

ILLINOIS FOREST RESOURCE FACTS

- USFS 1985 inventory estimates 4.26 million acres of forests (12 percent of the state)
- IDNR 1996 Land Cover study using satellite imagery estimates 4.9 million acres of forest (14 percent of the state)
- In 1820 forests covered 13.8 million acres (38 percent of the state)
- USFS estimated that between 1962 and 1985 forest cover increased by 10 percent
- USGS data shows there are over 10,000 forested parcels 40 acres or larger, 44 percent of these are less than 100 acres, 10 percent are more than 600 acres
- USGS data indicates there are 540 forest parcels in excess of 1,100 acres
- 69 percent of all forest parcels are between 40-200 acres in size
- In a 13 County area in south-central Illinois it was found that 78 percent of the area's forests exists within 1,000 feet of a stream
- 90 percent of forest is privately owned
- 169,000 private landowners (ave. ownership-21.5 acres)
- Approximately 53,000 landowners own forests 15 acres or greater
- 83 percent of forest landowners have never received professional forest management assistance
- 98 percent of the forest is comprised of hardwood species, 43 percent of the hardwood species are white or red oak
- In 1997 there were 140 communities designated as Tree City USA
- 102,800 acres of urban forests and 139,500 acres of urban areas with trees
- There are an estimated 6.5 million street trees in Illinois with a value exceeding \$3 billion
- Over 250 species of trees (native and introduced) have been recorded in Illinois
- There have been 508 taxa of woody plants recorded in Illinois (138 were introduced species)
- Over 1,580 (89 percent) forest associated plant taxa (including tree species) are native species
- 49 percent of the 363 taxa listed as Threatened and Endangered Plants are found in forests
- Forests provide habitat for more than 420 vertebrate species
- 82.5 percent of the mammals, 62.8 percent of birds, and 79.7 percent of the amphibians and reptiles require forested habitat for a portion of their life cycles
- 120 bird species use Illinois forests for nesting
- It has been estimated that over 75 percent of Illinois' wildlife habitat is derived from forests
- Forest related industries employ 65,000 people, have annual payroll of \$1.9 billion, and contribute over \$4.5 billion annually to the State's economy through value added by manufacturing
- Illinois ranks 5th in the nation for wood demand
- There are over 500 Christmas tree growers in Illinois and produce over 250,000 trees annually with a retail value of more than \$5 million

- A 1987 study estimated that over 206 million days were spent in recreational activities on or near forests