



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

52%
COLLEGE DEGREE

73% MALE

9% MINORITY



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

15%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

24%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

18%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

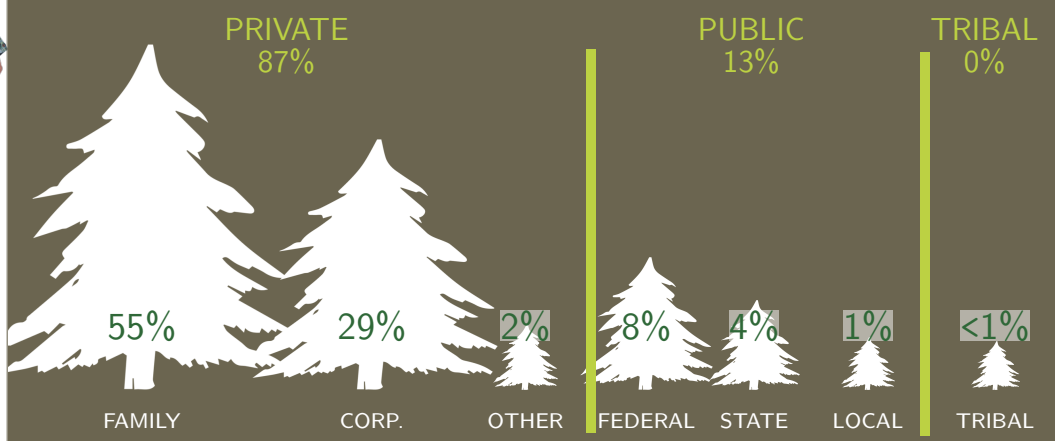
20%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

11%



WHO OWNS SOUTHERN UNITED STATES'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **18%**
Management advice **16%**
Management plan **10%**
Cost-share programs **4%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Trespassing or poaching
Dumping or vandalism
Keeping land intact
Government regulation

BY THE NUMBERS Southern United States's Family Forest Ownerships

140,453,000 ACRES

1,662,000 OWNERSHIPS

3,476,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

85 acres

Median = 27 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Nature protection
Family legacy



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Data in this report come primarily from the USDA Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS). The NWOS is implemented by the Forest Inventory and Analysis program to answer questions related to who owns the forests, why they own it, what they have done with it in the past, and what they intend to do with it in the future. The family forest ownership results are based on a random sample of 3075 family forest owners from the Southern United States (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA) who participated in the NWOS in 2017 and 2018. The sampling errors provided below are important for assessing the reliability of the estimates. Additional results from the NWOS are available in USFS General Technical Report NRS-199 and can be accessed via the [NWOS Dashboard](#) and additional documentation and resources can be found on the [NWOS website](#).

TABLE 1. Forest Ownership

OWNER GROUP	ACRES	SE
Family	147,641,000	739,000
Corporate	77,618,000	588,000
Other private	5,215,000	179,000
Federal	21,849,000	220,000
State	9,944,000	236,000
Local	3,437,000	139,000
Tribal	330,000	46,000

TABLE 2. Totals, family forest (10+ ac)

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	140,453,000	1,261,000
Ownerships	1,662,000	28,000
Owners	3,476,000	102,000

TABLE 3. Demographics, family forest (10+ ac)

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	58.6	<1	55.2	1.7
Education (College)	64.4	1.2	51.6	1.8
Gender (Male)	78.6	<1	72.9	1.2
Minority	5.6	<1	9.1	<1

TABLE 4. Size of forest holdings, family forest (10+ ac)

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	16.3	<1	66.6	1.9
50-99	12.8	<1	16	<1
100-499	33.4	<1	15	<1
500-999	12	<1	1.5	<1
1,000+	25.5	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 84.5 ac (SE = 2.0); Median size = 27 acres

TABLE 5. Reasons for owning, family forest (10+ ac)

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	76	1.1	77.3	1.9
Wildlife habitat	77.6	1.1	72.9	1.9
Privacy	64.4	1.1	68.5	1.9
Nature protection	66.6	1.1	67.9	2
Family legacy	73.8	1	66.3	1.7
Water protection	65.3	1.1	63.5	1.9
Land investment	66.8	1.1	58.9	2.1
Raise family	42.7	<1	45.8	1.8
Hunting	61.2	1.1	43.9	1.6
Recreation	47.9	<1	40.4	1.6
Timber products	43.6	<1	26.1	1.2
Firewood	10.9	<1	14	1.1
Nontimber products	5.1	<1	6.5	<1

TABLE 6. Concerns, family forest (10+ ac)

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	81.8	<1	77.7	1.9
Trespassing	79.9	1	76	1.8
Vandalism	71.5	1	72.8	1.9
Keeping land intact	79.1	1	72	1.9
Government regulation	73.8	1.1	67.6	1.9
Insects or diseases	66.7	1.1	63.4	1.8
Wildfire	67.3	1	63.3	1.9
Water pollution	58.9	1	60.3	1.9
Air pollution	41.8	<1	49.1	1.7
Drought	56.1	1	47.7	1.6
Wind or ice storms	48.2	<1	45	1.6
Development	41.4	<1	44.3	1.7
Invasive plants	50.6	1	43.2	1.8
Climate change	33.4	<1	35.5	1.5
Off-road vehicles	28.2	<1	30.1	1.3
Animal damage	32.8	<1	25.1	1.3

TABLE 7. Management activities, family forest (10+ ac)

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	22	<1	8	<1
Cut trees - own use	22.9	<1	24.2	1.3
Cut trees - sale	32.7	<1	15.4	<1
Insects management	8.9	<1	5.9	<1
Invasives	30.9	<1	18.1	1.1
Livestock grazing	27.4	<1	17.5	<1
Nontimber products	13.2	<1	14.7	1.1
Reduced fire hazard	19.6	<1	11.2	<1
Roads	28.1	<1	10.6	<1
Trails	26	<1	17	<1
Wildlife habitat	40.2	<1	19.9	1
None	15.3	<1	29.9	1.2

TABLE 8. Management programs, family forest (10+ ac)

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	39.8	<1	16.2	<1
Conservation easements	5.5	<1	2.7	<1
Cost-share programs	17.0	<1	3.8	<1
Green certification	6.0	<1	2.1	<1
Management plan	25.4	<1	9.5	<1
Property tax program	27.3	<1	18.3	1.0