Georgia Forestry Commission

7th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

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Director

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Our Vision: Healthy, sustainable forests providing clean air, clean water, and abundant products for generations to come.

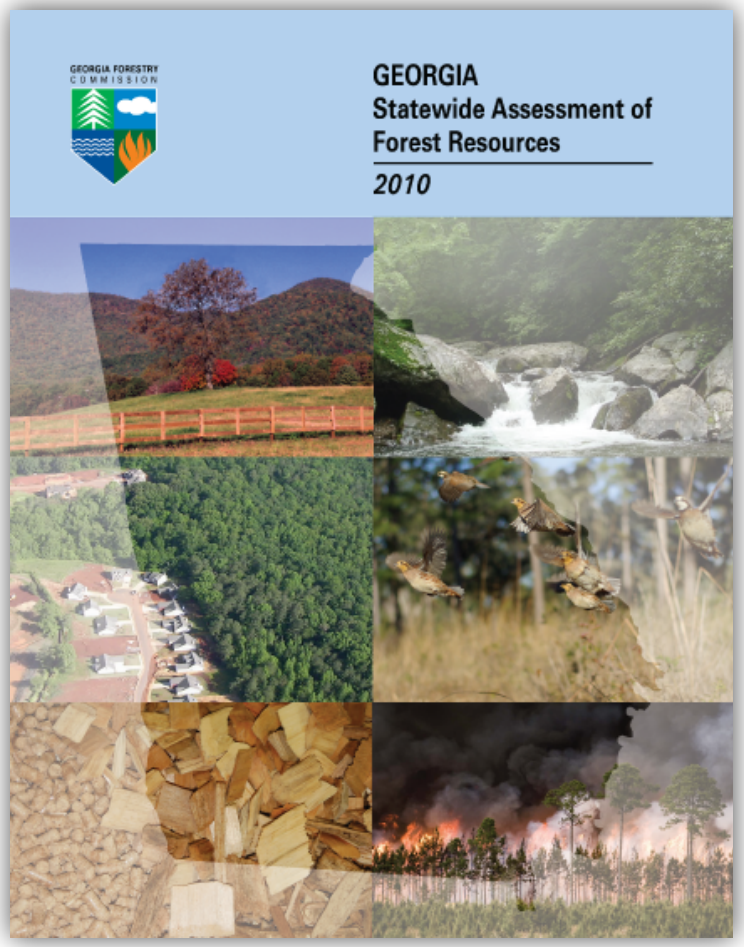
The Georgia Forestry Commission

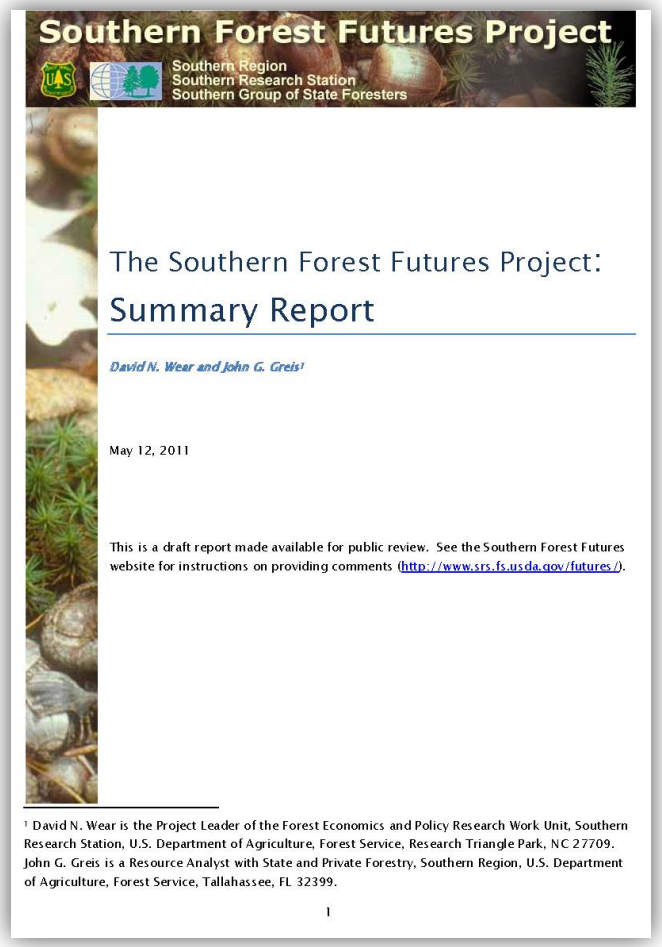
- Established in 1949 by the Georgia General Assembly
- *Vision*: Healthy, sustainable forests providing clean air, clean water and abundant products for future generations
- *Mission*: To provide leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources
- Provide a wide variety of services …

GFC - FUNCTIONS

- Forest Protection
- Forest Management
- Tree Improvement/Nursery operations
- Forest Marketing and Utilization
- Sustainable Community Forestry Program
- Conservation Education

Where are we now, and where are we going?





