

The White Oak Initiative



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American White Oak

- Habitat and food for wildlife
- Supports rural economies
- Wide variety of industries
 - Furniture
 - Flooring
 - Cabinetry
 - Barrels for spirits and wine



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About the White Oak Initiative

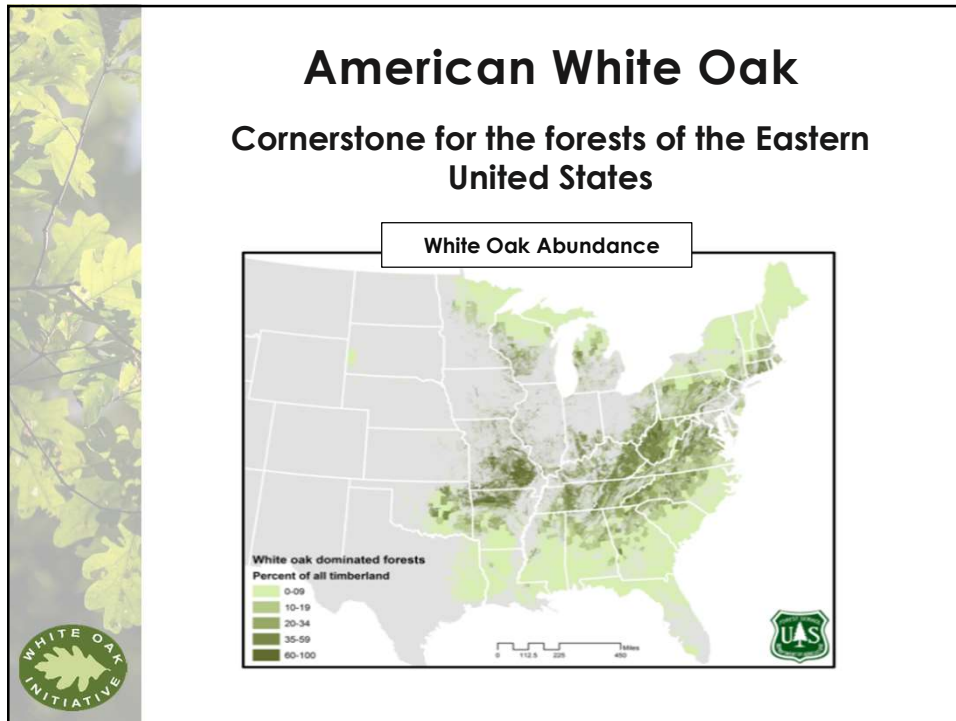
We work to ensure the long-term sustainability of America's white oak and the economic, social, and conservation benefits derived from white oak-dominated forests.

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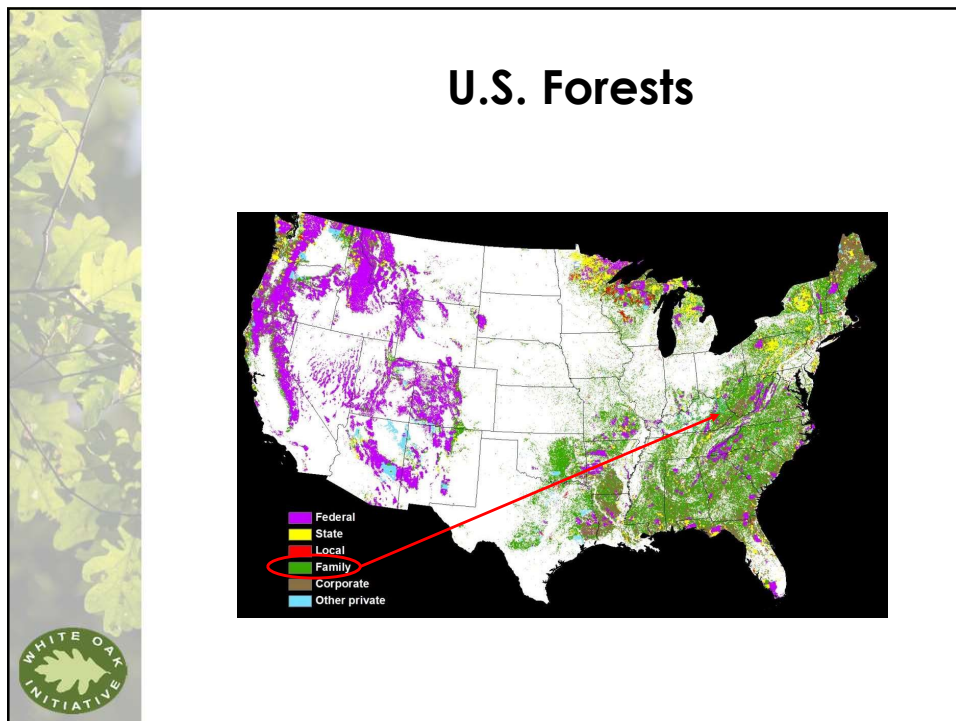
Who has been involved in the WOI?

