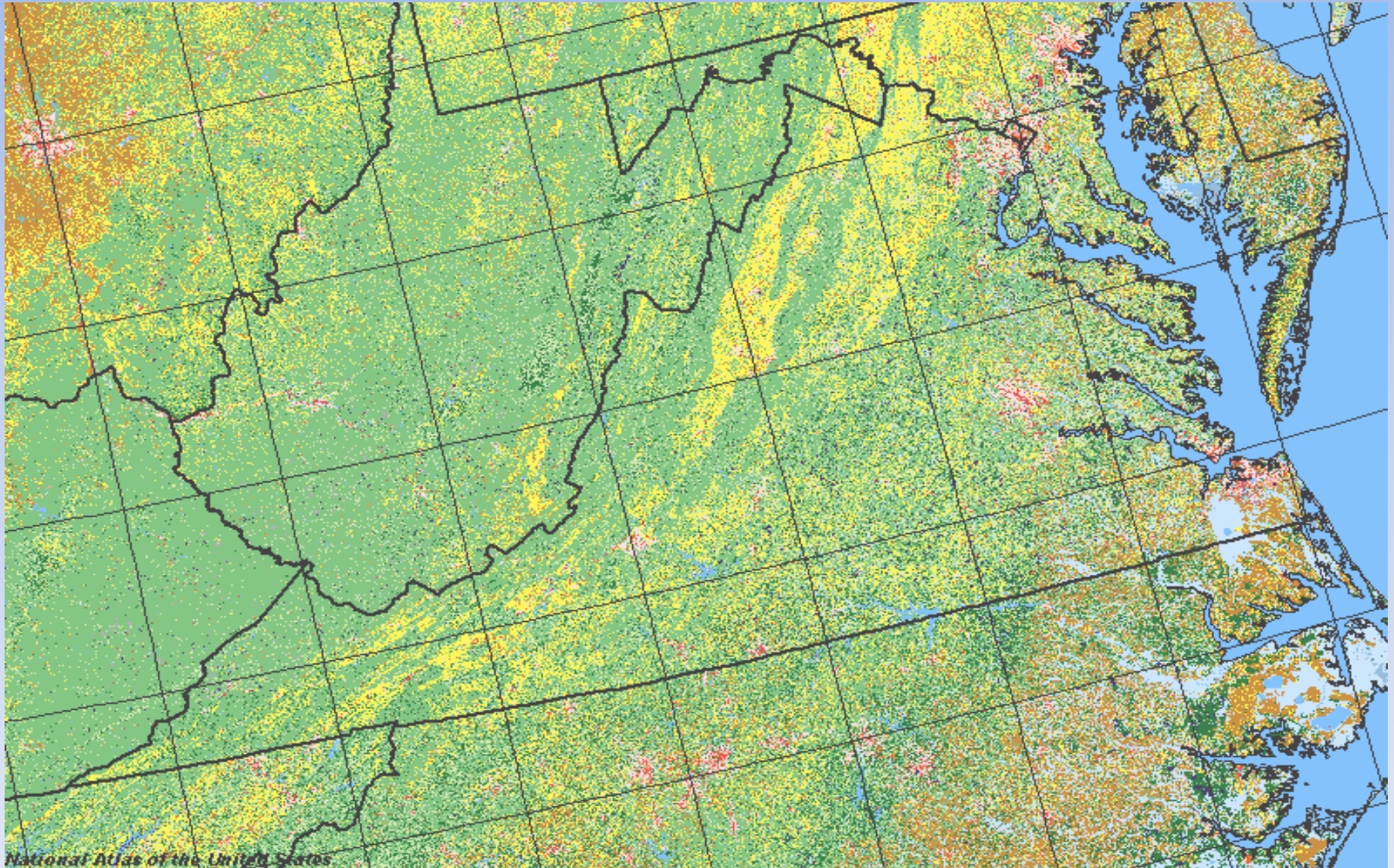




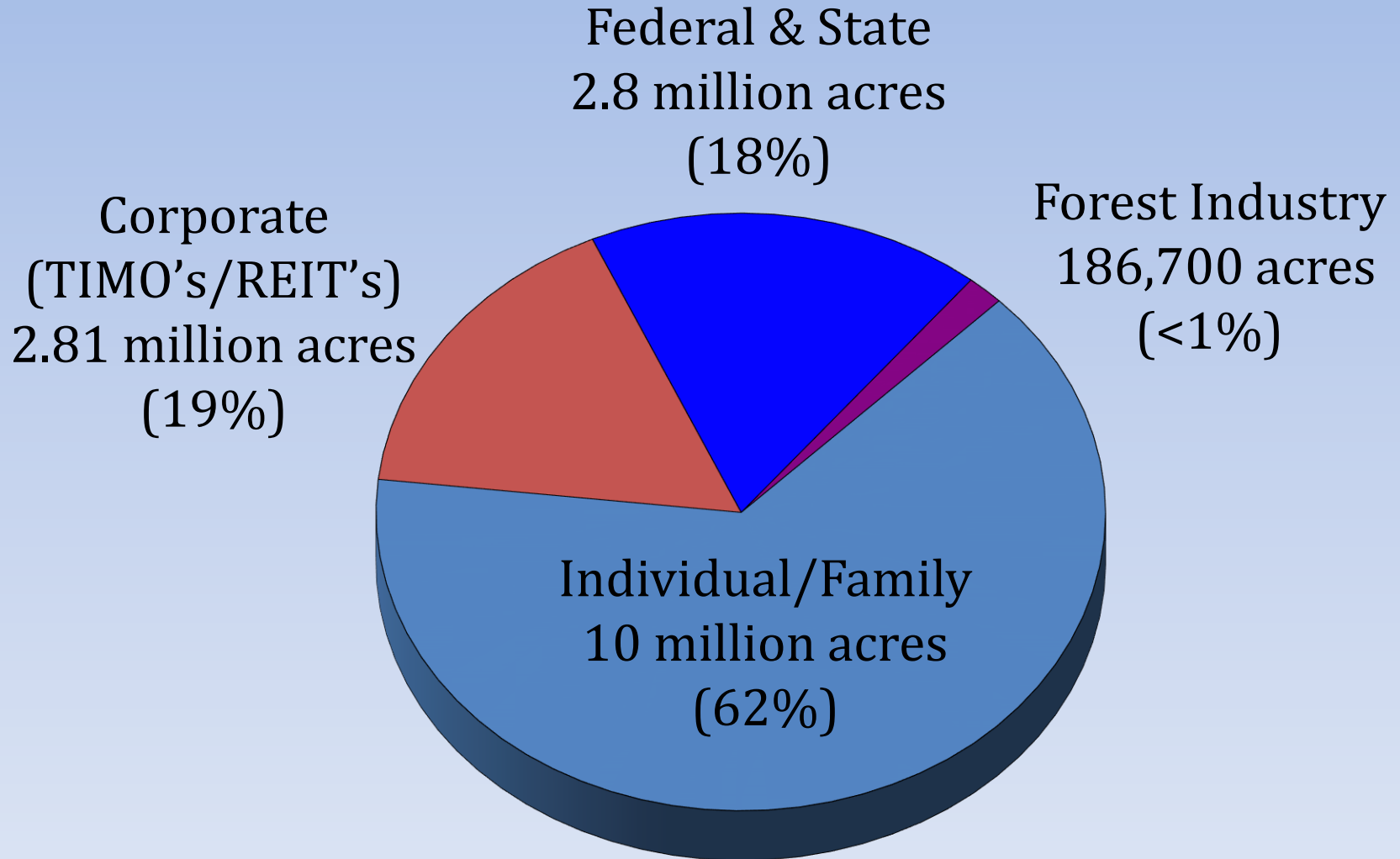
Background: The Importance of Forestry in Virginia

Virginia Forest Landowner Education
Helping Virginians Keep Their Forests Healthy & Productive
Real Forestry for Real Estate

Why are forests important to Virginia?



Forest Land Ownership in Virginia



Economics



- Total economic impact \$17 billion/year
- \$8.8 billion in value-added
- 103,800 jobs
- 2% of GDP in Virginia

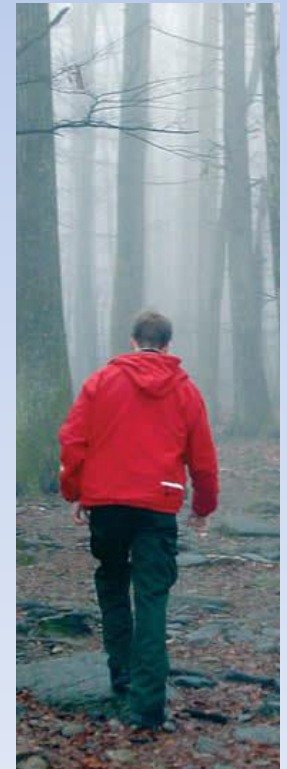
Economics

- \$257 million in stumpage
- 503 million cubic feet of round wood products
 - Saw logs, pulpwood, veneer, poles, posts, pellets, mulch
- Christmas trees?



Forestry Tourism

- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Leaf-peeping
- History



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Ecosystem Services

- Ecosystem Services /Nature's Benefits
 - Benefits forests provide to society; generally free of charge
 - Difficult to put a monetary value on
 - Estimated at 21.8 billion annually
- Include values such as:



Nature's Values

- **Soil Protection**

- Roots and litter hold soil in place (reduce erosion)
- Retain/increase soil nutrients
- Maintain soil moisture



- **Water Quality (\$1,217/acre/year)**

- Act as filters – remove toxins from rainfall before they move into streams
- Slow down runoff
- Keep stream temperatures down through shading

