



Florida, 2007

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS FACTSHEET



Longleaf pine regeneration. (photo by Jimmy Roberts, Florida Division of Forestry)

Forest-Type Composition

Softwood forest types occupy 46% of Florida's 15.9 million acres of timberland, hardwoods comprise 51%, and nonstocked areas make up <4%. The longleaf-slash pine forest-type group predominates with 5.6 million acres or 35% of the timberland. The oak-gum-cypress type group is second in abundance with nearly 3.1 million acres or 19% of the timberland. Oak-hickory type group is a close third with >2.8 million acres or 18% of the timberland. Next in frequency of occurrence are loblolly-shortleaf pine and oak-pine with 10% and 9% of the timberland, respectively. Tropical hardwoods account for only 3%, elm-ash-cottonwood just 1%, and exotic hardwoods <1%.

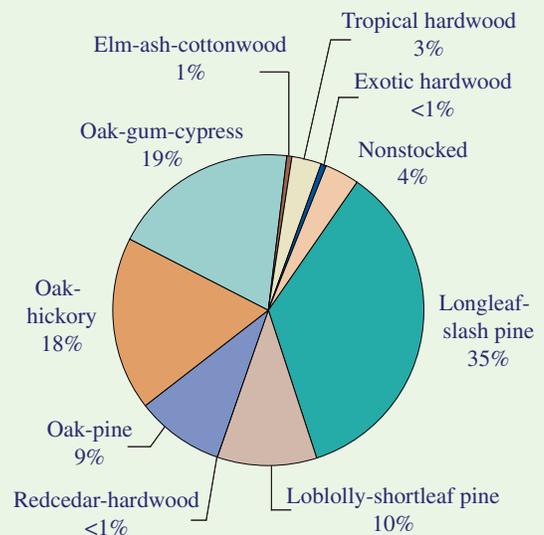
Forest Land Area

Since 1995, total forest area in Florida has increased to 16.9 million acres. The 700,000 acre increase in forest land counters decades of sequential decreases. Forests now cover 49% of the State. Much of the increase occurred in Central and South Florida where altered fire regimes and grazing uses were some of the potential contributing factors. Ninety-four percent of the forested area (15.9 million acres) is considered available for timber production and classified as timberland. The remainder is largely reserved (e.g. parks and preserves) or unproductive.

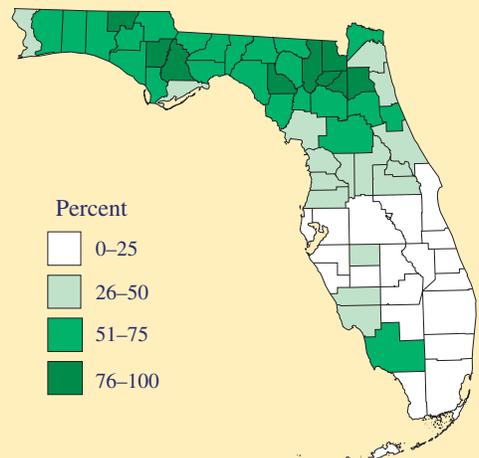
Area by land class (million acres)

Land class	1970	1980	1987	1995	2007
Forest land					
Timberland	16.2	15.7	15.0	14.7	15.9
Other/reserved	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.0
Total forest land	17.9	17.1	16.5	16.2	16.9
Nonforest land	17.2	17.9	18.1	18.3	17.5
Total land area	35.2	35.0	34.7	34.6	34.4
Percent forested	51%	49%	48%	47%	49%

Area of timberland by forest-type group



Percentage of land in forest by county



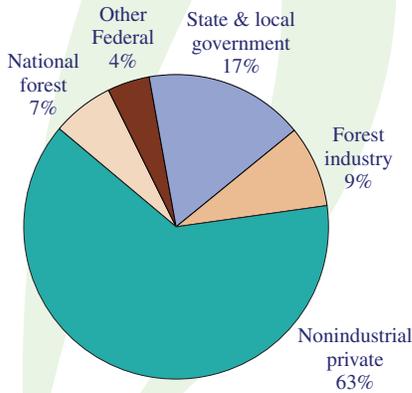
Forest Distribution

Eight of Florida's 67 counties are more than three-quarters forested. One-half of these counties either contain or are adjacent to significant areas of public lands which bolster their forest percentages. Two of the eight counties are in close proximity to large wood processing mills providing markets conducive to silvicultural land use nearby. All but one county >50% forested lies north of Orlando, the one south involves considerable public lands east of Naples. All counties one-quarter or less forested are south of Orlando.