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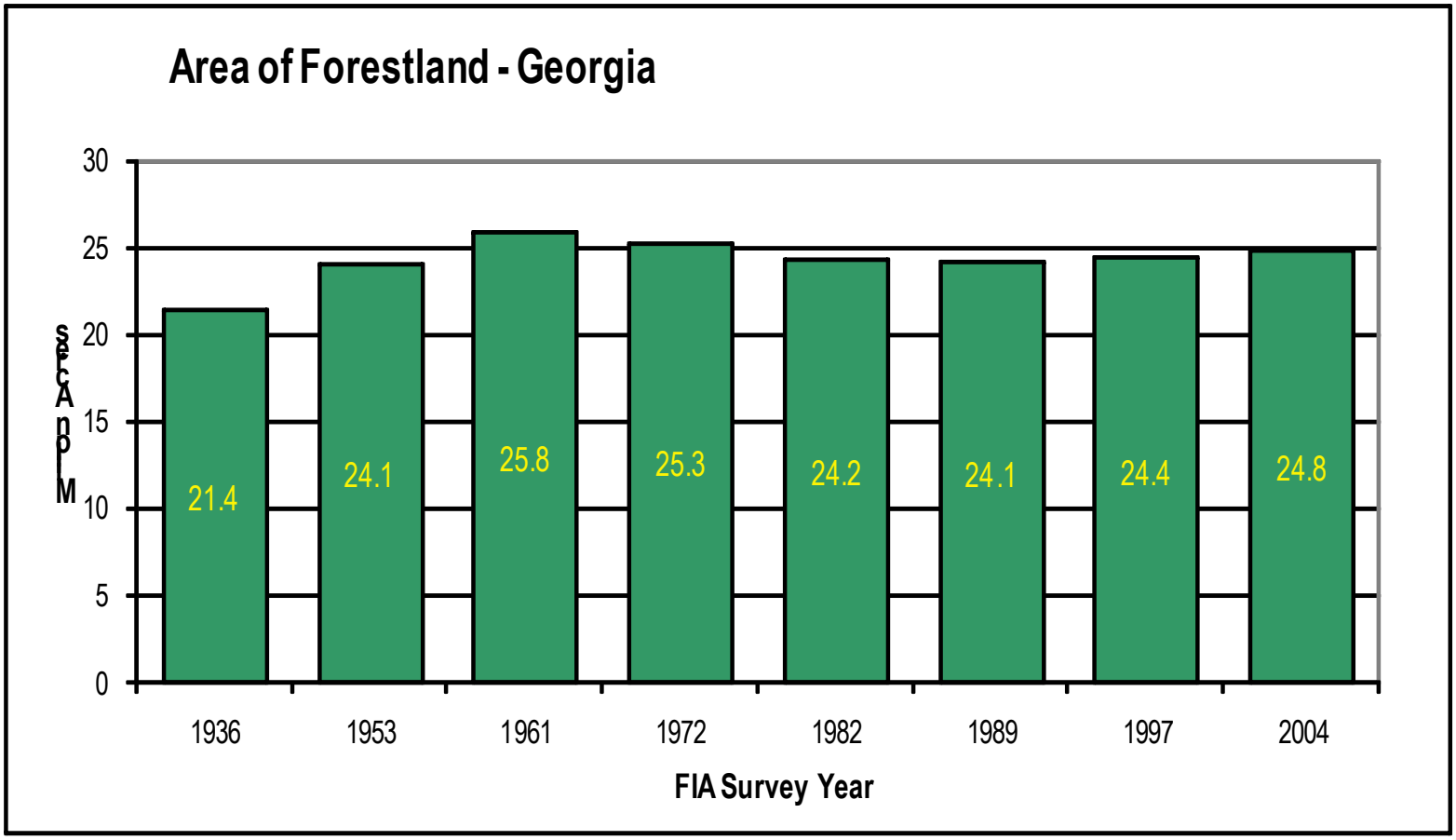
Do we see any challenges ahead?

Georgia Forest Resources Assessment

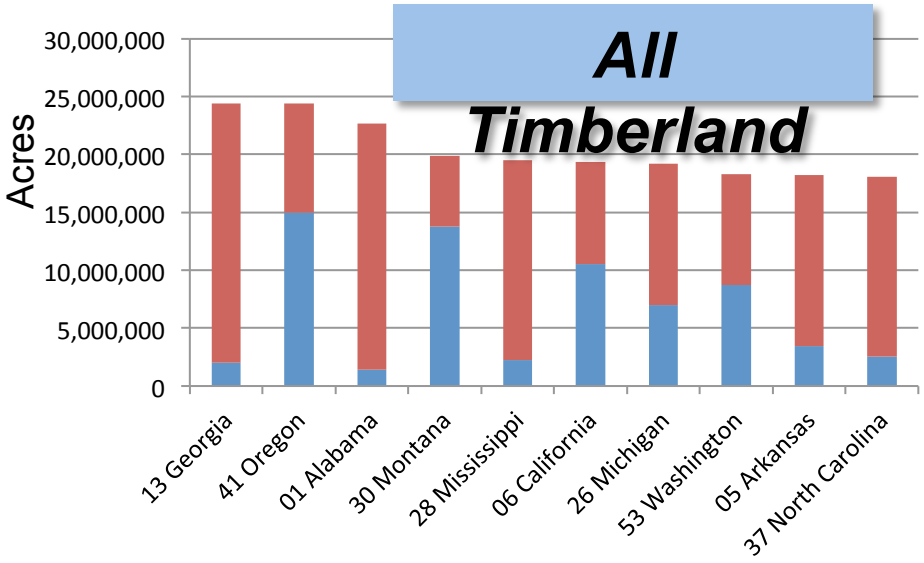
- A ***statewide assessment of forest resources*** and ***long term strategies*** for investing federal, state, and other resources to manage these identified priority landscapes and issues.
- *Georgia's Forest Resource Assessment:*
  - Describes forest conditions on all ownerships
  - Identifies forest-related benefits and services
  - Identifies threats to the resource
  - Highlights issues and trends of concern as well as opportunities for action
  - Delineates high priority forest landscapes to be addressed
  - Is geospatially based

