



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Forest Land Use of Vermont: Status and Trends from Forest Inventory and Analysis

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Vermont House Environment and Energy Committee



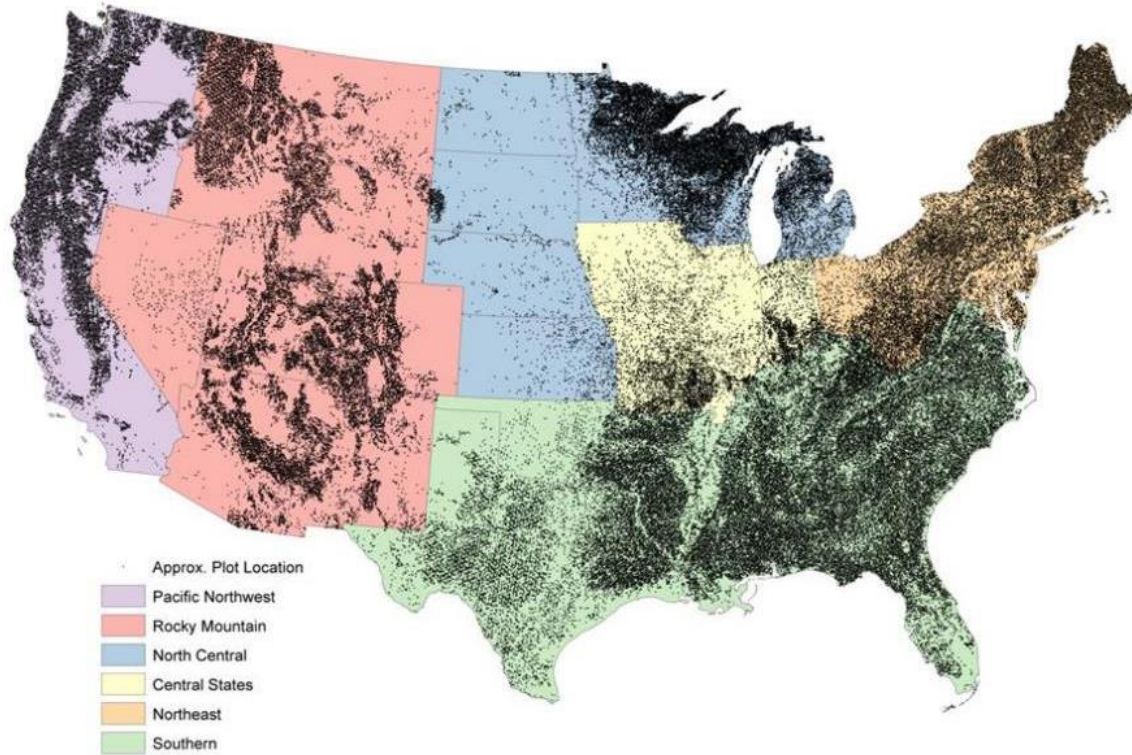
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January 31, 2024