Forest Ownership

Considerable changes or shifts have occurred in ownership of Florida's timberland since 1995. Nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) owners now control 63%, or 10.1 million acres, compared with 49%, or 7.2 million acres, in 1995. Public ownerships cumulatively own 28%, or nearly 4.5 million acres, compared with 19%, or 2.8 million acres, in 1995. Forest industry ownership shrank from 4.6 million acres, or 31%, in 1995 to just 1.4 million, or 9% in 2007. Forest industry's divestiture of timberland is behind many of these changes. For instance, Timber Investment Management Organizations and Real Estate Investment Trusts typically acquire former industry lands, which are then reclassified under NIPF ownership. In addition, State acquisitions often involve former industrial properties. Most of the increase in public timberland occurred with State lands, as area of national forests and other Federal lands changed relatively little.

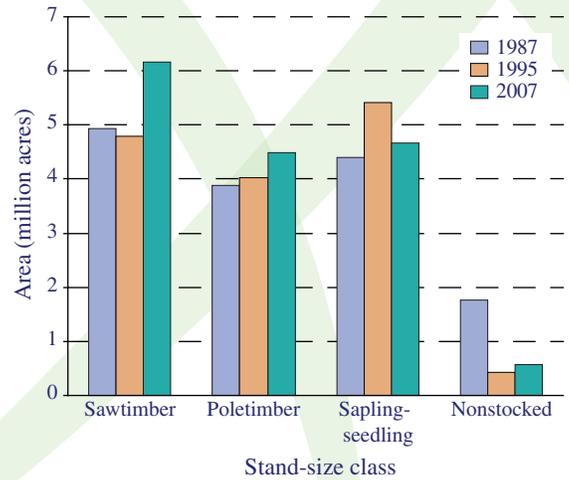
Ownership of timberland



Stand-Size Distribution

In 2007, Florida timberlands were dominated by sawtimber size stands which totaled 6.2 million acres, up from < 5.0 million acres in 1987 and 1995. Similarly, the area of poletimber size stands went up to 4.5 million acres from around 4.0 million in the previous two inventory periods. The area of sapling-seedling size stands, which in 1995 was the former dominant size class in Florida, decreased to 4.7 million acres in 2007. Although the area of sapling-seedling size stands still exceeds that of poletimber, the relationship for recruitment to the next size class appears tighter. Nonstocked stands were below 600,000 acres in 2007, a great improvement from 1.8 million acres in 1987.

Area of timberland by stand-size class



Dallas Creek. (photo by John Barrow, Florida Division of Forestry)



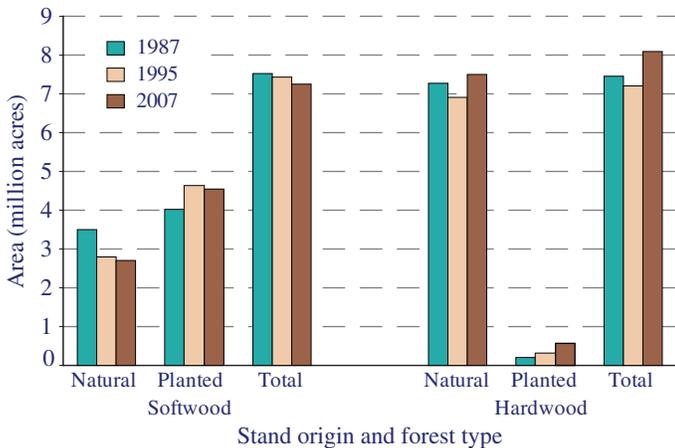


Sand hill cranes. (photo by Jimmy Roberts, Florida Division of Forestry)

Stand Origin

Softwood types accounted for 7.2 million acres in Florida. Since 1995, area of planted softwood types (virtually all pine) dropped slightly to 4.5 million acres in 2007. Similarly, acreage of natural softwood types (still predominantly pine) dropped only 100,000 acres to 2.7 million acres in the same period. As expected, the 8.0 million acres in hardwood types (including oak-pine and oak-gum-cypress) were 93% natural in occurrence. The 7%, or 577,000 acres, of hardwood types exhibiting evidence of planting were mostly classified as oak-pine or oak-hickory and typically resulted from planting of pine that did not prevail. Altogether (including nonstocked), natural stands occupied 10.7 million acres and planted stands occupied 5.2 million acres.

