

2013

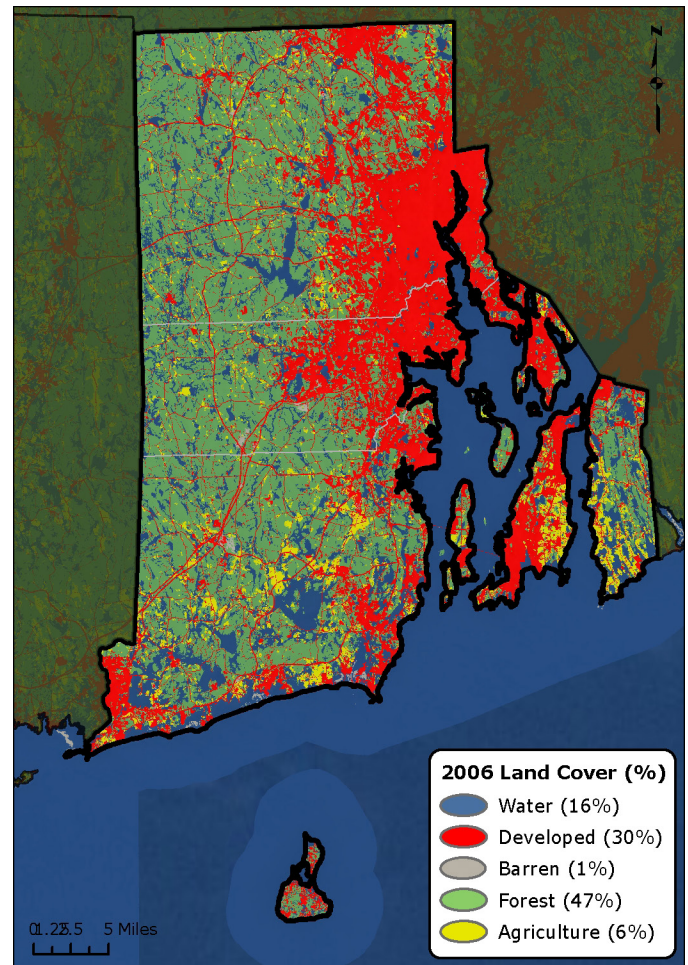
# Forest Health

RHODE ISLAND *highlights*

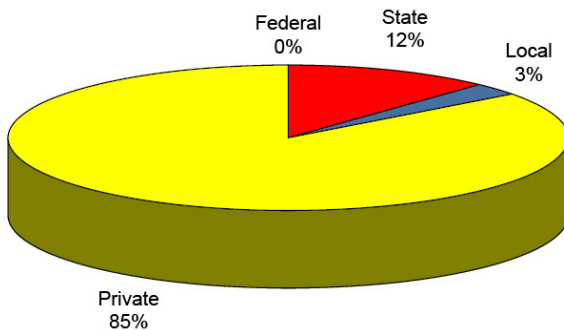


## Forest Resource Summary

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 forested acres in the State. 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.



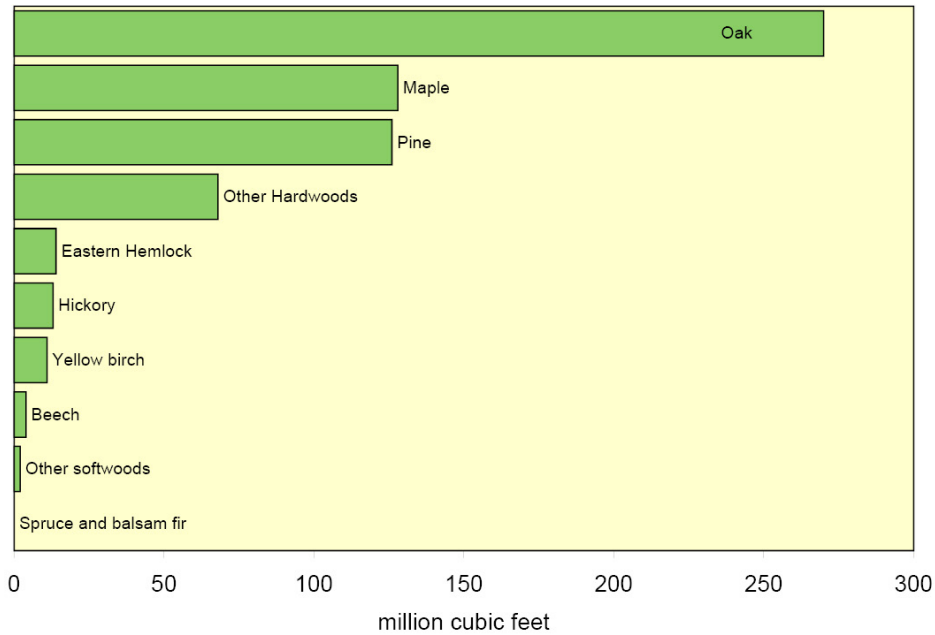
Forest Land Ownership in Rhode Island, 2007



## Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

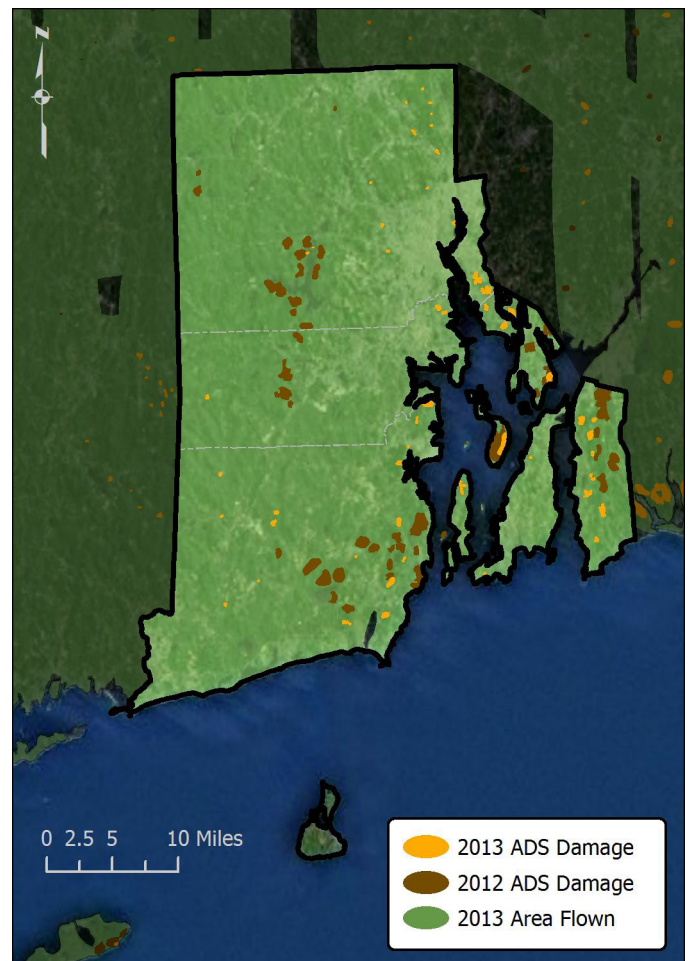
State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.