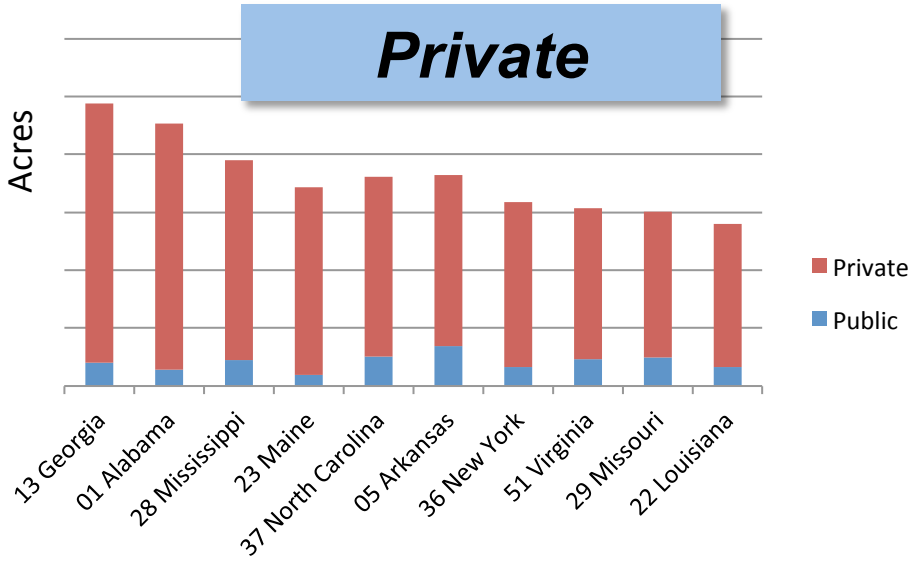
Georgia Forestland

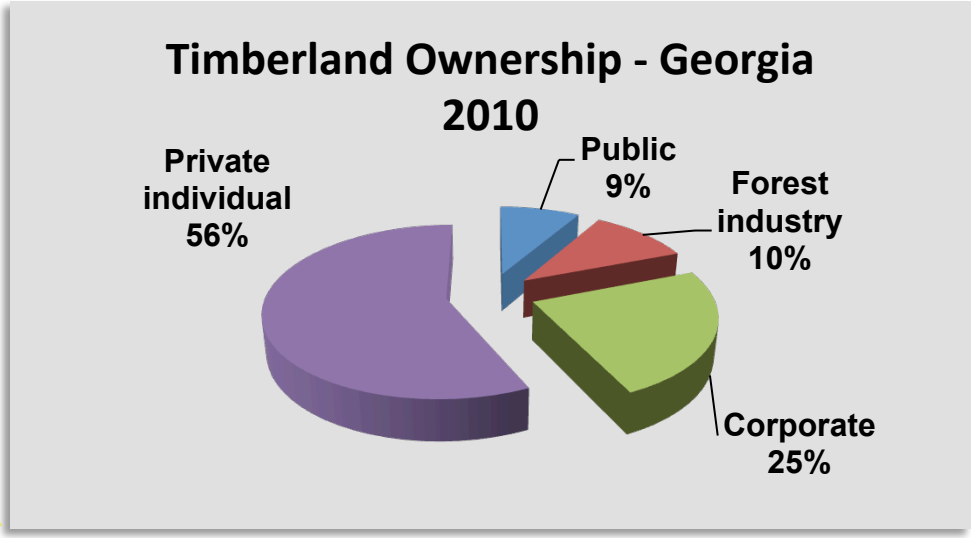
Georgia Forestland has remained stable at about 24 million acres



