

TREND DATA

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Forest area, 1760-2000

Forest area by region, 1760-2000

Productive forest area

Annual harvest area by method

Forest area by stand size

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Rates of growth, removals & mortality

Growing stock removals

VOLUME

Growing stock volume

Volume per acre

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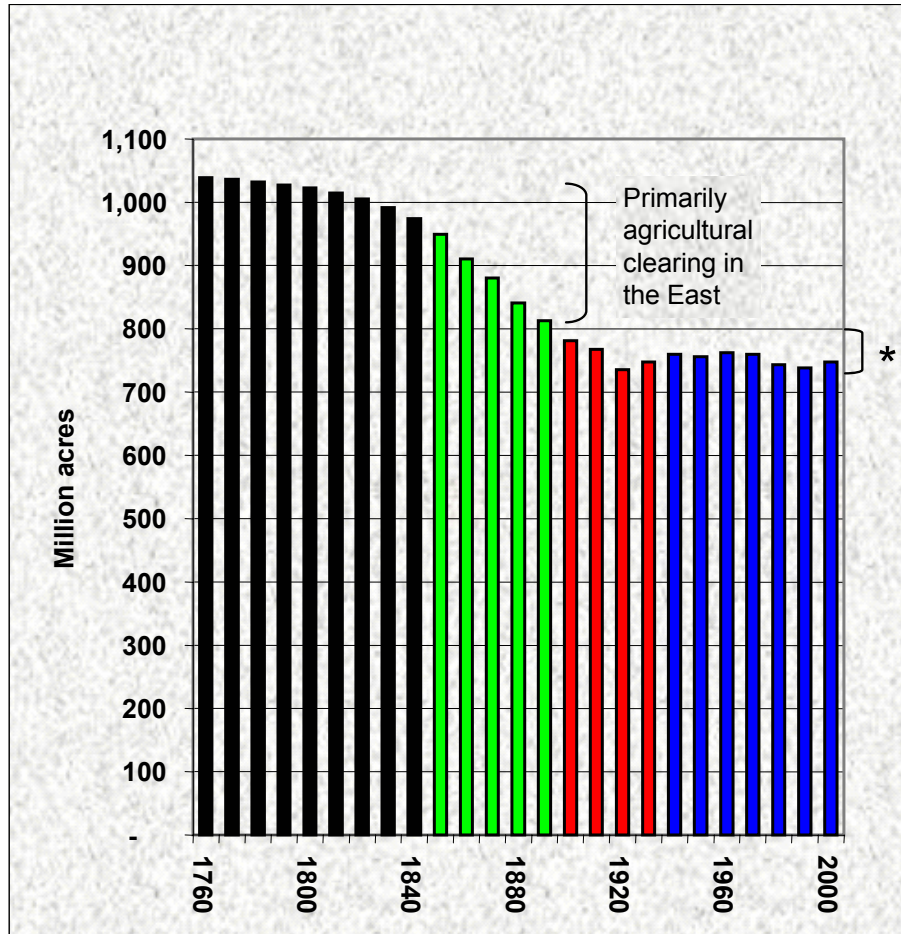
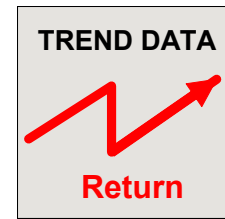
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Forest area, 1760-2000



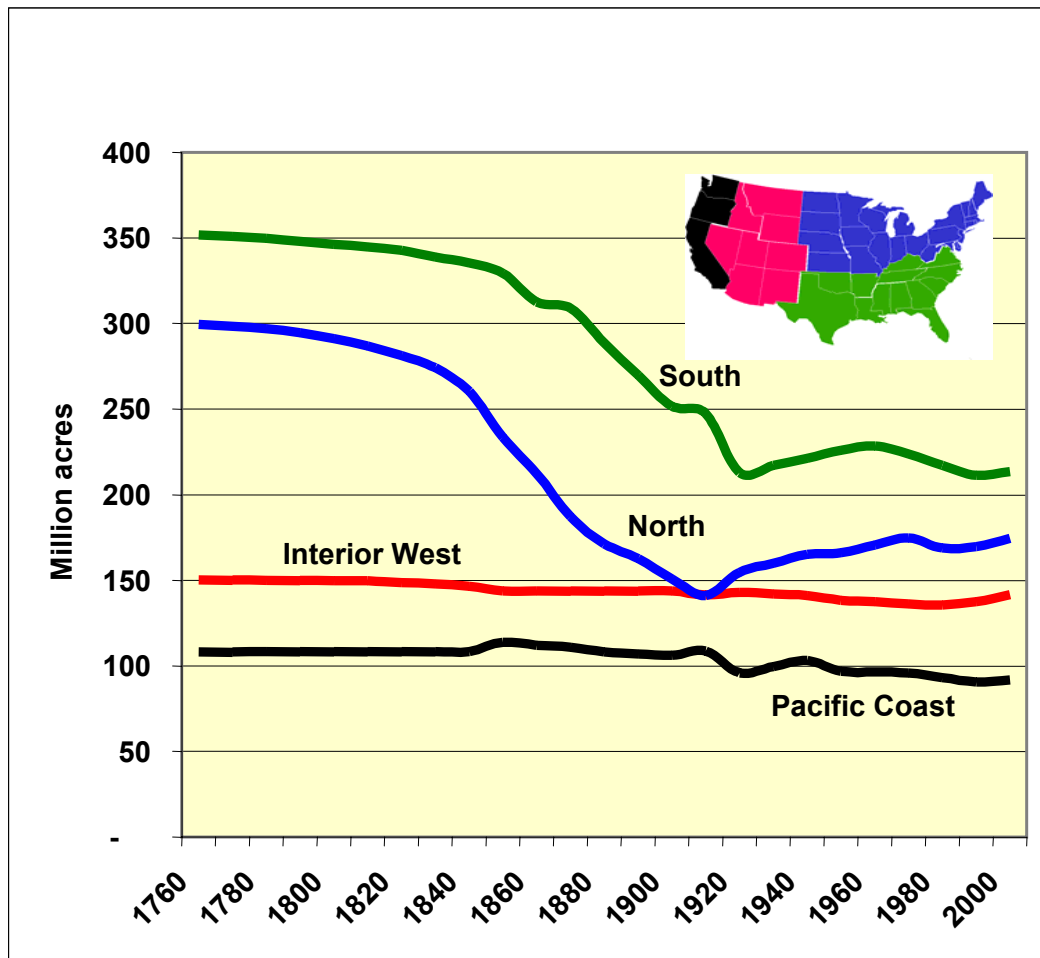
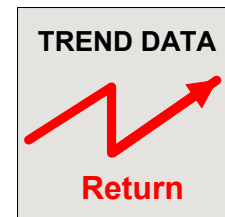
Bars include area in all 50 current States.

