



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

CALIFORNIA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

80%
COLLEGE DEGREE

63% MALE

17% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

2%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

26%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

19%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

28%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

12%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

40%

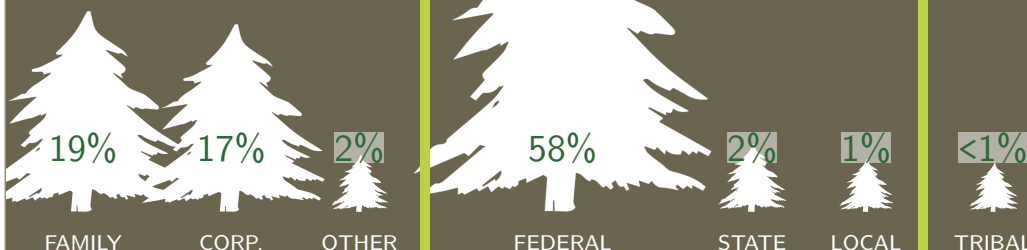


WHO OWNS CALIFORNIA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
38%

PUBLIC
61%

TRIBAL
1%



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **15%**
Management plan **8%**
Property tax program **5%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Cost-share programs **3%**
Green certification **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS California's Family Forest Ownerships

5,786,000 ACRES

75,000 OWNERSHIPS

170,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

77 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Water protection



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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 166 family forest ownerships from California 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	6,178,000	155,000
Corporate	5,347,000	136,000
Other private	483,000	53,000
Federal	18,351,000	171,000
State	683,000	47,000
Local	415,000	46,000
Tribal	255,000	39,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	5,786,000	300,000
Ownerships	75,000	9,000
Owners	170,000	21,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	54.6	3.8	57.9	7.6
Education (College)	78.6	4.6	80.1	10
Gender (Male)	81.4	2.5	62.6	6.8
Minority	9.7	1.8	17	5

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	17.9	2.4	75.7	8.3
50-99	10	1.7	11.7	2.5
100-499	25.7	2.8	9.7	1.5
500-999	14.2	2.2	1.7	<1
1,000+	32.2	3.1	1.2	<1

Mean size = 77.0 ac (SE = 9.0); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	90.6	3.9	91	8.1
Privacy	78.2	4.1	85.3	9.3
Wildlife habitat	76.6	4.2	78	8.9
Nature protection	74.6	4.4	77.5	8.5
Water protection	69.2	4	73.5	8.2
Family legacy	73	4	60.2	8.2
Land investment	54.3	3.9	56.8	8.1
Recreation	57	4	52.8	8.2
Raise family	42.4	3.9	42.5	7.6
Firewood	22.8	2.8	31.5	6.9
Hunting	31.6	3.2	16.3	5.1
Timber products	22.5	2.9	11.9	4.2
Nontimber products	6.9	1.6	10.3	4.2

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildfire	86.2	3.6	87.4	8.5
Vandalism	66	4	74.1	9.4
Trespassing	75.4	4.1	72.5	10
Property taxes	78	3.9	70.9	8.3
Keeping land intact	79.9	3.8	70.8	9
Drought	75.3	4.1	70.8	9.6
Climate change	46.7	3.6	66.8	8.3
Insects or diseases	62.4	4	65.7	9.4
Development	59	4	63.6	8.8
Air pollution	41.4	3.5	62.5	9.1
Water pollution	53.6	3.7	60.6	6.8
Government regulation	74.2	3.7	59.7	8.8
Invasive plants	50.8	3.9	52.4	8.9
Wind or ice storms	25.6	3	34.6	8.3
Off-road vehicles	31.1	3.2	32.8	7
Animal damage	18.8	2.6	14	3.7

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	9.8	1.9	5.5	1.8
Cut trees - own use	35.1	2.9	26.2	5.6
Cut trees - sale	12.8	2	2	<1
Insects management	9.7	1.8	18.5	5.4
Invasives	35.4	3	27.9	6
Livestock grazing	36.2	2.8	11.7	4.4
Nontimber products	19.5	2.4	10.5	2.6
Reduced fire hazard	50	2.9	39.9	6.3
Roads	47.4	3	25.7	4.9
Trails	19.4	2.4	14.4	4
Wildlife habitat	25.4	2.7	11.7	4.6
None	12.9	1.9	33.1	6.8

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	36.9	2.9	15.0	3.1
Conservation easements	11.0	1.9	3.3	1.4
Cost-share programs	16.2	2.1	2.9	1.3
Green certification	4.8	1.1	<1	<1
Management plan	23.2	2.5	8.4	3.3
Property tax program	21.1	2.3	5.4	2.9