Top Ten States - Timberland



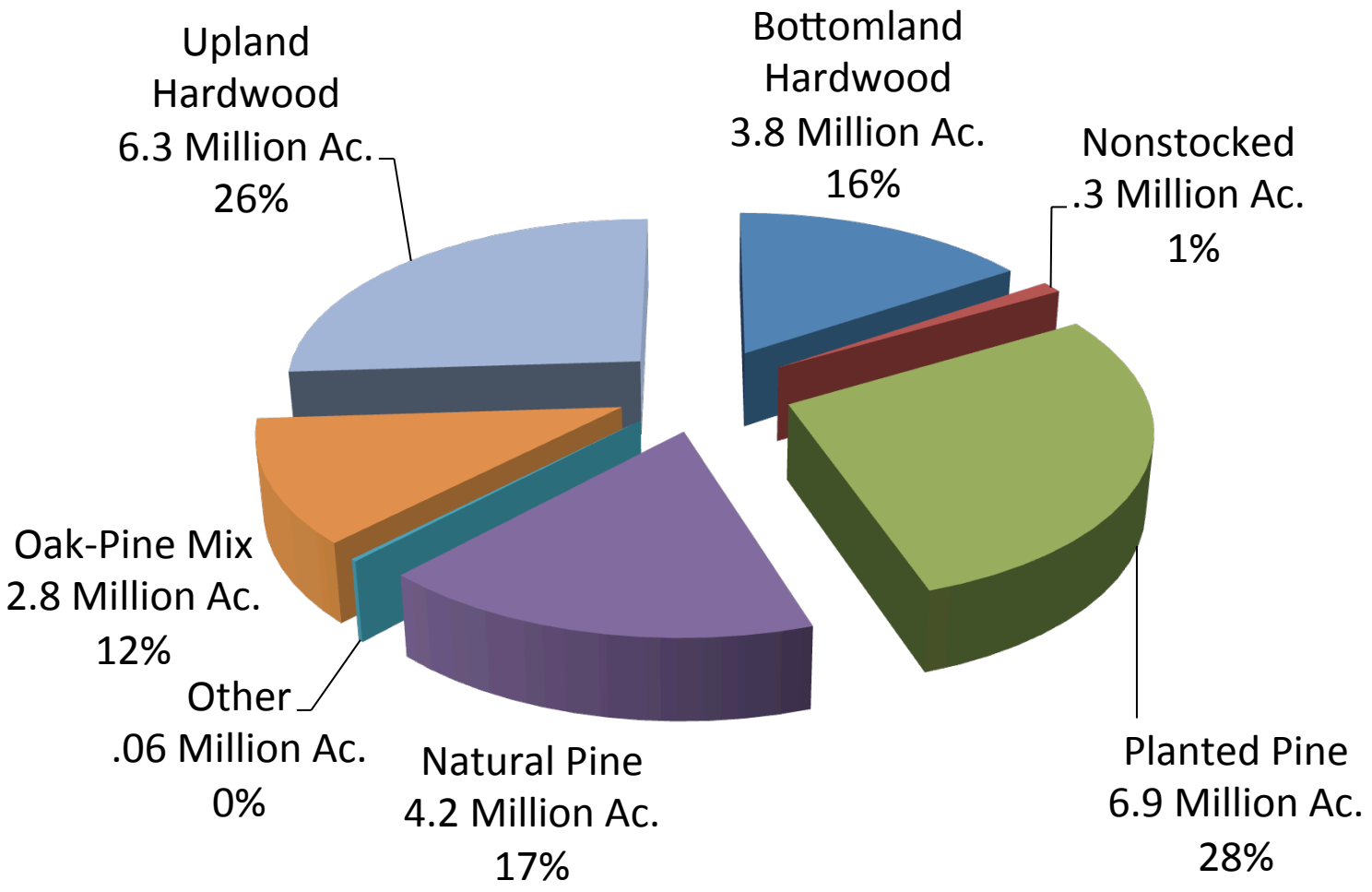




Georgia Timberland Ownership – 24.4 mil ac

Source: US Forest Service FIA Data 2010

Georgia Forestland by Forest Type Group

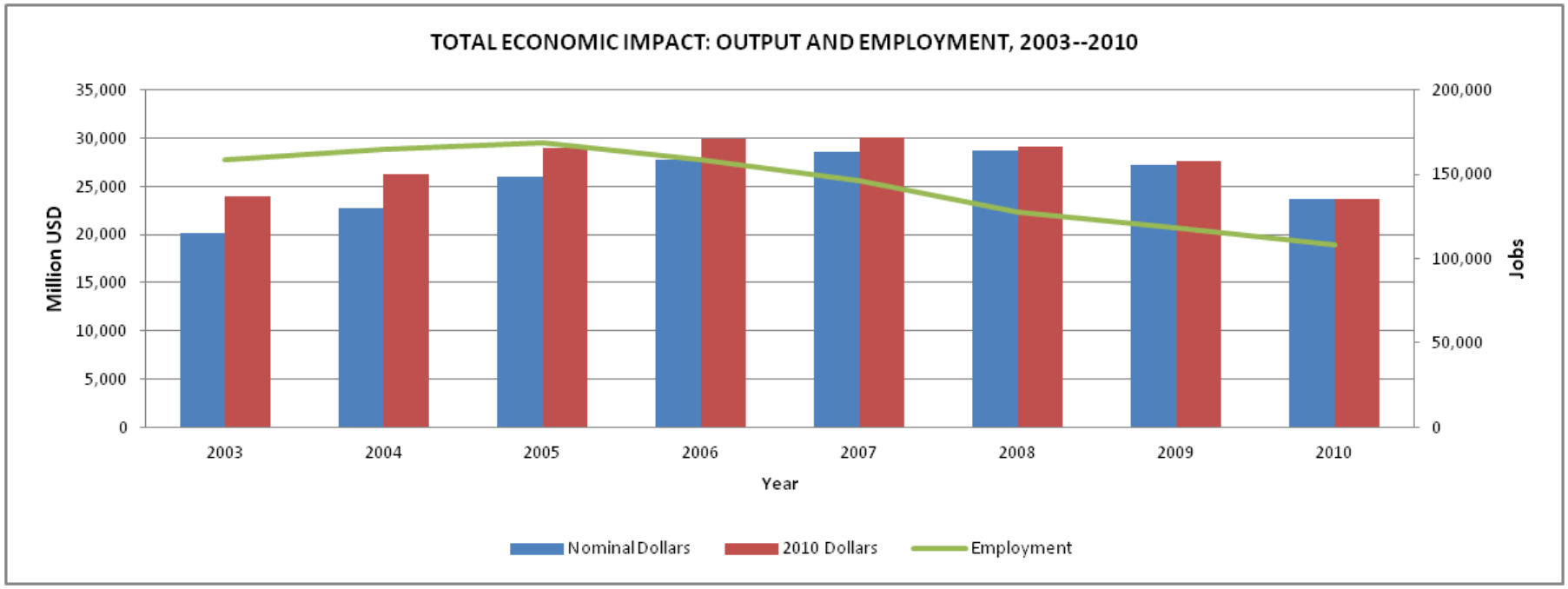


