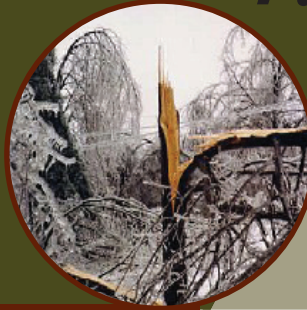


2008

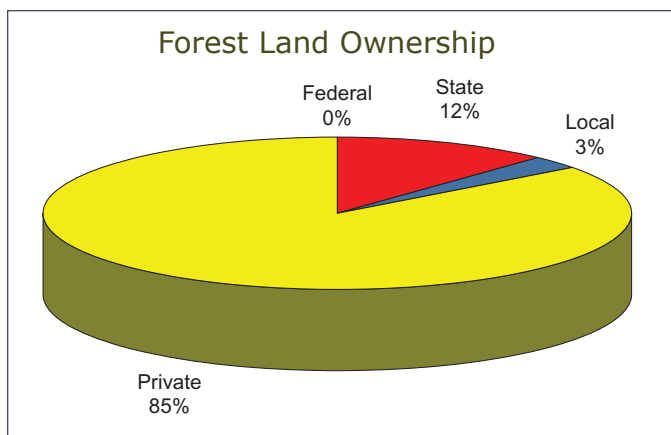
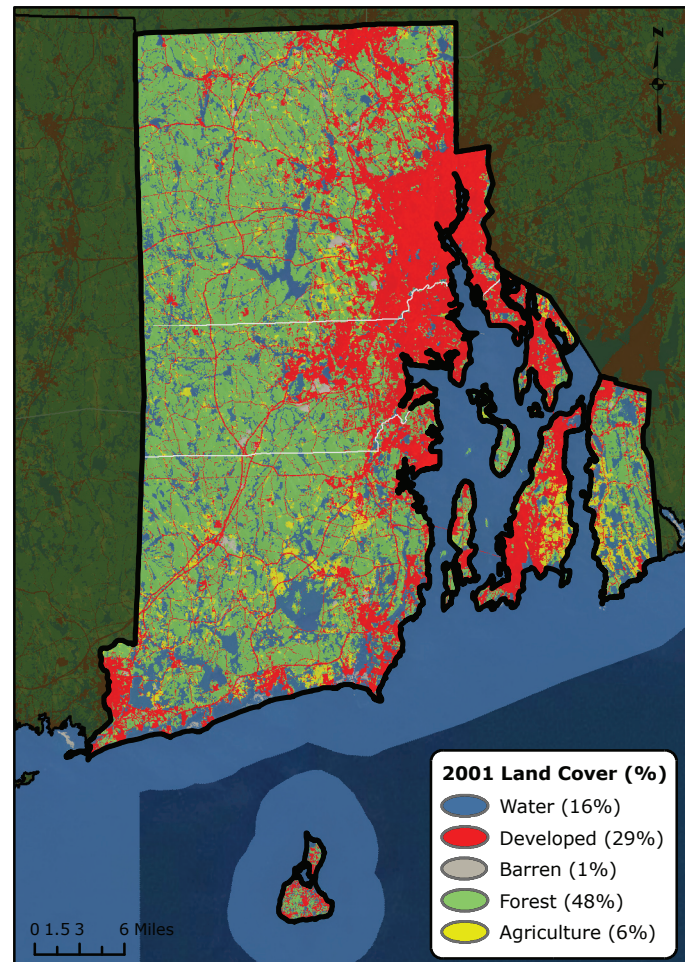
Forest Health

RHODE ISLAND *highlights*



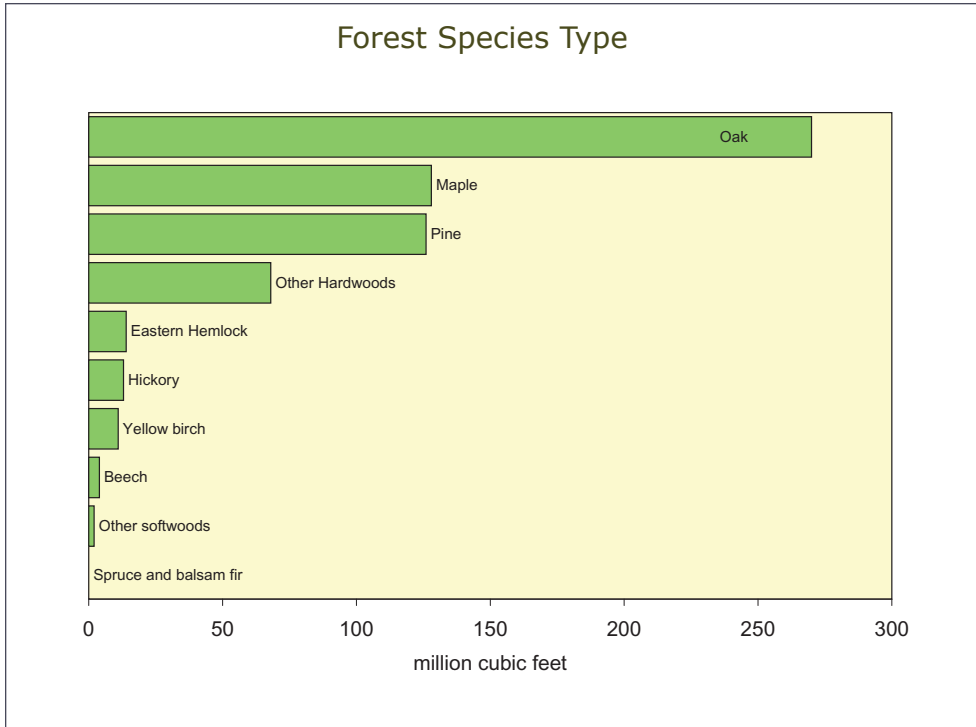
Forest Resource Summary

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 forest inventory estimates that 48 percent of Rhode Island is forested, encompassing about 356,000 acres, with about a third of the State in development. 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.