* Since 1900, forest area in the U.S. has remained statistically within 745 million acres +/-5% with the lowest point in 1920 of 735 million acres. U.S. forest area in 2000 was about 749 million acres.

Basis for chart data:

-  FIA Field Inventory Reports
-  Forest Service report estimates prior to FIA field inventories.
-  Based on Bureau of the Census land clearing statistics.
-  Based on estimates of forest clearing proportional to population growth.

Regional forest trends in the 48 States, 1760-2000



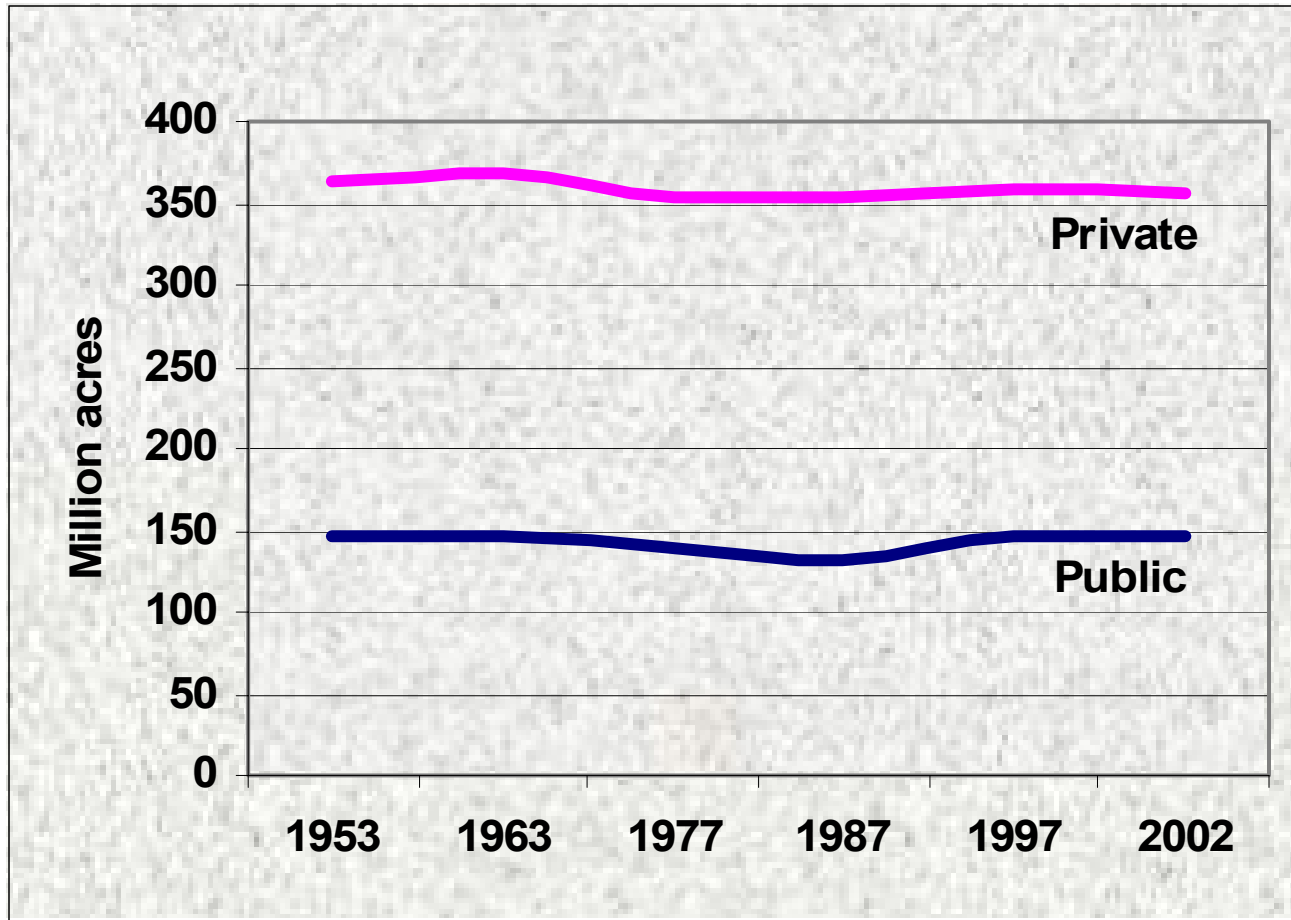
Original forests in what is now the U.S. totaled about 1.05 billion acres (including what is now the State of AK and HI). Clearing of forest land in the East between 1850 and 1900 averaged 13 square miles every day for 50 years; the most prolific period of forest clearing in U.S. history. This coincides with one of the most prolific periods of U.S. immigration. Currently, forests cover about 749 million acres of the U.S. or about 33 percent of all land.

Basis for chart data:

- 1940- pres. FIA Field Inventory Reports
- 1900 – 1930 Forest Service report estimates prior to FIA field inventories.
- 1850 – 1890 Based on Bureau of the Census land clearing statistics.
- 1760 – 1840 Based on estimates of forest clearing proportional to population growth.



Area of productive unreserved forest by major owner group, 1953-2002



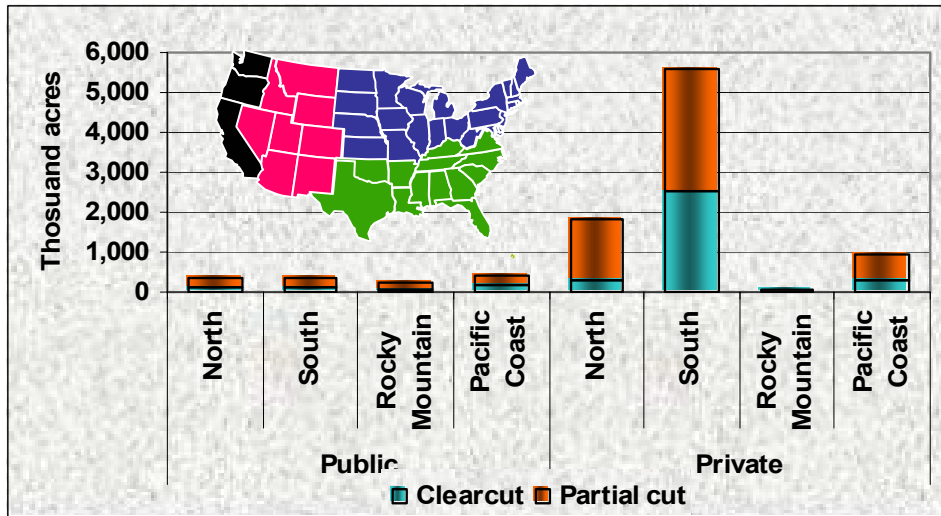
The area of productive unreserved forest land (timberland) has remained stable for the last 50 years.

