

# RESTORING SUSTAINABILITY FOR WHITE OAK AND UPLAND OAK COMMUNITIES: AN ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN



## QUICK FACTS

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### AMERICAN WHITE OAK IS A FOUNDATIONAL TREE SPECIES.

- American white oak trees occupy more than **104 million acres** of public and private forestland across much of the eastern and central United States.
- White oak forests support **extensive plant and animal biodiversity**, and **generate billions of dollars** annually through industries such as furniture, flooring, cabinetry, and wine and spirits.



### WITHOUT INTERVENTION TODAY, THE AMERICAN WHITE OAK POPULATION WILL BEGIN TO DECLINE SIGNIFICANTLY WITHIN THE NEXT 10 TO 15 YEARS, WITH MORE EXTREME DECLINES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES.

- Due to shifts in land management and ecological changes, **older white oak trees are not being replaced by younger white oak trees at a pace that will support long-term sustainability.**
- About 75% of all surveyed white oak acres could be classified as at least “mature,” while about 60% of those had **no white oak seedlings present**, and about 87% had **no white oak saplings present.**
- Challenges such as **climate change, invasive insects and diseases, and behavior change** are also impacting white oak sustainability.



### RESTORING THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF AMERICA'S WHITE OAK IS POSSIBLE.

- In order to restore the long-term sustainability of America's white oak forests, and maintain the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide, we need active, cross-boundary collaboration, participation and support from industry, resource professionals, policymakers, landowners and others who can align **knowledge** and **resources** behind the report's 10 recommended forest management practices, before it's too late.



*Restoring Sustainability for White Oak and Upland Oak Communities: An Assessment and Conservation Plan* was directed by the White Oak Initiative steering committee, and developed by the American Forest Foundation and the University of Kentucky.

Learn more about the White Oak Initiative and our recommendations for action at [whiteoakinitiative.org](http://whiteoakinitiative.org).