Logos include: INDEPENDENT STAVE COMPANY, dendri•fund, Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc., BROWN-FORMAN, MARYLAND Department of Natural Resources, Beam SUNTORY, SAZERAC, NWTF, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WestRock, Robison Stave, KENTUCKY FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION, WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, APPALACHIAN HARDWOOD, VIRGINIA FORESTRY, KENTUCKY FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION, MISSOURI, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE, DNR, WI DNR, American Forest Foundation, NRCs, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, and NHLA.


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What's the Problem?

- Successful white oak regeneration (establishment *and* survival) is not occurring at historic levels
- In other words, the “babies aren't growing up!”

Why?

- Lack of active forest management, fire, and other disturbances
- Insects, disease, and invasive species
- Changing land use conditions

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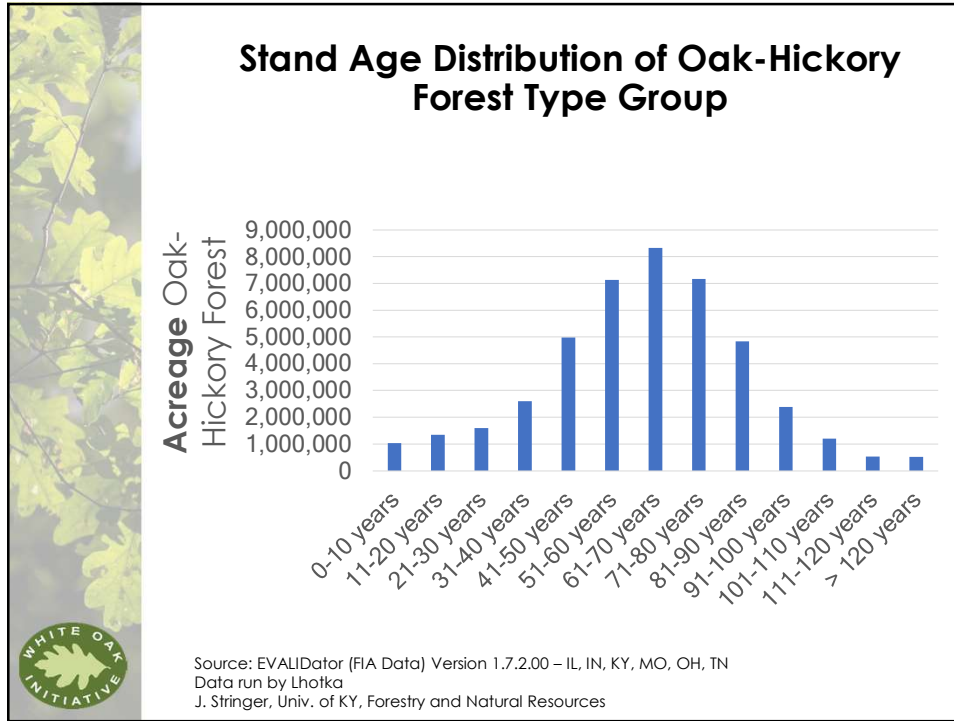


