Forests of Virginia, 2018

Virginia has an estimated **16,067,621** acres of forest land.

* Percent forest is forest area/total area. Percent forest with water removed from total area is 64%.

This resource update is a brief look at some of the basic metrics that describe the status of and changes to forest resources in Virginia. This information is based on field data collected using the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annualized sample design, and it is updated yearly.

Virginia has 4,798 sample plots across the State, of which 3,304 are currently forested. Each year, about 14-20 percent of these plots are visited and measured by field crews. Data used in this update were accessed from the FIA database on 04/30/2020.

### Forest land ownership

- **Federal**: 13.80%
- **State and Local**: 4.07%
- **Private**: 82.12%

### Area of forest land (million acres)

- 2013: 15.92
- 2018: 16.07

### Number of live trees on forest land (billion trees)

- 2013: 11.43
- 2018: 11.31

### Volume of live trees on forest land (billion cubic feet)

- 2013: 36.10
- 2018: 41.42

### Annual Net Change

- 917 million cubic feet

### Annual Removals

- 536 million cubic feet

### Annual Mortality

- 304 million cubic feet

### Annual Gross Growth

- 1,757 million cubic feet

### 65,121 acres of nonforest revert back to forest annually*

### 51,166 acres of forest land convert annually* to nonforest

### 207,040 acres of forest land are treated (harvest, thinning, etc.) annually*

### 27,383 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by fire

### 19,646 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by weather events

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*Average annual estimates are based on data collected across 5-10 years and may not be indicative of the nominal year presented in the title by itself.
Forests of Virginia, 2018

How to cite this publication


Archived Versions

This report and archived past versions can be found on the USDA Forest Service publication database, Treesearch using keywords "Forest Inventory" and "Virginia" here: https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/.

National Woodland Owner Survey

The National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) collects and reports on multiple attributes of forest land ownership. Details of the NWOS program can be found here: https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/.

The most recent NWOS Factsheet for Virginia can be found here: https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52398/.

Additional Resources

The application that produced this resource update was developed using data from the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis database (FIADB): https://apps.fs.usda.gov/fia/datamart/datamart_excel.html.

Tables for Virginia, 2018 can be found here: https://doi.org/10.2737/FS-RU-264-Tables

The FIA one-click application can be found here: https://doi.org/10.2737/FIA-One-Click-State-Report-v1.2


NOTE: Some of the above links will not be active until the resource update has been approved for official publication.