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FOREST SERVICE, U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, 6816 MARKET STREET, UPPER DARBY, PA.



A GLIMPSE AT NEW YORK'S CURRENT TIMBER RESOURCE

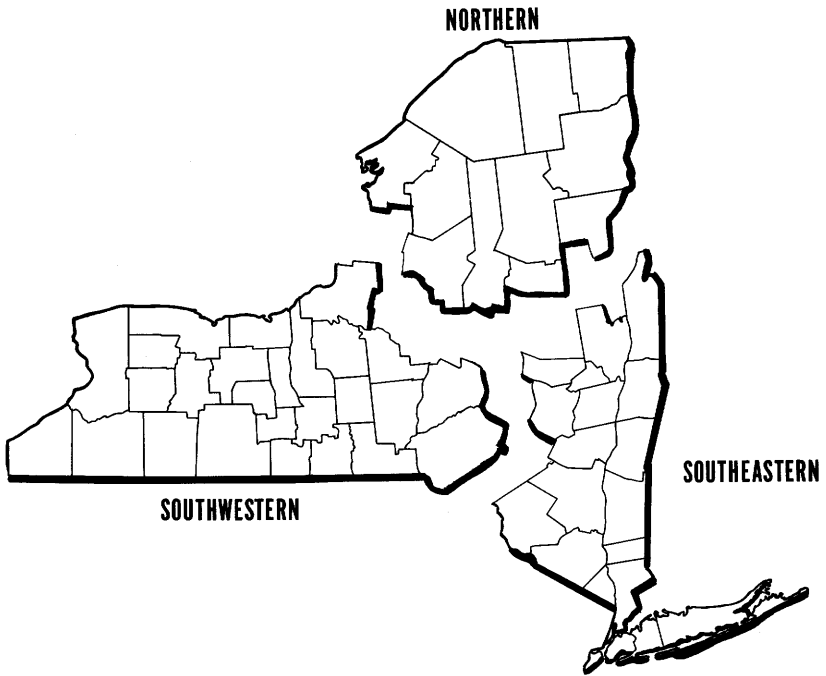
Abstract.—Data from the recent Forest Survey of New York reveal a 13-percent increase in commercial forest land area, a 12-percent increase in the cubic-foot volume of growing stock, and a 4-percent decrease in the board-foot volume of growing stock during the 18-year period between surveys.

In November, 1968, the second Forest Survey of the timber resources of New York was completed. Preliminary data for the Southwestern and Northern Regions already have been released and a similar release for the Southeastern Region will be available in 1969. A comprehensive statistical-analytical report containing data for 8 geographic units and 55 counties is being prepared for publication late in 1969.

This interim release is intended to provide a glimpse at the current statewide totals and to note some of the more important changes that have occurred since the initial Forest Survey was completed in 1950.

The total area of commercial forest land in New York has increased 13 percent since 1950. This increase has not been uniform over the State. The Southeastern Region actually decreased 3 percent in commercial forest area whereas the Southwestern Region had a 23-percent increase.

The increase in commercial forest area and a surplus of growth over cut combined to produce a 12-percent increase in the net cubic-foot volume of growing-stock trees. Some species did not follow this general trend. Yellow birch has been hit by the dieback complex, resulting in a loss of inventory volume since 1950. High mortality also has occurred in cedar and the elms.



The regions of New York used in reporting the findings of the Forest Survey.

The board-foot inventory volume has decreased 4 percent since 1950. Many factors have contributed to this loss. These include heavier removals of sawtimber, mortality, and a general decline in quality.

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Table 1.—Commercial forest land area by geographic region and forest type, 1968

Forest type	Thousands of acres			Sampling error in percent of cell total		
	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region
	White-red pine-hemlock	331.9	463.6	490.3	13	10
Spruce-balsam fir	48.5	599.6	10.5	39	10	73
Oak-pine	50.4	57.9	142.6	35	30	19
Oak-hickory	387.3	100.6	788.7	12	24	8
Elm-ash-red maple	1,492.6	929.2	859.9	6	8	7
Maple-beech-birch	2,711.3	2,353.6	775.9	4	5	8
Aspen-birch	364.0	646.2	112.4	13	13	22
Plantation	312.0	136.9	115.2	15	21	23
All types	5,698.0	5,287.6	3,295.5	1	1	2

Table 2.—Net cubic-foot volume of growing-stock trees by geographic region and species, 1968

Species	Millions of cubic feet			Sampling error in percent of cell total		
	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region
	White-red pine	352.8	467.5	457.6	14	10
Spruce and fir	16.4	600.3	20.8	44	7	37
Hemlock	399.9	372.2	309.9	9	10	9
Other softwoods	33.9	114.0	35.4	33	17	31
All softwoods	803.0	1,534.0	823.7	8	4	6
Beech-birch-maple	1,404.9	1,334.1	435.2	5	4	6
Oaks	489.6	133.7	808.0	8	14	6
Other hardwoods	2,118.5	1,280.8	1,014.3	3	4	4
All hardwoods	4,013.0	2,748.6	2,257.5	2	3	3
All species	4,816.0	4,302.6	3,081.2	2	1	2

Table 3.—Net board-foot volume of growing-stock trees by geographic region and species, 1968

Species	Millions of board feet			Sampling error in percent of cell total		
	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region	Southwestern Region	Northern Region	Southeastern Region
	White-red pine	619.0	1,246.3	1,140.9	15	10
Spruce and fir	6.2	1,077.5	34.6	50	8	40
Hemlock	850.1	1,026.0	730.5	10	11	11
Other softwoods	35.5	165.1	67.1	45	20	32
All softwoods	1,510.8	3,514.9	1,973.1	9	5	7
Beech-birch-maple	2,473.3	3,404.2	744.1	6	4	8
Oaks	1,162.4	314.5	1,915.6	9	16	6
Other hardwoods	3,396.6	2,501.3	1,497.6	4	5	6
All hardwoods	7,032.3	6,220.0	4,157.3	3	3	4
All species	8,543.1	9,734.9	6,130.4	2	2	2

Table 4.—Average net annual growth by geographic region and species group, 1950-68

Region	Thousands of cubic feet		Thousands of board feet	
	Softwoods	Hardwoods	Softwoods	Hardwoods
Southwestern	21,009	87,096	56,616	173,460
Northern	30,989	47,048	70,370	130,866
Southeastern	17,502	41,856	57,014	118,174
Total	69,500	176,000	184,000	422,500

Table 5.—Average annual removals by geographic region and species group, 1950-68

Region	Thousands of cubic feet		Thousands of board feet	
	Softwoods	Hardwoods	Softwoods	Hardwoods
Southwestern	4,692	50,369	14,951	195,129
Northern	28,043	31,880	90,508	124,236
Southeastern	7,965	10,851	32,641	15,635
Total	40,700	93,100	138,100	335,000

Table 6.—Average annual mortality by geographic region and species group, 1950-68

Region	Thousands of cubic feet		Thousands of board feet	
	Softwoods	Hardwoods	Softwoods	Hardwoods
Southwestern	6,389	31,457	8,134	39,233
Northern	14,474	27,903	24,596	35,511
Southeastern	6,437	18,240	10,270	13,756
Total	27,300	77,600	43,000	88,500

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