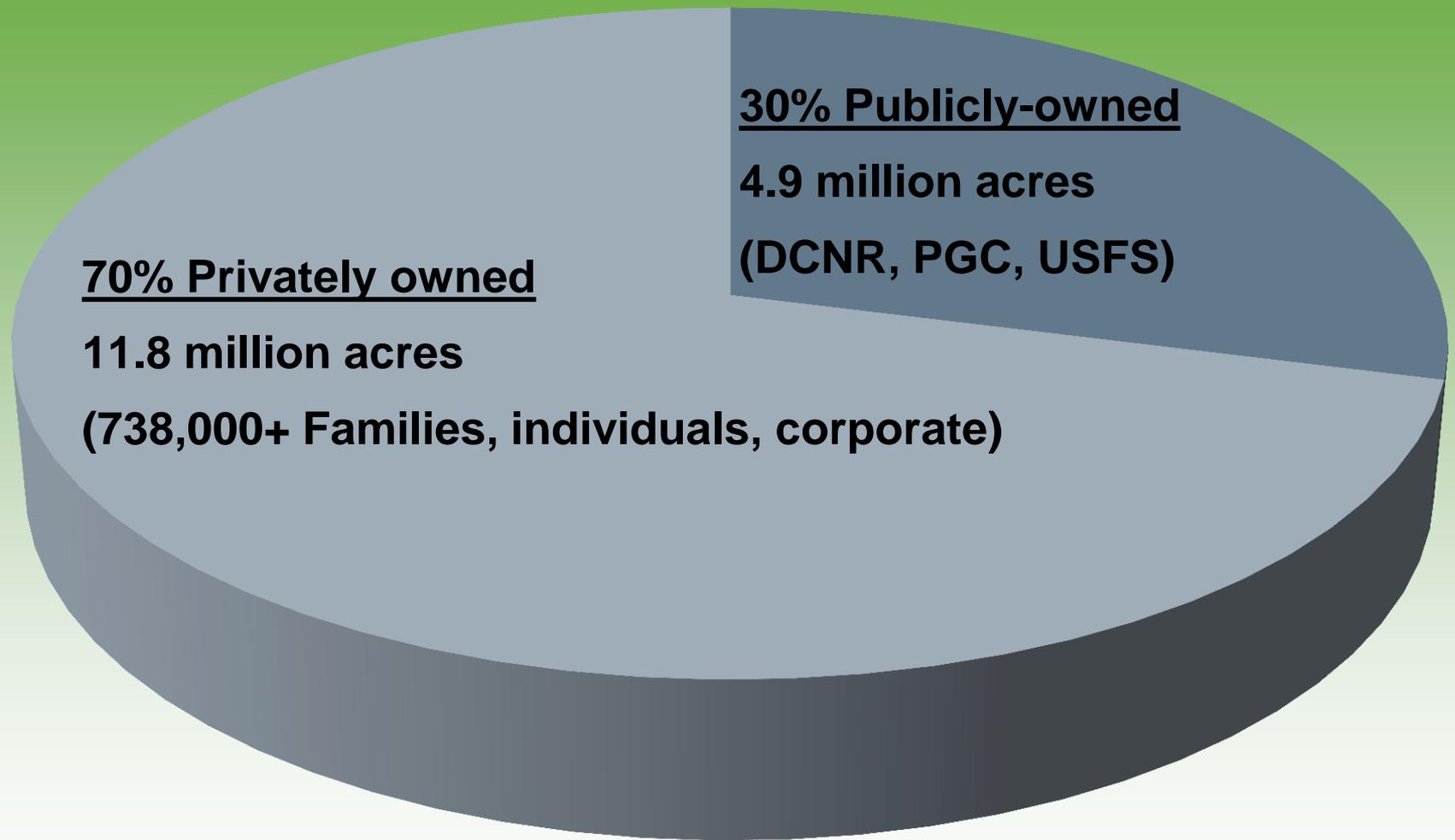
# Forest Values



- **Clean water**
- **Wood products**
- **Recreation & tourism**
- **Plant and animal habitat**
- **Peace & solitude**
- **Scenic and aesthetic beauty**
- **Carbon sequestration**
- **Human health benefits**



