



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

U.S. ROCKY MOUNTAINS

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION-MAKER?

65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

63%
COLLEGE DEGREE

72% MALE

6% MINORITY



WHO OWNS U.S. ROCKY MOUNTAINS'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
19%

PUBLIC
73%

TRIBAL
8%



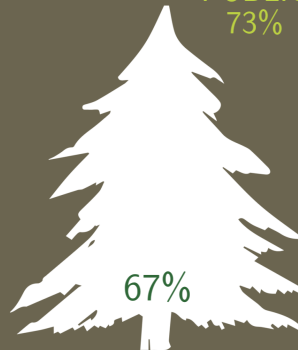
FAMILY



CORP.



OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL



TRIBAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **21%**
Management plan **6%**
Property tax program **6%**
Cost-share programs **4%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Keeping land intact
Trespassing or poaching
Wildfire
Property taxes
Dumping or vandalism

BY THE NUMBERS U.S. Rocky Mountains's Family Forest Ownerships

20,513,000 ACRES

266,000 OWNERSHIPS

536,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
77 acres

Median = 27 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

5%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

37%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

11%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

38%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

18%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

34%



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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 1660 family forest owners from the U.S. Rocky Mountains (AZ, CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, SD, UT, WY) 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	21,720,000	306,000
Corporate	9,751,000	228,000
Other private	786,000	68,000
Federal	110,721,000	576,000
State	9,745,000	232,000
Local	388,000	47,000
Tribal	12,665,000	212,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	20,513,000	420,000
Ownerships	266,000	11,000
Owners	536,000	29,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	60.2	1.5	55.1	2.3
Education (College)	62.5	1.6	63	2.8
Gender (Male)	76.8	<1	71.8	1.8
Minority	9.1	<1	6.3	1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	22	1.1	75	2.9
50-99	10.9	<1	13	<1
100-499	23.4	<1	9.7	<1
500-999	10	<1	1.2	<1
1,000+	33.8	1	1.1	<1

Mean size = 77.1 ac (SE = 2.1); Median size = 27 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	79	1.5	82.6	2.1
Wildlife habitat	79.2	1.5	78	2.4
Nature protection	70.2	1.5	72.4	2.6
Privacy	64.7	1.5	65.8	2.6
Water protection	70.1	1.5	64.2	2.5
Family legacy	66.2	1.5	53.3	2.3
Recreation	50	1.4	51.6	2.3
Land investment	50.4	1.4	46.8	2.3
Hunting	49.3	1.3	35.4	1.9
Raise family	41.8	1.4	34	2.4
Firewood	21	<1	17.4	1.3
Timber products	11.1	<1	5	<1
Nontimber products	3.8	<1	4.8	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	79.6	1.5	73.9	2.6
Trespassing	78.4	1.5	73.6	2.5
Wildfire	75.3	1.5	72.7	2.4
Property taxes	74	1.5	69.9	3.1
Vandalism	66.2	1.5	65.1	2.5
Drought	71.8	1.5	61.9	2.6
Insects or diseases	67.7	1.5	61.9	2.6
Government regulation	69.2	1.5	57.9	2.5
Invasive plants	63.1	1.5	54	2.4
Water pollution	48.2	1.4	49.8	2.5
Development	43.2	1.3	42.1	2.3
Climate change	37	1.2	42	2.2
Air pollution	36	1.3	41.3	2.2
Off-road vehicles	32.6	1.3	34.7	2.2
Wind or ice storms	28.9	1.2	29.3	2.1
Animal damage	19.3	1.1	15.5	1.4

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	10.4	<1	11.3	1.2
Cut trees - own use	40.8	1.2	36.9	1.9
Cut trees - sale	15.1	<1	5	<1
Insects management	11.8	<1	11.4	1.3
Invasives	40.1	1.1	37.6	1.9
Livestock grazing	53.4	1.1	30.5	1.5
Nontimber products	13.5	<1	18.6	1.4
Reduced fire hazard	38.3	1.1	34.3	1.9
Roads	25.9	<1	16.1	1.4
Trails	14.4	<1	7.3	<1
Wildlife habitat	29.4	1	18	1.4
None	10.3	<1	17.1	1.4

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	29.7	<1	21.2	1.4
Conservation easements	5.9	<1	2.4	<1
Cost-share programs	11.1	<1	4.4	<1
Green certification	4.3	<1	1.8	<1
Management plan	15.0	<1	5.7	<1
Property tax program	9.0	<1	5.7	<1