

Forest Inventory and Analysis

2004 highlights

Highlights of Wisconsin's sixth Forest Inventory and Analysis, completed in 2004.

Area of forestlands and forest types

- Wisconsin's total forestland has remained stable since 1996 at 16 million acres, or 46 percent of the state's land area.
- The maple/beech/birch, oak/hickory and aspen/birch forest types together make up about 70 percent of the state's forestlands.
- Maple/beech/birch remains the dominant forest type, composing 28 percent of Wisconsin's forests.

Area of stand-size classes

- Acreage of the seedling-sapling stand-size class has decreased by 31 percent since 1996.
- The pole-timber-stand size class has remained constant.
- Sawtimber acreage has increased by 33 percent since the last inventory.

Forest ownership

- Patterns of forest ownership have changed little since 1996: In 2004, 68 percent of Wisconsin's forests were privately owned, mostly by individuals and families.

Volume of all trees

- The volume of all live trees greater than 1-inch dbh was 22.1 billion cubic feet in 2004.

Growing stock volume

- Growing stock volume on Wisconsin's forestlands was 19.7 billion cubic feet in 2004.
- Hardwood species made up 74 percent of net growing stock volume.
- Of the hardwoods, cottonwood/aspen had the largest net growing stock volume.

- Among softwoods, eastern white and red pines accounted for 51 percent of net growing stock volume.
- The growing stock volume of most major commercial tree species has increased since 1996, with the exception of jack pine, select red oak and aspen.

Sawtimber volume

- Sawtimber volume on Wisconsin's forests was 54.8 billion board feet in 2004.
- Hardwoods accounted for 66 percent of net sawtimber volume.
- Of the hardwoods, select red oak had the largest net sawtimber volume.
- Eastern white and red pines made up 61 percent of net sawtimber volume among softwood species.

Biomass

- In 2004, the aboveground tree biomass in Wisconsin's forests was more than 593 million dry tons.
- 82 percent of total biomass was in hardwood species and 18 percent in softwoods.
- 58 percent of biomass was in the boles of growing stock trees.
- Private lands accounted for 70 percent of total tree biomass.

Growth, mortality and removals

- The average annual net growth of growing stock from 1996 to 2004 was 653 million cubic feet per year, or 3.3 percent of the current growing stock inventory on Wisconsin's forests.
- Average annual removals of growing stock from 1996 to 2004 were 346 million cubic feet per year, or 1.8 percent of the current growing stock inventory.
- Average annual removals from private lands exceeded removals from public lands.
- Average annual mortality of growing stock between 1996 and 2004 was 180 million cubic feet per year, or one percent of the current growing stock inventory.
- Average annual net growth of trees generally surpasses removals on both private and public forests, with the exception of jack pine (removals currently exceed growth) and white oak (removals equal growth).