# Who Owns PA's Forests?



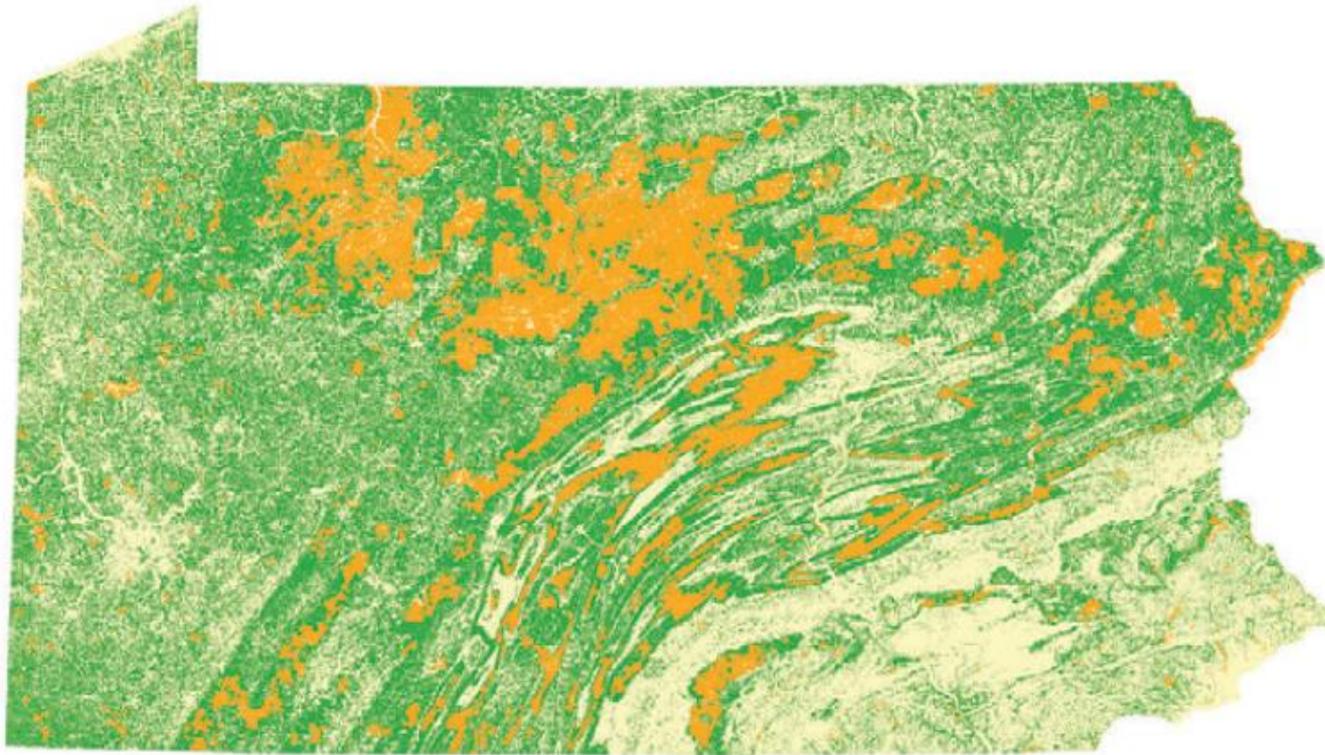
Pennsylvania Forests, 2009 (U.S. Forest Service)

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



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# Public and Private Forest Owners