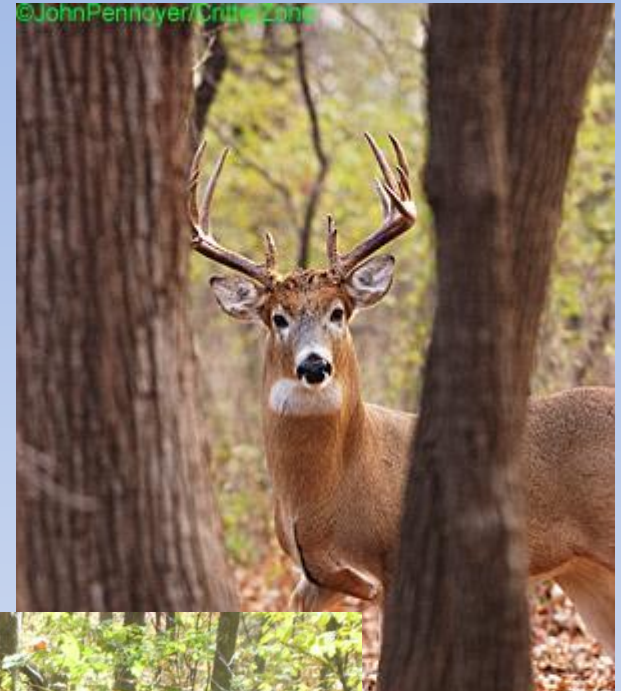
Nature's Values

- **Air Quality (\$56/acre)**

- Filter toxins from air
- Provide shade and cooling

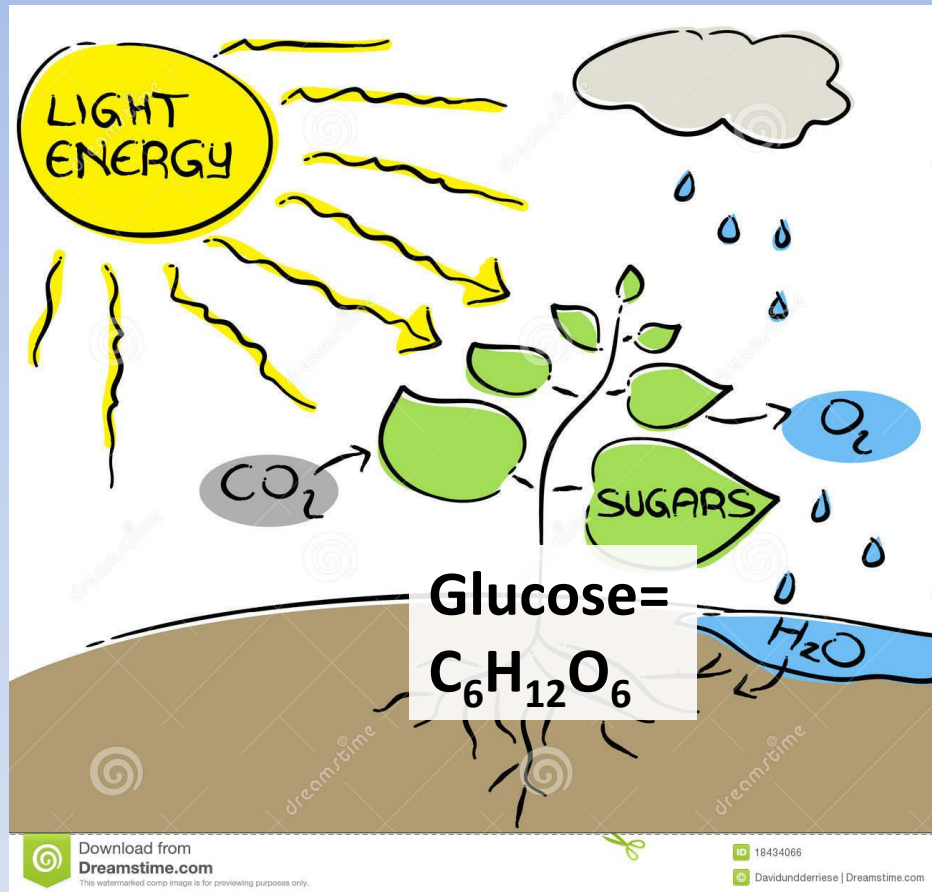
- **Wildlife habitat (\$500/acre)**

- Food (hard & soft mast)
- Shelter (dens, cover)
- Water
- Space



Nature's Values

- Carbon storage (\$182/acre/year)
 - Take up 42.8 million tons of CO₂ equivalent annually
 - Current storage is 1.2 billion metric tons of carbon
 - Forest products can provide long-term carbon storage
 - Carbon credits may provide a stream of income to landowners in the future



Social Values

- **Aesthetics**
 - Forests are pretty
- **Crime reduction**
 - 50% reduction in crime in urban areas with trees



Researchers are working on ways to assign monetary amounts to nature's values

The Importance of Forestry in Virginia

Keeping our forests healthy and productive is essential for maintaining our quality of life in the Commonwealth. Private landowners, your clients, play a huge role in this!



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