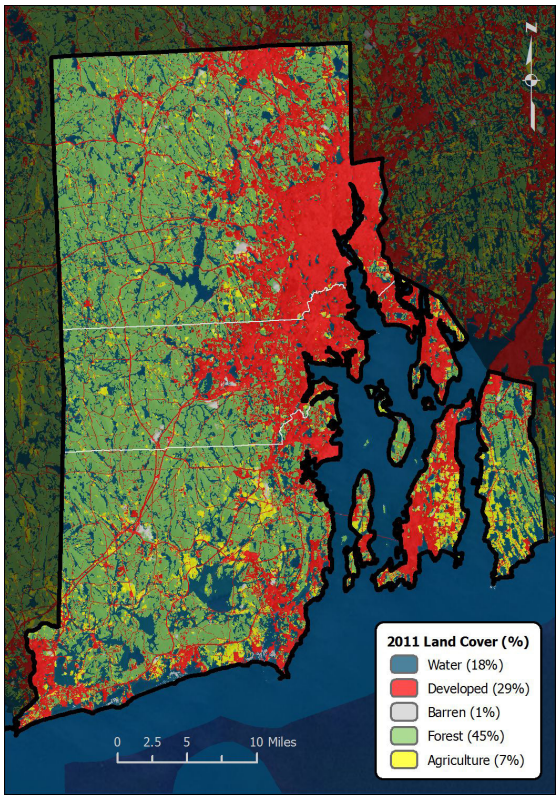
USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

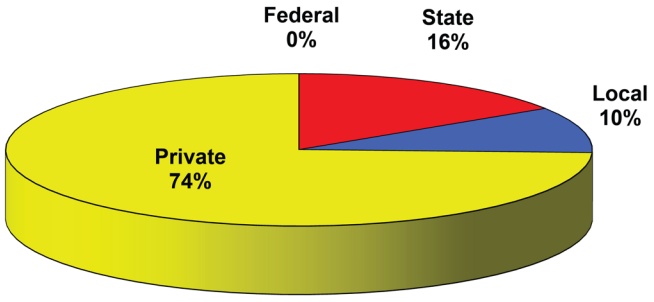
2015 Forest Health RHODE ISLAND *highlights*

Forest Resource Summary

Rhode Island's forests are 74 percent privately owned, largely by families and individuals who view their land as a source of enjoyment and a resource to be protected. Other private ownerships include corporate, tribal, conservation groups and clubs. 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 2014 Rhode Island forest inventory estimated that there are approximately 368,000 forested acres in the State. This area is less than the estimated 434,000 acres in the first forest inventory in 1952, but is an increase of about 5 percent from the 2009 estimate of 350,000 acres. The forest resource is made up of many species, primarily oak, but also maple, pine, hemlock, birch, and other hardwoods. The predominant forest type group is oak-hickory.



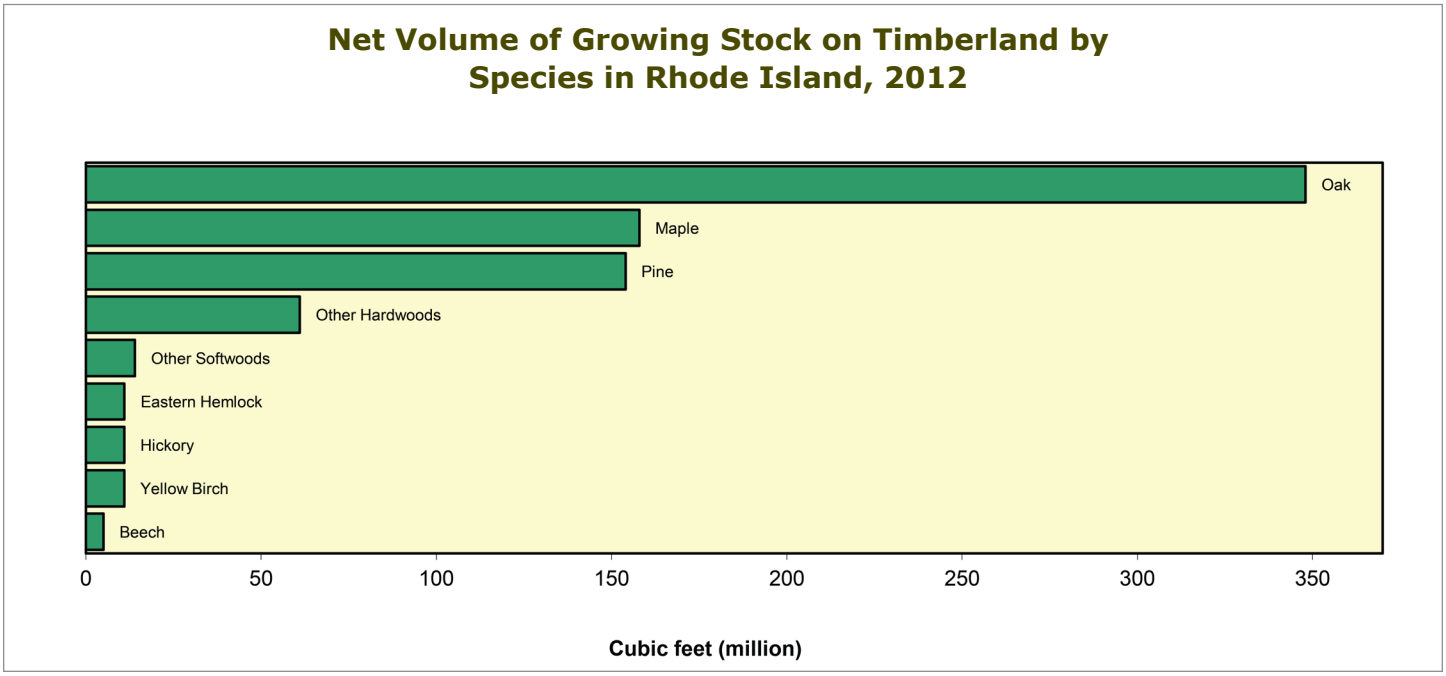
Forest Land Ownership in Rhode Island, 2015



Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Forest Environment

April 2016

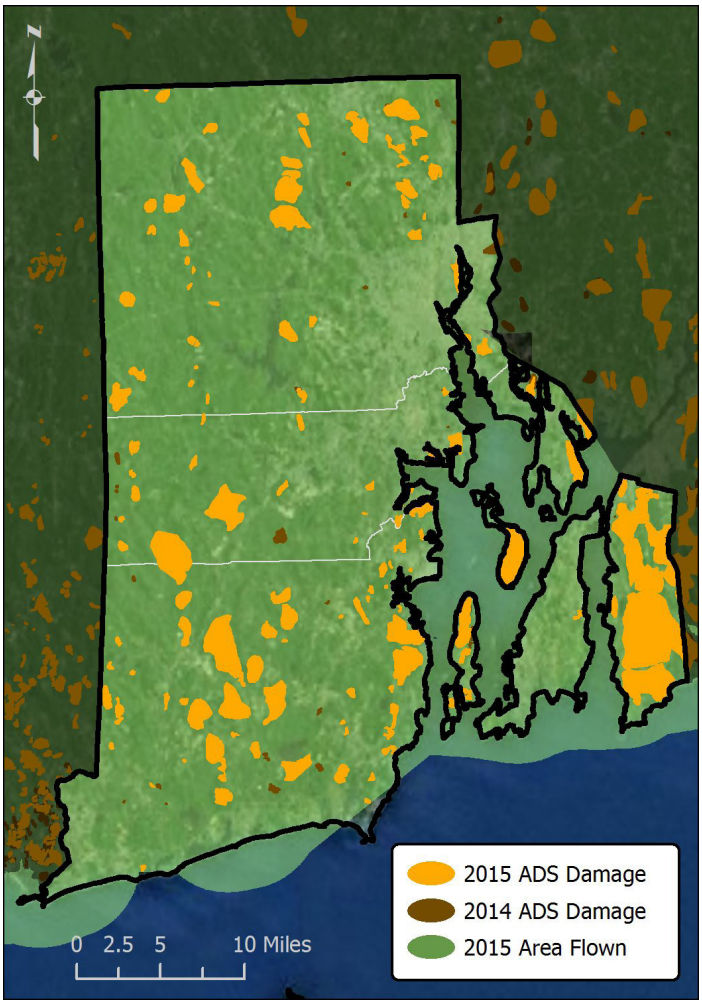


Aerial Surveys

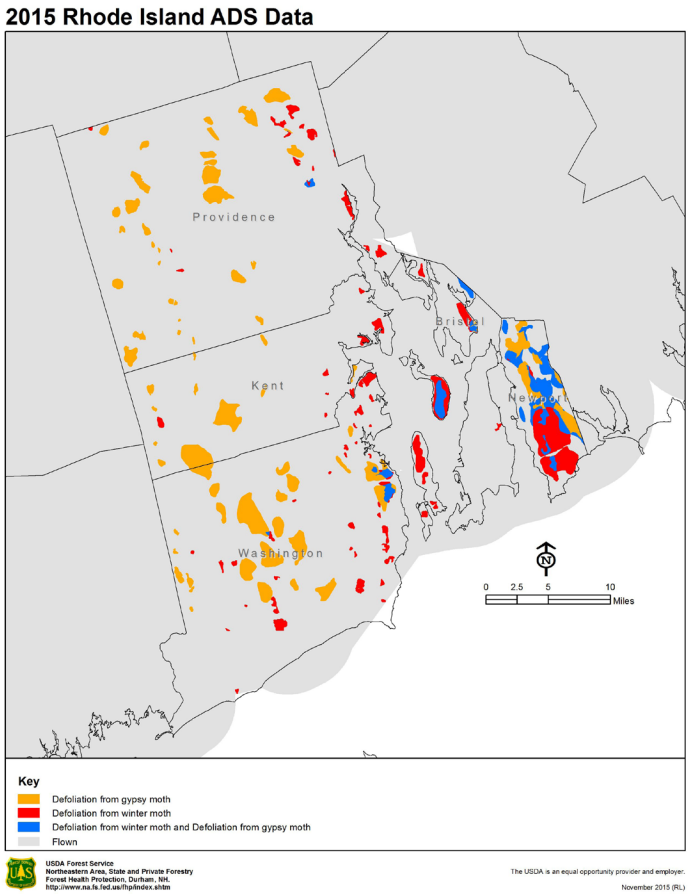
Aerial detection surveys (ADS) for defoliating insects were flown in June and July; 670,660 forested acres were covered by the digital aerial sketchmapping system (DASM). Survey data was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service in Durham, NH, showing acres of defoliation by damage-causing agent. All areas of defoliation greater than 50 acres were ground checked by field personnel.

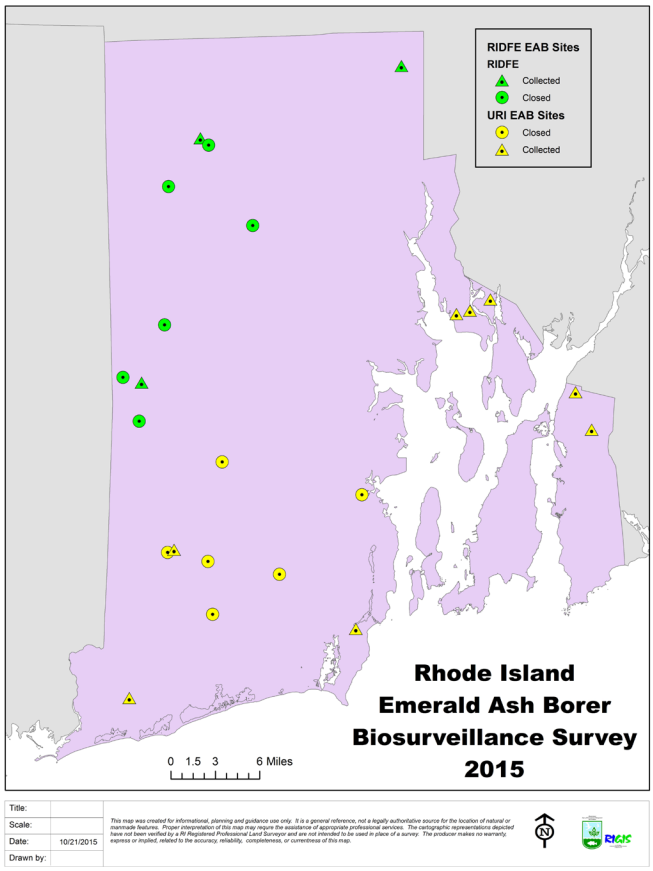
About 74,000 acres of damage were mapped Statewide—a considerable increase over 2014, when there was a little over 3,000 acres. Much of the increase was due to a gypsy moth outbreak of almost 43,000 acres of defoliation. Activity from winter moth also increased—over 27,200 acres of defoliation were recorded across the State from that insect.

Cynipid gall wasp, or crypt gall wasp, was observed in Washington County in 2015. Damage was not heavy enough to be recorded by aerial survey and was limited to black oak.



Comparison of aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Rhode Island in 2014 and 2015. (Map: U.S. Forest Service)





Forest Health Special Projects

Cerceris fumipennis Biosurveillance Survey for Emerald Ash Borer

The **Emerald Ash Borer Biosurveillance Project** continued to provide a multipronged approach to detect emerald ash borer. Surveys for active colonies and beetle collection were conducted in cooperation between Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the University of Rhode Island. Altogether 24 sites were sampled, and 774 beetles were collected for identification; all were negative for emerald ash borer.