Changes in Our Oak Forests

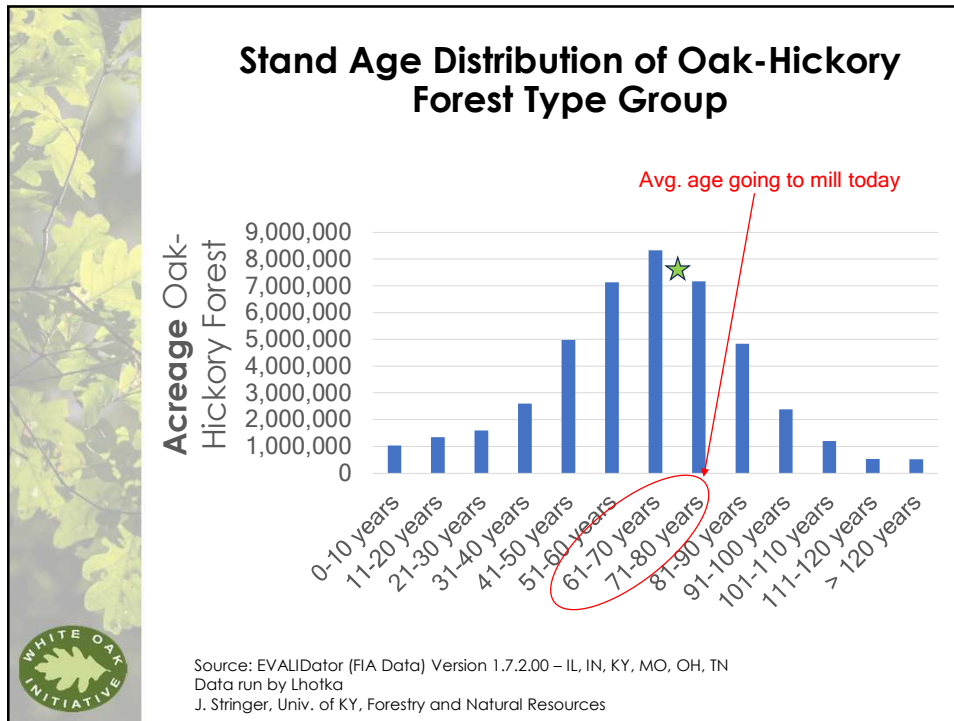
About 75% of all white oak trees across the eastern United States can be classified as “mature,” while populations of **young white oak trees are limited.**