Source: [National Report on Forest Resources](#)

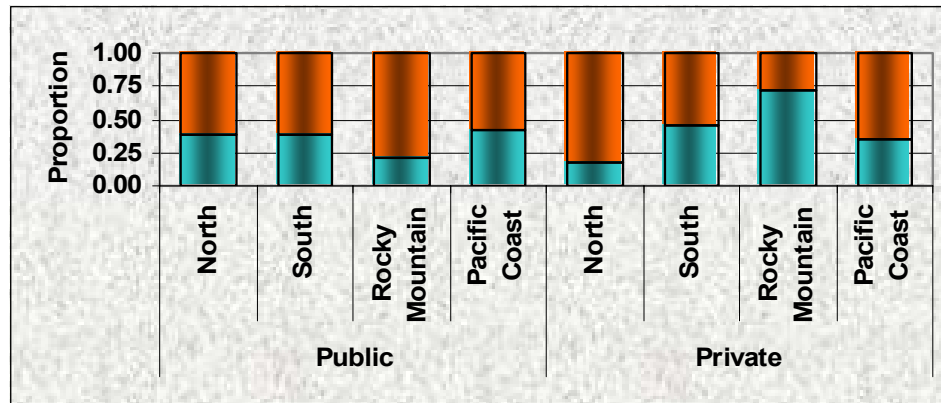
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Average annual harvest area by region and method



Owner	Region	Total	Clearcut	Partial Cut
<i>thousand acres</i>				
Public	North	368	140	229
	South	348	133	215
	Rocky Mountain	256	53	203
	Pacific Coast	402	167	234
	Total	1,374	492	882
Private	North	1,824	319	1,505
	South	5,617	2,549	3,068
	Rocky Mountain	124	91	33
	Pacific Coast	916	322	594
	Total	8,481	3,282	5,199
All owners	North	2,192	459	1,733
	South	5,965	2,682	3,283
	Rocky Mountain	380	144	236
	Pacific Coast	1,318	490	828
	Total	9,855	3,774	6,081



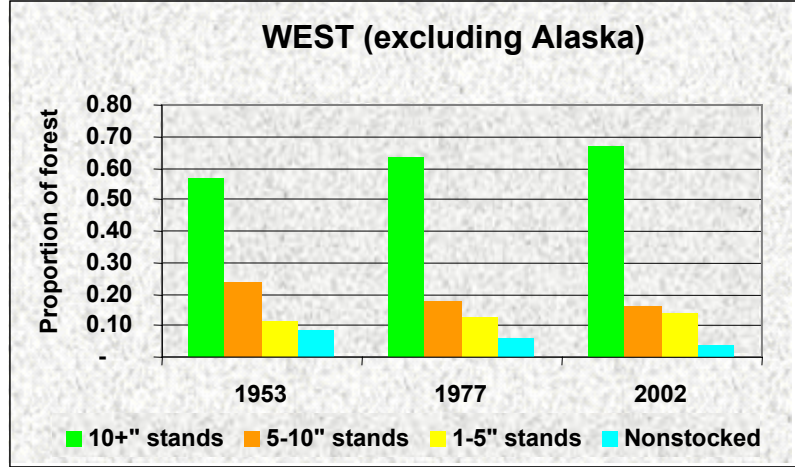
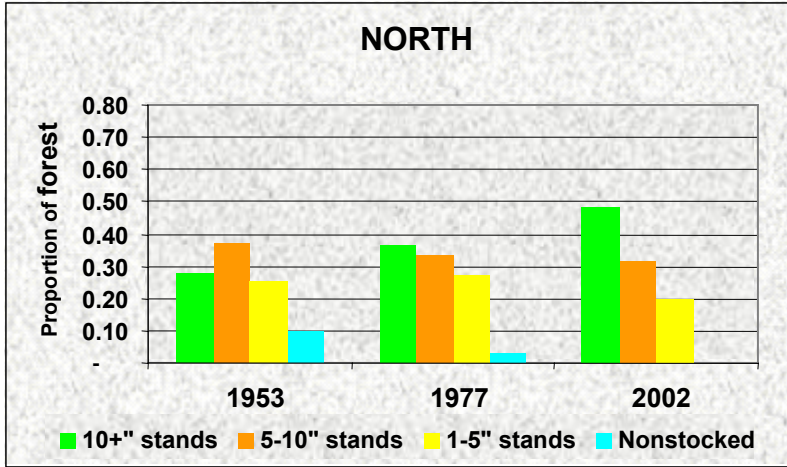
Source: FIA State Reports from the mid 1980s to mid 1990s.

Harvesting affects nearly 10 million acres in the U.S. annually, or about 1.3% of all forest land. Over half the harvest area is in the South which provides nearly 60% of all the Nation's forest products annually.

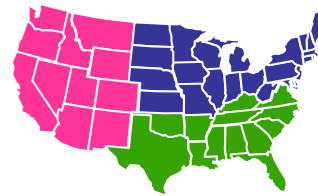
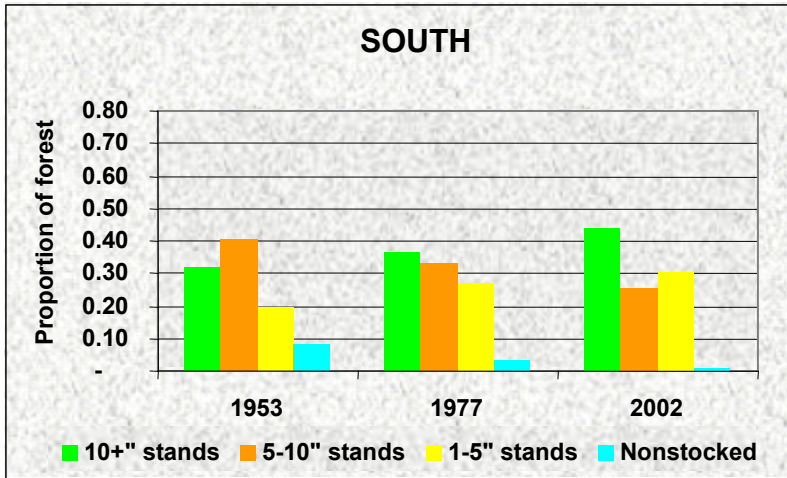
While significant, harvesting affects less than 3% of the South's forests annually.

Only about 38 percent of the Nation's annual harvest area is by the clearcut method.

Forest area by average stand diameter



Source: Forest Resources of the United States, 2002



The optimal mix of forests of different average size trees is difficult to define and depends greatly on management objectives. Clearly, the effects of human activity and natural events paint different pictures in different regions.

