



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

ALABAMA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

68 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

42%
COLLEGE DEGREE

86% MALE

17% MINORITY



WHO OWNS ALABAMA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
93%

PUBLIC
7%



57%

FAMILY



36%

CORP.

<1%

OTHER



4%

FEDERAL



2%

STATE



<1%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **15%**
Management advice **14%**
Management plan **8%**
Cost-share programs **7%**
Conservation easements **5%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Alabama's Family Forest Ownerships

12,874,000 ACRES

139,000 OWNERSHIPS

425,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

92 acres

Median = 30 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Family legacy
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Nature protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

17%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

20%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

4%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

10%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

18%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

7%



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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 random sample of 199 family forest ownerships from Alabama 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	13,077,000	184,000
Corporate	8,327,000	178,000
Other private	117,000	26,000
Federal	938,000	41,000
State	458,000	51,000
Local	179,000	31,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	12,874,000	379,000
Ownerships	139,000	8,000
Owners	425,000	82,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	60.6	3.7	57.8	7.3
Education (College)	65.6	3.8	42.3	6.5
Gender (Male)	85	2	85.9	4.5
Minority	8.1	1.5	17.1	4.2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	14.2	1.8	66.4	8.5
50-99	10.9	1.6	15	3.2
100-499	33	2.8	15.7	2.4
500-999	15	2	1.9	<1
1,000+	26.9	2.5	1	<1

Mean size = 92.5 ac (SE = 12.4); Median size = 30 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	77.7	3.9	80.2	8.3
Family legacy	78	3.6	74.2	7.6
Wildlife habitat	79.7	3.9	69.1	7.8
Privacy	58.3	3.8	67.9	7.9
Nature protection	65	3.7	66	7.6
Land investment	75.1	3.7	58.9	12.6
Water protection	66.5	3.7	58.3	6.8
Raise family	44.8	3.2	51.1	7.4
Hunting	68.5	3.8	49.9	6.7
Recreation	46.4	3.4	40.5	6.4
Timber products	66	3.4	28.5	4.8
Firewood	8.1	1.7	6.6	2.5
Nontimber products	3.9	1.1	1.4	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	86.4	3.9	87.5	8
Vandalism	75	3.7	81.9	7.9
Trespassing	80.2	3.7	81.4	7.6
Wildfire	74.9	3.9	81.3	10
Property taxes	76.2	3.6	75.8	8
Government regulation	72.2	3.9	75	7.9
Insects or diseases	75.7	3.9	73.1	7.4
Water pollution	62.1	3.5	68.9	7.8
Wind or ice storms	53.4	3.3	55.9	7.8
Drought	49.6	3.2	46.1	6.5
Air pollution	35.2	2.9	44.8	6.6
Development	32.1	3.1	37.8	5.7
Invasive plants	58.6	3.6	37.6	5.5
Off-road vehicles	25.2	2.7	34.3	5.7
Climate change	28	2.7	23.1	4.9
Animal damage	34.9	3	16.1	3.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	42.4	2.7	10.1	2.5
Cut trees - own use	12.2	1.9	20.2	5.9
Cut trees - sale	52.5	2.7	17	3.2
Insects management	13	1.9	4.2	1.8
Invasives	35.8	2.7	9.7	2.4
Livestock grazing	11.8	1.7	27.8	5.7
Nontimber products	8.6	1.5	7.3	3.1
Reduced fire hazard	21.6	2.4	6.7	1.9
Roads	37.9	2.7	10.3	3.2
Trails	28.5	2.5	14.8	3.5
Wildlife habitat	47.8	2.6	17.7	3.7
None	15.6	1.7	31	5.2

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	48.7	2.9	14.2	2.9
Conservation easements	4.5	1.1	4.6	2.1
Cost-share programs	25.9	2.4	6.6	1.9
Green certification	15.2	2.1	2.1	<1
Management plan	28.7	2.5	8.3	2.2
Property tax program	35.7	2.7	15.0	3.7