

2012

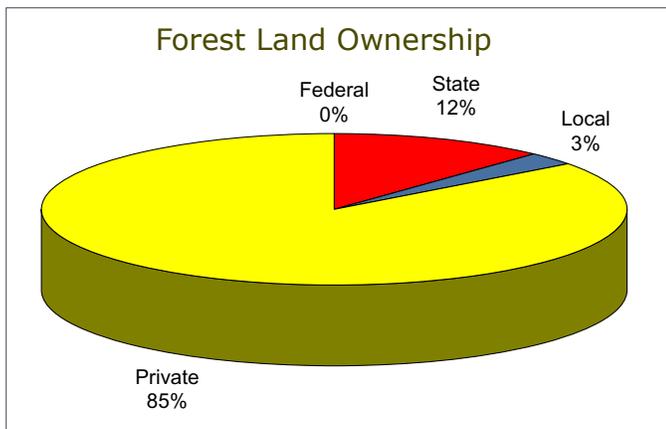
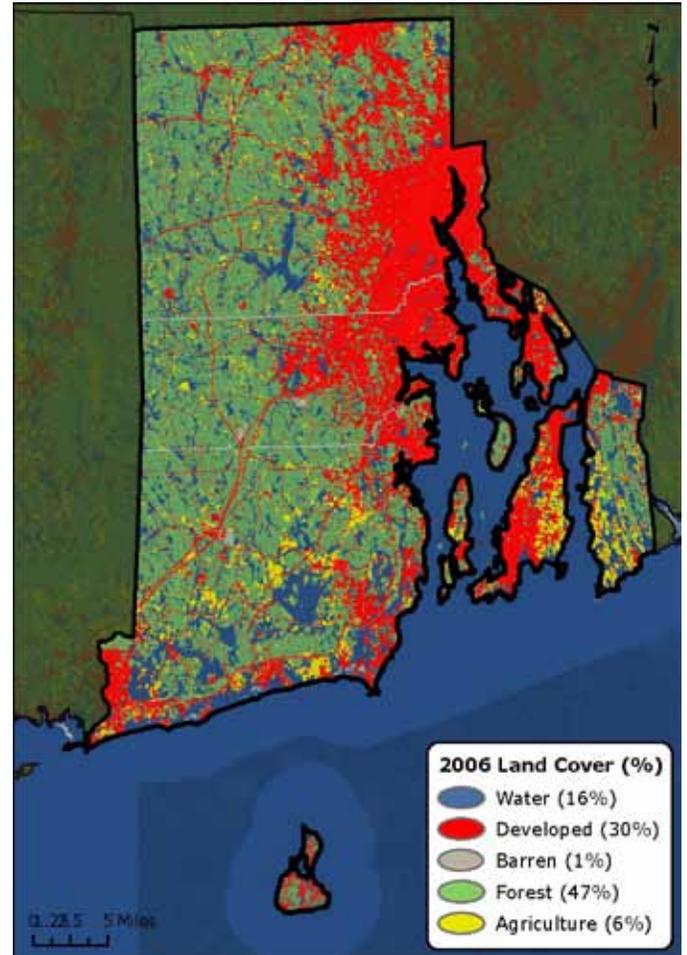
Forest Health

