

Trained Woodland Owner Volunteers: Adding Value to Communities

NY Master Forest Owner Program



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Agricultural Experiment Station

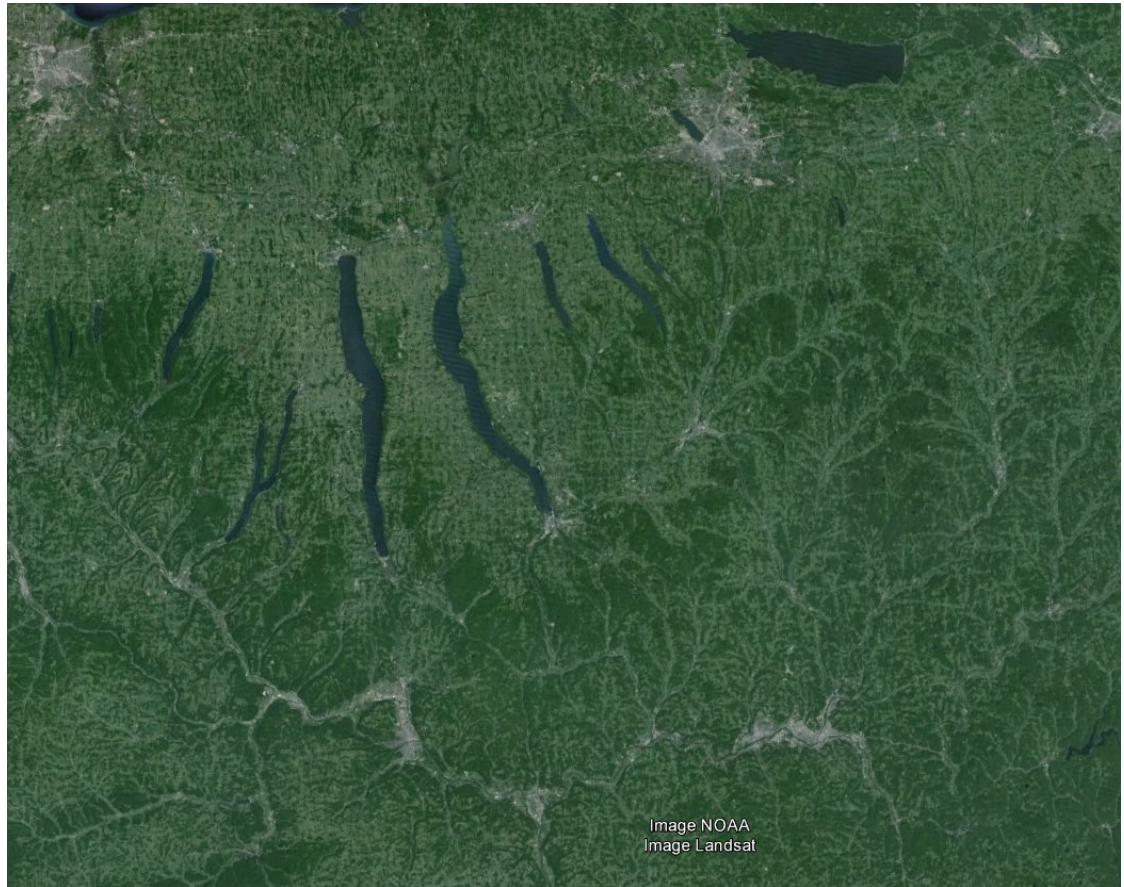


United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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NY Forest Statistics

- 19 million acres of forest (63% of NY)
- 15.9 million acres of timber land (53% of NY)
- Public = 4.8 million ac (25%)
- Private = 14.2 million ac (75%)
 - Corporate – 2.7 million (14% of forest land)
 - Family – 10.8 million (57% of forest land, 68% of timber land)