## Ownership

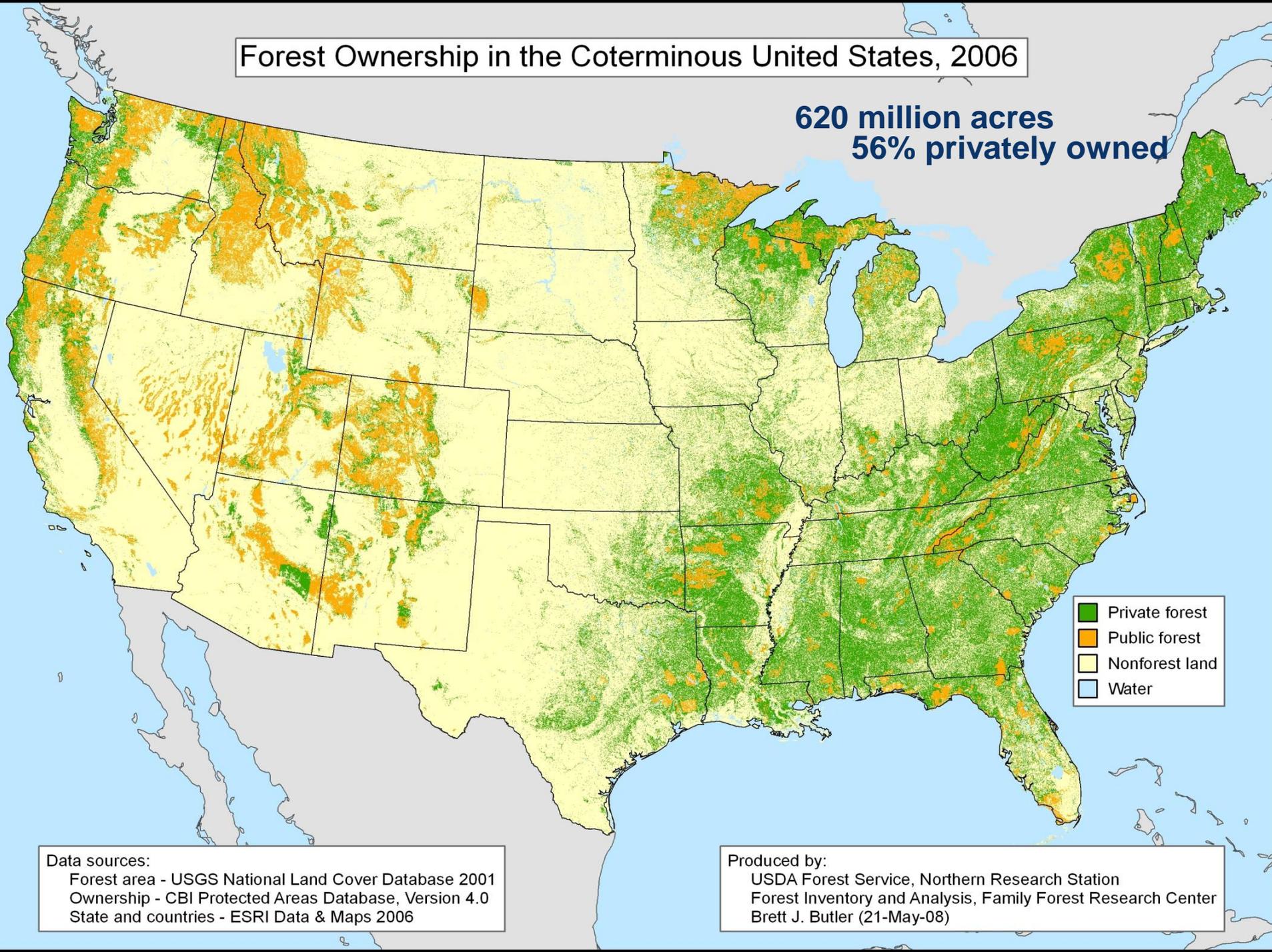
-  Private forest
-  Public forest
-  Nonforest

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.

# 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)

# Penn's Woods Today

## Private Forest Land

- 12 million total private
  - Family: 9 million
  - Other: 3 million
- Private landowners
  - 738,000
  - Average ownership 20 acres
  - 1 in 6 households owns woodland
- Other private lands
  - TIMOs, hunt clubs



# Penn's Woods Today

## Public Forest Land Ownership

- 5 million acres (30%)
  - State: 3.8 million
    - State Forests and Parks, Game Commission
  - Federal: 635,000
    - ANF, Army Corps
  - Local: 500,000
    - Watersheds, parks



