



THE VAST IMPACTS OF KENTUCKY'S FOREST LANDOWNERS

The environmental and economic benefits of a managed forest begin with the commitment, investment, and hard work of the landowner. Kentucky's forest landowners are the unsung heroes who play a critical role in the state's economy, communities, and environment.

PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, RE-PLANT

11M

Acres of private forest

Every year, Kentucky grows nearly 3x more trees than harvested

SUSTAINABLY MANAGED

94%

Landowners use sustainable practices

Kentucky landowners are responsible stewards of their forest, following state guidelines across all categories including streams, wetlands, reforestation, and more

GROWING OXYGEN FOR

110M

Residents annually

Thank a forest landowner for the air you breathe. Private forests produce enough oxygen for 110M residents to breathe every year

CLEANING THE AIR

1.8M

Cars' emissions removed

Private forest landowners are sequestering the emissions of 1.8M cars annually driven on Kentucky's roads

ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

\$13B

Impact on the Kentucky economy

COMPARE

Forestry's economic impact in Kentucky outpours the revenues of the bourbon industry (\$13B vs. \$9B) and is 4x greater than horse racing (\$3B)

JOB CREATION

54,000

Kentucky jobs supported by forestry

COMPARE

Forestry supports the same number of jobs as the horse racing industry (54,267 vs. 55,000)

PAYCHECKS FOR FAMILIES

\$2B

Salaries and wages

COMPARE

Paychecks in the pockets of families employed by forestry could buy 12,000 homes annually

FUNDING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

\$324M

State taxes

COMPARE

Taxes paid to the state by forestry jobs could pay the annual salaries of 6,000 teachers in the Kentucky school system

FORESTS TO FAUCETS

38%

Of Kentucky's water supply flows from private forests

100 MATURE TREES INTERCEPT

250,000

Gallons of rainfall per year

Forests filter rainfall, removing sediments and pollutants before slowly releasing water into streams and rivers that feed into the watersheds that provide public drinking water

SAFE DRINKING WATER

750K

Kentucky residents get more than half their public drinking water from private forests

Bourbon's flavor is imparted by the wooden casks used to age it. White oak wood for those casks is sourced from private forest landowners.

Wood markets ensure forest landowners have the income needed to manage their forests, deliver environmental health benefits, and create an economic boost for Kentucky. It all starts with the landowner planting trees.

Whether you care about drinking water, clean air or economic benefits, we must understand the role of the landowner and the importance of harvesting timber to provide income for the caretakers of the forests.

Economic Impact Data was derived from 2018 IMPLAN data. Find more information about this factsheet or forestry in Kentucky, eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Forestry.



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