Emerald Ash Borer Trap Program

RIDEM Division of Agriculture personnel set 64 panel traps, and 10 multi-funnel traps in high risk areas throughout Rhode Island, including urban environments. As a result 20 suspect Buprestids were collected in the traps and forwarded for confirmation of identification; all tested negative for emerald ash borer.

Firewood Vector Analysis

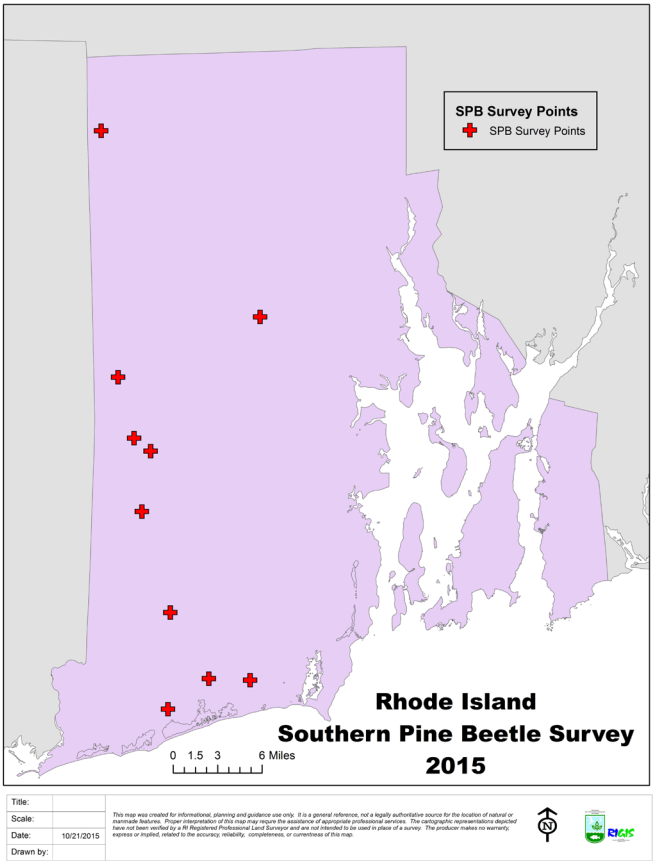
As part of the invasive insect survey work in Rhode Island for emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, the RIDEM Division of Forest Environment visited 41 campgrounds, RV resorts, and other facilities where the movement of firewood was a concern. They supplied posters and information about Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer including information about the "Don't Move Firewood" program.

Emerald Ash Borer Trap Tree Project

The emerald ash borer trap tree project was a method of detecting emerald ash borer by girdling ash trees, which then might attract any insects in the area. This was abandoned as a detection method in 2015.

Southern Pine Beetle Trapping

In spring, the University of Rhode Island set 10 traps for southern pine beetle in appropriate sites in the western portion of the State (Providence, Kent, and Washington Counties). The traps caught 16 suspect beetles, and 13 were identified as southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*). RIDEM Division of Forest Environment staff were detailed to Long Island for 1 week to assist the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in delimiting southern pine beetle infestations. Training in methodologies and techniques was given, followed by field work.



Forest Service Assistance

U.S. Forest Service Remote Sensing Specialist Bill Frament provided a day of DASM retraining for the Rhode Island Forest Health Coordinator and assisted with converting collected data into a reportable format.

Long Island southern pine beetle survey crew (Photo: Regina Smith, Maine Department of Agriculture)

References

Land Cover Map

Jin, S.; Yang, L.; Danielson, P.; Homer, C.; Fry, J.; Xian, G. 2013. A comprehensive change detection method for updating the National Land Cover Database to circa 2011. Remote Sensing of Environment, 132: 159 – 175. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0034425713000242. (1 March 2016).

Forest Land Ownership

Oswalt, Sonja N.; Smith, W. Brad; Miles, Patrick D.; Pugh, Scott A. 2014. Forest resources of the United States, 2012: a technical document supporting the Forest Service update of the 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-91. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. Table 2. http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/types/publication/field_pdf/GTR-WO-91.pdf. (1 March 2016).

Net Volume of Growing Stock on Timberland by Species

Oswalt, Sonja N.; Smith, W. Brad; Miles, Patrick D.; Pugh, Scott A. 2014. Forest resources of the United States, 2012: a technical document supporting the Forest Service update of the 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-91. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. Tables 23 & 24. http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/types/publication/field_pdf/GTR-WO-91.pdf. (1 March 2016).

Rhode Island Forest Inventory

Butler, Brett J.; Crocker, Susan J. 2015. Forests of Rhode Island, 2014. Resource Update FS-58. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 4 p. http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/49110. (2 March 2016)

Forest Health Programs

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.

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