

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In 1630, the estimated area of U.S. forest land was 1,023 million acres or about 46 percent of the total land area. Forestry issues on Harvesting and sale should be considerable significance to the United States. In 1995 USA had 5 percent of the Earth's population and consumes an estimated 28 percent of the Earth's industrial wood products. Although domestic timber inventory is only 10 percent of the Earth's total, 96 percent of U.S. consumption of industrial wood comes from domestic supplies. By 1910, the area of forest land had declined to an estimated 754 million acres, or 34 percent of the total land area. In 2012, forest land comprised 766 million acres, or 33 percent of the total land area of the United State. Forest area has been relatively stable since 1910, although the population has more than tripled since then. Of the total forest land, 10 percent are classified as reserved. This classification indicates that these forest lands are not managed for timber harvest, which is prohibited by law on these lands in most cases. Reserved forests have changed very little since 2007, with a very small (2 percent) reduction in area. Nationwide, reserved forest area is more than three times what it was only 59 years ago. Most reserved land is in the West, reflecting a larger proportion of publicly owned land in that region. In general, U.S. private forest land is classified as "timber land" by FIA, even if landowners do not intend to harvest timber. The South contains 40 percent of the Nation's 521 million acres of timber land. In contrast, the West constitutes only 28 percent of national timber land, and the North 32 percent. Time for change to timber sales to stop fuel build. The South is often referred to as the "woodbasket" of the United States because of the extensive timber supply, (yet few fires). West is host to most of the Nation's reserved forest and national parks. (time for change to timber sales to stop fires). Other woodlands, including scrub forests, are found in the highest concentrations in the West. U.S. forest ownership patterns are quite diverse with public forests dominant in the West. Federal Government predominantly owns public forest lands in the West and State and county governments own most of the public lands in the East. Of all public forest acres, 75 percent are in the West. Removals have shifted in recent years from public lands in the West to private lands in the East. Recent studies show that only 8 percent of the families and individuals who own U.S. forest land have a written management plan. Private forests provided 88 percent of the Nation's timber harvest in 2011. In 2001, the forest industry owned 66 million acres (13 percent) of the Nation's 504 million acres of timber land but supplied 29 percent of wood production. Recent changes in corporate strategies have shifted the traditional view of industrial forests. Age of timber, In the South, where more acres of short-rotation yellow pine trees are planted, 51 percent of timber land is less than 40 years old compared with 20 percent in the North and 22 percent in the West. In contrast, 56 percent of northern timber land is more than 60 years old, compared with 27 percent in the South and 69 percent in the West. In the West, hemlock-Sitka spruce forests and ponderosa pine have declined since 1977, while western pine forests have increased. In the West, planting is generally used to augment natural regeneration. In recent years, western U.S. forest planting has subsided, a trend that mirrors reduced harvesting in that region. U.S. timber land growing stock inventory, growth, removals, and mortality, by region. Inventory West in 1953 was 363,666 Million cubic feet, in 2012 inventory grew to 397,968 Million cubic feet. Removal in 1952 was 3,765 Million cubic feet in 2011 dropped to only 2,446 Million cubic feet, yet Mortality (dead trees) 1952 was 2,242 Million cubic feet and 2011 grew to 3,679 Million cubic feet. During the past 60 years, net growing-stock growth has consistently exceeded growing-stock removals in the United States. In terms of percent of standing volume, removals are at the lowest level in the past 60 years and growth has also slowed. The volume of annual net growth is currently 2 times higher than the volume of annual removals. Forest biomass consumption for energy has declined during the past several years. Mortality rates relative to inventory continue to rise in the West where mountain pine beetle affected millions of acres of forest between 2009 and 2010. Need for timber sale and clean the dead and dying for Root diseases, bark beetles, were the leading contributors to mortality risk in the coterminous United States.