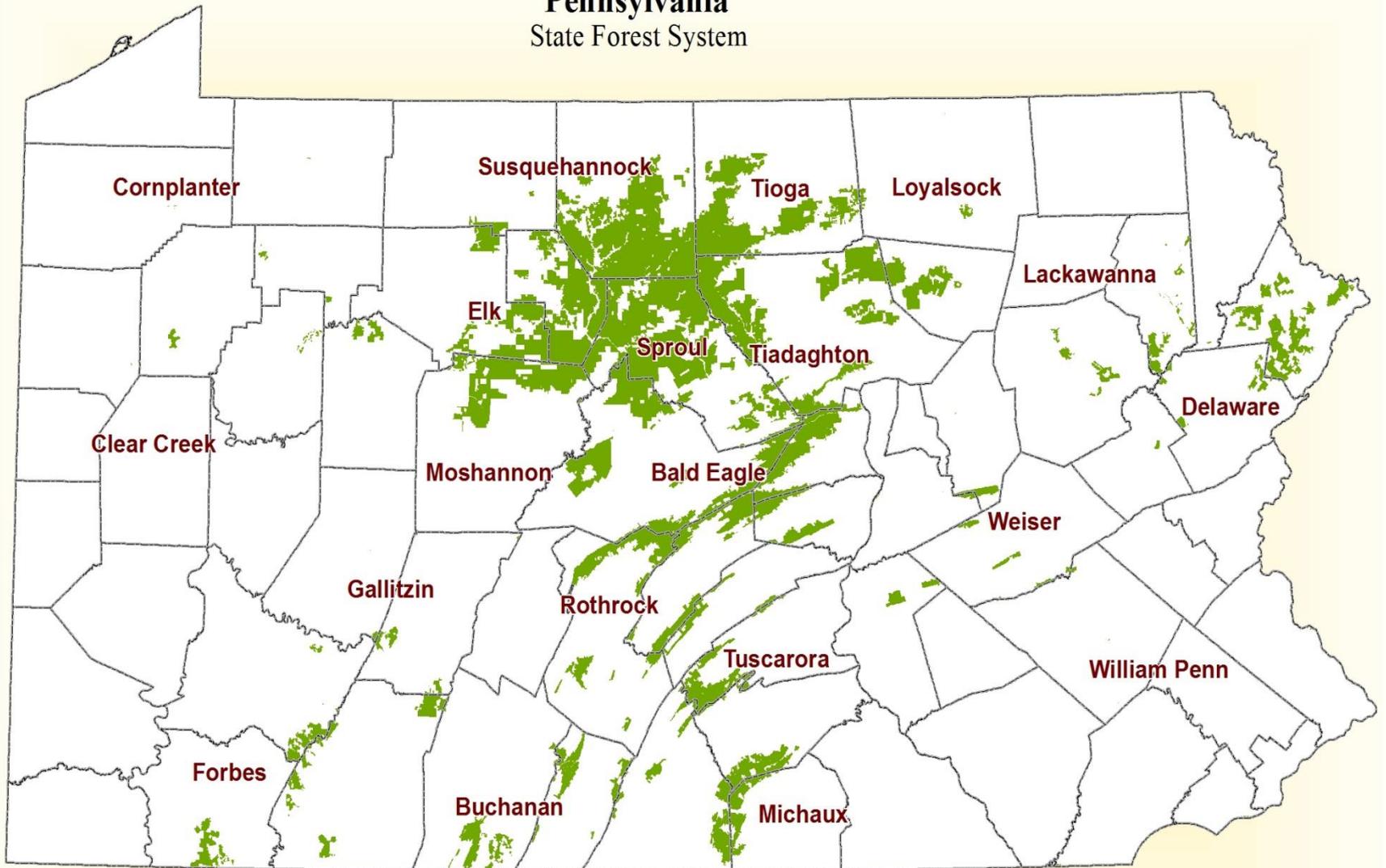
# Penn's Wood's Today

## State Forest System

- Established in 1898
- 2.2 million acres
- “Owned” by the citizens of PA
- Largest single ownership in PA
- 1/8 of the forests



