



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

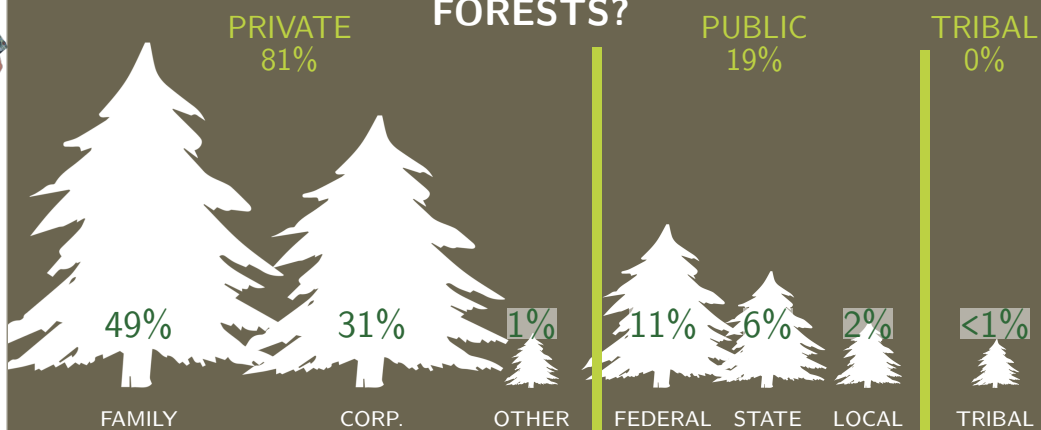
56%
COLLEGE DEGREE

72% MALE

4% MINORITY



WHO OWNS SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **30%**
Management advice **21%**
Management plan **14%**
Cost-share programs **5%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Southeastern United States's Family Forest Ownerships

41,023,000 ACRES

574,000 OWNERSHIPS

1,171,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

71 acres

Median = 25 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Nature protection
Water protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

21%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

21%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

15%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

19%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

10%



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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 1126 family forest owners from the Southeastern United States (FL, GA, NC, SC, 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	44,084,000	345,000
Corporate	27,436,000	332,000
Other private	1,104,000	78,000
Federal	9,854,000	140,000
State	5,012,000	161,000
Local	1,687,000	95,000
Tribal	77,000	21,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	41,023,000	570,000
Ownerships	574,000	16,000
Owners	1,171,000	38,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	58.3	1.6	55.4	2.8
Education (College)	66.5	1.7	56.4	2.9
Gender (Male)	77.6	<1	72	1.9
Minority	3.1	<1	4.4	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	20.3	<1	68.9	3.2
50-99	14.2	<1	15.2	1
100-499	36.6	1.3	14	<1
500-999	12.6	<1	1.4	<1
1,000+	16.3	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 71.5 ac (SE = 2.7); Median size = 25 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	75.9	1.7	75.5	3.2
Wildlife habitat	77.5	1.6	72	2.8
Privacy	64.7	1.6	69.5	3.1
Nature protection	69.3	1.7	69.1	2.9
Water protection	66.4	1.7	66.5	3.1
Family legacy	71.6	1.6	63.2	2.9
Land investment	68.2	1.6	57.9	2.8
Raise family	44.7	1.4	47.7	2.9
Hunting	56.8	1.6	40.2	2.4
Recreation	47.1	1.6	38.7	2.6
Timber products	59.6	1.5	30	1.8
Firewood	11.2	<1	13.2	1.5
Nontimber products	6.5	<1	6.4	1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Trespassing	80.6	1.6	78.2	2.9
Property taxes	83.7	1.5	78.1	3
Vandalism	74.3	1.5	73.4	2.9
Keeping land intact	77.3	1.6	68.1	3.1
Government regulation	72.6	1.6	65.4	2.9
Insects or diseases	70.6	1.6	65	3
Wildfire	68.4	1.6	63.1	3.1
Water pollution	58.9	1.5	58.1	3
Air pollution	45.7	1.4	49.2	2.7
Development	46.1	1.5	48.4	2.7
Drought	49.4	1.4	44.5	2.6
Wind or ice storms	53.1	1.5	43.6	2.5
Invasive plants	47.3	1.5	43.4	2.7
Climate change	36.7	1.3	40.7	2.6
Off-road vehicles	30.2	1.2	33.7	2.3
Animal damage	26.8	1.2	22.7	2

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	25.3	1	8.5	1
Cut trees - own use	20	<1	21	2
Cut trees - sale	48.5	1.2	21.3	1.6
Insects management	9.8	<1	6.2	1.1
Invasives	23.7	1	15.4	1.4
Livestock grazing	10.7	<1	9.2	1.2
Nontimber products	12.2	<1	15.5	1.7
Reduced fire hazard	19.4	<1	9.6	1.2
Roads	27.4	1.1	10.6	1.1
Trails	25.7	1	15.8	1.5
Wildlife habitat	37.5	1.1	18.9	1.5
None	18	<1	32	1.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	46.6	1.2	20.5	1.5
Conservation easements	8.9	<1	3.4	<1
Cost-share programs	17.8	<1	4.7	<1
Green certification	7.4	<1	1.7	<1
Management plan	34.8	1.1	14.2	1.2
Property tax program	48.7	1.2	30.4	1.8