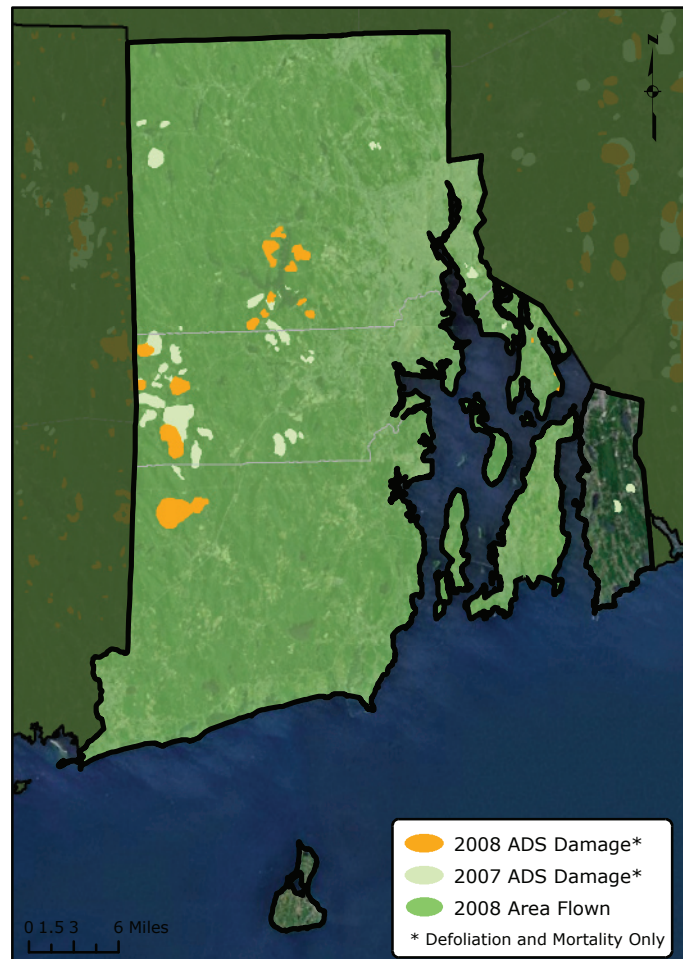
Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

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.



Aerial Surveys

The forests of Rhode Island are monitored annually using aerial surveys and ground surveys to assess forest conditions throughout the State. These surveys are used to help identify forest stressors and damage. Recently the largest portion of the activity observed has been the result of forest insects. In 2008, the aerial survey identified 7,700 acres of damage, mostly due to defoliation from the orange-striped oakworm, forest tent caterpillar, and the recently introduced winter moth.



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Rhode Island in 2007 and 2008.

Forest Damage

Defoliation from the **forest tent caterpillar** was detected using digital aerial sketchmapping on approximately 5,600 acres throughout the western-central parts of the State in Providence, Kent, and Washington Counties. The damage was confirmed through ground inspection. A variety of hardwood species was impacted.

Orange-striped oakworm defoliation of red and white oak was observed on 1,929 acres in the central part of the State in Providence and Kent Counties. No defoliation was observed from the **gypsy moth** because populations are at extremely low levels.

Infestations of the **hemlock woolly adelgid** remained present in all five Rhode Island counties. The Providence Water Supply Board harvested over 1,700 acres of red pine mortality as a result of the **red pine scale**, an exotic pest that has been in the State for many years.

Defoliation of oak and maple by an invasive insect, the **winter moth**, was reported by Department of Environmental Management staff. This newly found forest pest was affecting about 75 acres in the eastern part of the State near the Massachusetts border, where it was recently discovered. In Rhode Island, only spotty light defoliation was observed in Bristol County, with less than 50 percent defoliation.

A heavy infestation of sycamore **anthracnose** occurred in Cumberland and Providence Counties. Infestation of American beech by **beech bark** disease, a complex of an introduced scale insect and the *Nectria* fungus, continued throughout most of Rhode Island where the host tree occurs. Flowering dogwoods throughout the State remained infected with **dogwood anthracnose**.

Rhode Island also responded to two incidents involving the transport of firewood into the State from the Worcester, MA, **Asian longhorned beetle**-regulated area. The firewood was removed from the residence and chipped and burned by State staff. In a second incident, ash logs were returned to a disposal facility in Worcester.

Rhode Island participated in a regional *Cerceris* biosurveillance project to detect the presence of **emerald ash borer**, an exotic invasive insect causing significant mortality in the Midwest. The *Cerceris* wasp is used since it actually "captures" a variety of boring insects and carries them back to their nests, which can then be collected for laboratory identification. Surveying began in July. Out of the 24 positive sites, 19 were baseball diamonds, a surprisingly preferred habitat for *Cerceris* colonies. No emerald ash borers were detected.



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