# Pennsylvania State Forest System



# State Forest Recreation



# State Forest Resource Management



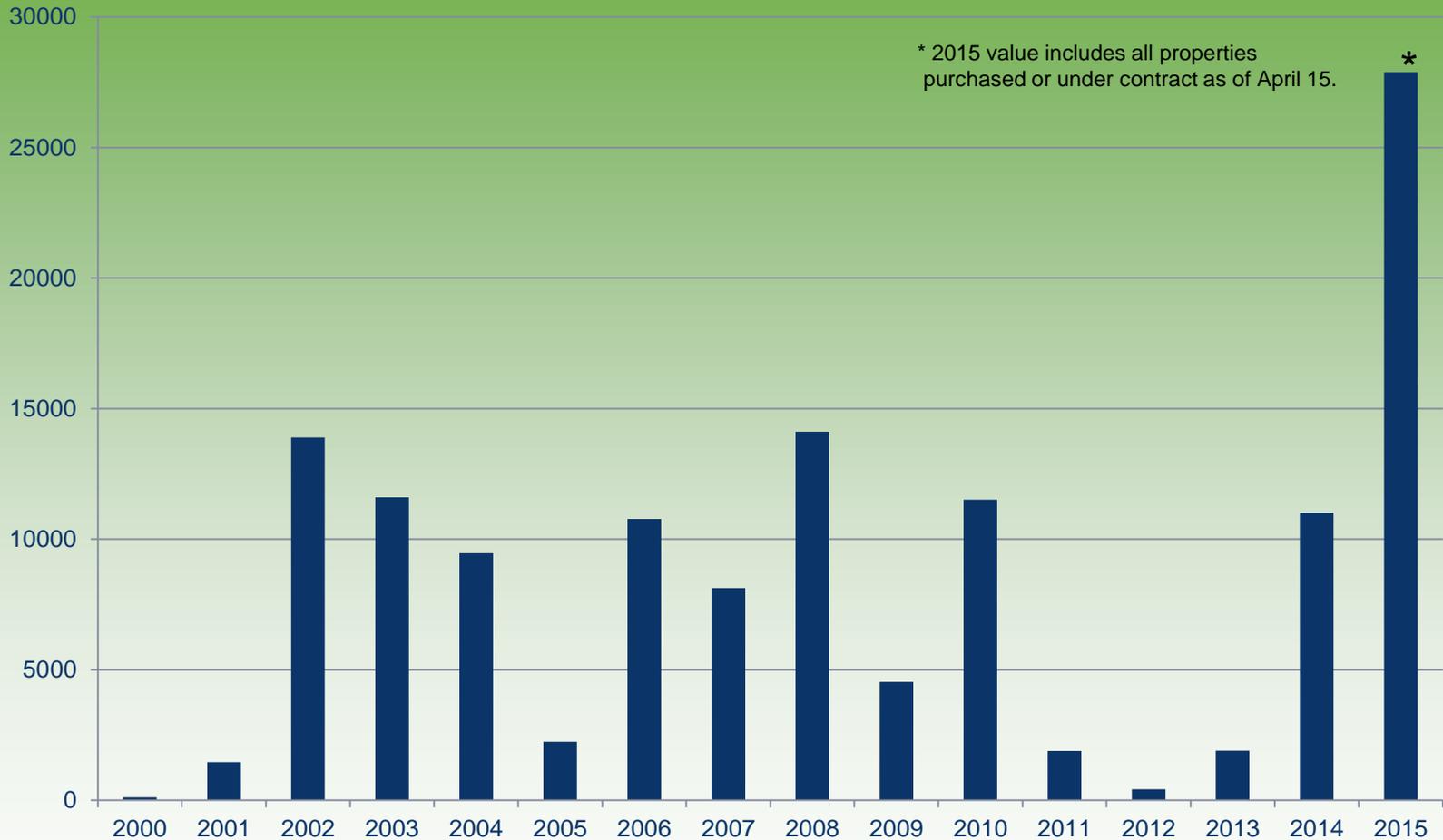
# Current Forest Conservation Highlights/Issues

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



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# Annual Acres of State Forest Acquired since 2000



