



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

DEC Private Landowner Programs

March, 2021

Private Forestry and Utilization Programs
Bureau of Forest Resource Management

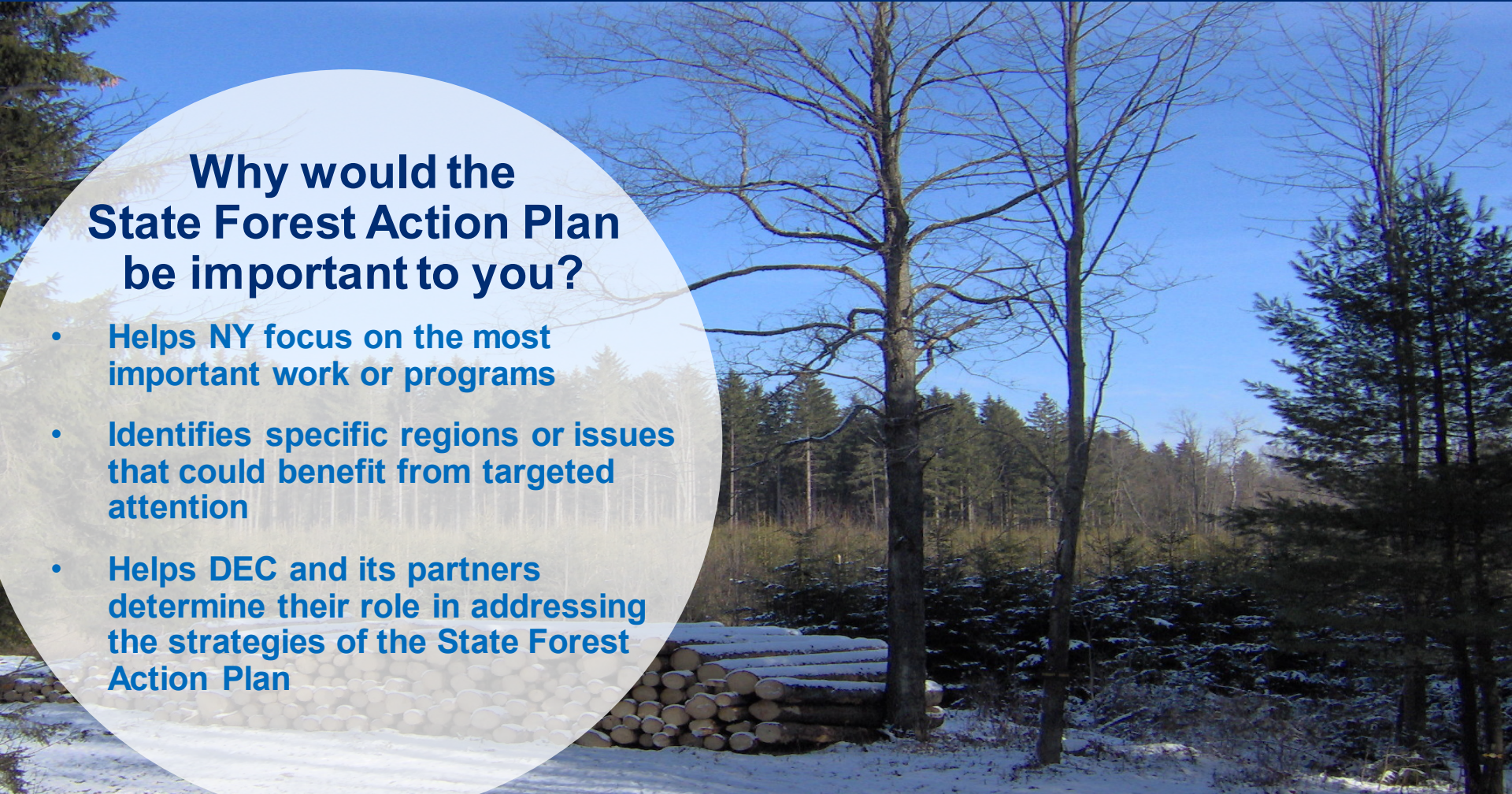
Countless Benefits of Forests to New Yorkers