In the North, as forests mature, stands over 10-inches in average diameter have nearly doubled since 1953 while smaller diameter (younger) stands are declining as a proportion of all forests.

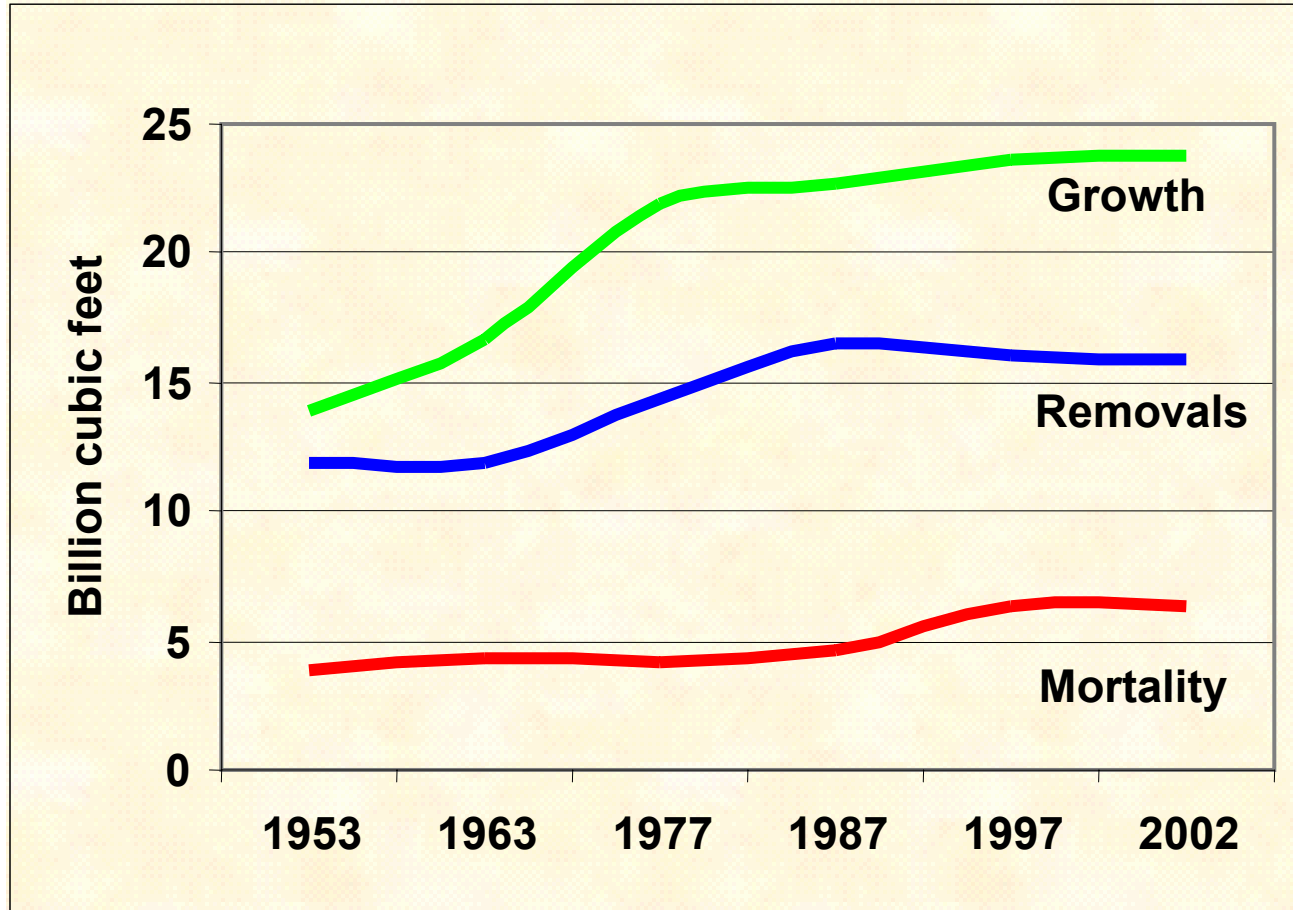
In the South, as pressure increases on commercial harvesting, 1-5 inch average diameter stands, planted and natural, are increasing.

In the West, as public harvesting has declined, larger diameter stands continue to increase and smaller diameter (younger) stands are declining.

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Growing stock growth, removals, and mortality on productive unreserved forest, 1953-2002