# United States National Forest Inventory

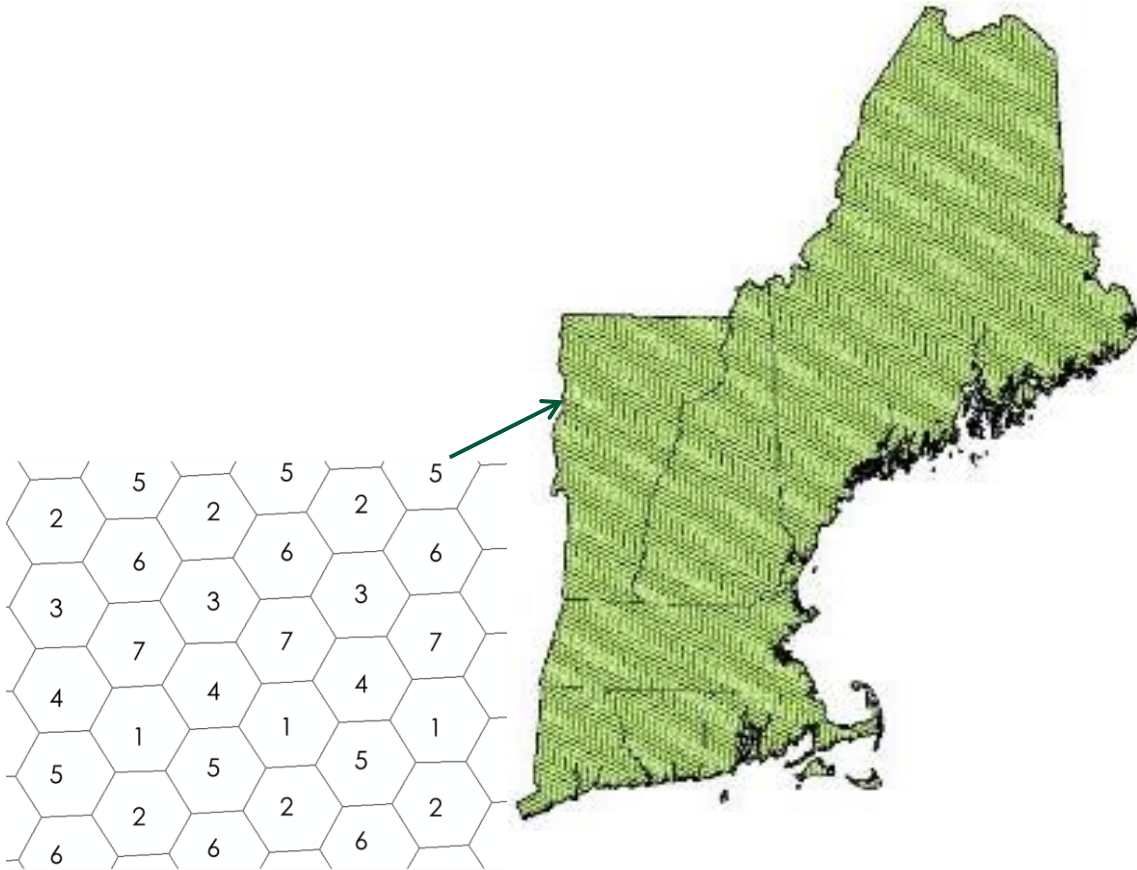
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- ~140K forested plots across all states and territories
- FIA has multiple components including:
  - Rural and Urban forest inventory
  - National Woodland Owner Survey
  - Timber Products Output surveys