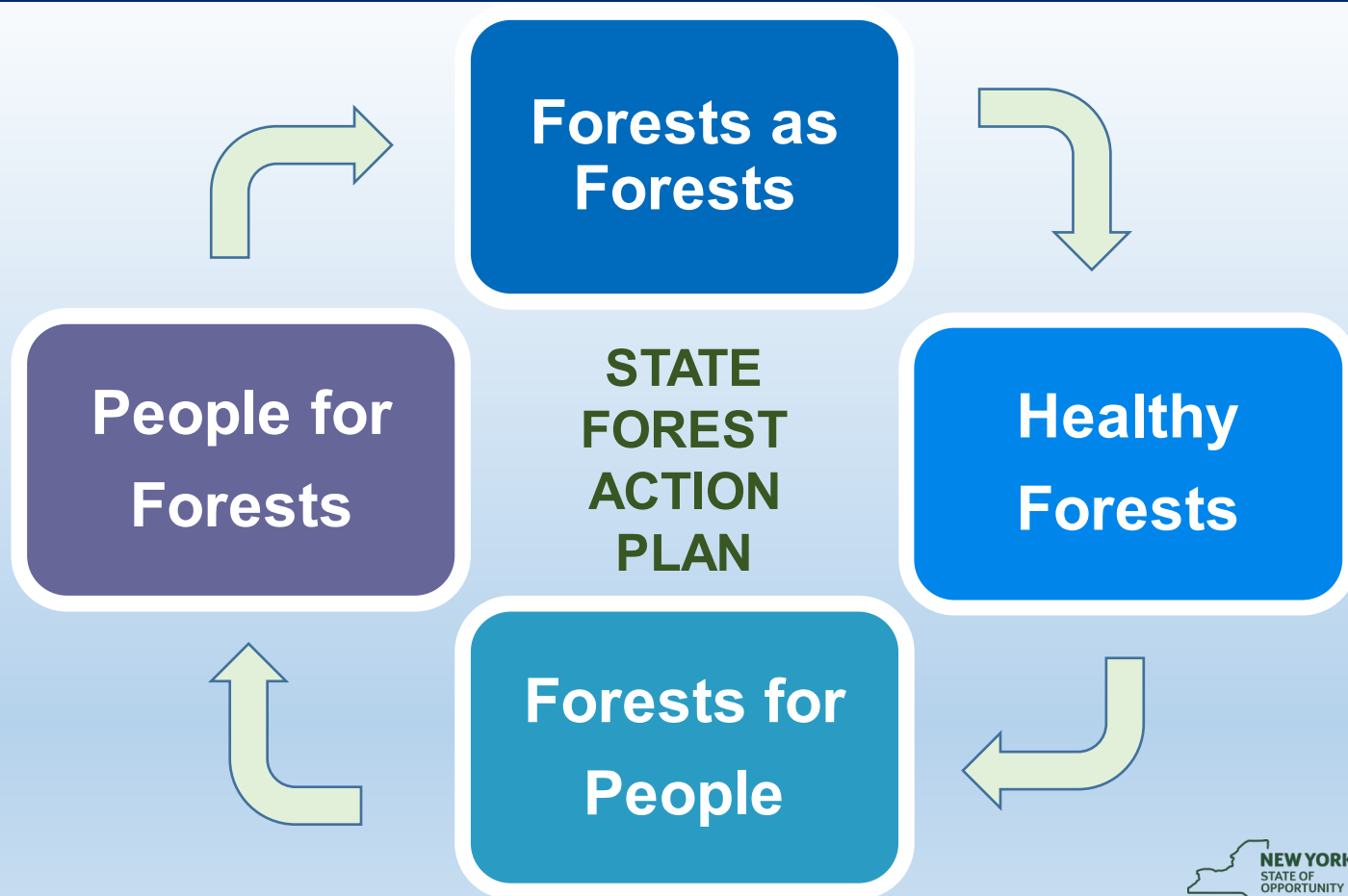
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- Flood Control
 - Erosion Control
 - Cultural and Traditional Use
 - Food source
 - Physical and Mental Health
 - Aesthetic enjoyment
 - Artistic inspiration

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Home for Native Plants and Wildlife
- Forest Products: Economic and Environmental
- Carbon Sequestration
- Recreation

Why would the State Forest Action Plan be important to you?

