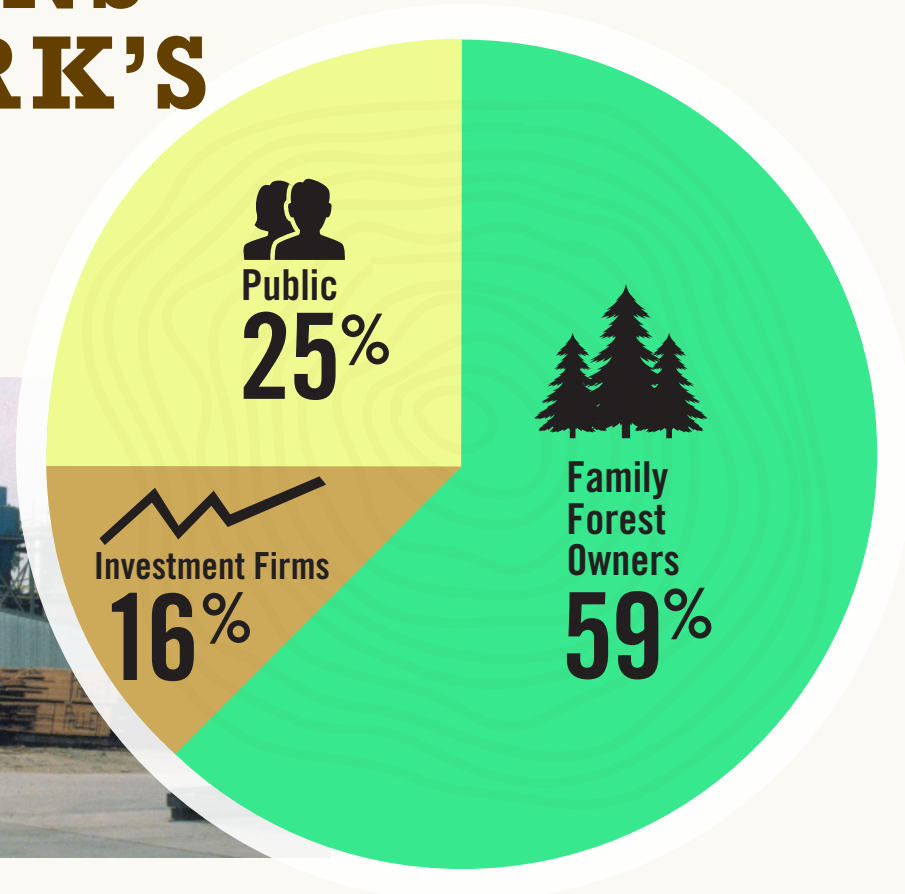


WHO OWNS NEW YORK'S FORESTS



Source: ESFPA, January 2019

THE FOREST SUPPLY CHAIN



NEW YORK'S WOODS AND FORESTS WORK FOR US



Every day our lives are improved by our forests and the products they provide. Actively managed by skilled professionals and sustained by strong markets, our forests provide a continuous supply of wood for manufacturing, energy and innovative products. All this while delivering clean air, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and carbon benefits.

Good paying, highly-skilled jobs are made possible thanks to working forests in rural communities still struggling toward economic recovery.



New York Forests & Wood Products:

- 19 million acres of forest
- 75% privately owned
- \$23 billion economic impact
- Over \$61,000 average income/worker
- Over 60 invasive forest pests and diseases
- More than 45 priority bird species
- Largest landscape carbon sink
- Wood products are renewable, recyclable and carbon beneficial





FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO A GREAT EMPIRE STATE

Working Forests Provide a Full Suite of Benefits for New York, including:



Producing over **\$10 Billion** worth of products annually



Ensuring that at least **64%** of New York State will remain in forests and woodlots



Supplying clean air, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities that only forests can provide



Timber sales provide forest owners over **\$250 Million** of revenue annually

Sustaining a renewable resource for a forest-based industry that directly employs more than **41,000** people and is a top 10 manufacturer in both rural and urban communities

Supporting **100,000** jobs primarily in rural communities, but also a vast supply chain and emerging industries

A public policy and private investment framework supporting working forests and wood product manufacturing will grow our economy and support jobs with living wages in communities large and small across New York. The framework would continue to support clean air and water, provide ample habitat for fish and wildlife and increase public use and enjoyment of the outdoors.

Because working forests and wood products are fundamental to our State's economic and environmental prosperity, keeping them intact and actively managed for multiple uses is a public policy that is urgently needed to improve the economic and environmental quality of life for all 18 million New Yorkers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ESFPA strongly supports common sense and affordable approaches to improving the value and importance of forests and wood products to all New Yorkers who care about New York's forests.

Promote Strong Markets – Establish policies that foster job growth in the forest sector by promoting the use of wood to construct tall buildings and homes, furniture and flooring producing paper and paper packaging products, providing a reliable source of renewable energy, and fostering the development of advanced bio-based products. Emphasizing the use of wood products in all New York policies will grow jobs in rural and urban communities.

Improve Low Grade Markets – Retain and grow markets for wood from New York's forests with state incentives to address current low grade wood market weakness through improving the existing Renewable Heat New York pellet boiler rebate program; ensure revision of New York's Clean Energy Standard Maintenance Tier policy; create a biomass thermal energy credit class within the Clean Energy Standard; support the production and tax credits for the manufacturing and use of biomass fuels from sustainably sourced forest and agricultural feedstock.

Strengthen Local Support for Forestry – Work with municipalities to strengthen the already existing Right to Practice Forestry Law to ensure that logging firms are not unduly thwarted in their efforts to conduct lawful timber harvesting operations by arbitrary local ordinances. Remove unnecessary barriers to forest management projects that provide forest health, recreation and other benefits on private lands.

Fix Forest Property Tax Law – Support regulatory changes to New York's existing Forest Tax Law and streamline administrative burdens. Identify legislative changes that would foster broader and more landowner participation and recognize more stewardship objectives valued by forest landowners.

Support Workforce Development – Focus investments and policies toward building a modern workforce, broadening the workforce base, and closing the labor gap. Support job retention and creation in our forest based businesses through enhanced training and workforce.

Prioritize Research – Focus research on carbon and climate change, forest health and retention, the water quality and habitat benefits of active forest management, and forest products innovation and market development. Forestry innovation in New York is led by research and development. We build and strengthen markets when we gain new insights.

Recognize Working Forests as a Conservation Solution – Secure species conservation, water quality and clean air through cooperative efforts with forest owners. Healthy forests provide wildlife habitat that supports hunting and fishing, protects critical drinking water supplies and cleans the air we breathe. Support funding under the Environmental Protection Fund for working forest conservation easements.

Support Natural Solutions to Climate Change – support efforts to reduce carbon emissions that in turn contribute to climate change in a way that maximizes the mitigation provided by working forests and wood products as part of a "Natural Solutions to Climate Change" policy in New York State.

Improve Landowner and Forest Industry Ability to Practice Sustainable Forestry – Establish and fund a new grant program under the Environmental Protection Fund to cost share private landowner implementation of sound forest management and regeneration. Also, increase funding to the Governor's Wood Products Development Council to increase markets for New York's wood products and address research needs for the forest industry.

Encourage Programs that Support Public's Appreciation of the Forests – Establish a new grant program under the Environmental Protection Fund to support local governments and non-profits to acquire and manage community-owned forests.



CALL TO ACTION

State policies and investments supporting working forests and the wood products industry will provide good paying jobs, produce the goods and services that increase New York's prosperity, improve our environment and keep our forests intact and working long into the future. Working forests must be a top priority for the lawmakers in New York State.