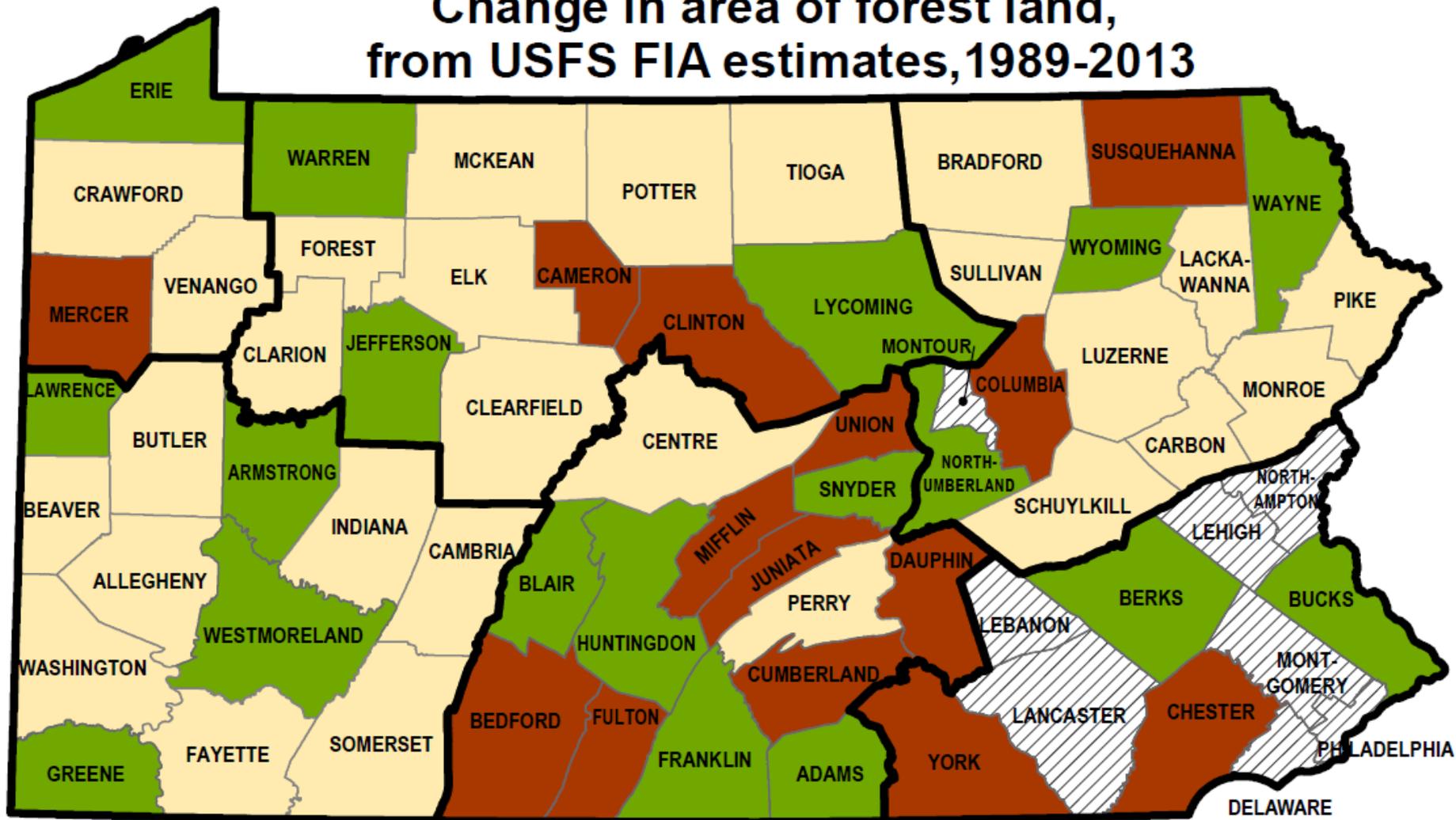
**Total: 135,044 acres**

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



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# Change in area of forest land, from USFS FIA estimates, 1989-2013



**Forest Land Change**

- Decreasing
- Stable\*
- Increasing
- Insufficient Data\*\*
- Region Boundary

\* Defined as % change between -5 & 5

\*\* Sampling error greater than 25%  
(for either estimate, 1989 or 2013)

# Fragmentation and Loss of Forest



# Estate/Landowner Legacy Planning

- ◆ While 80% of forest owners plan to keep forestland in the family...
  - Only 40% have discussed the plan with their children
  - Only 35% of children are involved with the current forest plan
- Working Group of attorneys, accountants, financial planners, and foresters to explore ways to provide education and information
- Options for forest owners: partnerships, trusts, easements, etc.