- Helps NY focus on the most important work or programs
- Identifies specific regions or issues that could benefit from targeted attention
- Helps DEC and its partners determine their role in addressing the strategies of the State Forest Action Plan





GOAL #1: Keep New York's Forests as Forests

“Don't let forests be the forgotten solution.”

JANE GOODALL

The future of New York's forests and the benefits they provide lies primarily in the hands of private forest landowners

Land conservation planning is expected to include more emphasis on climate adaptation strategies related to carbon mitigation, refugia for at-risk species and habitats, landscape connectivity for migration pathways, and water supply protection

The value of carbon sequestration is additive - it is a benefit that forests naturally provide, in addition to all other social, health, environmental, and economic benefits. This means that the total value of healthy forests is that much higher

Through this urban green infrastructure that the majority of our state's residents get introduced to the benefits from forests. Without this connection, we cannot foster support for New York's forests among the public

Increase the number of acres of private forestland under professional forest management from 1.7 million acres currently to 5 million acres by 2030



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GOAL #2: Keep New York's Forests Healthy

Prevention is the first line of defense against would-be invaders and is the preferred management strategy. Early detection of invasives and a rapid response to infestations are essential

Successful regeneration of forests has become increasingly difficult due to several biological and societal factors

The cost for landowners to maintain a healthy forest is high. Encouraging tree regeneration on private land through certain types of silviculture treatment is especially costly. High costs can deter forest owners from acting

In urban communities, each tree is important. Outreach to the public and municipal staff is essential to early detection of threats to our trees. Often, private citizens prove to be invaluable in these efforts

Low-diversity forest communities are at greater risk during severe weather events and shifting phenology schedules. Studies have consistently shown that diverse systems are more resilient to disturbance, and low-diversity ecosystems are more vulnerable to change.



Forests of New York

(#private forest landowners rule!)

New York Forested Acres by Ownership and Status*

Owner class	Timberland	All reserved forest land	All forest land
All Federal Lands	109,306	39,390	148,696
State	1,062,173	3,021,620	4,083,794
County and municipal	561,085	135,052	696,137
Private	13,652,193	0	13,677,940
Total	15,400,403	3,196,062	18,622,212

