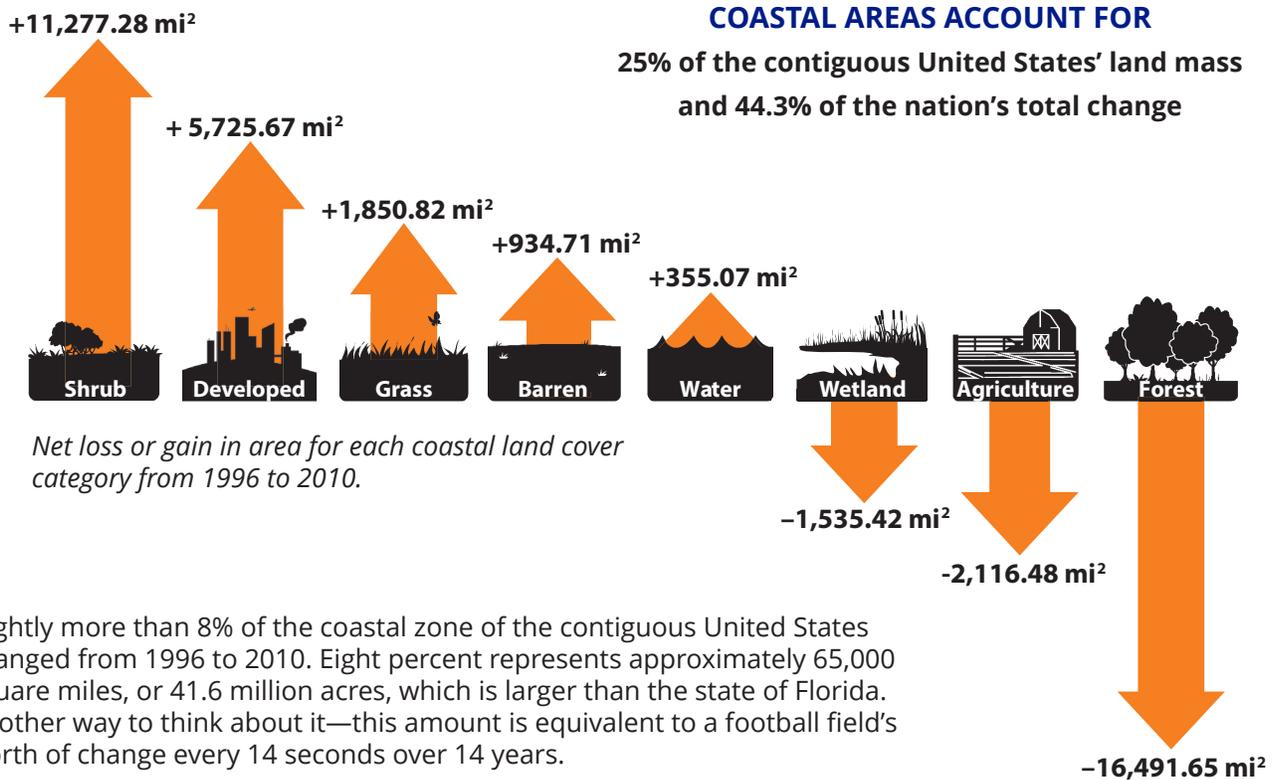


Coastal Land Cover Change Summary Report 1996–2010



COASTAL LAND COVER CHANGE

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management uses satellite imagery to document coastal land cover. Comparing one year to another helps communities understand trends and provides a unique, big-picture view of the landscape. These data document and detail what most people instinctively know—the coast is changing faster than other parts of the country.

