



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

SOUTH CENTRAL UNITED STATES

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

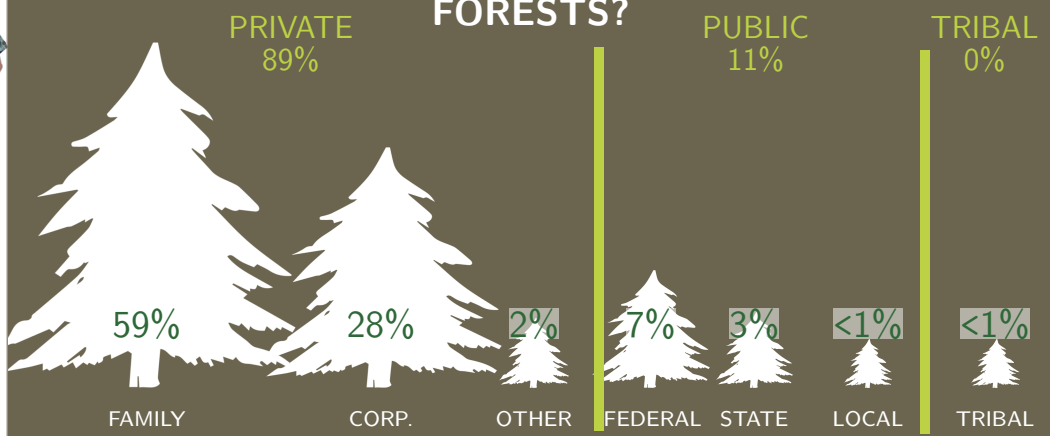
49%
COLLEGE DEGREE

73% MALE

12% MINORITY



WHO OWNS SOUTH CENTRAL UNITED STATES'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **14%**
Property tax program **12%**
Management plan **7%**
Cost-share programs **3%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

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

99,430,000 ACRES

1,088,000 OWNERSHIPS

2,305,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
91 acres

Median = 28 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Family legacy
Nature protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

12%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

26%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

20%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

20%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

12%



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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 1949 family forest owners from the South Central United States (AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX) 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	103,557,000	654,000
Corporate	50,182,000	486,000
Other private	4,111,000	161,000
Federal	11,995,000	170,000
State	4,932,000	173,000
Local	1,751,000	101,000
Tribal	253,000	41,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	99,430,000	1,129,000
Ownerships	1,088,000	23,000
Owners	2,305,000	94,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	58.7	1.3	55.1	2.2
Education (College)	63.5	1.5	49.1	2.2
Gender (Male)	79	<1	73.4	1.6
Minority	6.6	<1	11.6	1.2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	14.7	<1	65.5	2.6
50-99	12.2	<1	16.4	<1
100-499	32	1	15.5	<1
500-999	11.8	<1	1.6	<1
1,000+	29.2	1.1	1.1	<1

Mean size = 91.4 ac (SE = 2.8); Median size = 28 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	76	1.4	78.3	2.5
Wildlife habitat	77.7	1.4	73.4	2.4
Privacy	64.2	1.3	67.9	2.5
Family legacy	74.7	1.3	67.9	2.2
Nature protection	65.4	1.3	67.3	2.5
Water protection	64.8	1.3	61.9	2.3
Land investment	66.3	1.3	59.4	2.7
Hunting	63	1.4	45.8	2.1
Raise family	41.8	1.2	44.8	2.2
Recreation	48.3	1.2	41.4	2
Timber products	37	1.1	24	1.5
Firewood	10.8	<1	14.4	1.4
Nontimber products	4.5	<1	6.5	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	81	1.3	77.4	2.4
Trespassing	79.6	1.4	74.9	2.4
Keeping land intact	79.9	1.3	74.1	2.3
Vandalism	70.4	1.3	72.6	2.4
Government regulation	74.3	1.4	68.7	2.5
Wildfire	66.9	1.3	63.5	2.4
Insects or diseases	65.1	1.4	62.5	2.3
Water pollution	59	1.3	61.5	2.4
Drought	58.8	1.3	49.4	2.2
Air pollution	40.1	1.2	49	2.2
Wind or ice storms	46.2	1.3	45.7	2.2
Invasive plants	51.9	1.3	43	2.2
Development	39.5	1.2	42.1	2.2
Climate change	32	1.1	32.8	1.8
Off-road vehicles	27.3	1.1	28.2	1.7
Animal damage	35.2	1.2	26.4	1.6

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	20.7	<1	7.7	<1
Cut trees - own use	24.1	<1	25.9	1.6
Cut trees - sale	26.1	<1	12.2	<1
Insects management	8.6	<1	5.8	<1
Invasives	33.9	<1	19.6	1.5
Livestock grazing	34.3	<1	21.9	1.4
Nontimber products	13.6	<1	14.3	1.4
Reduced fire hazard	19.8	<1	12	1.3
Roads	28.3	<1	10.6	<1
Trails	26.1	<1	17.6	1.3
Wildlife habitat	41.3	<1	20.4	1.3
None	14.1	<1	28.8	1.6

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	37.1	<1	13.9	<1
Conservation easements	4.1	<1	2.4	<1
Cost-share programs	16.7	<1	3.4	<1
Green certification	5.4	<1	2.3	<1
Management plan	21.5	<1	7.1	<1
Property tax program	18.4	<1	12.0	1.2