## Forest Species by Volume in Rhode Island, 2007



## Aerial Surveys

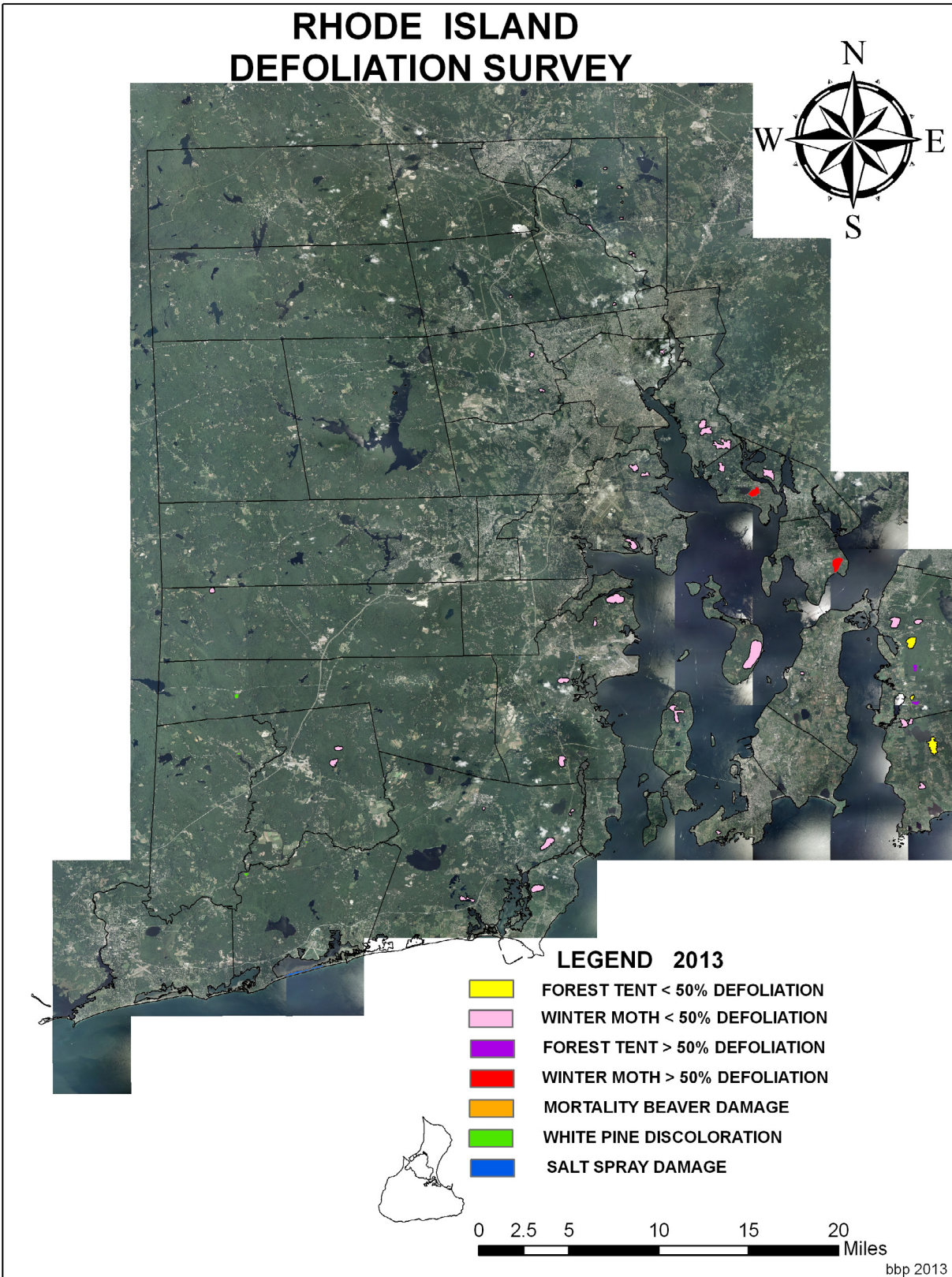
Aerial surveys for defoliating insects were flown over Rhode Island in June. Nearly 700,000 acres were covered by digital aerial sketch mapping, and a little over 3,500 acres of damage were mapped. The largest area was about 3,000 acres of defoliation caused by winter moth, which was less defoliation than what was mapped in 2012. On Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay, damage from the Cynipid gall wasp was mixed with damage from winter moth on 430 acres. In addition, there were 370 acres of defoliation from forest tent caterpillar and 11 acres of mortality of oak and other hardwoods in Scituate, in an area that had been defoliated multiple times by forest tent caterpillar, gypsy moth, and orange-striped oakworm. About 90 acres of salt spray damage was detected along Long Island Sound in Charlestown.



*Aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Rhode Island in 2012 and 2013.*



# RHODE ISLAND DEFOLIATION SURVEY



*Aerial defoliation survey for Rhode Island, 2013.*





*State and U.S. Forest Service personnel worked on peeling ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer Ash Trap Tree Project in Rhode Island. (Photo: Bruce Payton, Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment)*



*The new face of Forest Health in Rhode Island, Forest Health Program Coordinator Paul Ricard, got his first experience peeling ash bolts for the Emerald Ash Borer Ash Trap Tree Project. (Photo: Department of Environmental Management, Division of Forest Environment, State of Rhode Island)*

## Forest Health Survey Highlights

### **Emerald Ash Borer Trap Tree Project**

Through special funding from the U.S. Forest Service, a critical forest health project was carried out in Rhode Island in 2013—the **Emerald Ash Borer Ash Trap Tree Project**. This method of detection for emerald ash borer is to girdle ash trees, which then may attract any insects that may be in the area. Five locations for trap trees were systematically determined, and five trees were girdled; no evidence of emerald ash borer was detected.

### ***Cerceris fumipennis* Biosurveillance Survey for Emerald Ash Borer**

The **Emerald Ash Borer Biosurveillance Project** continued, to provide multiple approaches to detect emerald ash borer in Rhode Island. Surveys for active colonies were conducted, and beetles were collected at 96 of the 123 sites, including 16 sites that had over 50 *C. fumipennis* nests. This collaborative project was continued with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to survey Bristol and Newport Counties, and with the University of Rhode Island to survey Washington County sites. As a result, 180 beetles were collected and sent to the University of Rhode Island for identification; preliminary analysis failed to detect 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 Division of Forest Environment inspects trees in campgrounds annually and delivers information packets in spring and throughout the season for distribution to campers.