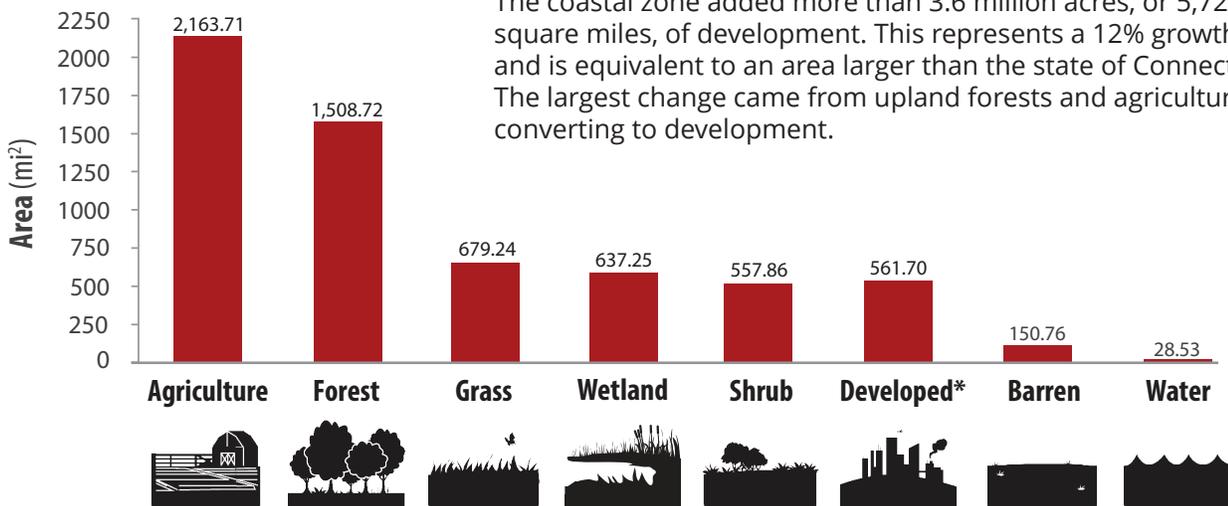


Slightly more than 8% of the coastal zone of the contiguous United States changed from 1996 to 2010. Eight percent represents approximately 65,000 square miles, or 41.6 million acres, which is larger than the state of Florida. Another way to think about it—this amount is equivalent to a football field's worth of change every 14 seconds over 14 years.

Much of this change is associated with timber management practices, particularly in the Pacific Northwest and Southeastern U.S. New development and a decrease in land used for agriculture represent other changes.