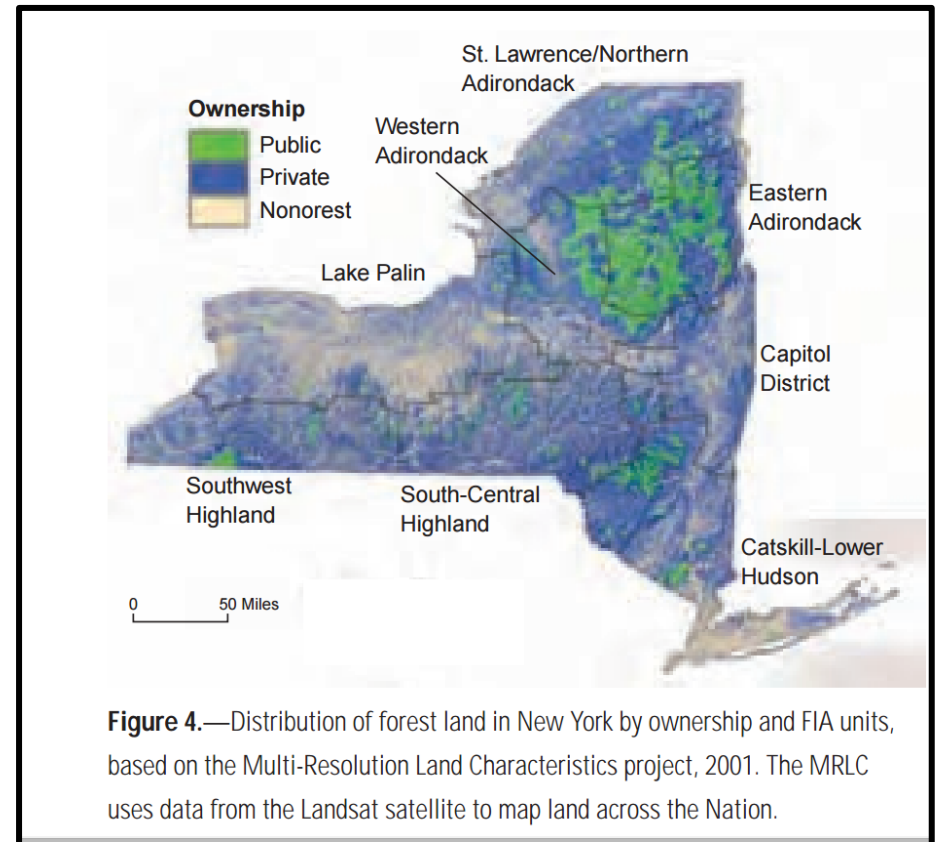


Google Earth, 2015

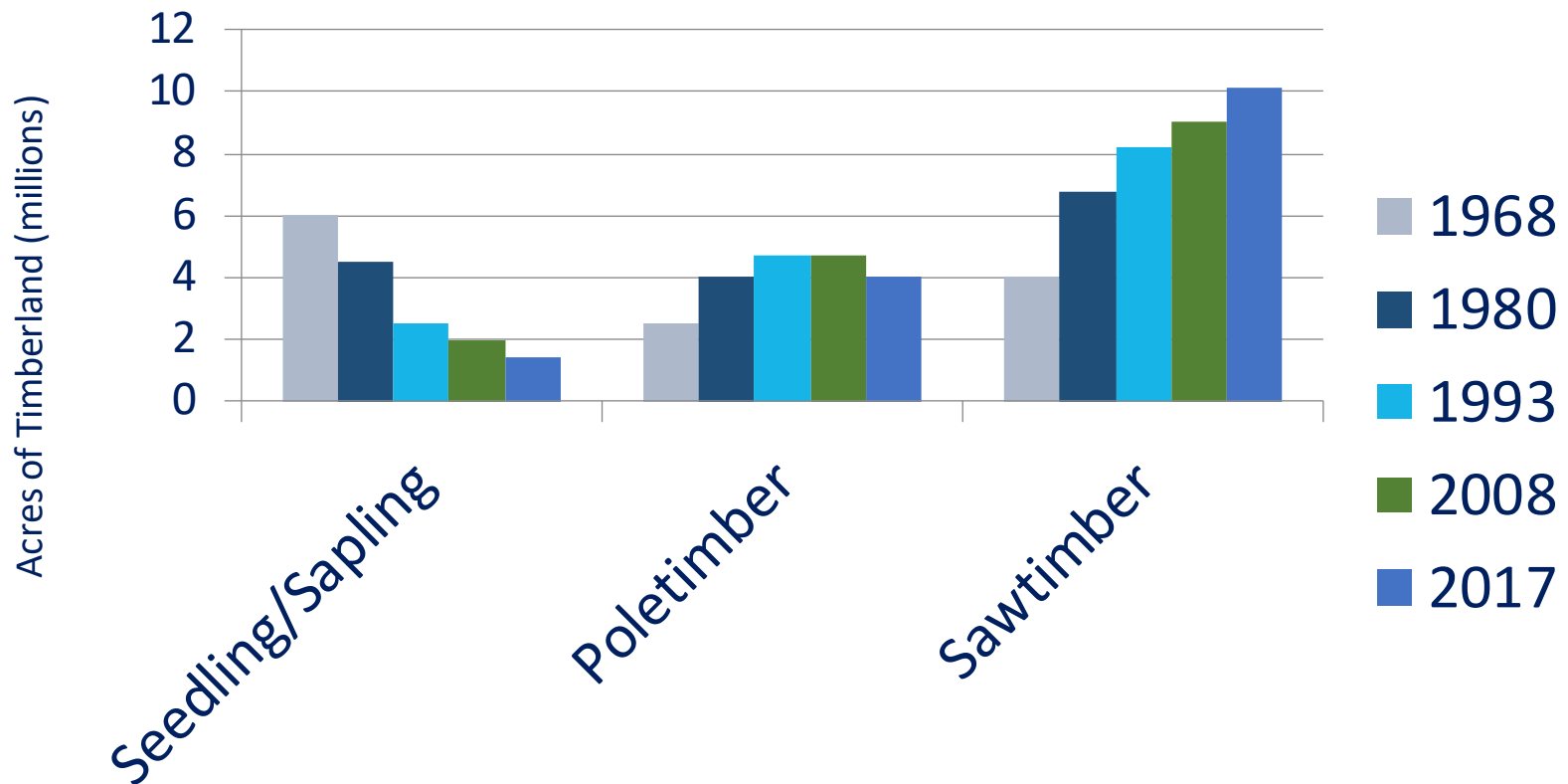
Regional Forest Statistics

(% Timber land)

- South-Central Highlands – 65%
- Northern Adirondacks – 62% (+11% reserve)
- Southwest Highlands – 62%
- Western Adirondack – 58% (+16% reserve)
- Capital District – 55%
- Catskill/Lower Hudson – 46% (+9% reserve)
- Eastern Adirondacks – 41% (+52% reserve)
- Lake Plain – 40% (2.5 million acres)



Benefits of Forests Vary with Tree Size



- Adapted from p. 40 of http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/fras070110.pdf
- 756 MMBF harvested in NY in 2005 (4.2 MBF per acre over 1% of forest)
<http://nefainfo.org/publications/2007%20Publications/NEFAEconomicImportNY.pdf>

Serving the Needs of Woodland Owners

- 675,000 woodland owners in NY
- Varied ownership objectives
- Owners make decisions
- Decisions impact woodland values and services
- Owners trust peers



NY Master Forest Owner Program



Goal:

Provide NY forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests sustainably

Master Forest *Owner* Volunteer Program

- Campus-based
- Began 1991 (G. Goff)
- Modeled after other “master” programs
- Solicits and screens volunteers to serve as peer-to-peer counselors for non-technical assistance
 - **Visits**
 - CCE events
 - Local articles



