



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

COLORADO

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

72%
COLLEGE DEGREE

67% MALE

4% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

5%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

49%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

20%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

43%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

23%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

62%



WHO OWNS COLORADO'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
22%

PUBLIC
76%

TRIBAL
2%



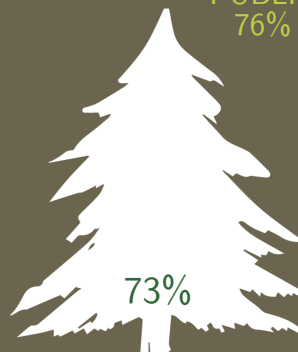
FAMILY



CORP.



OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL



TRIBAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **21%**

Management plan **8%**

Cost-share programs **6%**

Conservation easements **5%**

Property tax program **5%**

Green certification **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Wildfire

Keeping land intact

Trespassing or poaching

Drought

Dumping or vandalism

BY THE NUMBERS Colorado's Family Forest Ownerships

3,468,000 ACRES

49,000 OWNERSHIPS

94,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

71 acres

Median = 34 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery

Wildlife habitat

Privacy

Nature protection

Recreation



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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 232 family forest ownerships from Colorado 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	3,780,000	133,000
Corporate	1,190,000	81,000
Other private	73,000	21,000
Federal	16,997,000	234,000
State	627,000	60,000
Local	119,000	25,000
Tribal	529,000	52,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	3,468,000	142,000
Ownerships	49,000	4,000
Owners	94,000	8,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	62.4	3.2	54.1	5.2
Education (College)	70.5	3.5	72	6
Gender (Male)	74.2	2.2	66.9	4.3
Minority	6.5	1.1	4.3	1.7

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	26.4	2.5	77.4	6.6
50-99	10.1	1.7	11	1.9
100-499	24	2.3	9.3	1.1
500-999	12.2	1.4	1.3	<1
1,000+	27.4	2.1	<1	<1

Mean size = 70.9 ac (SE = 4.7); Median size = 34 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	84.8	2.9	91.5	4.4
Wildlife habitat	80.6	3.3	75.9	6
Privacy	72.3	3.3	74.6	6.1
Nature protection	69.7	3.3	74.5	6.2
Recreation	65.6	3.2	66.8	5.7
Water protection	69.2	3.3	59.9	5.6
Family legacy	64	3	53.4	5.2
Land investment	51.9	3.1	52.1	5.4
Raise family	43	3.1	39.2	5.4
Hunting	46.5	2.8	31	4.2
Firewood	18.2	2.1	24.2	3.8
Timber products	7.8	1.2	4.1	1.4
Nontimber products	3.8	1	2.9	1.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildfire	84.8	3.3	84.8	5.2
Keeping land intact	83.4	3.4	77.9	5.9
Trespassing	81.9	3.2	77.4	5.8
Drought	80.5	3.3	75.4	5.5
Vandalism	62.6	3.2	75.3	6
Insects or diseases	71.9	3.4	73.8	5.9
Property taxes	69.1	3.1	71.2	5.7
Government regulation	67.3	3.2	66.1	5.3
Invasive plants	62.6	3.4	62.2	5.7
Development	54.2	3.3	55.4	5.5
Water pollution	54.2	3.1	53.7	5.6
Climate change	42.6	2.9	45.8	5.2
Air pollution	37.3	3.2	44.6	5.6
Wind or ice storms	25.4	2.9	28.2	4.4
Off-road vehicles	32.9	2.6	28.1	4
Animal damage	17.5	2.2	14	3

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	6.1	1.2	2.3	<1
Cut trees - own use	50	2.7	49.5	4.8
Cut trees - sale	13.3	1.7	4.8	2.5
Insects management	16.1	1.8	20.3	3.6
Invasives	44.5	2.4	42.7	4.4
Livestock grazing	50.5	2.4	32.6	4
Nontimber products	11	1.7	18	3.8
Reduced fire hazard	49.9	2.5	61.9	4.2
Roads	31.9	2.3	20	2.9
Trails	23.4	2	12.5	2.6
Wildlife habitat	32.3	2.3	23.5	3.6
None	7.6	1.3	11.2	2.8

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	31.9	2.3	21.0	3.2
Conservation easements	11.7	1.7	5.0	2.2
Cost-share programs	11.1	1.4	6.3	2.2
Green certification	1.8	<1	1.5	<1
Management plan	16.6	1.9	7.5	1.5
Property tax program	7.5	1.4	4.9	1.4