Source: Forest Inventory and Analysis program, US Forest Service, 2010 Data

Economic Impact of Forestry-2010

- **Direct Impacts**
  - $14.5billion output ↓15.6%
  - $2.6 billion compensation ↓6.8%
  - 43,425 jobs ↓10.5%

- **Total Impacts**
  - $23.6 billion output ↓14.5%
  - $5.4 billion compensation ↓4.9%
  - 108,112 jobs ↓8.7%



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Local Economic Dependence

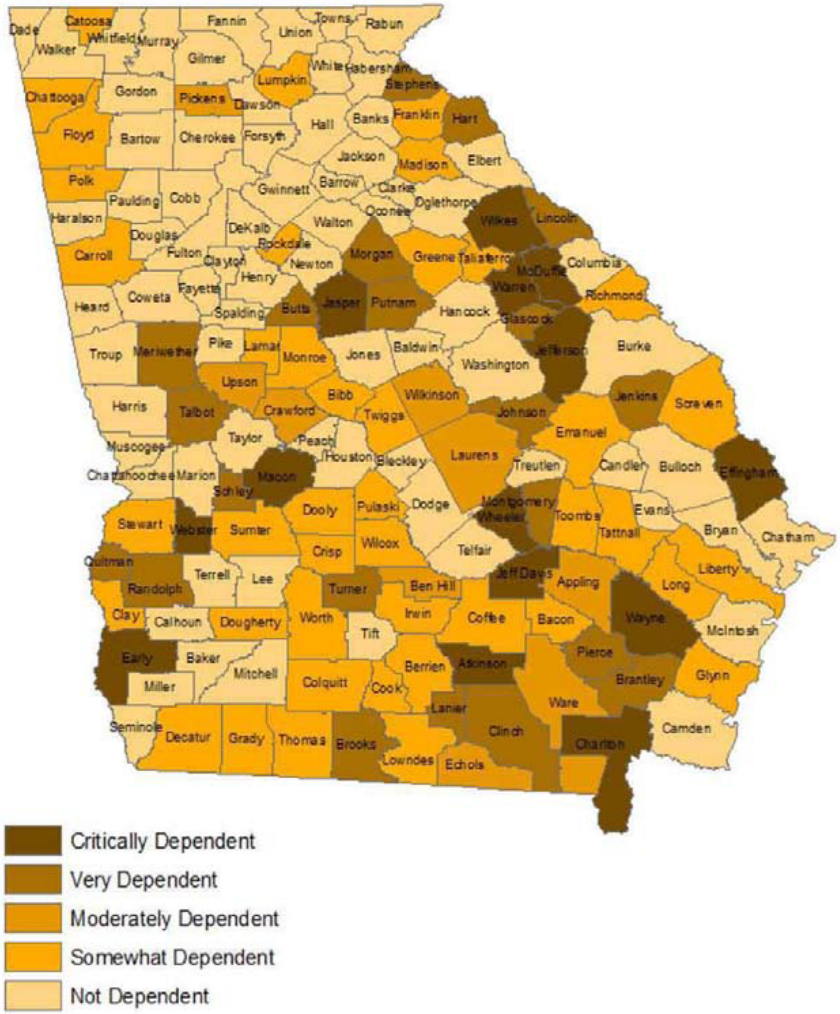
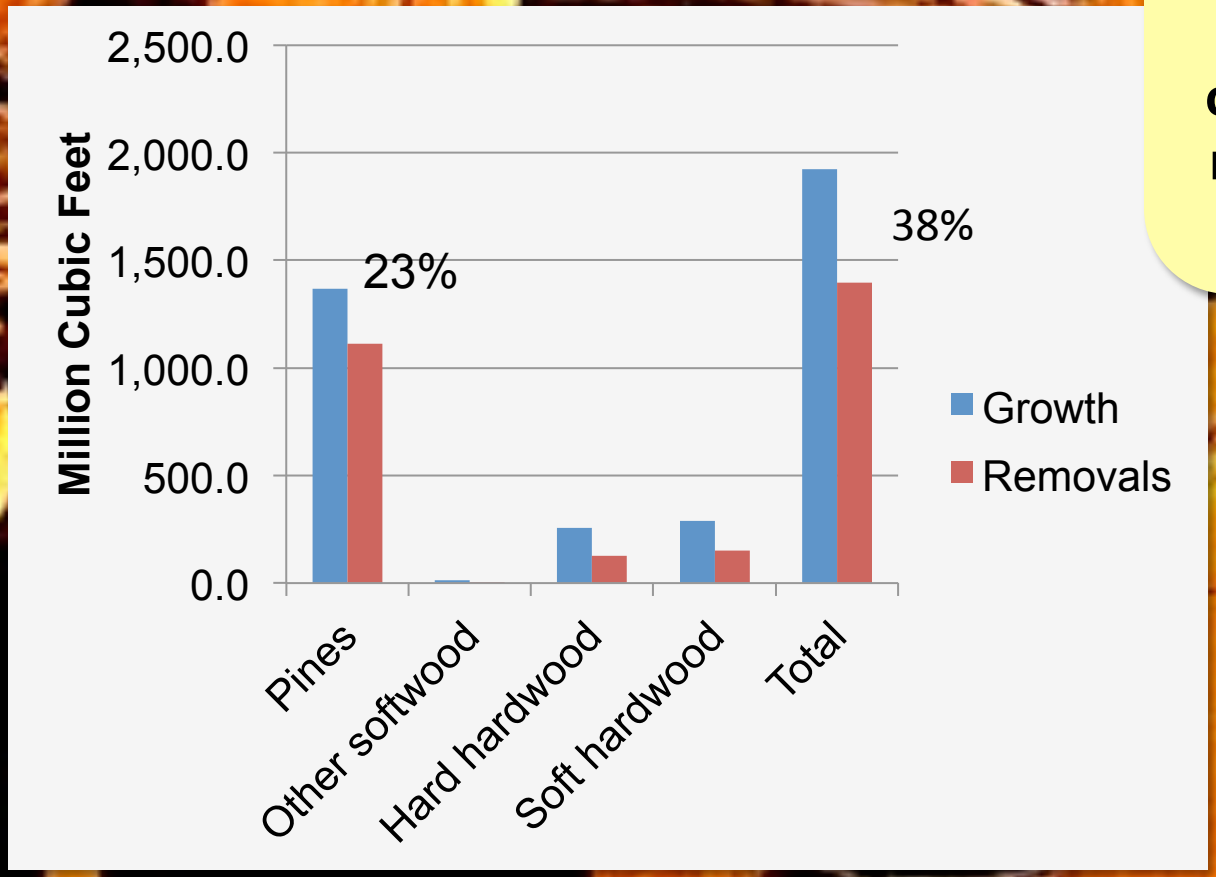