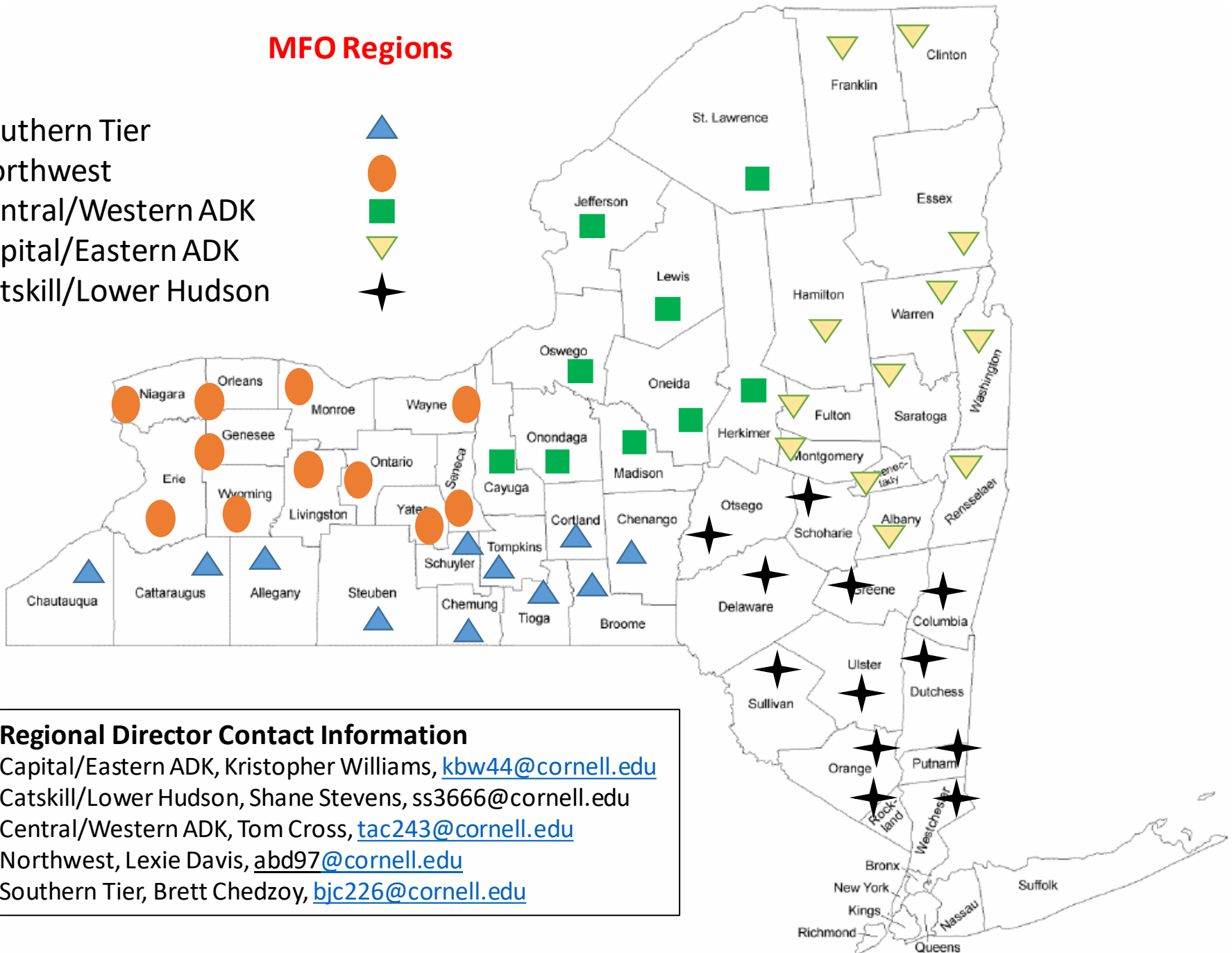
MFO Program Mechanics

Train and support a corps of certified volunteers who work within their communities to support sustainable ownership objectives:

- State and regional directors
- Conducting on-site, ~ 1/2-day visits with “neighbor” woodland owners
- Collaborating with agencies and organizations in various educational events
- Preparing articles for various media outlets

MFO Regions

Southern Tier
 Northwest
 Central/Western ADK
 Capital/Eastern ADK
 Catskill/Lower Hudson



Regional Director Contact Information

Capital/Eastern ADK, Kristopher Williams, kbw44@cornell.edu

Catskill/Lower Hudson, Shane Stevens, ss3666@cornell.edu

Central/Western ADK, Tom Cross, tac243@cornell.edu

Northwest, Lexie Davis, abd97@cornell.edu

Southern Tier, Brett Chedzoy, bjc226@cornell.edu

MFO Volunteers: Training Process

- Application process (done!)
- Meet with an existing volunteer (if you haven't already)
 - Complete online request
 - Hopefully, a nearby volunteer, or
 - You drive
 - Novice cross-train
 - Shadow a visit
- Mentored visit
- Make visits alone or with another volunteer



Visit Requests <http://CornellMFO.info>

Response Summary:

First Name

Zach

Last Name

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

Residence - street address

64 ZZZZZZZ Rd

Residence - city, state, zip code

Lansing, NY 14882

Phone (xxx) xxx - xxxx

xxx-xxx-xxxx

Email

ZZZZZZZ@alumni.berklee.edu

NYS county where your forested property is located?

Tompkins County

How did you learn about the Master Forest Owner program?

Cornell Cooperative Extension

How many total acres do you own, on the property where the visit will occur? (numbers only please)

8.9

Of the total acres of your property, how many acres are wooded? (numbers only please)

3.5

How many years have you personally owned forest land?

<1

People own woodland for many reasons. How important are the following as reasons for why you own your woodland? (Check one box for each reason.)

To enjoy beauty/scenery

Very Important

To protect nature or biological diversity

Extremely Important

For privacy

Moderately Important

For land investment

Slightly Important

To pass land on to my children or other heirs

Slightly Important

For timber products, e.g. logs or pulpwood

MFO Volunteer Training Curriculum

- Since 2021 a hybrid training
- Resources stored at *publicly accessible*
<https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/40112>
- 5 sections on-line learning
 - Understanding the woods around you
 - Wildlife and their habitat
 - Vegetation management
 - Silviculture
 - Agroforestry
- Self-study and discussion
- One-day regional field sessions



Field Sessions

- One per region, location depends on...
- Try to attend at least one
- Objectives:
 - Networking/bonding
 - Exposure to basic skills
 - Visualize terminology



Topical Discussions

- Assumes you have completed the weekly assignments
- Regional Directors lead discussion
- Discussion focused on how to use the information covered by self-study activities
- Discussion Template (varies)
- Q & A
 - Focus verbal questions on principles
 - Use chat window for personal questions (allows multiple responses)



You, as a volunteer

- Connect woodland owners to educational and other resources.
- Supported by your RD, all directors, MFO, NYFOA
- Curriculum has depth
- Annual refresher trainings
- ForestConnect
- NYFOA, CFA



As a volunteer

- Complete the “annual renewal” form
- Marketing...
- Your RD will contact you when visit requests arrive
 - Respond promptly
 - You coordinate visit with owner
- Become active in NYFOA or CFA
- Introduce yourself to your CCE



Questions?

On to the people and the
program