

Lincoln National Forest - Commercial Forest Land Fact Sheet

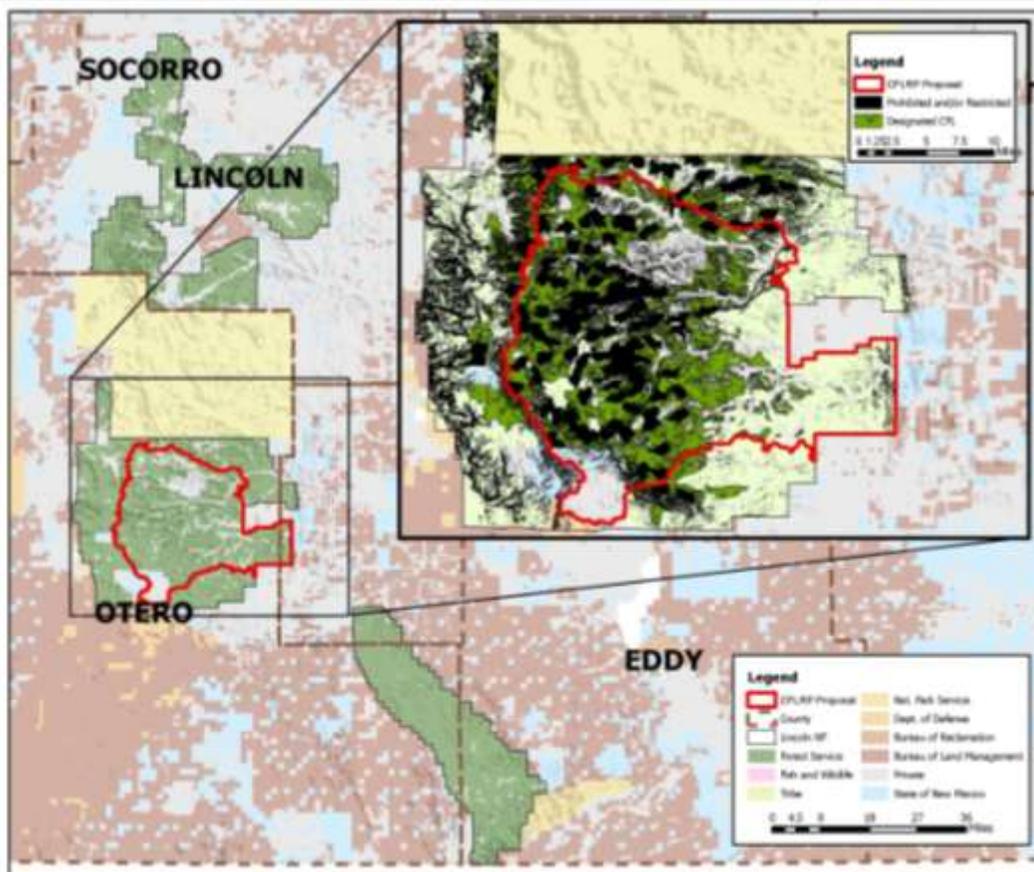
Website: www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln

