

*Michigan: A Geography*

**Chapter 38**  
**Forests and Forestry from an Historical Perspective**

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- I. Introduction
- II. The icy origins of Michigan's forests
  - A. Glacial landforms as a substrate for forest establishment
  - B. Migration of tree species into the ice-free landscape
  - C. The shifting mosaic of forest cover
- III. Forests prior to Euro-American settlement
  - A. The forests seen by the General Land Office surveyors
  - B. Myths about white pine
  - C. Use of forest materials by Native People
- IV. The era of plunder
  - A. The Homestead Act
  - B. Migration from Europe and the Eastern States
  - C. Forests as an impediment to settlement and a source of wealth
  - D. Logging 19<sup>th</sup> century style
- V. A fiery aftermath
  - A. A deadly attitude towards fire
  - B. Michigan's holocaust: the epic fires
  - C. Was anything left?
- VI. Forestry is born and forests recover
  - A. Bringing the fires under control—forestry begins
  - B. Michigan's leadership in education
  - C. Forests become public
  - D. The CCC, Smokey Bear, and the Soil Bank
- VII. Forests of Michigan today
  - A. Succession does its job
  - B. A study in diversity: Michigan forest types and their distribution
- VIII. Current forest management and its ecological foundation
  - A. Guiding principles of forest ecology
  - B. Silviculture—shaping forests
  - C. Dealing with pests
- IX. Forests of the future