Figure 6. Degree of forestry-dependence by employment percentage. Adapted from Riall, 2009.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF GEORGIA'S FORESTS
DELIVERS
$37.6
BILLION
VALUE TO 9 MILLION CITIZENS

Georgia's Forest Volume Growth



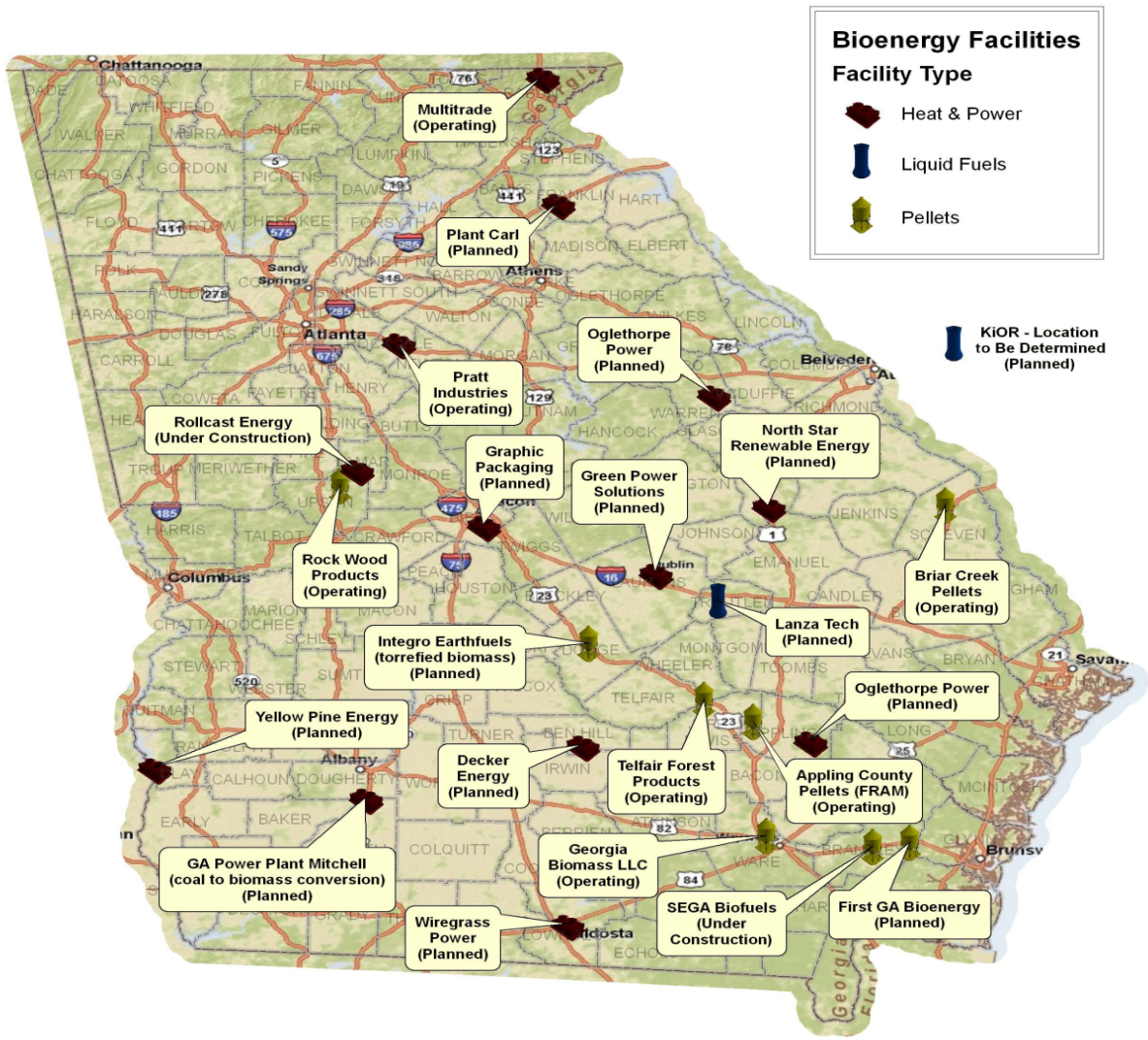
Growth exceeds removals by 38% (525 mil cubic feet or 17 mil green tons)

Demand for Products

Forests could meet higher demands for timber in the future, but those demands are uncertain, especially for bioenergy.

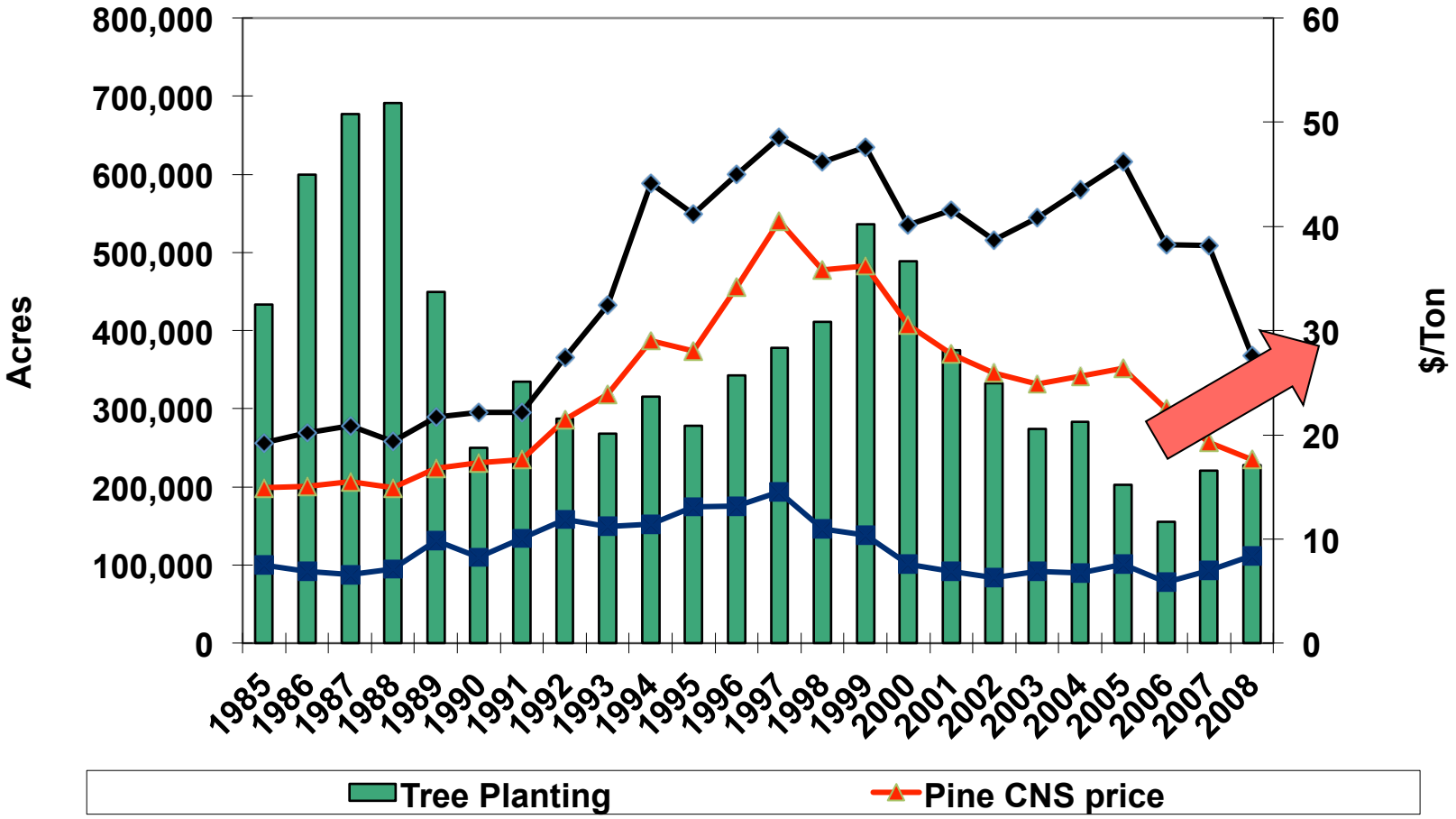
- *Forbes* magazine ranked GA 3rd in the nation for potential biomass energy