*US Forest Service FIA Data for New York, 2019

Forests of New York

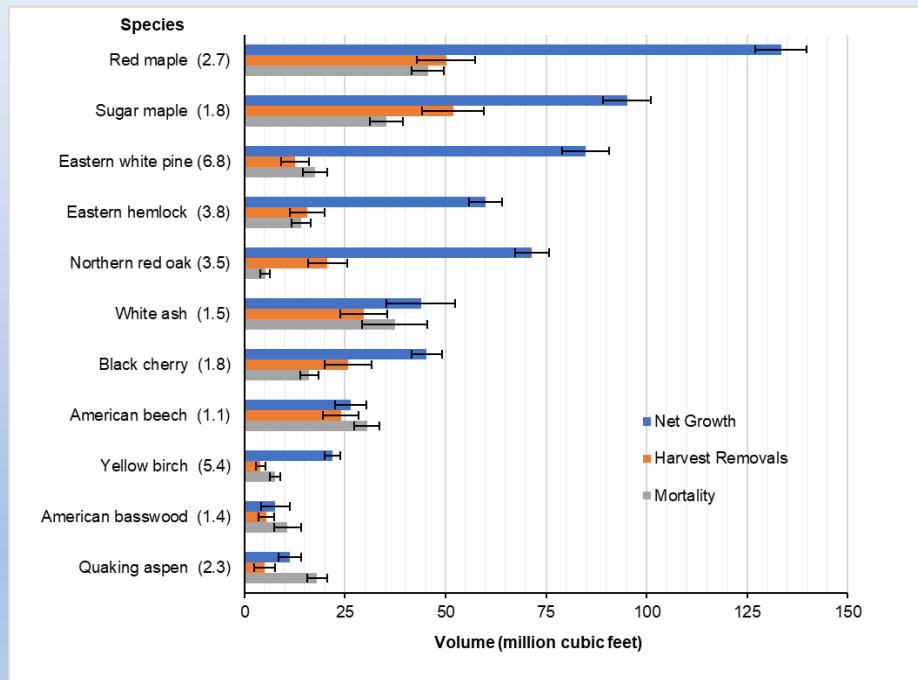
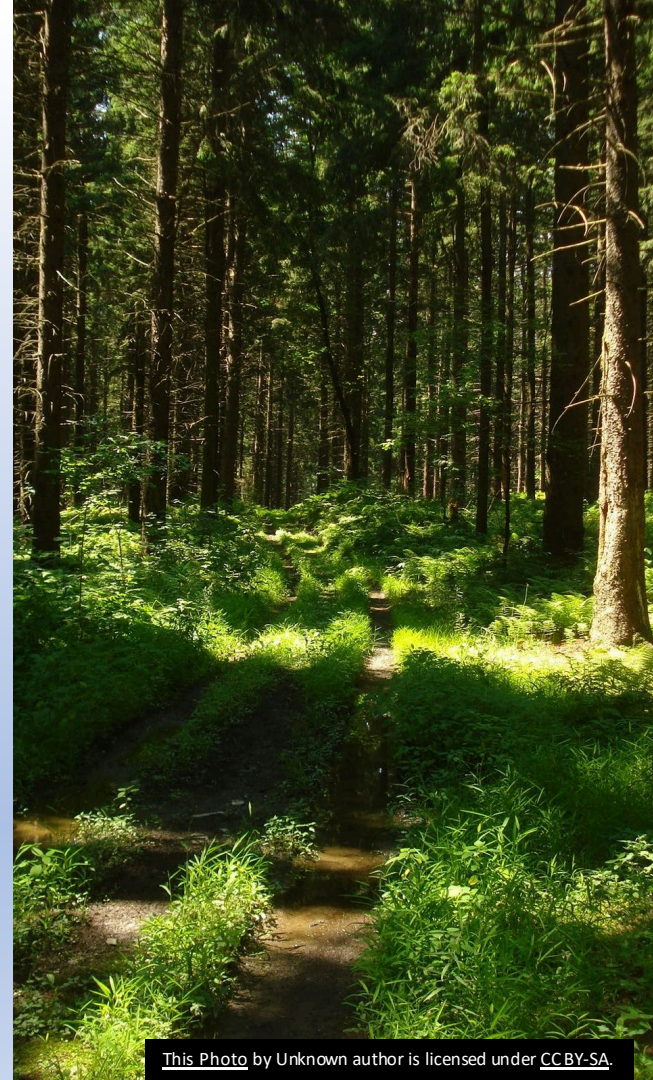


Figure 2.--Average annual net growth, removals, and mortality volume on timberland, with growth to harvest removals ratio (G:R) in parentheses, for species with at least 2 percent of timberland net volume, New York, 2019.

- New York is growing 2.6 trees for every 1 tree that is harvested. This is the Growth Removal Ratio (G:R)
- Forest land estimate of 18.62 million acres is 1.6% lower than 2014 (18.93 million)
- Despite loss of land base, net volume of live trees increased 4.5% over 2014 to 43.6 billion ft³
- Annual net growth on timberland is 2.1%
- No species with at least 2% of total net volume has a G:R below 1.0

Private Forest Ownership in New York

- 74% of New York's forests are privately owned
- Nearly 700,000 landowners own 13.6 Million Acres (National Woodland Owner Survey, 2018)
- 9.3 Million Acres of private forests with 10 acres or more
- 187,000 private landowners with 10 acres or more
- Only 25% of surveyed private landowners in NYS have used a forester for a harvest
 - Question "What is a forester?"
- To impact New York's forest resource, we must address private forest management in New York





Environmental Protection Fund

- Since 1993, has funded dozens of State and local environmental programs
- Land Acquisition by DEC and OPRHP - \$741.345 million
- Public Access and Stewardship - \$262.206 million
- Farmland Protection - \$280.004 million
- Municipal Parks - \$265.229 million
- Hudson River Estuary Plan - \$104.706 million



Partnerships with Land Trusts

NY State Conservation Partnership Program

Partners in state land acquisition

Conservation Easement tax credits (state and federal)

Community Forest Program

Role of land trusts moving forward

- Agricultural land protection
- Technical assistance land stewardship partnerships with local governments
- Riparian buffer protection