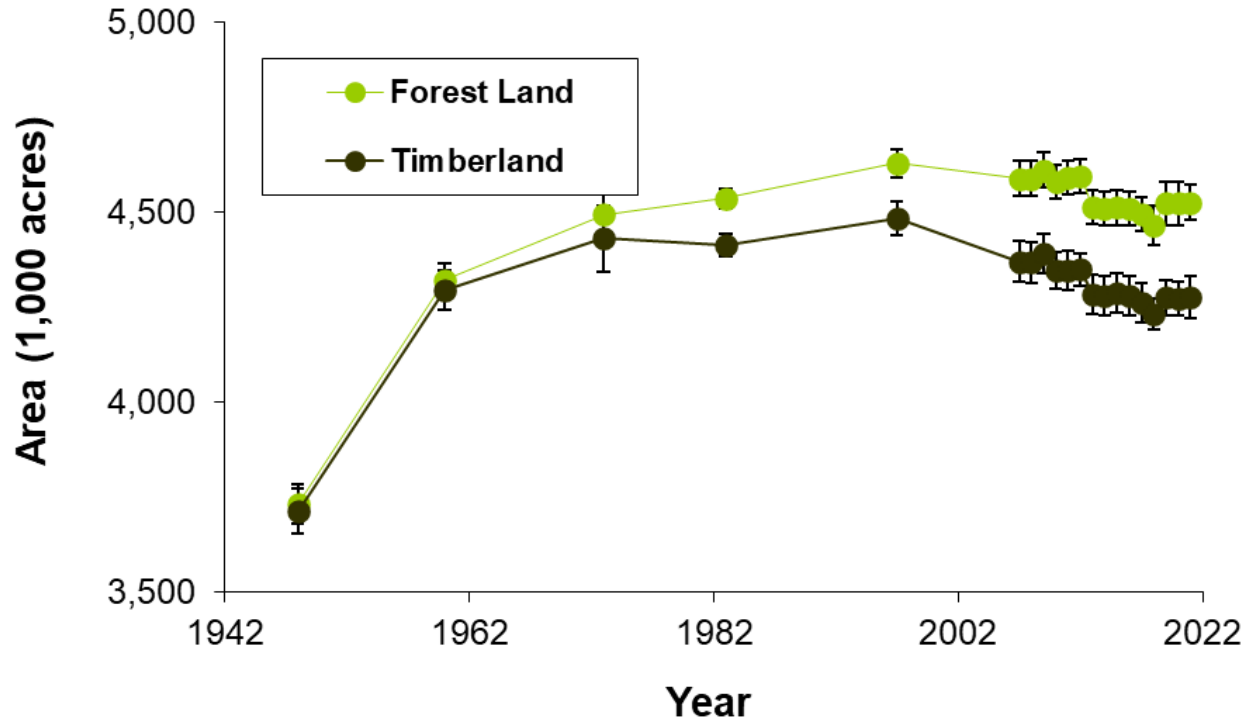
# Vermont Forest Inventory

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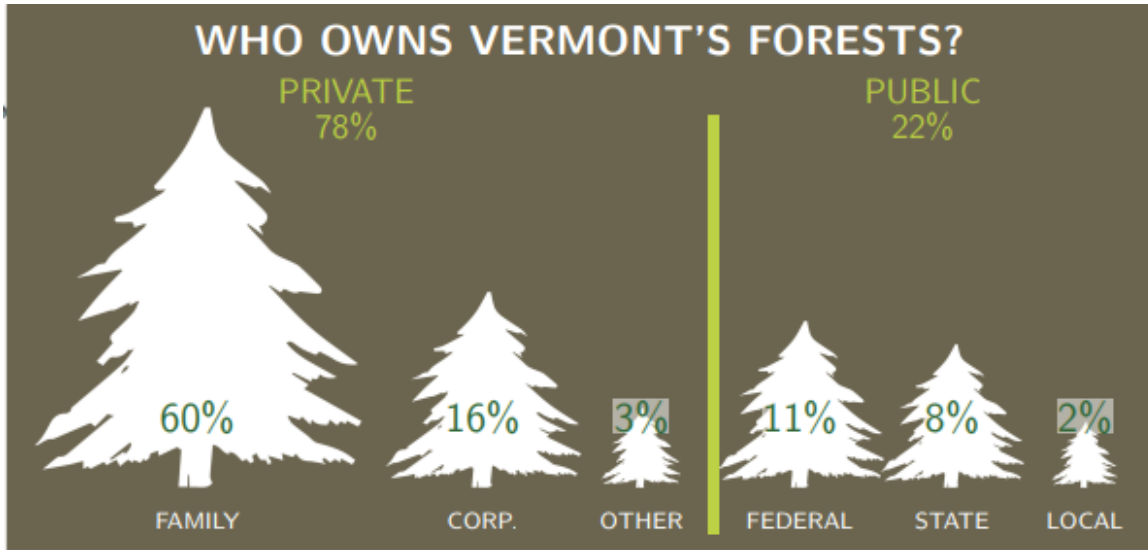
- Over 900 “forested” plots in Vermont
- 7-year inventory cycle
- 3x intensification on National Forest lands

# Vermont Forest Land Trends



- Forest land base increased substantially between 1948 and 1973, peaked at 4.63 million acres in 1997, and has since decreased slightly to a **current** estimate of 4.53 million acres.
- According to FIA **change** statistics (2021), VT is losing approximately 13K acres of forest land annually (~10K net loss).
- 4<sup>th</sup> most forested state, with 76 percent of land in forest.