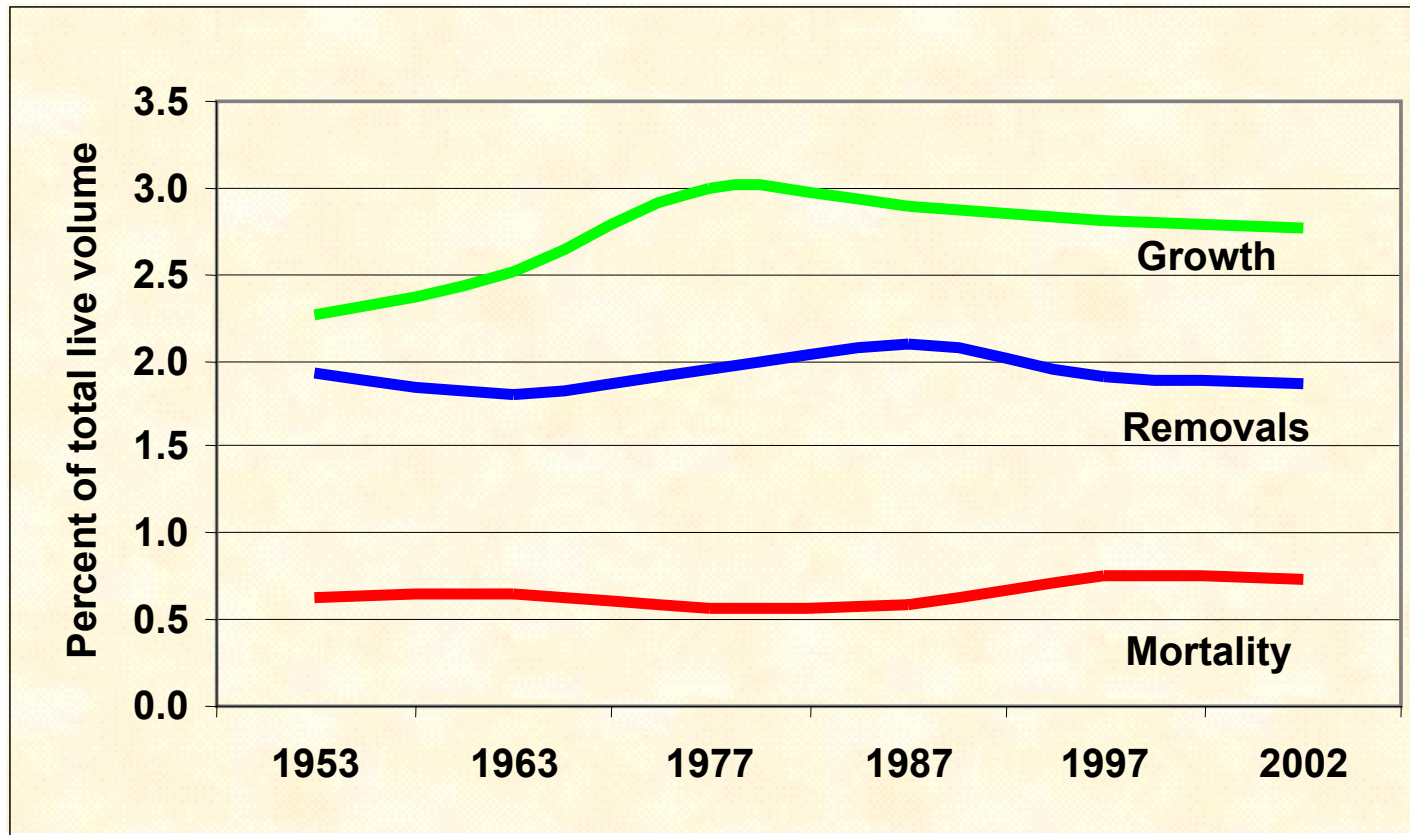


Total volume of net growth has stabilized in recent years.

Removals have stabilized but imports are on the rise.

While total mortality is up, the rate of mortality as percent of live volume is stable.

Rates of growing stock growth, removals, and mortality on productive unreserved forest, 1953-2002



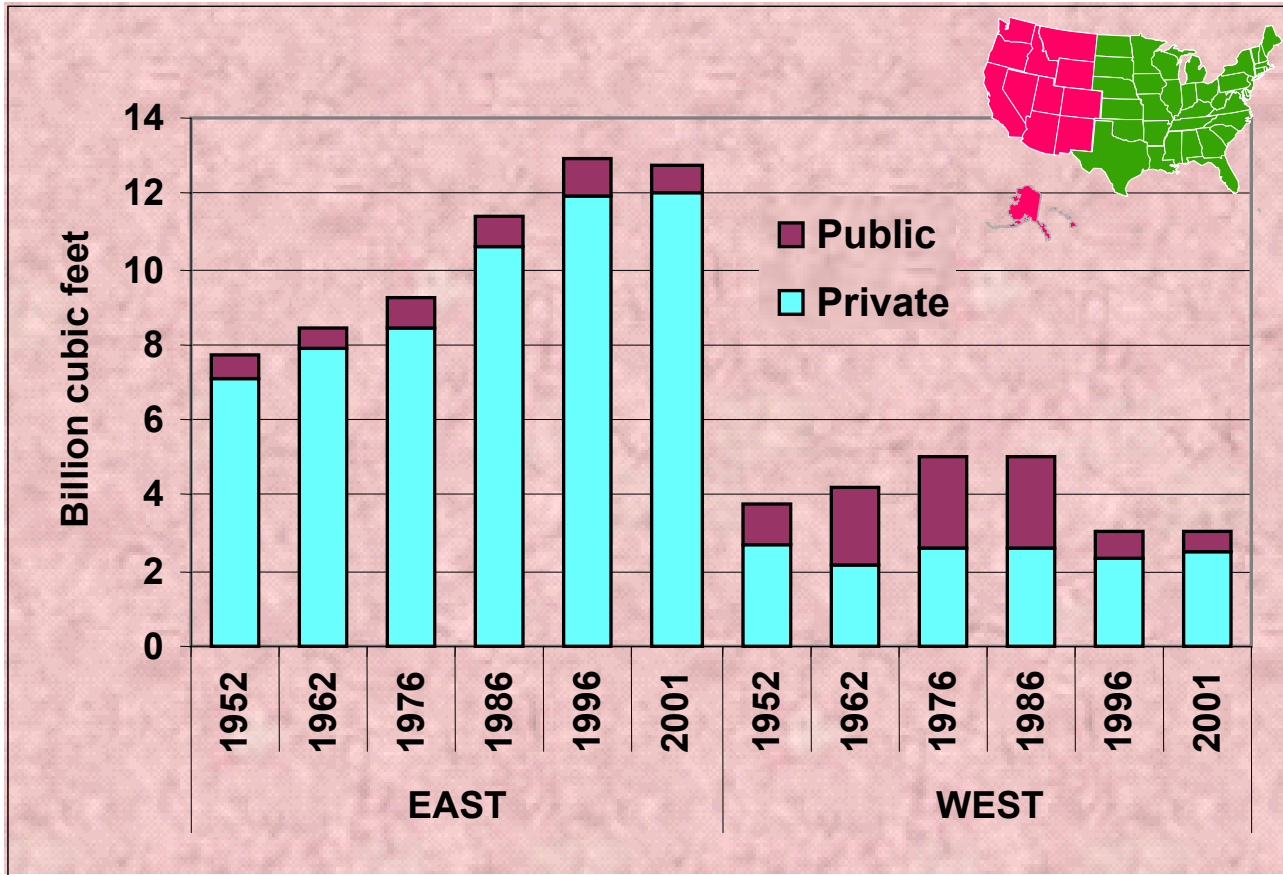
As the nation's forests continue to increase in average age and decline in trees per acre, the rate of net growth is declining.

The removals rate has declined slightly but imports are on the rise.

While total mortality is up, the rate of mortality as percent of live volume is relatively stable.



Growing stock harvest by major owner, region and year



As public policy has shifted, removals have moved dramatically from public land in the West to private land in the East in the last 15 years.

