

Testimony figures from William R. Moomaw
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 Vermont House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife
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Forestation Options for Vermont

Gifford Pinchot put an end to the destructive harvesting practices of the 19th century as the first Director of the US Forest Service. His dictum in his book, *Breaking New Ground* was clear: "Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

Forests play a major role not only in commerce, but in providing oxygen, moving water, reducing flooding, moderating regional climate. Forests are complex ecosystems that host the largest number of species on land.

Pinchot sought to reign in unbridled destruction of forests by managing them largely for forest products, but he also recognized some of their additional benefits. Today we must also consider the critical role they play in addressing climate change by absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and for maintaining biological diversity, the two major global emergencies the world is currently facing.

The US Forest Service categorizes forests under three categories, timberlands, reserved forests and other forests. In the U.S. 70% of forests are classified as timberlands including over 90% of the forests in Vermont and throughout New England. Just 7% of US forests are over 100 years old when many tree species in our region can live 200-300 years or more.

Land types in Vermont (USFS):

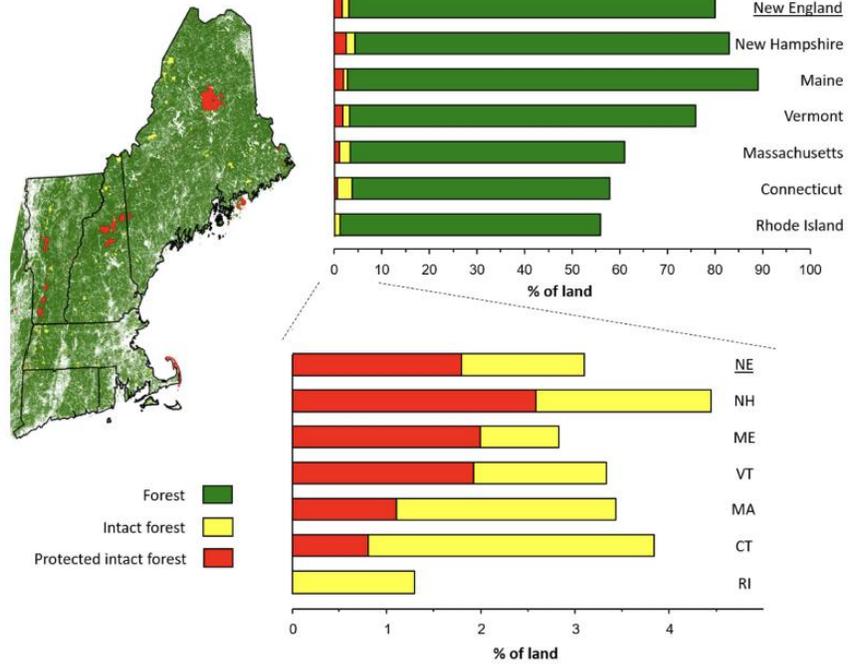
2017 RPA FIA RESOURCE TABLES FINAL

MAY 2018

Table 1a—Land area in the United States by major class, region, subregion, and State, 2017

Region, subregion, and State	Total land area ^a	Land class								
		Total forest land	Forest land						Woodland ^b	Other land
			Timberland				Reserved	Other		
			Total	Planted	Natural origin					
<i>Thousand acres</i>										
Vermont	5,899	4,511	4,288	35	4,253	206	18	0	1,387	
Percent of total land		76.5%	72.7%	0.6	72.1%	3.5%				
Percent of forest land		100.0%	95.1%	0.8%	99.2%	4.6%				

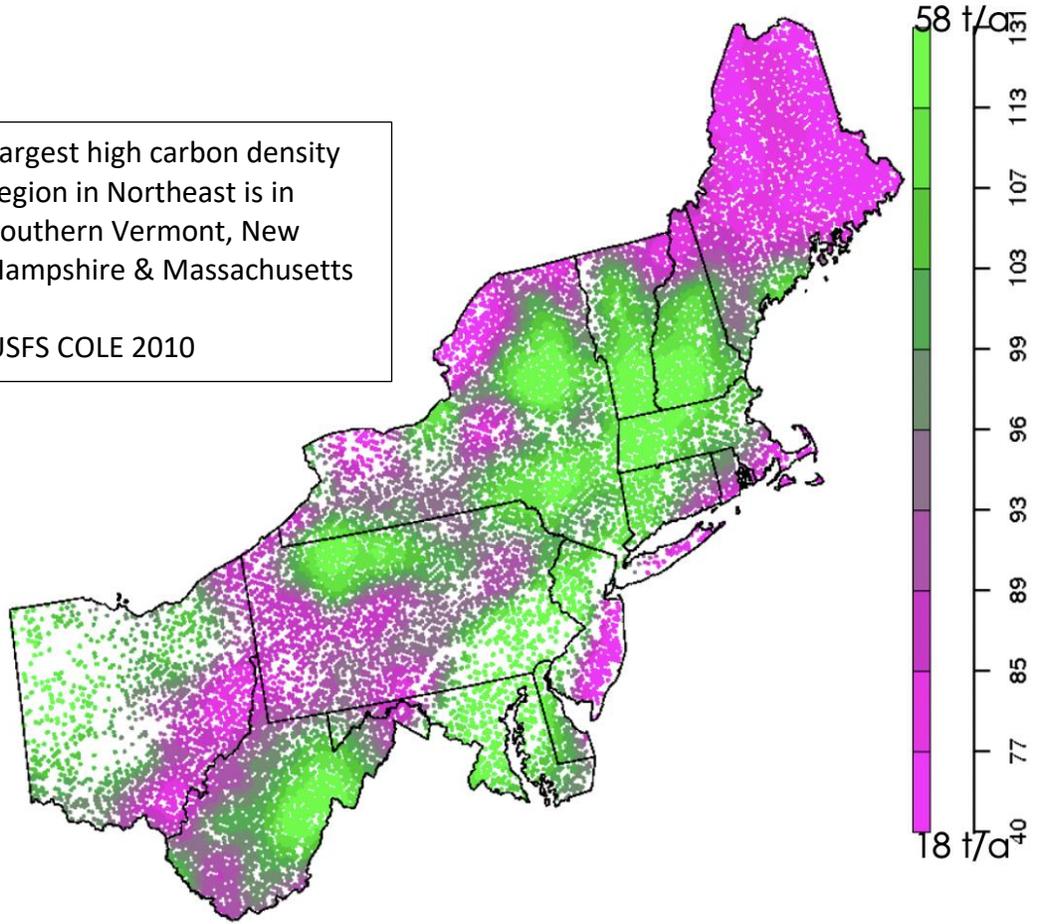
Legally protected land in New England



COLE Map
Total Aboveground Carbon (metric tons/hectare)

Largest high carbon density
region in Northeast is in
Southern Vermont, New
Hampshire & Massachusetts

USFS COLE 2010



Forest carbon density Vermont and New Hampshire 2016. Wayne Walker Woodwell Climate Research Institute