Forest Stewardship Program

In partnership with USFS, DEC staff provides advice and technical assistance to New York's forest landowners free of charge



- Built on relationships/partnerships between DEC and consulting foresters, and landowners
- Often first step towards long term forest stewardship
- Stewardship plan model
- Voluntary

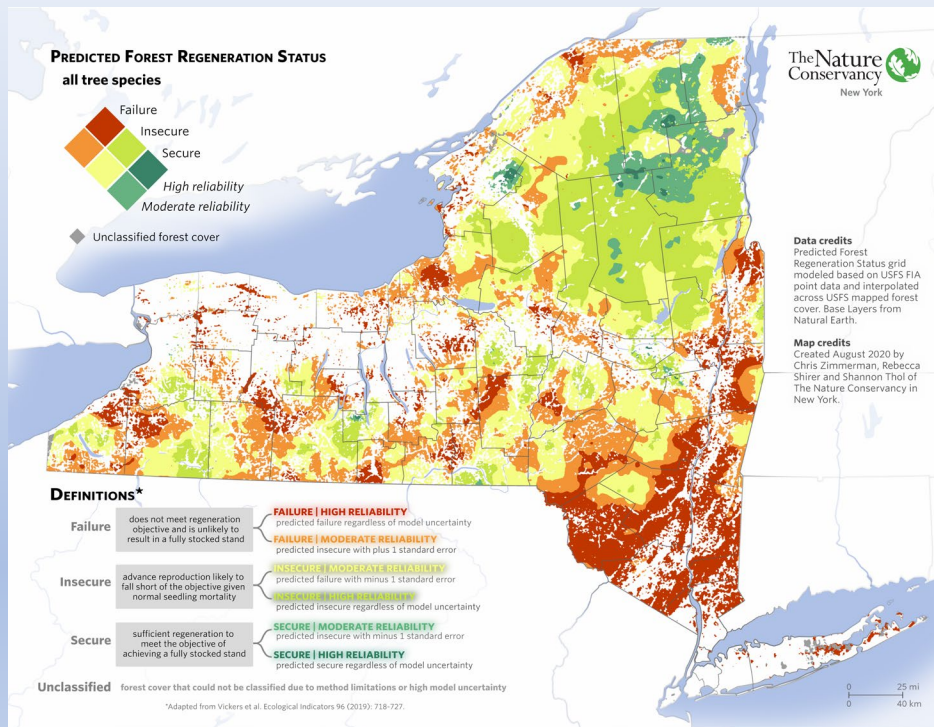
Forest Tax Law, RPTL 480a

Number of Certifications and Acres under 480a, 2018

480a	Number of Certifications	Certified Acres
Region 3	1124	186,771
Region 4	985	148,731
Region 5	712	569,092
Region 6	213	244,038
Region 7	422	53,508
Region 8	395	50,592
Region 9	151	21,424
TOTAL	4,002	1,274,157

- Enacted in 1974.
- Local Real Property Tax Abatement for following DEC approved forestry plan written by a consulting forester
- Acre by acre certification of eligibility and compliance
- Primary purpose is to grow timber
- Low participation rate because of high acres eligibility threshold, stringent requirements and penalties.
- Forest Tax Law is forest stewardship.

Regeneration



- Majority of current seedling demographics are not secure for advance regeneration
- Forest management practices needed in the presence of:
 - Invasive species
 - Herbivory
 - Fragmentation
 - Fire suppression

Regenerate NY

- Authorized under Climate Adaptation Line of EPF
 - 2019-\$500,000
 - 2020-\$500,000
 - 2021-????
- Purpose is to provide grants to assist landowners in securing forest regeneration on private forests
- Four Practices: Afforestation/Reforestation, Forest Stand Restoration, Competing Vegetation Control and Deer Exclosure (including slash walls)



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Cooperating Forester Program

- 83 Private Consulting and Industrial Foresters participating in Cooperating Forester Program
- Critical partnership for delivering professional forestry services to private forest landowners
- 4-year degree in forestry or forest management
- 20 Continuing Education Credits
- Must adhere to SAF Code of Ethics even if they are not a member
- Promote scientific forestry and BMP's for sustainable management of our forest lands
- Voluntary

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

- Begins January 1, 2020
 - 40% by 2030
 - 85% by 2050
- <https://climate.ny.gov/>
- Natural and Working Lands have a role to play
 - Forest Management
 - Avoided conversion
 - Renewable Energy Siting
 - Agricultural soil health, etc.