RHODE ISLAND *highlights*



Forest Resource Summary

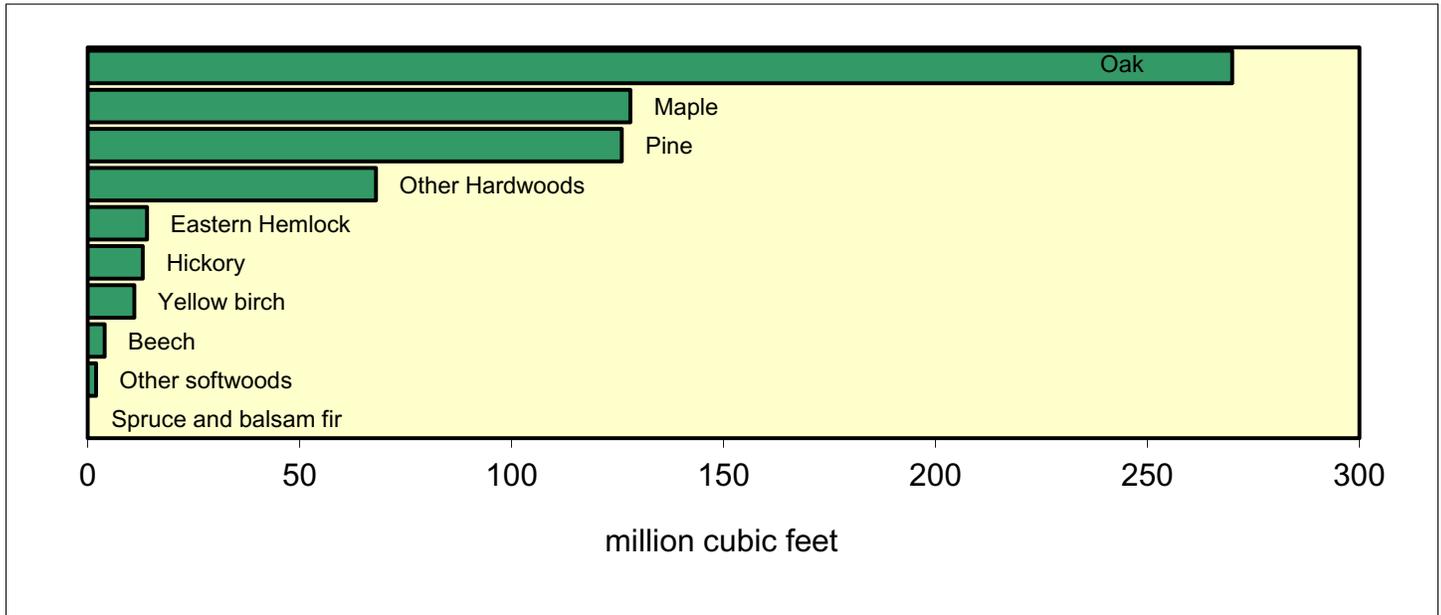
Rhode Island's forests are 85 percent privately owned, primarily by individuals who view their land as a source of enjoyment and a resource to be protected. The remainder of the forest land is in State or local town ownership. These forests are valued for clean air, protection of ground and surface water, wildlife habitat, wood fiber, and recreational opportunities. The latest Rhode Island forest inventory estimates that there are approximately 365,000 acres in the State that are forested. The existence of intense public debate related to any impact on undeveloped lands is indicative of citizen concerns for the amenities provided by forest lands, whether privately or publicly held. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types, mostly oak, maples, and pine, along with other hardwoods.



Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.

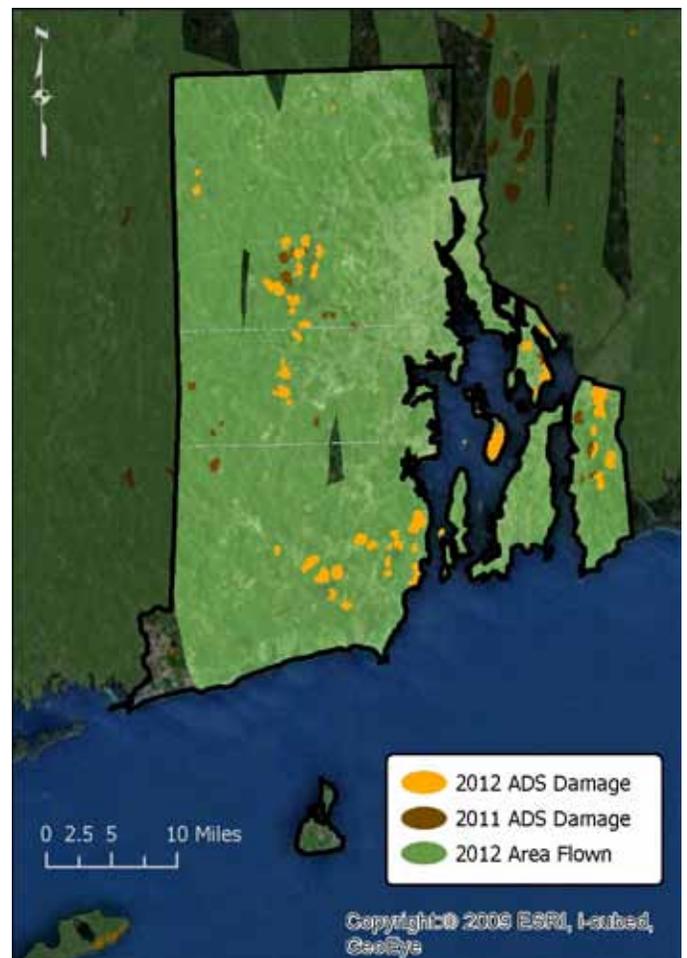
Forest Species Type



During a survey in 2005, 79 percent of the forest landowners thought that forest health was an important issue in the State. The concern for forest health increased by 2010, as reported in the Rhode Island Forest Resource Assessment, almost as significant a change in importance as forest fragmentation.

Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys were flown over Rhode Island in September for defoliating insects. The winter moth, an introduced forest pest, is now found statewide and caused over 10,500 acres of defoliation in 2012. The orange-striped oakworm also caused about 3,900 acres of damage (figure 1).



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Rhode Island in 2012 and 2011.