# Values of trees in towns and cities!

Promoting conservation through restoring tree cover in communities



Aesthetics  
Property values  
Storm water management  
Energy savings  
Human health  
Water quality  
Carbon sequestration

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



# Shale-Gas Monitoring

- **Comprehensive Shale-Gas Monitoring Report (April 2014)**
  - 15 Monitoring Values
- **Posted supporting ‘raw’ data to the web**
- **Updating information on the 15 Monitoring Values and posting to the web:**  
[\(<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/NaturalGas/monitoringreport/index.htm>\)](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/NaturalGas/monitoringreport/index.htm)

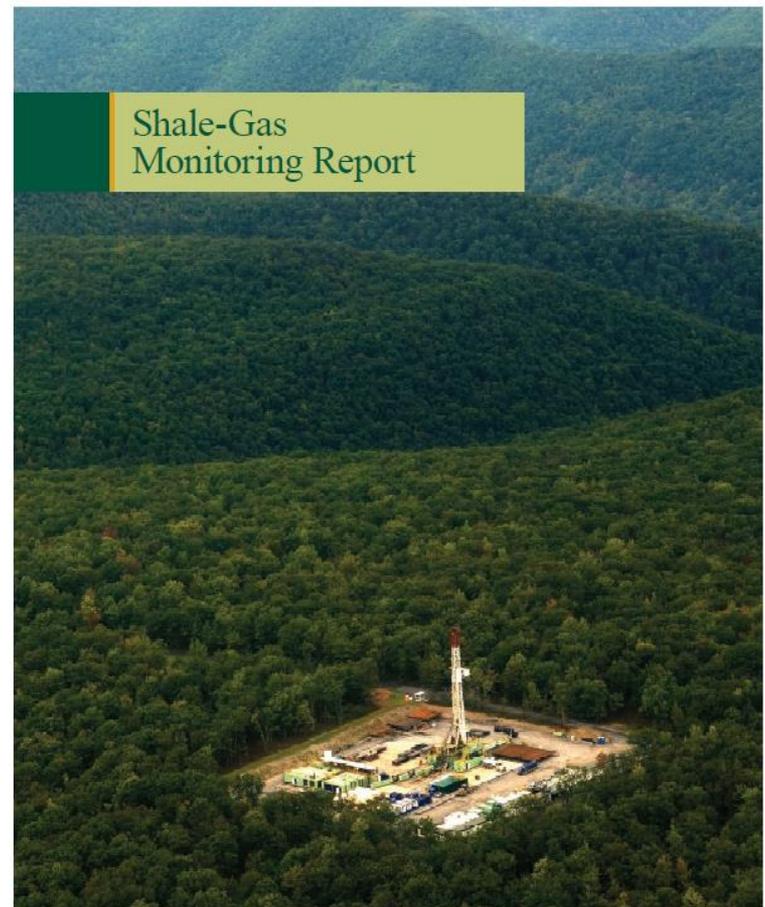


photo courtesy of Martha Riel

April 2014



# Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Emerald Ash Borer



© Anthony Cook

## EASTERN HEMLOCK CONSERVATION PLAN



© Anthony Cook

OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2014  
(DRAFT VERSION 2014.1)  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

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## Ash Management in State Forest Lands Under Pressure from the Emerald Ash Borer

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July 19, 2013

# BOF and PGC Bat Habitat Conservation Plan



*Conservation Planning  
&  
Environmental Review Tool*

PNDI



# State Forest Resource Management Plan

## Purpose

- Overarching planning document for management of state forest lands, state-wide
- Context and goals for BOF staff that ensures consistency and provides direction
- Communicates to the public and stakeholders



# State Forest Resource Management Plan

## Major Changes in 2015 Draft

- Adding chapters on fire management and cultural resources.
- Increased emphasis on climate change, wild character, and landscape planning.
- Reflects gas leasing moratorium.
- Adding sections on river islands and lake management.
- Anticipate public input process to begin in Fall 2015



# Governor Wolf's Themes

## Jobs that pay

- Increased focus on working forests that help to maintain and grow jobs that pay.
- Cooperating with communities on enhancing the value of their rivers, trails and parks as amenities that spur business development and draw people to downtowns.
- lead outdoor recreation initiatives that will invigorate citizens and communities, encourage healthy lifestyles, create jobs that pay and promote environmental stewardship.

# Governor Wolf's Themes

## Government that works

- Promotion of green energy.
- Use DCNR's technical expertise in designing, implementing, and investing in energy efficient technologies and to promote their use across all state agencies and communities.

## Schools that teach

- continue strong education and outreach efforts including school programs, State Parks environmental education, and natural resource career development

# Upper Delaware

1. Kudos to the Upper Delaware Council!
2. You have wonderful natural resources
3. Landscape Approach
4. Cooperating as a community can be very powerful toward reaching your goals

**THANK YOU!**