Bioenergy Industry in Georgia



Datum: NAD1983 Coord Sys: GCS DOP: 07/12/2012 Author: C.O.Bailey

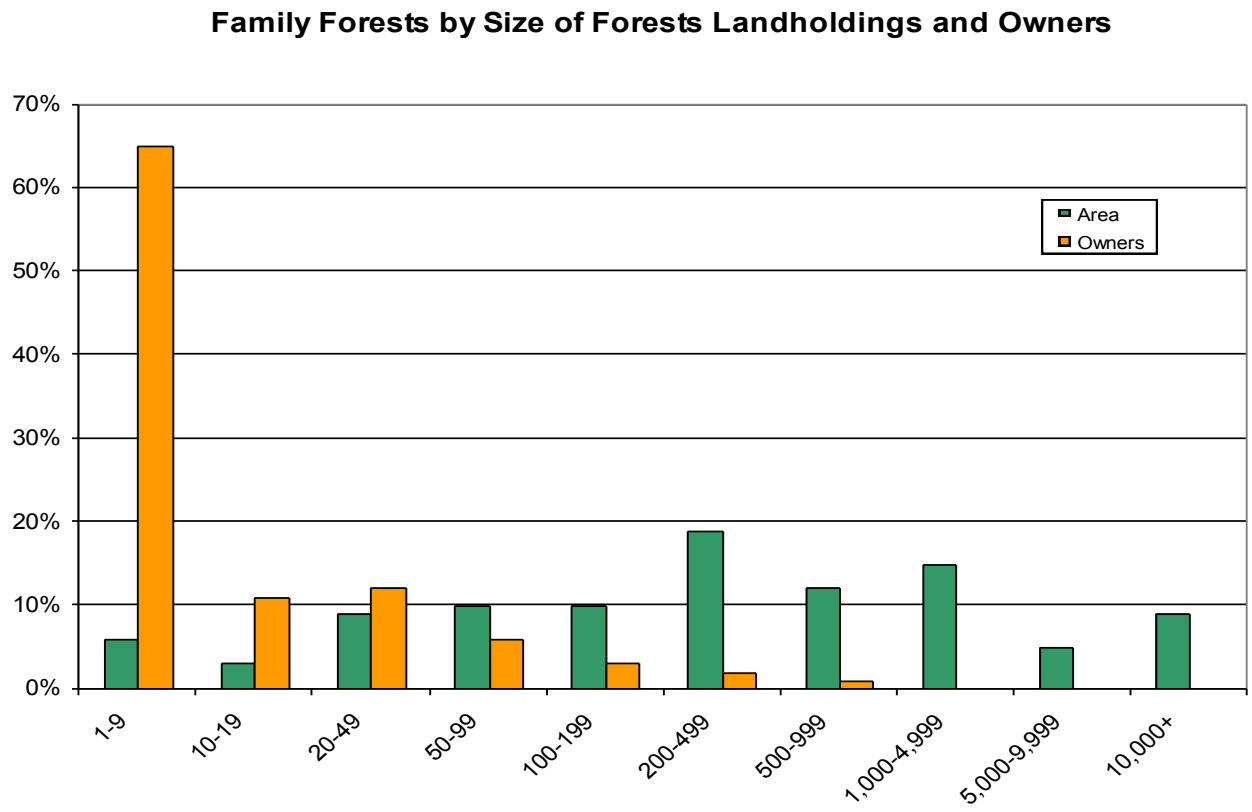
Markets Impact Forest Retention



Ownership Patterns

Ownership Patterns are Changing

- Number of Forestland Owners steadily increasing
- While average acres owned is decreasing



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Ownership Objectives

Ownership Objectives Changing

- Aesthetics, Recreation, Privacy, Legacy

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Growth & Urban Sprawl

Greatest single threat to Georgia Forests is growth & urban sprawl

- Population projected to jump from 10 million to 12 million within 20 years.
- Losing 106 acres of forest land daily to development

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Forest Health Concerns

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Life and Property Concerns

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Forest Management

Challenges to the ability to properly manage forests

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With the wise use of knowledge and resources, Georgians can keep our forests sustainable for present and future generations!