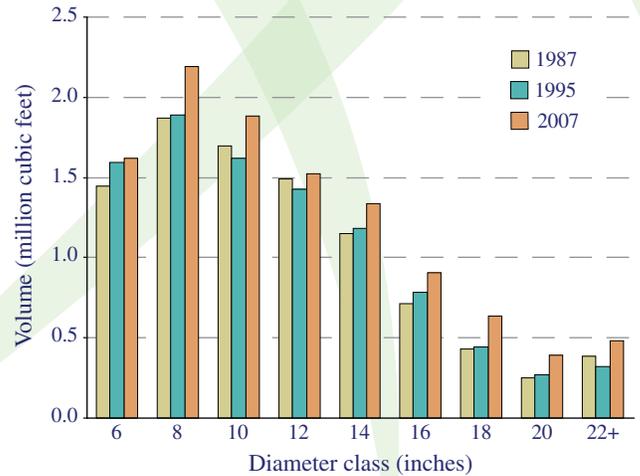
Timberland area by forest-type group and stand origin



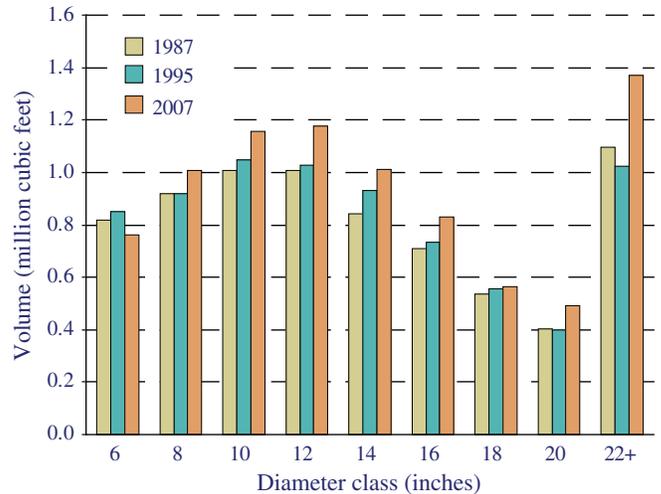
Tree Volume

Overall, all-live tree volume on timberland in Florida rose from 17.0 billion cubic feet in 1995 to 19.3 billion cubic feet in 2007. Softwoods comprised 57% of the total all-live volume in the State. Both softwoods and hardwoods increased, by 15% and 12%, respectively. Softwoods increased in each diameter class and reversed some declines previously observed in the 10- and 12-inch classes. Hardwoods increased in all but the 6-inch class where they declined by 10%. Softwood volume peaks in the 8- and 10-inch classes, with 52% of all softwood volume found in the 6- through 10-inch classes. Hardwood volume is more evenly distributed across the range of diameter classes and generally arches between 8 through 14 inches in diameter with a slight peak in the 12-inch class.

