The University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) is pleased to announce that the results of our statewide forest fragmentation analysis are now online.

About 60% of the state is classified as “forested,” i.e., covered with trees (as determined by our Connecticut’s Changing Landscape project). However, tree cover alone is not a reliable indicator of the functional health of forested ecosystems, which are greatly impacted by proximity to non-forested areas. By applying CLEAR’s forest fragmentation model to our land cover data, we can get a feel for these issues. For instance, from 1985-2006, the amount of “core” forest decreased by about 264 square miles; this includes conversion both to non-forest, and to the other (impacted) forest classes.

The analysis results are available as statewide, town level, and watershed level maps, data tables and downloadable data. Take a look!