

# FACT SHEET

No. 5

## Timber & Timber Harvesting in West Virginia

July, 2002

### Ownership of West Virginia Timberlands

West Virginia timberland acreages and timber volumes have increased steadily for more than 50 years. Arguably, both are at the highest levels of the century. The State's timberland tax incentives for professionally managed timberland along with one of the nation's best silvicultural water quality management programs should insure perpetual availability.

West Virginia's total land area is 15,415,400 acres. Of this, approximately 77.9% (12,001,500) is forestland and 22.1% (3,413,900) is non-forestland including cropland, pasture, water and other. The total timberland acres are 11,791,700 including 12,400 acres classified as urban.

Some of the (other) non-forestland uses include rights of way, 639,977 acres, single-family housing, 568,800 acres, industrial commercial areas, 76,635 acres, recreational areas, 59,319 acres, and marsh and swampland, 14,165 acres, among others.

Of the 11,791,700 acres of timberland, oak-hickory occupies the greatest acreage (8,414,700). This is followed closely by northern hardwoods, which occupy 2,393,600 acres. Oak-pine and elm-ash-red maple are the next largest categories at 317,000 acres and 312,000 acres. These forest types are distributed approximately as follows: national forest, 980,200 acres; other federal lands, 107,000 acres; state owned, 238,000 acres; city and county, 77,000 acres; forest industry, 1,094,800 acres; corporate, 2,530,200 acres; farmer, 605,500 acres and other individuals, 6,158,800 acres.

A new inventory is scheduled for publication in 2003.

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