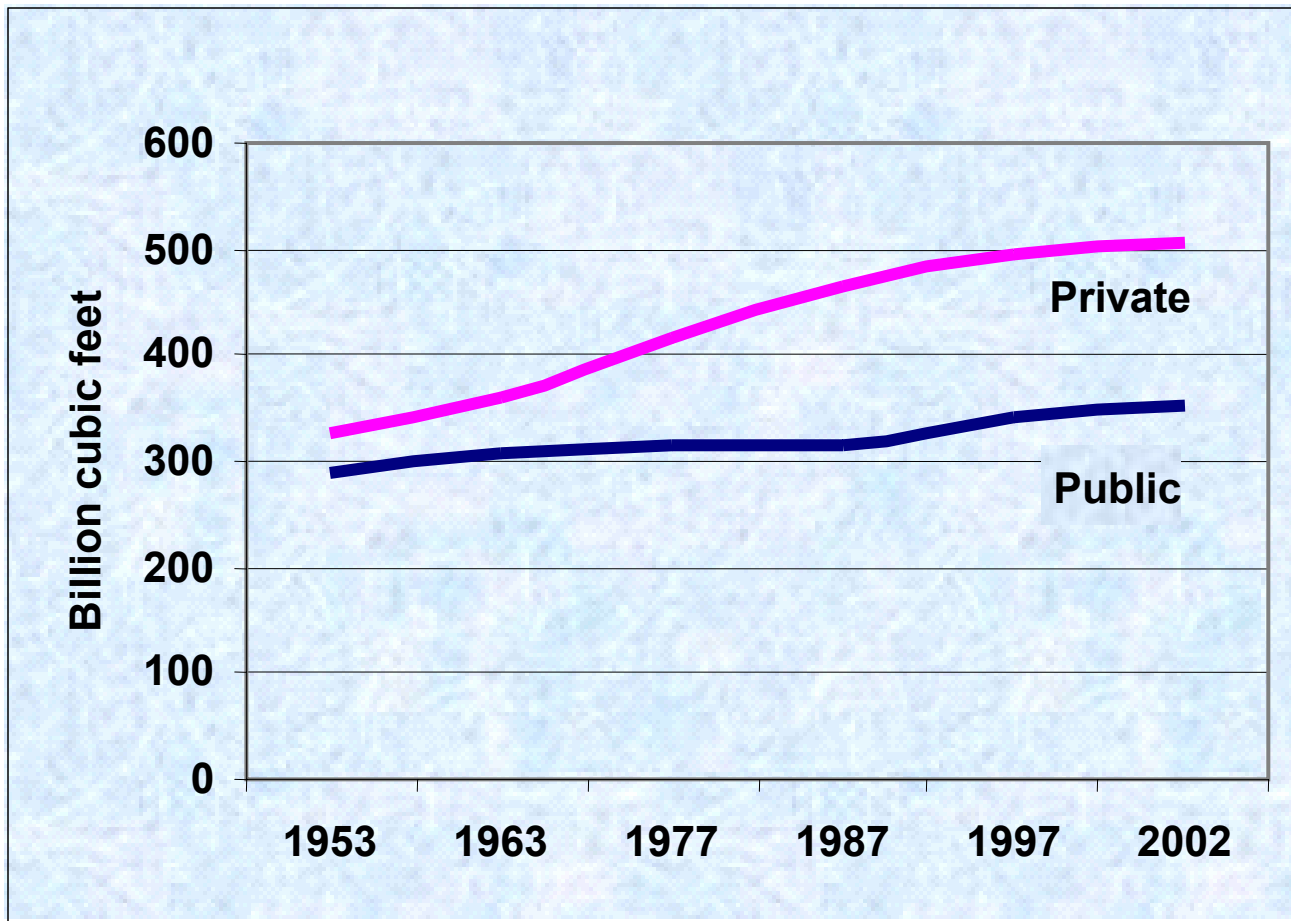
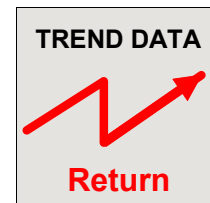
[Click here for additional historic data on U.S. Timber Production, Trade, Consumption, and Price Statistics 1965-2002.](#)

Source: [National Report on Forest Resources](#)

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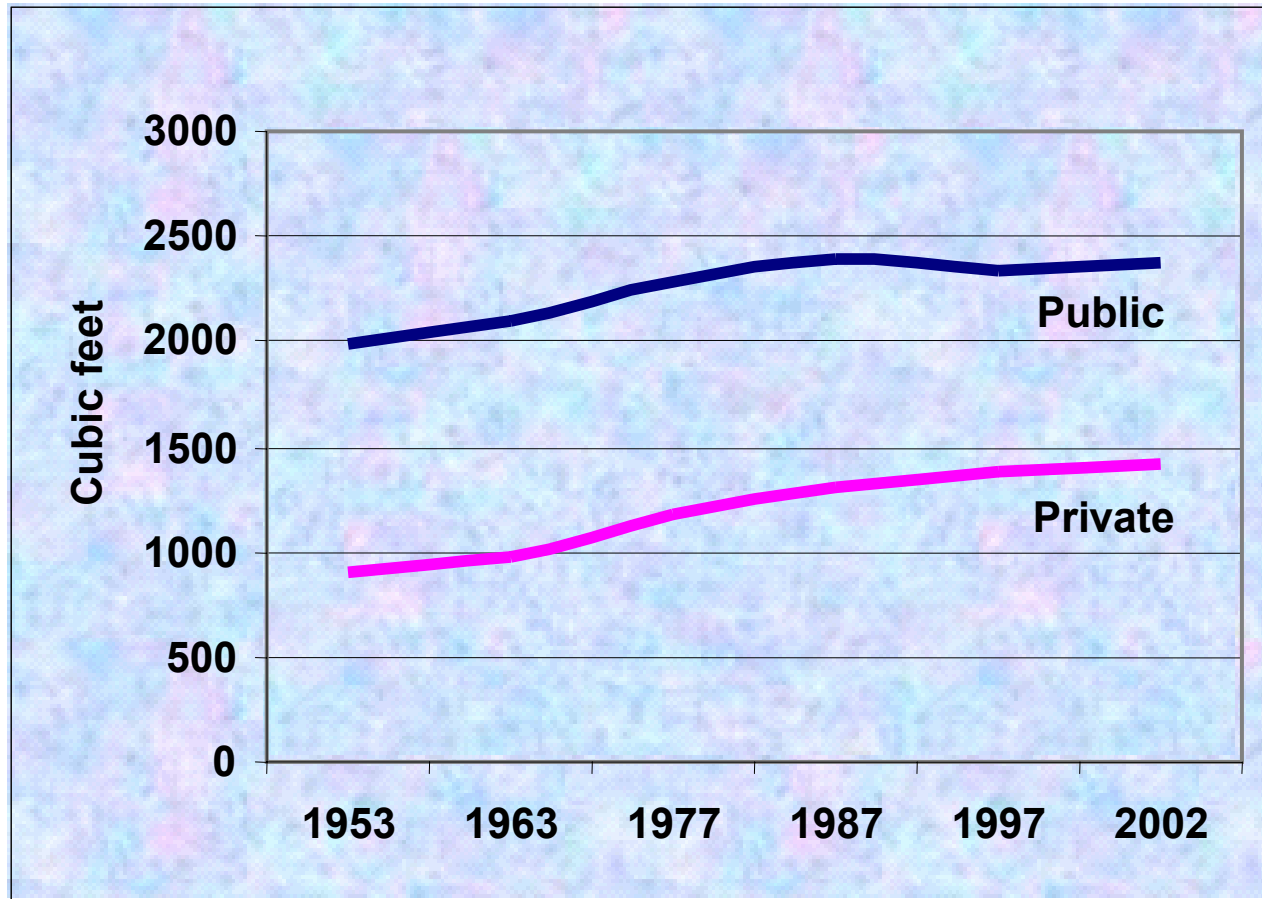