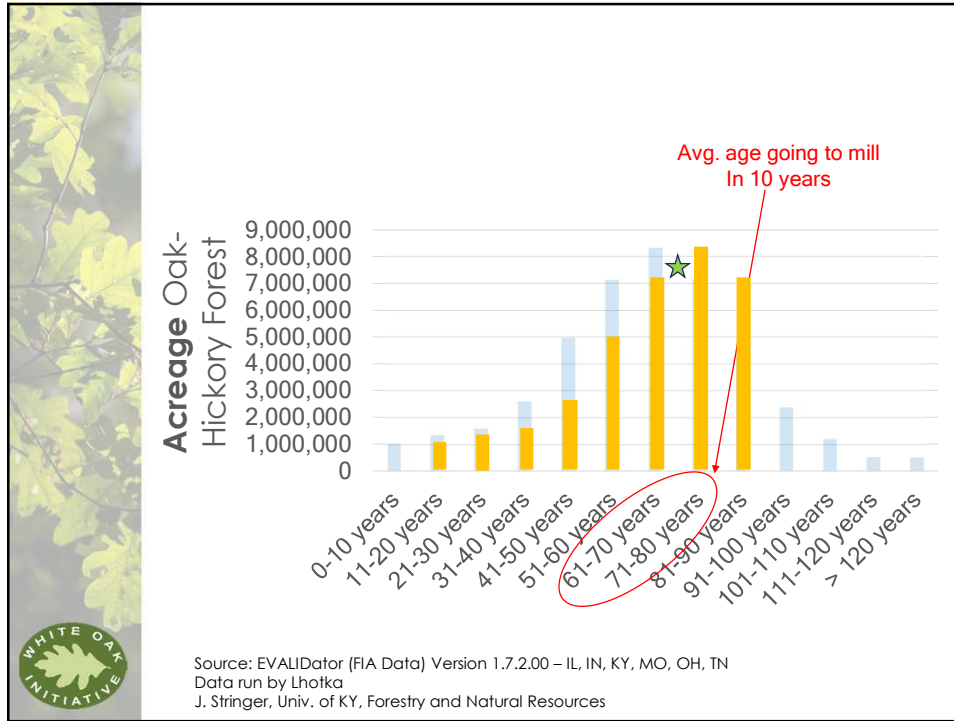
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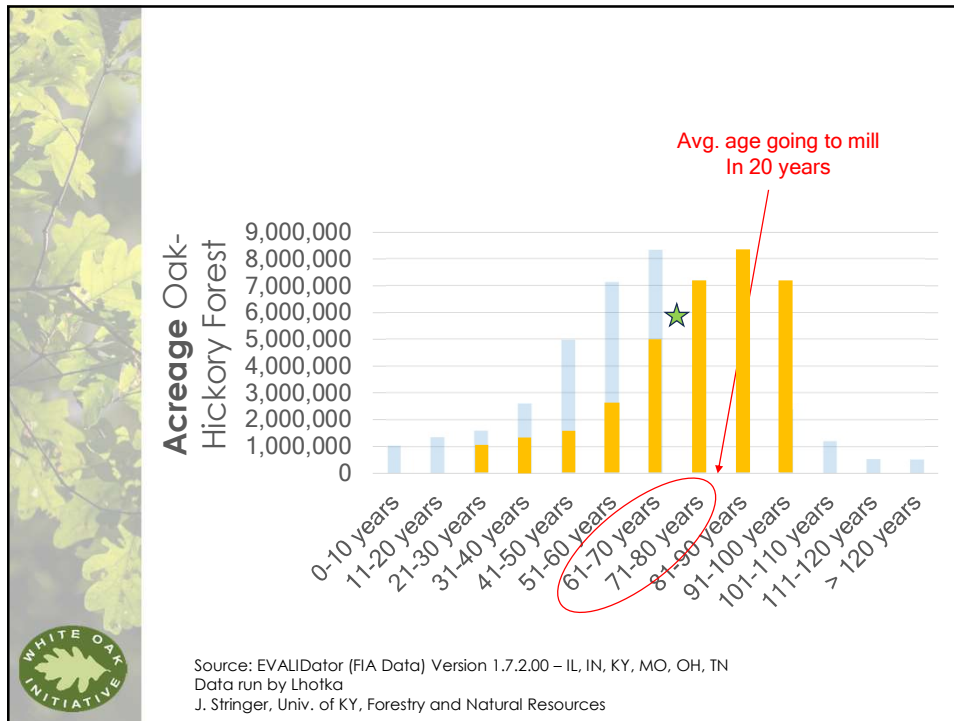
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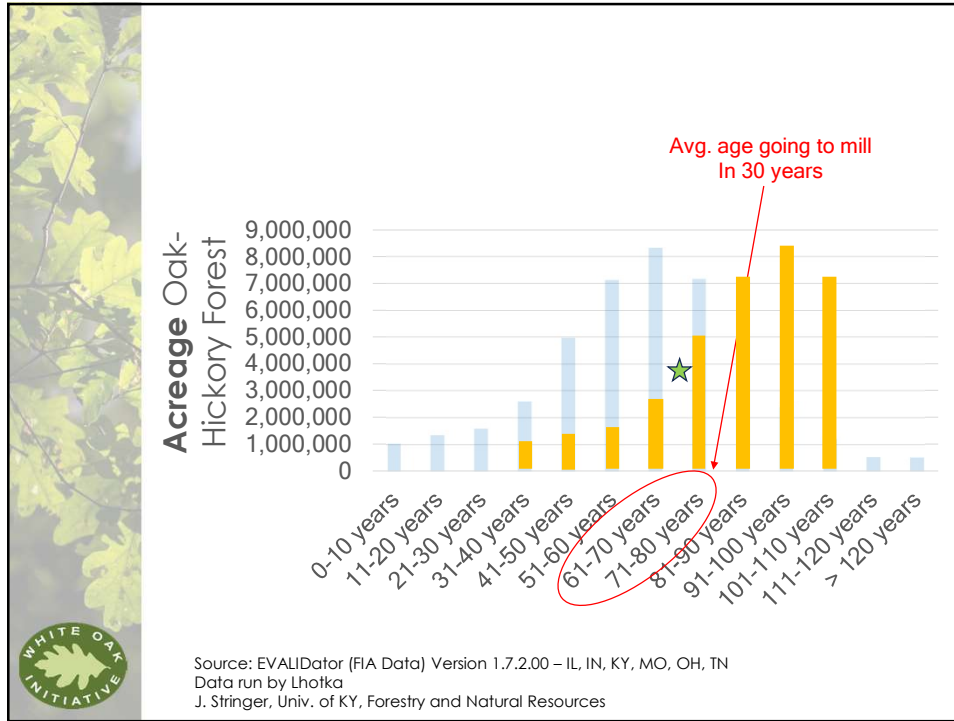
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