Commercial Forest Land (CFL) Breakdown - Tabular

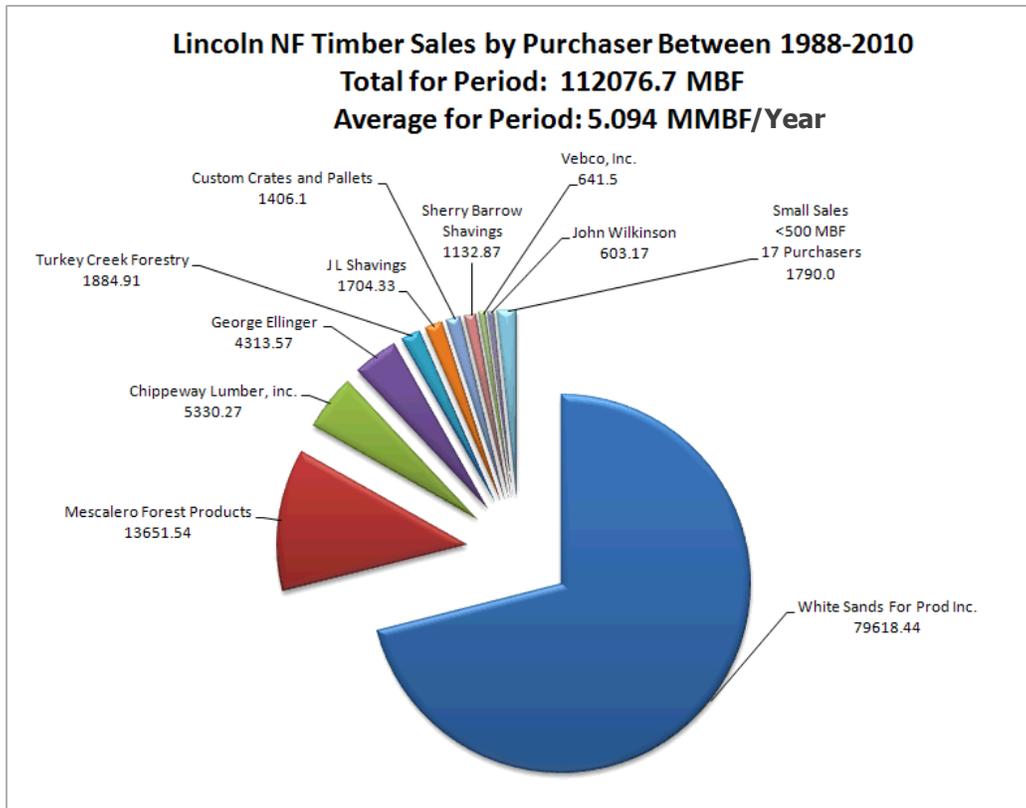
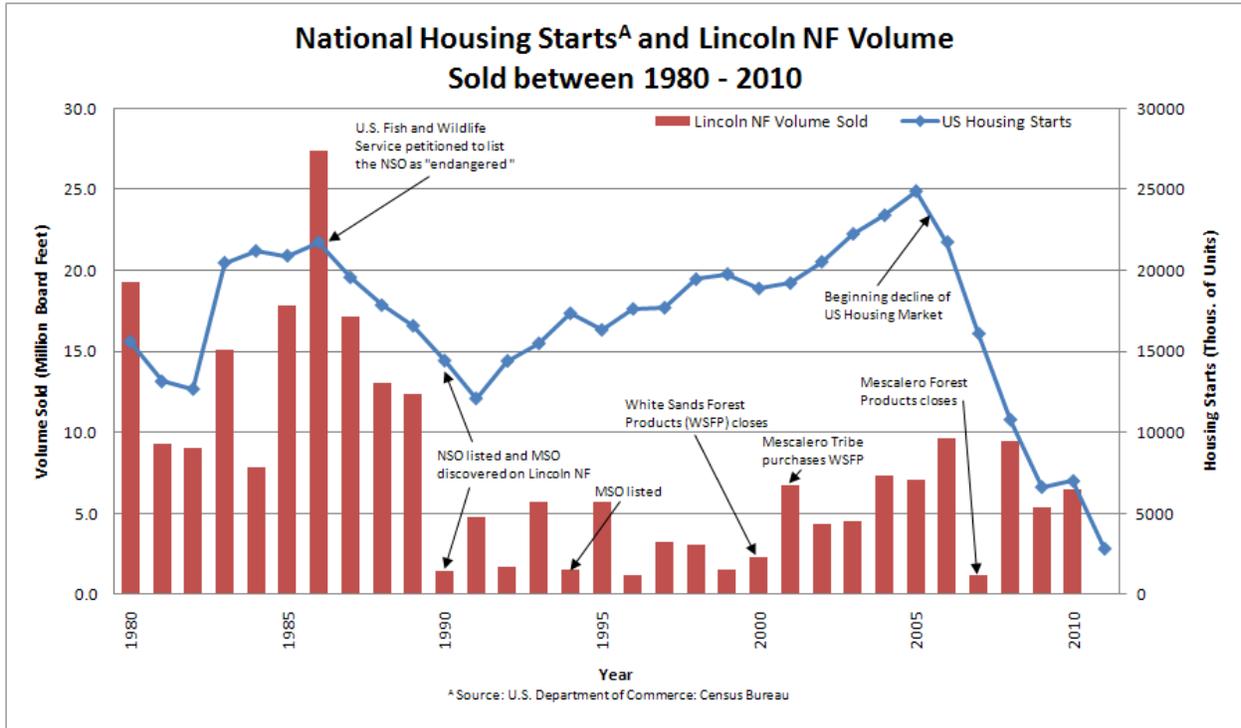
	Acres	
	Forest Wide	Sacramento RD
Land Base		
Land w/in Lincoln NF Boundary	1,260,816	548,863
Minus Non-USFS	1,089,463	450,657
<i>Minus non-commercial & non-forested (or CFL)</i>	315,811	188,093
Prohibited		
Minus Wilderness and RNA's	260,402	187,541
Minus MSO No Touch Core	246,963	175,317
Restricted		
Minus slopes greater than 40%	222,592	161,603
Minus MSO PACS	173,613	115,393
Treatments		
Minus activities since 1980	121,011 ^A	73,817 ^A
Rounded Totals	121,000	74,000