Growing stock volume on productive unreserved forest by major owner group, 1953-2002



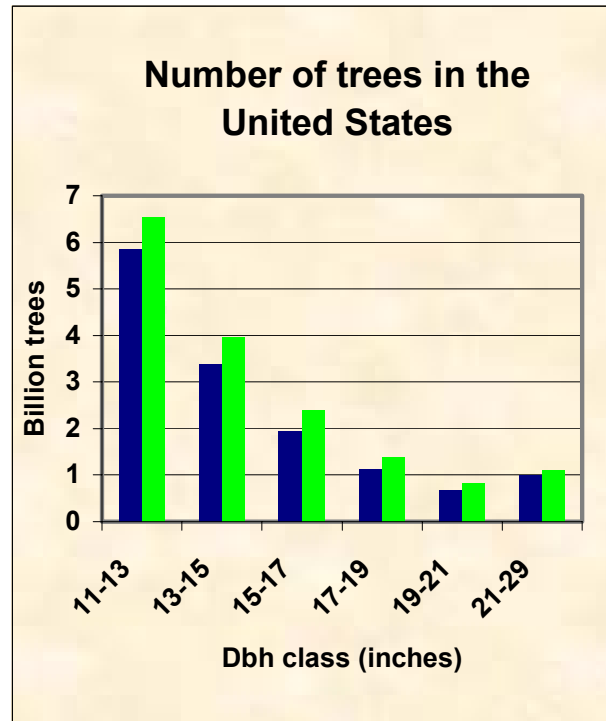
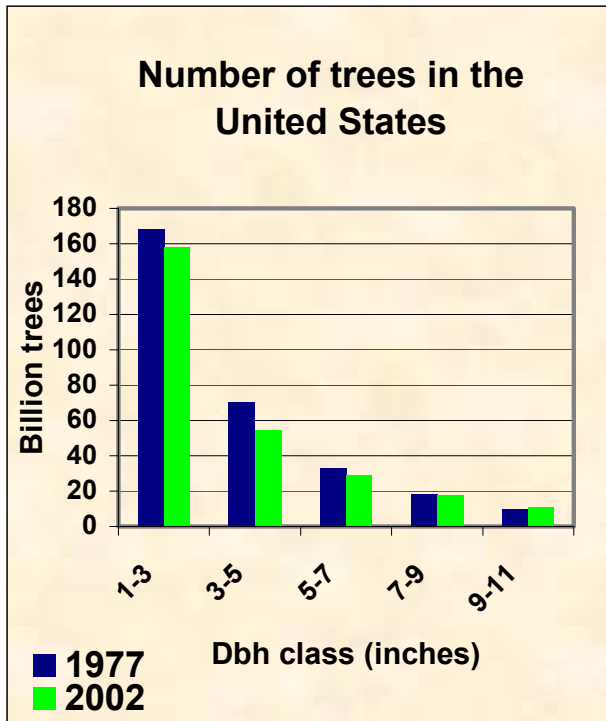
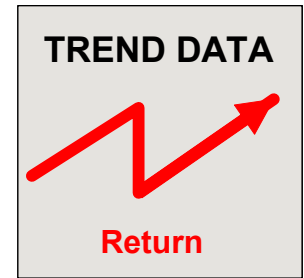
As removals remain at levels below net growth, volume on productive unreserved forest land (timberland) continues to rise.

Volume of growing stock per acre on productive unreserved forest by major owner group, 1953-2002



Volume per acre on productive unreserved forest land (timberland) continues to accrue with the highest volumes per acre on public forest.

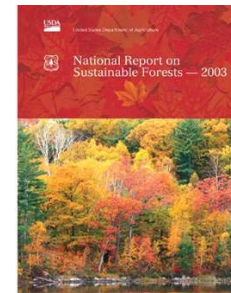
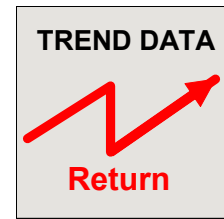
Numbers of live trees by diameter, 1977 and 2002



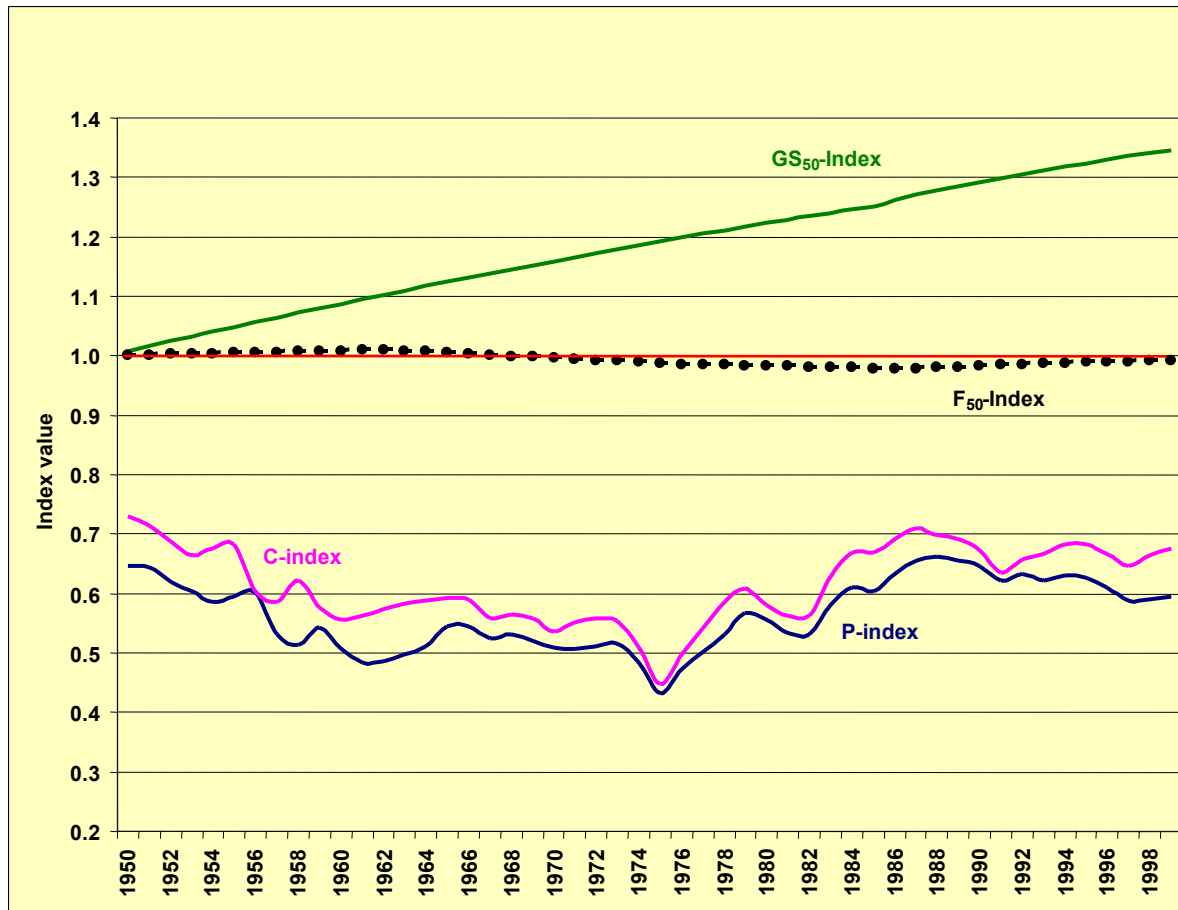
As forests mature the average number of small trees tends to decline due to natural competition and the number of large trees increases. This pattern is evident in the U.S. over the past 25 years, although it may vary by region and historic conditions such as harvesting and catastrophic events such as fire. There are currently nearly 300 billion trees at least 1-inch in diameter in the U.S.