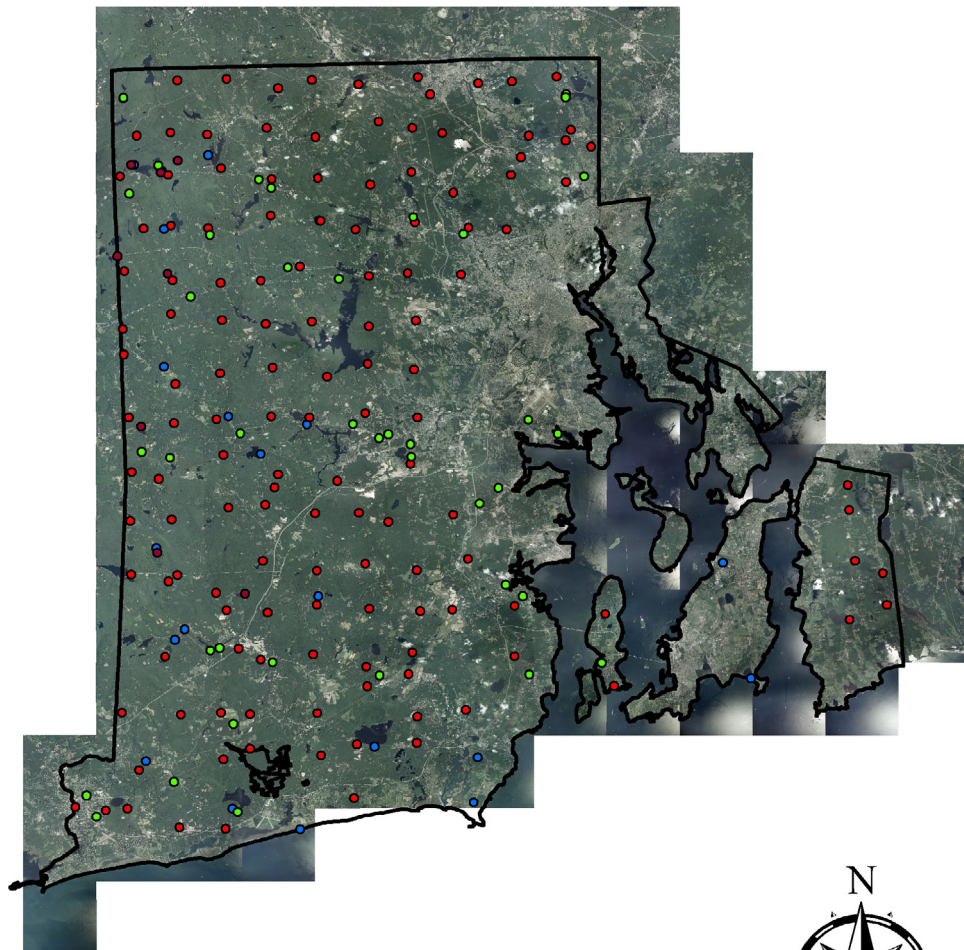
Fourteen campgrounds were investigated by visual survey after fall leaf off for emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle infestations. Surveys showed no introduction of these forest pests. Posters and information about the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign have been distributed to all active campgrounds.

### **Forest Service Assistance**

U.S. Forest Service Pathologist Isabel Munck visited Rhode Island in April 2013 and identified several locations in Providence and Washington Counties with hemlock tip blight (*Sirococcus tsugae*). White pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) and Caliciopsis canker (*Caliciopsis pinea*) were found on eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) on Providence Water Supply property and in the Arcadia Management Area.

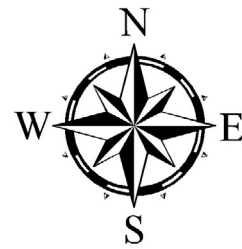


# RHODE ISLAND FOREST HEALTH SURVEY LOCATIONS DFE 2012- 2013



- FOREST HEALTH PLOTS
- CERCERIS FUMIPENNIS SURVEY LOCATIONS
- CAMPGROUND SURVEY LOCATIONS
- ASH TRAP TREE SURVEY LOCATIONS

0 3 6 12 18 24 Miles



bbp 2013

*Rhode Island forest health ground survey locations, 2013.*

## References

### Land Cover Map:

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

### Forest Land Ownership, Forest Species by Volume:

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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