^A Includes 22,064 acres (19,250 in Otero County) on slopes greater than 40% and 16,554 in MSO PACS

Commercial Forest Land (CFL) Breakdown - Visual



Timber Industry and the Lincoln NF: Market Trend and Diversification



Logging on the Lincoln: A Brief History

Prior to World War II, mills like the Alamogordo Lumber Co., Sacramento Mountain Lumber Co., Southwest Lumber Co., Cloudcroft Lumber and Land Co., and the Breese Lumber Co. utilized material off the Forest and supplied lumber to the growing mountain communities. By 1945 the cost of hauling by rail became too expensive and was replaced with trucking the logs down the mountain, resulting in a decrease in the demand for railroad ties increased demand for studs and dimensional lumber (boards of different size and length).

The Prestridge Lumber Company dominated the local industry from 1941 until 1960. At that time most of the quality timber was harvested and companies accustomed to milling high grade timber got out of the business. This left only a few smaller mills to provide special orders of rough cut lumber to mountain residents. The larger Sawmills remaining were already re-tooling to take large amounts of smaller trees to fill the demand for housing studs and other dimensional lumber. In 1971 the original site of the Alamogordo Lumber Co. became White Sands Forest Products and the primary product was 2x4 and 2x6 studs. This market remained strong while the housing market flourished.

In 2000 the bottom dropped out of the lumber market nationally and White Sands Forest Products closed its doors. It was nearly a year later that Mescalero Forest Products purchased the old White Sands mill and incorporated it into their operation to process smaller trees being harvested on Mescalero and Lincoln National Forest. In the fall of 2006 Mescalero Forest Products closed the old White Sands Mill, and in the fall of 2007 Mescalero Forest Products closed down due to a further declining national and international housing markets and increased cheaper imports.

Today, there are numerous existing proprietor-owned businesses in and immediately around the Lincoln National Forest currently producing a variety of wood products utilized primarily supplying southern New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Mexico, including: dimensional lumber and cants utilized by the oil drilling industry; special orders for new housing designs; log cabin kits; pallets and crates; new wood composites for making signs; chips for particle board; custom crates and pallets utilized internationally; rough-cut telephone poles, and wood shavings used by the extensive horse racing and breeding community. In addition to these more traditional wood products, both commercial and household firewood is an important use of woody material in the region. It provides a cost savings in the form of reduced heating expenses, and is an economic opportunity for local entrepreneurs.