



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NORTH CENTRAL UNITED STATES

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

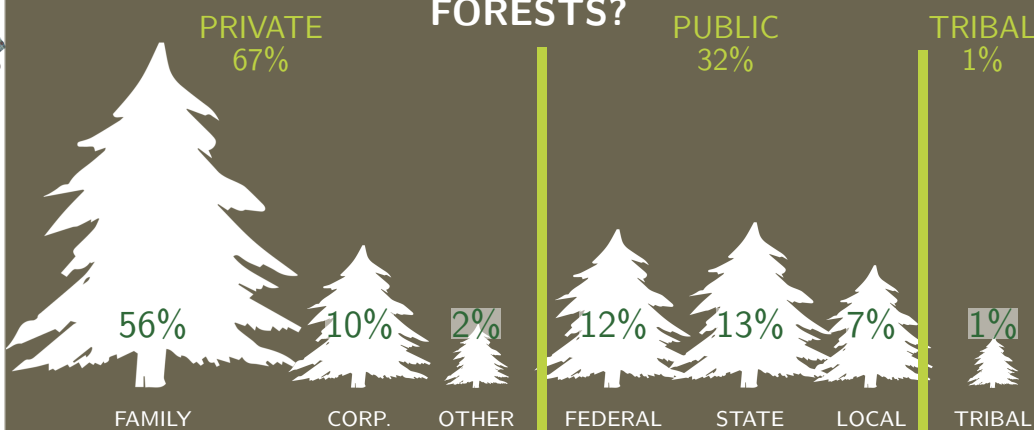
46%
COLLEGE DEGREE

81% MALE

3% MINORITY



WHO OWNS NORTH CENTRAL UNITED STATES'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **19%**
Management plan **11%**
Property tax program **11%**
Cost-share programs **5%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Trespassing or poaching
Keeping land intact
Dumping or vandalism
Insects or diseases

BY THE NUMBERS North Central United States's Family Forest Ownerships

46,805,000 ACRES

934,000 OWNERSHIPS

1,904,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
50 acres

Median = 29 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Privacy
Water protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

19%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

47%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

24%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

27%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

8%



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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 1812 family forest owners from the North Central United States (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI) 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	50,782,000	284,000
Corporate	8,649,000	185,000
Other private	1,703,000	97,000
Federal	10,711,000	95,000
State	11,664,000	132,000
Local	6,360,000	125,000
Tribal	1,110,000	57,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	46,805,000	557,000
Ownerships	934,000	16,000
Owners	1,904,000	41,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	52.6	1.2	49.4	1.6
Education (College)	49	1.3	46	1.7
Gender (Male)	83.9	<1	81	1.1
Minority	2.5	<1	3	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	31.8	<1	70.5	2
50-99	24.4	<1	18.1	<1
100-499	37	1	11	<1
500-999	4.1	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	2.8	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 50.1 ac (SE = <1); Median size = 29 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	81.8	1.3	83.1	1.9
Wildlife habitat	82.3	1.3	80.3	1.9
Nature protection	71.8	1.3	73.2	1.9
Privacy	71.8	1.4	72.3	1.9
Water protection	64.7	1.2	64.2	1.9
Family legacy	65.2	1.3	58.1	1.7
Hunting	65.5	1.3	55.2	1.7
Recreation	59	1.4	53.8	1.7
Raise family	46.9	1.2	47.7	1.6
Land investment	48.1	1.2	45.5	1.6
Firewood	25.2	<1	26	1.4
Timber products	27	<1	18.4	1
Nontimber products	9	<1	8.3	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	78.9	1.3	76.9	1.8
Trespassing	78.3	1.3	75.8	1.8
Keeping land intact	79.5	1.4	75	1.8
Vandalism	69.3	1.3	68.3	1.8
Insects or diseases	66.7	1.3	66	1.8
Government regulation	65.4	1.3	62.3	1.8
Water pollution	55.2	1.2	56.7	1.8
Invasive plants	54.6	1.2	53.9	1.7
Air pollution	42.8	1.1	47.4	1.7
Wildfire	48.7	1.3	46.9	1.8
Development	42	1.2	43	1.7
Climate change	37.5	1.1	38.3	1.5
Wind or ice storms	38.9	1.1	36.9	1.5
Drought	35.3	1.1	34.6	1.5
Off-road vehicles	30.2	<1	29.9	1.4
Animal damage	23.3	<1	21.2	1.2

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	6.3	<1	4.7	<1
Cut trees - own use	46.1	<1	47.2	1.4
Cut trees - sale	29.1	<1	19.3	<1
Insects management	5.6	<1	5.6	<1
Invasives	26.2	<1	24.1	1.1
Livestock grazing	13	<1	10.9	<1
Nontimber products	29.3	<1	27.8	1.3
Reduced fire hazard	8.7	<1	7.6	<1
Roads	12.7	<1	9.1	<1
Trails	35.7	<1	29.9	1.2
Wildlife habitat	35.7	<1	27.3	1.2
None	13.9	<1	18.2	1.1

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	27.7	<1	18.6	<1
Conservation easements	3.6	<1	2.3	<1
Cost-share programs	9.0	<1	4.6	<1
Green certification	3.6	<1	1.7	<1
Management plan	22.0	<1	11.0	<1
Property tax program	18.9	<1	10.9	<1