Forest Utilization Program

- Proper harvesting and sale of forest products are critical in the management and long-term success of private forests, ecologically and economically
- Over 300 million dollars a year in stumpage payments to New York's forests landowner
- Data and analysis of the condition of New York's forests through FIA data
- Creating of industry reports and surveys including TPO and Stumpage Price Report
- NYS Wood Products Development Council to promote forest products in New York

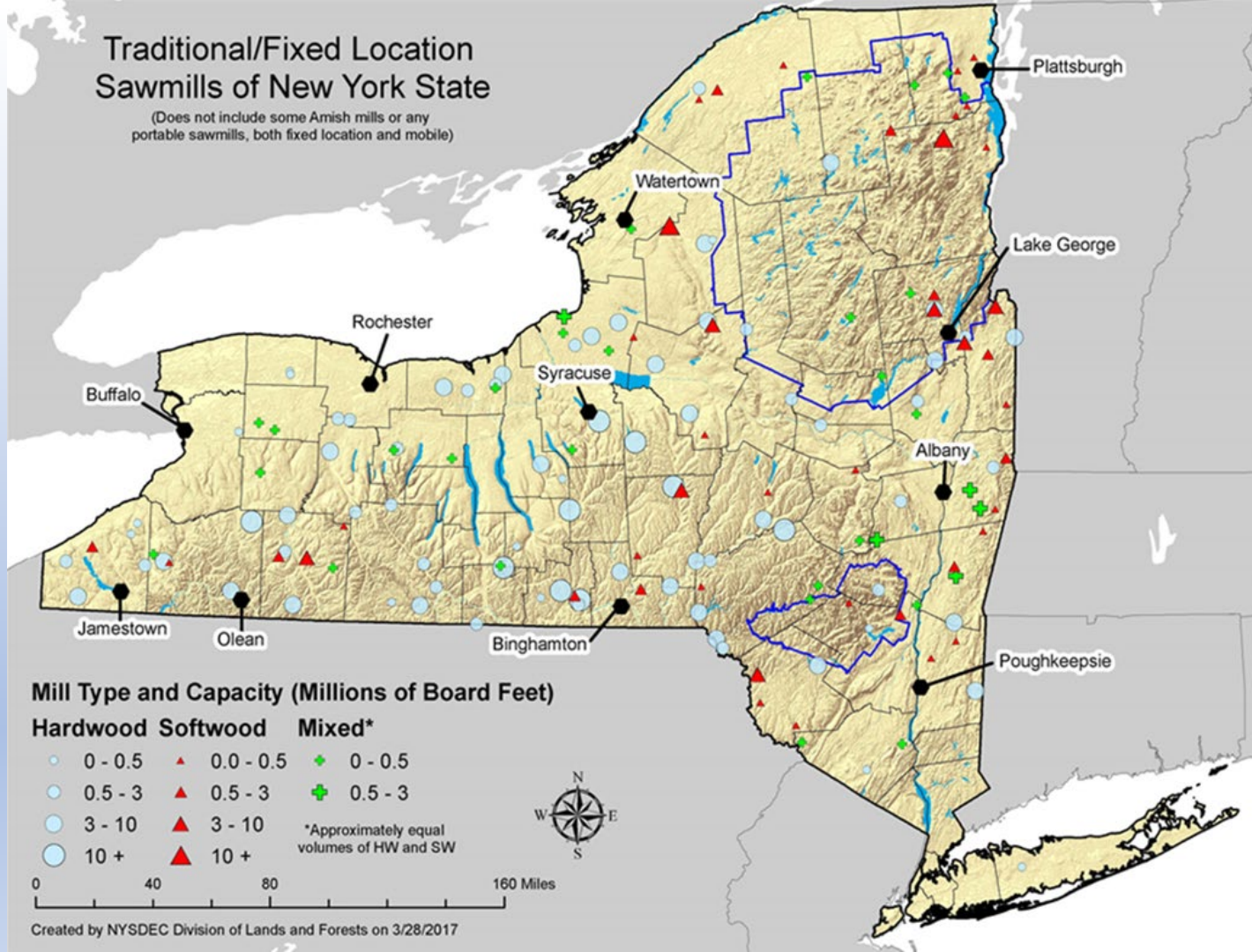
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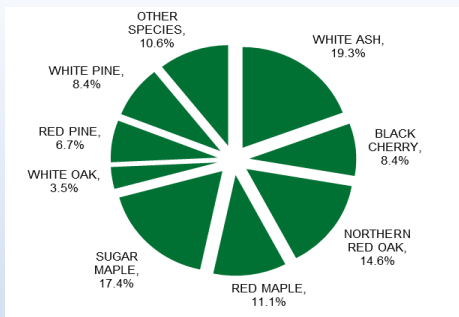
Photo: NYS DEC