U.S. forest production, consumption, growing stock and area sustainability indices



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The **GS₅₀-Index** is the cumulative accrual factor for growing stock volume since the base year 1950.

The **E-Line** is the equilibrium point where net annual growth would be equal to domestic production in a given year. If this occurs, the growing stock accrual line would flatten during that period.

The **F₅₀-Index** is the change in total forest area since the base year 1950.

The **P-Index** is the proportion of annual net growth needed to provide for domestic timber production in a given year.

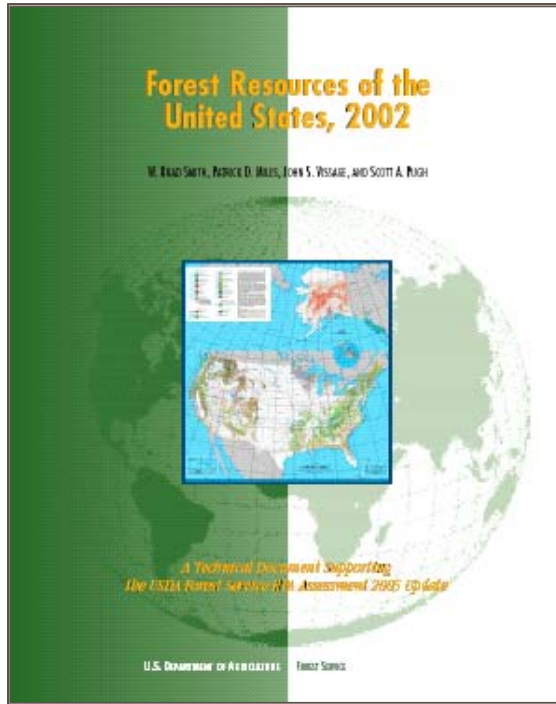
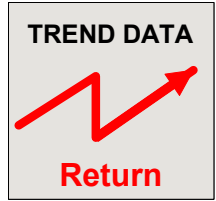
The **C-Index** is the proportion of annual net growth that would be needed to provide for domestic consumption in a given year if there were no imports and we were required to meet our own demand.

Source: [National Report on Forest Resources and U.S. Timber Production, Trade, Consumption, and Price Statistics 1965-2002.](#)

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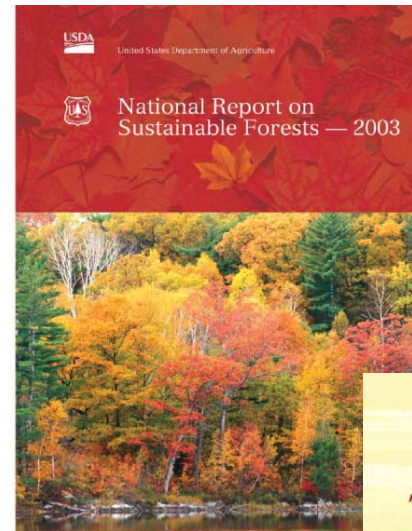
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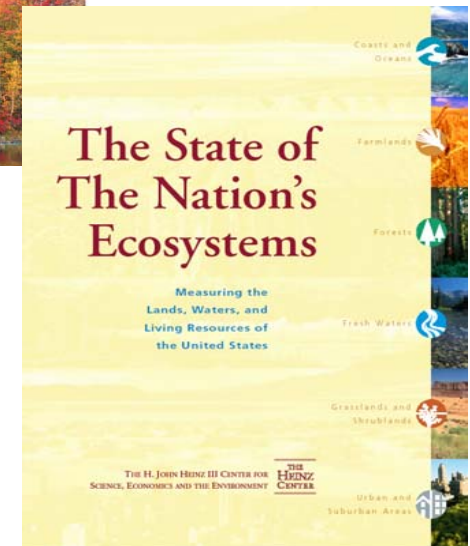
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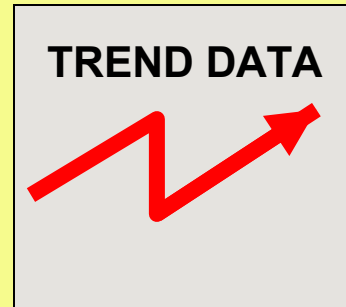


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1630-2000 US forest area and population

1977 RPA tables

1987 RPA tables

1997 RPA tables

2002 RPA tables

1953-2002 RPA regional summary statistics

1953-2002 Harvest area and volume

1977 and 2002 number of live trees

1963-2002 GS trees by species and dbh

1987-2002 NFS timberland summary

2001 IUCN Red List data for US trees

Historic FIA Inventory Dates by State

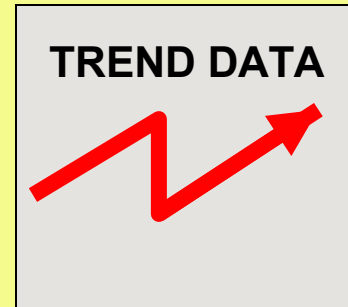
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HISTORIC PUBLICATIONS



Historic Data Bibliography

1885 US Forest Facts

1909 The Timber Supply of the United States

1910 Forest Resources of the World

1920 Capper Report

1932 US Forest Situation


1937 Lake States Survey Stories

1946 US Forest Status

1948 FIA Status Report

1960 Business of Counting Trees

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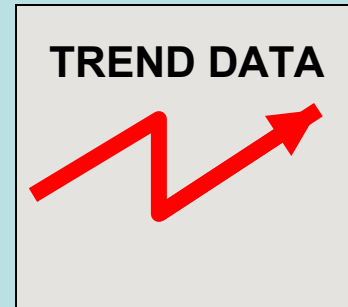
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