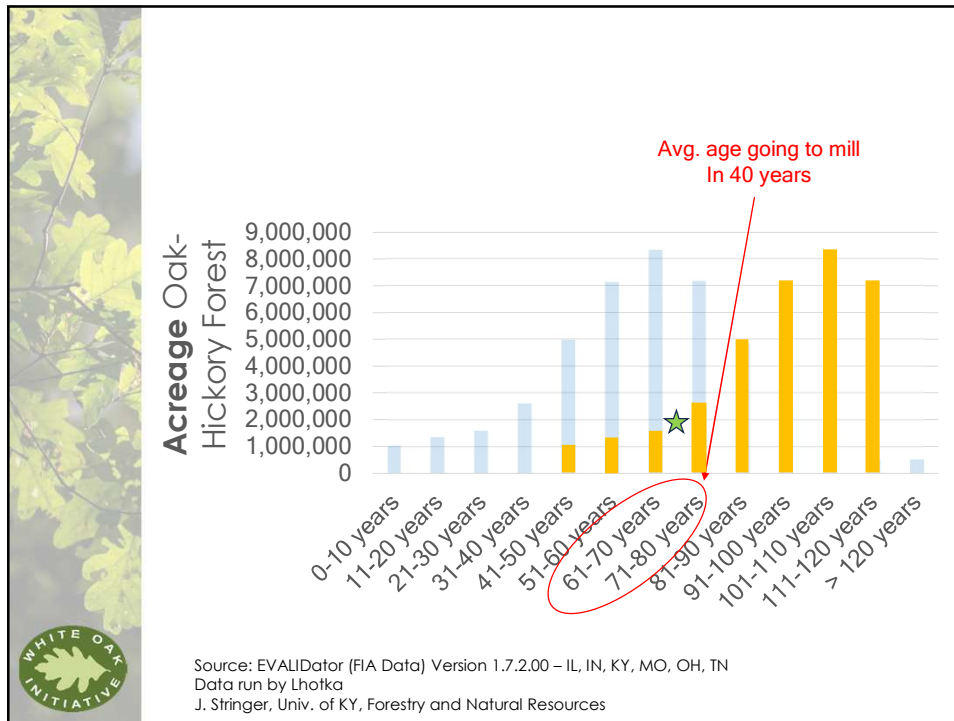
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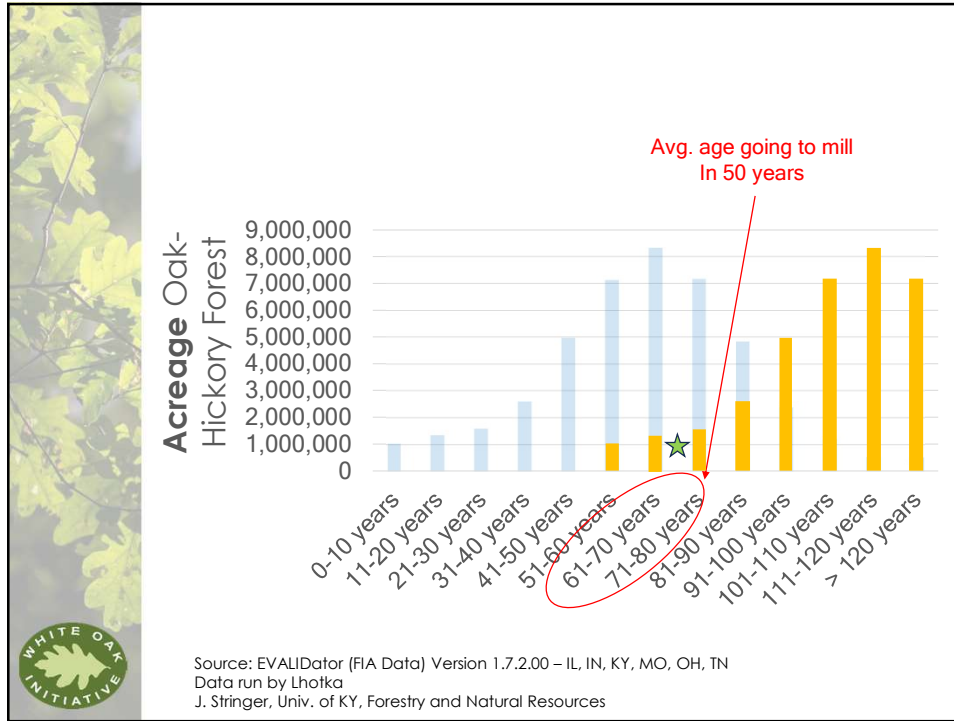
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What must change to increase acreage of WO in upcoming age classes?