Softwood all-live volume by diameter class and year



Hardwood all-live volume by diameter class and year



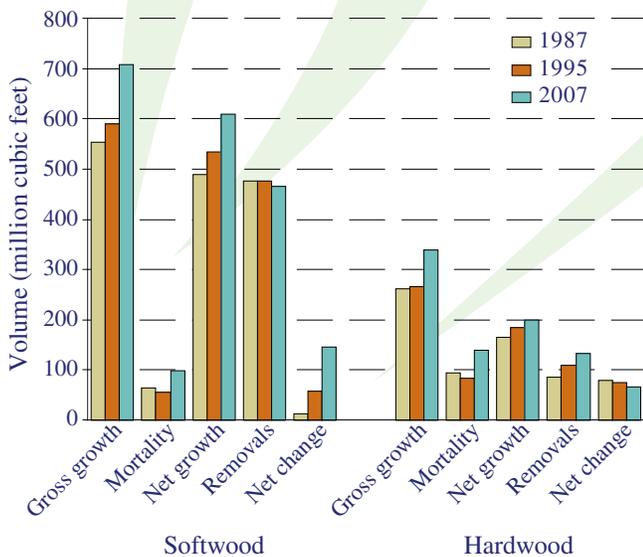
Average Annual Net Growth, Removals, and Mortality

The average annual components of change are gross growth, mortality, and removals. They are expressed as an average annual rate for the time period between the previous survey and the current survey. The relationship is such that gross growth is diminished by mortality creating net growth. Then, measured removals detract from net growth resulting in net change.

Gross growth of all-live softwoods on Florida timberland has increased the last two survey periods and reached 709 million cubic feet in 2007. Softwood mortality of all-live trees averaged 99 million cubic feet annually between 1995 and 2007. As a result of this mortality level, net growth of all-live softwoods averaged 610 million cubic feet annually for the same period. Softwood removals averaged 465 million cubic feet annually, down slightly from fairly stable levels the previous two surveys. The removals subtracted from the net growth resulted in a positive average net change of 145 million cubic feet annually in the softwood resource statewide. The net change for softwoods has increased between each of the last two survey periods.

After little change between the 1987 and 1995 surveys, gross growth of all-live hardwoods on Florida's timberland increased last survey period to 339 million cubic feet. Hardwood mortality averaged 139 million cubic feet annually between 1995 and 2007,

Growth, removals, and mortality by survey

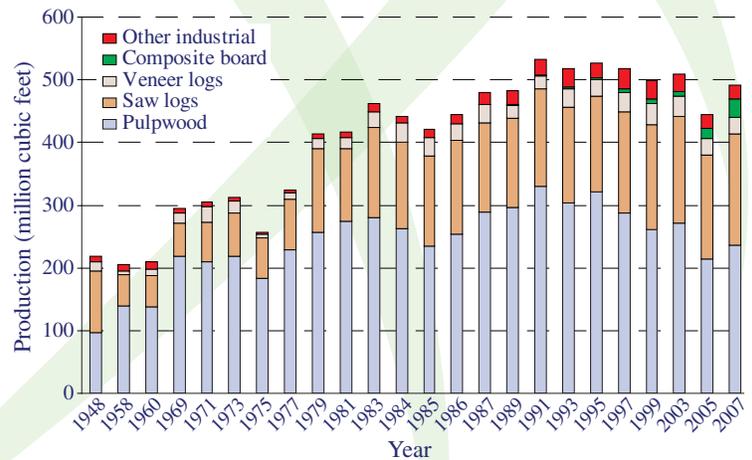


leaving net growth to average 200 million cubic feet annually. Hardwood removals averaged 134 million cubic feet annually, up since each of the previous two surveys. The difference resulted in a positive average net change of 66 million cubic feet annually in the hardwood resource. The net change for hardwoods, although still positive, has declined gradually between each of the last two survey periods.

Timber Product Output

The 77 sawmills, pulpwood mills, and other primary wood-processing plants operating in Florida averaged 482 million cubic feet of timber products per year between 2003 and 2007. During that time period, pulpwood accounted for 240 million cubic feet (50%) and saw logs for 172 million cubic feet (36%) of total roundwood production. The two products together accounted for >85% of the total roundwood production. Other products in the State included veneer logs, composite board, posts and pilings, and more recently wood pellets.

Production of primary timber products



Economic Impact

Forestry, wood, and paper products industry in Florida annually generates about \$16.7 billion in revenue, \$7.0 billion in value added, employs 89,000 persons, and is a leading economic sector in many rural counties in the northern part of the State. Revenue from forestry and related activities is the largest, while the total value added is second only to environmental horticulture among seven leading agricultural industries in Florida.

Production of primary timber products has more than doubled within the past 60 years, growing from 218.1 million cubic feet in 1948 to 491.1 million cubic feet in 2007.



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