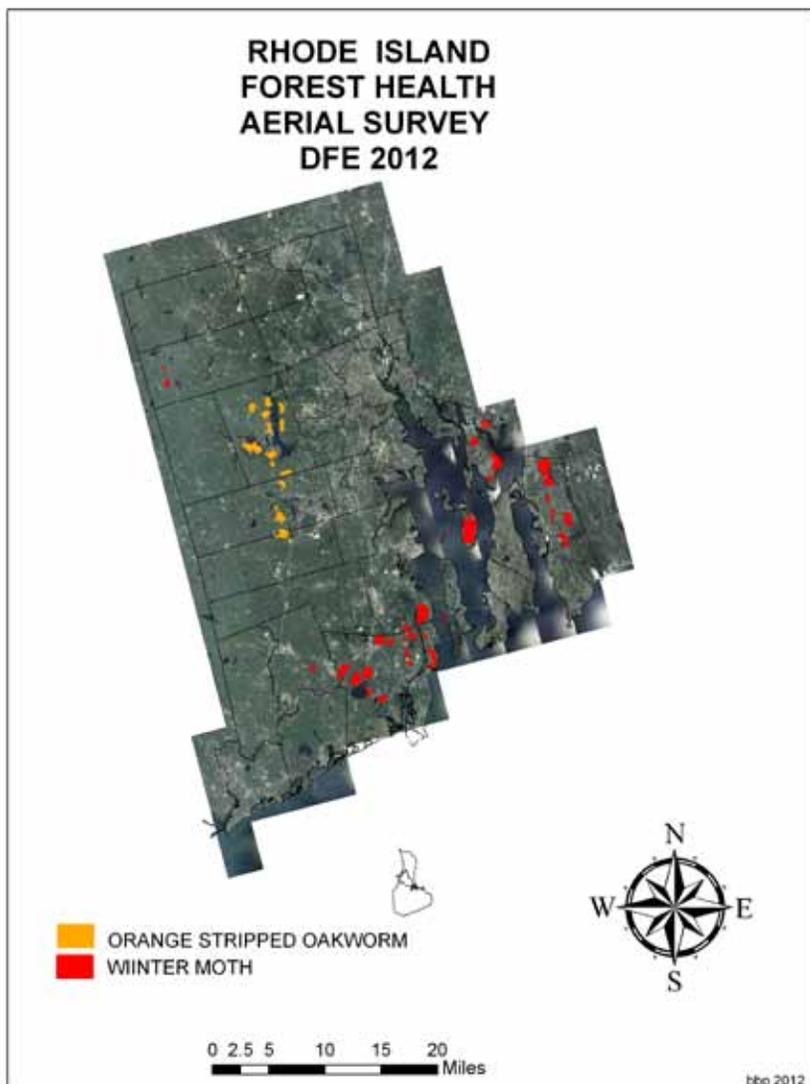


Figure 1.—Rhode Island Forest Health Aerial Survey for 2012.

Forest Health Survey Highlights

Several surveys to detect invasive insects in the State were conducted, such as the firewood campground survey. In addition, through special U.S. Forest Service funding, two important Forest Health projects were carried out: the emerald ash borer ash trap tree project and the continuation of the emerald ash borer biosurveillance project.

Firewood Vector Analysis

Rhode Island's 28 campgrounds were investigated through visual surveys during both the spring and fall leaf off for emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle

infestations. No introductions of these forest pests have been detected. Informational posters have been distributed to all State campgrounds. A regulatory ban on firewood coming into State campgrounds is in progress.

Cerceris fumipennis Biosurveillance Survey for Emerald Ash Borer

Throughout the State, 39 sites had active *C. fumipennis* predator wasp colonies. Beetle collection took place at 9 sites that contained over 50 nests. All but two sites were baseball fields, with most of the activity occurring along the third baseline. This collaborative

project was continued with USDA APHIS to survey Washington, Bristol, and Newport Counties. During the survey, 306 beetles were collected, of which 25 will be sent to E.R. Hoebeke at the Georgia Museum of Natural History, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, for identification. All other specimens were identified using information from past surveys.

Emerald Ash Borer Trap Tree Project

One survey tool for the detection of emerald ash borer is to girdle ash trees, which are used to attract any of the insects that may be in the area (figure 2). Eight systematically placed locations for girdled trap trees were selected in the State and the trees were then processed through bark peeling (figure 3). No evidence of the borer was detected.



Figure 2.—Ash tree selected as part of the 2012 emerald ash borer trap tree project.



Figure 3.—Peeled sections from eight ash trees surveyed for the 2012 emerald ash borer trap tree project.

References

Land Cover Map:

U.S. Geological Survey. 2011. 2006 National land cover dataset. Sioux Falls, SD.

Forest Land Ownership, Forest Species Type:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 2009. Forest resources of the United States, 2007. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-78. Washington, DC. 336 p.



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