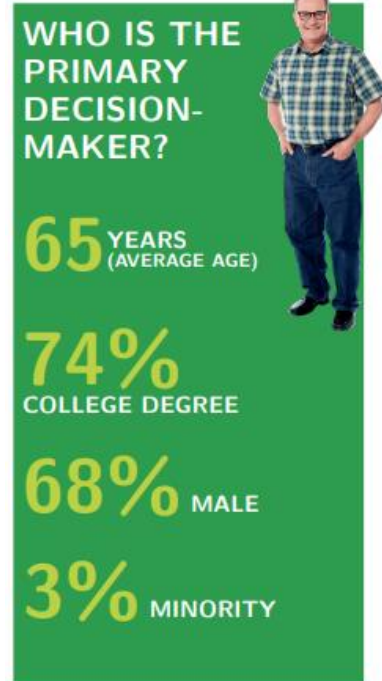
# Forest Land Owner Demographics



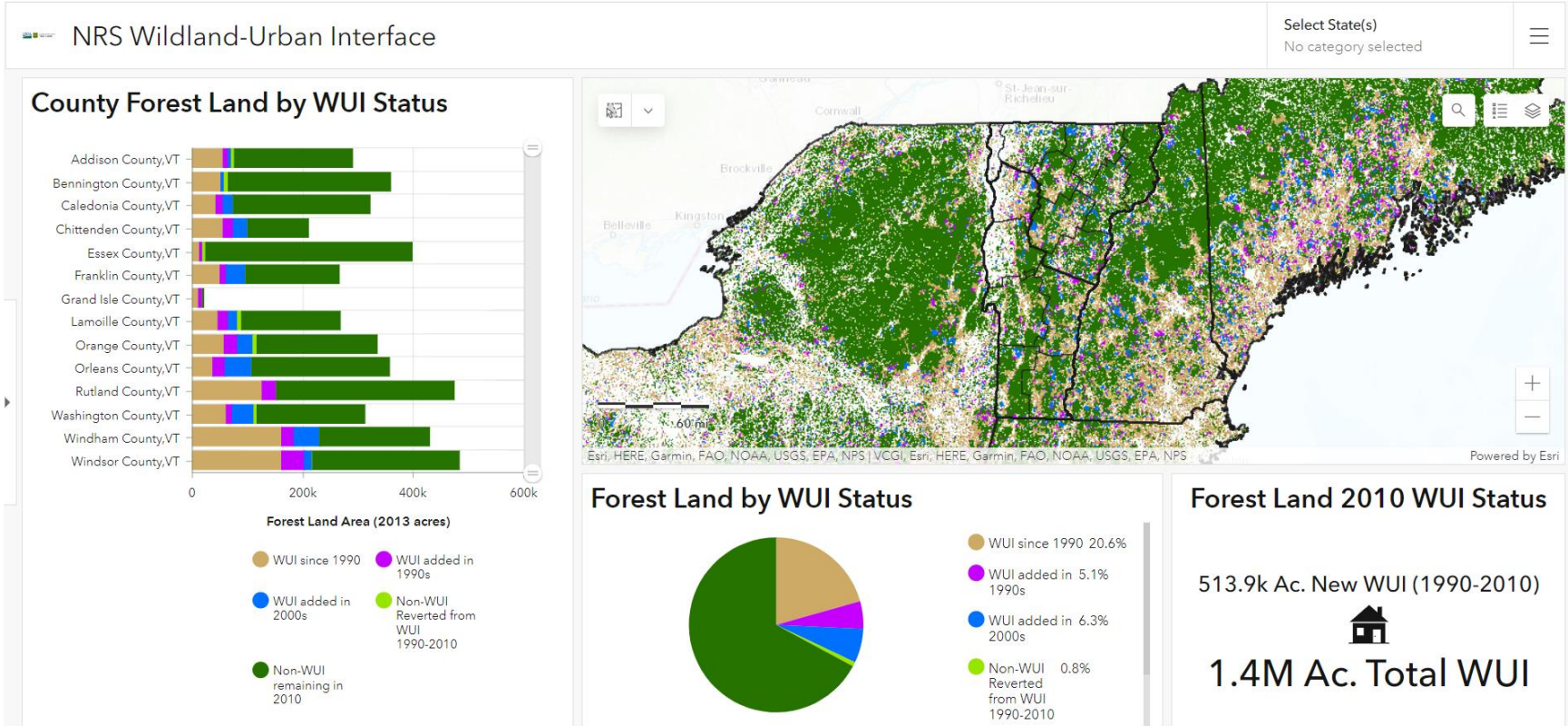
## TOP 5 CONCERNS

- Property taxes
- Keeping land intact
- Dumping or vandalism
- Trespassing or poaching
- Insects or diseases

**Average family forest holding size = 63 acres**



# Housing Density and Fragmentation



**21% WUI since 1990; 5% added in 1990s; 6% added in 2000s**



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