- **Disturb our upland oak forests through active forest management, logging, fire, and other disturbances**
 - **THIS IS THE KEY.** We *must* continue to disturb our forests! But we need to do it correctly and consistently.
 - By the way, we can't possibly plant our way out of this problem.

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Effective and Consistent Active Forest Management



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Manage Insects, Disease, Invasive Species - Keep Forests as Forests



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Landowners and Management for White Oak



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What Barriers Exist?



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Where does the WOI Fit In?



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Outreach and Awareness



Conservation
Mighty Oaks From Little Acorns Grow

NWTF, White Oak Initiative work to ensure healthy oak forests for future generations.

Bourbon, Biodiversity, and the Quest to Save America's Oak Forests

White Oak Initiative Growing and Meeting Challenges


Free Webinar on Missouri White Oaks

A five-part webinar series, "Missouri's Amazing Oaks," will show how to help ensure the future of Missouri's white oaks and forestlands



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Educational Resources



**Landowners Guide to:
SUSTAINABLE OAK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**
Dr. Jeff Springer and Daran Morris
University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources


Monitoring healthy oak forests allows managers ensuring that oaks continue to regenerate seedlings and saplings and existing oaks have room to grow.

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



**Landowners Guide to:
CHALLENGES OF UPLAND OAK REGENERATION**
Dr. Jeff Springer and Daran Morris
University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Introduction
Upland oak forests are one of the most dominant forest types in the eastern United States. These forests commonly contain several species of upland oaks that are classified as either red oaks or white oaks. Red oaks



**CARING FOR YOUR
WHITE OAK WOODS**


GET STARTED WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Healthy oak forests take time to mature. Start actively managing your woods today. Healthy oak forests are critical to supporting wildlife, providing places to enjoy nature and supplying valuable wood products for the nation. White oak is an especially important tree in the forest, both ecologically and commercially. While white oak trees are still abundant across the eastern half of the United States, the conditions are lacking in most forests to support the next generation of oak trees. Proper management of oak forests is needed to make sure there is enough space, light and time for the acorns to germinate and grow tall.

NRCS.USDA.GOV/GETSTARTED

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Removing Barriers



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Catalyze On-the-Ground Success

CONVENE

Stakeholders to Explore New and Emerging Markets, Including Financing Solutions

Researchers to Report on Current Research and Determine Future Research Needs, etc.

CONNECT

Landowners with Resources

Forest Practitioners with Resources


Organizations Doing Similar Work

COLLABORATE

Work with Interested Parties to Develop a "Unified Front" to Address this Issue

Leverage Resources to Make a Larger Impact

Work Together to Advocate for Policy and Funding that Protects the Long-Term Sustainable Management of Oak Forests



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At the End of the Day

White oak is:


- Keystone species
- Recreationally-important
- Critical to the economy of the Commonwealth

As stewards of your land:

- Learn more
- Make a plan
- Find help/resources
- Engage others!

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For More Information

Jason Meyer
Executive Director
White Oak Initiative

Jason@whiteoakinitiative.org

www.whiteoakinitiative.org