Traditional/Fixed Location Sawmills of New York State

(Does not include some Amish mills or any
portable sawmills, both fixed location and mobile)

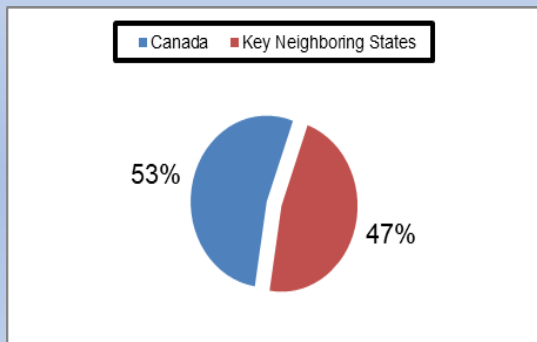


Forest Utilization Program



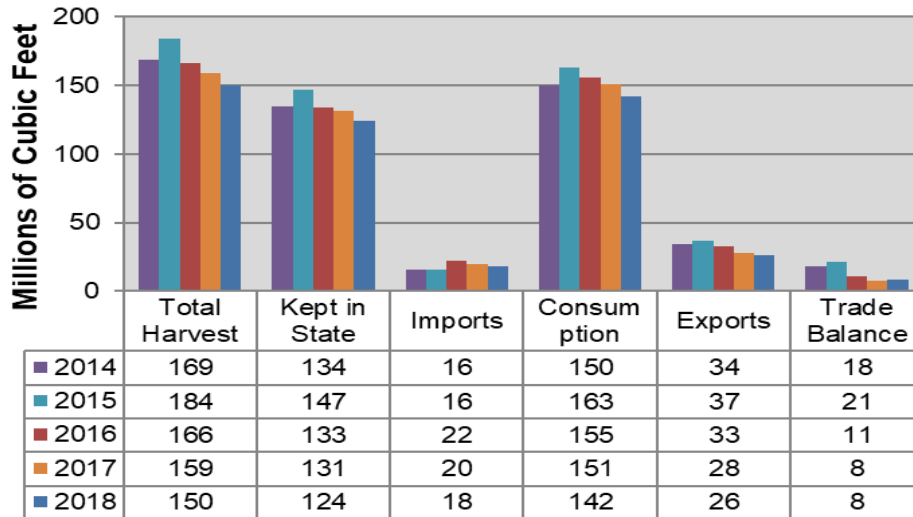
SpeciesBreakdown-Survey Reported Log Production, 2018

- Log production – 573 million board feet (MMbf)
- Pulpwood & Chips production—2.1 million green tons (40% pulpwood / 60% chips)



Disposition of Exports—All Products, 2018

New York State Industrial Timber Harvest Production and Consumption Report - 2018



Summary — Production, Consumption, and Trade --- All Timber Products, 2014-2018

Challenges

- Forest regeneration is struggling in many parts of the state due to deer, competing vegetation issues, poor or nonexistent forest management and forest fragmentation
- Unprecedented forest health challenges due to invasive forest pests and diseases
- Sound forest management is more expensive now compared to the past
- Resources to get forestry programs to 13 million acres of forest land and nearly 700,000 landowners
- No Markets, No Stewardship



Coming Soon.....



Thank You

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New York's Forest Action Plan

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/60829.html>

Private Forest Management

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4972.html>

Forest Products Utilization

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4963.html>