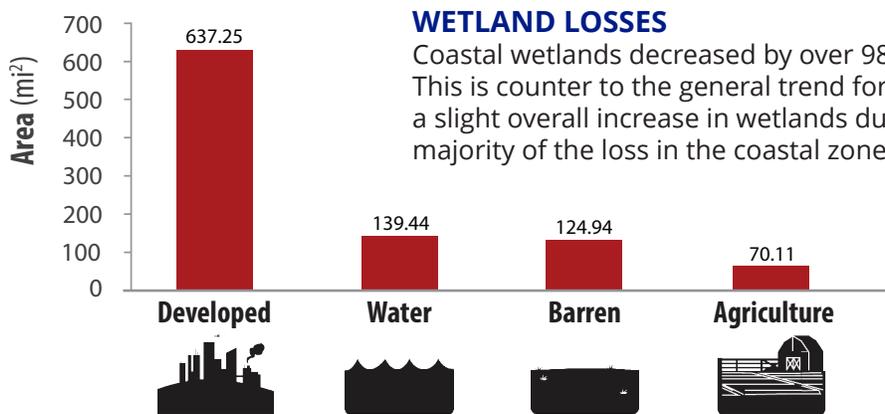
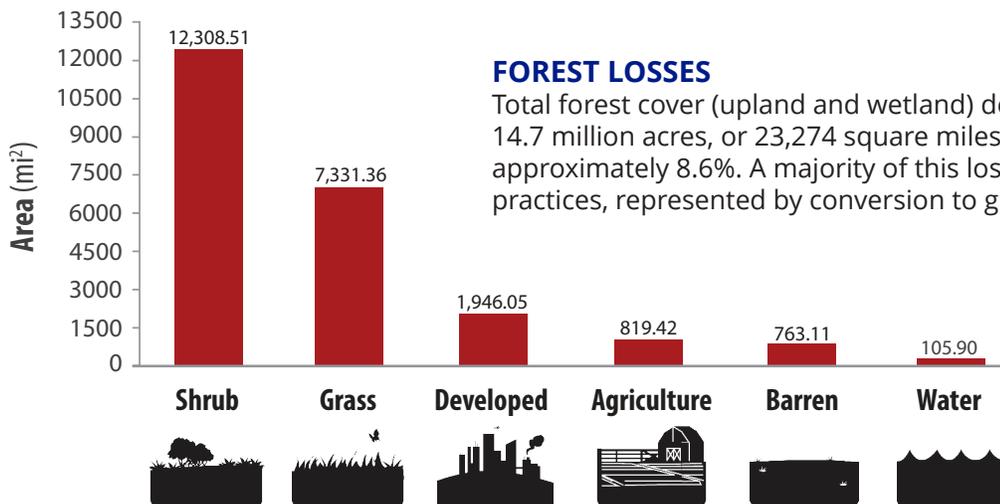
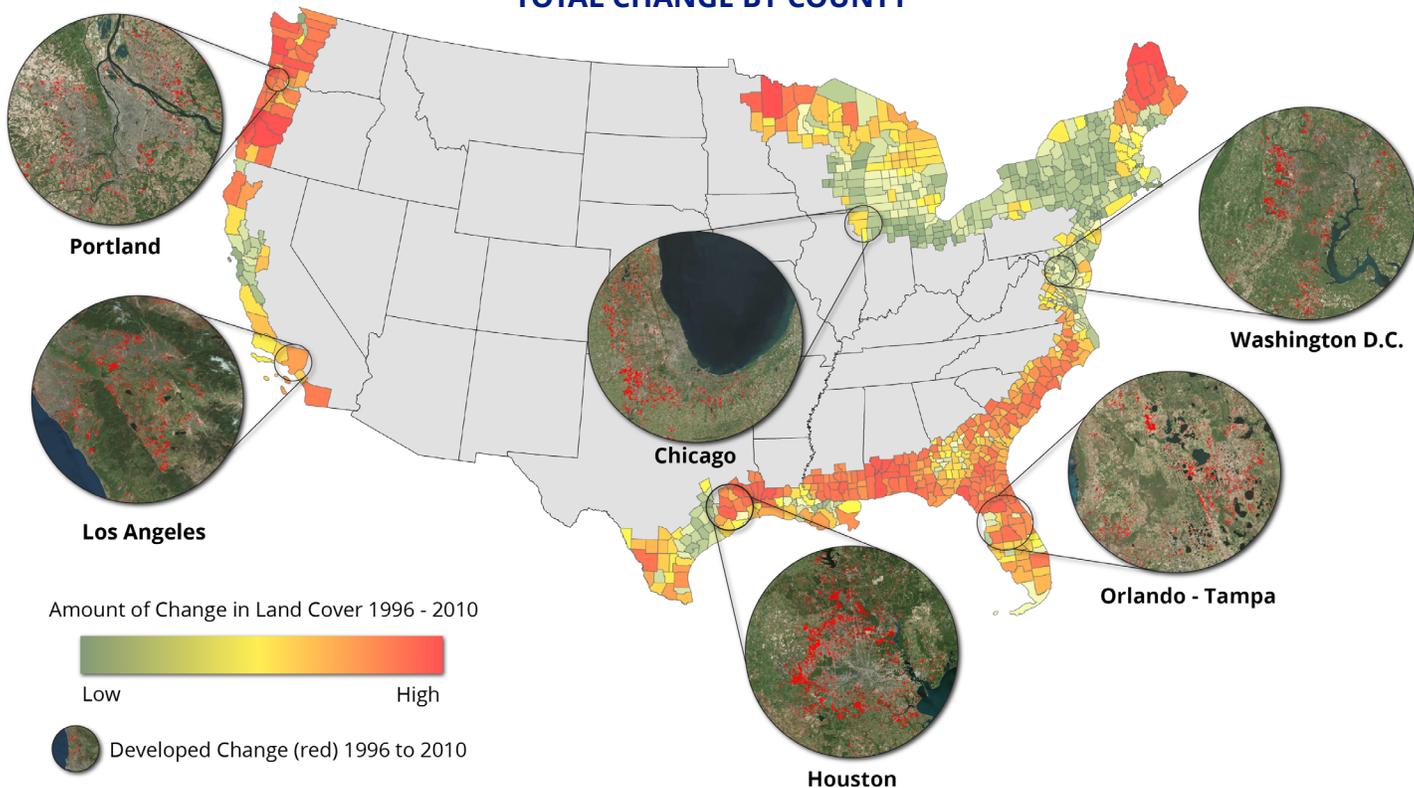
DEVELOPMENT GAINS

The coastal zone added more than 3.6 million acres, or 5,725 square miles, of development. This represents a 12% growth rate and is equivalent to an area larger than the state of Connecticut. The largest change came from upland forests and agricultural lands converting to development.



*Developed-to-developed changes represent increases in development density.

TOTAL CHANGE BY COUNTY





ABOUT THE DATA

NOAA's land cover is produced through its Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP). These nationally standardized products inventory coastal areas of the United States every five years. The information included here summarizes national changes seen in the approximately 15 years between 1996 and 2010.

A related series of regional reports are available at www.coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/publications/regional-land-cover-change.

Explore county and watershed-level change information with C-CAP's online Land Cover Atlas at www.coast.noaa.gov/ccapatlas.

To learn more about C-CAP or to access more data and tools, visit NOAA's Digital Coast at www.coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast.