



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

DELAWARE

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

44%
COLLEGE DEGREE

81% MALE

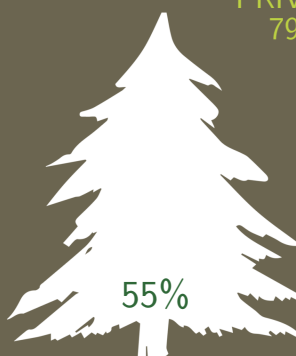
3% MINORITY



WHO OWNS DELAWARE'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
79%

PUBLIC
21%



55%

FAMILY



19%

CORP.



4%

OTHER



2%

FEDERAL



17%

STATE



2%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Conservation easements **22%**

Management advice **13%**

Management plan **11%**

Property tax program **8%**

Cost-share programs **4%**

Green certification **1%**

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

7%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

29%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

14%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

11%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

31%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

9%



TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Delaware's Family Forest Ownerships

162,000 ACRES

4,000 OWNERSHIPS

10,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

45 acres

Median = 22 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Nature protection
Family legacy



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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 136 family forest ownerships from Delaware 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	198,000	16,000
Corporate	68,000	13,000
Other private	16,000	7,000
Federal	8,000	5,000
State	62,000	7,000
Local	7,000	5,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	162,000	6,000
Ownerships	4,000	<1
Owners	10,000	1,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	53.6	4.4	50.6	5.8
Education (College)	46	4.5	44.3	6.2
Gender (Male)	84.3	2.4	80.6	3.9
Minority	3	1.2	2.6	1.2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	33.3	3.4	75.3	6.6
50-99	22.5	2.7	15.4	2.5
100-499	32.8	3.2	8.7	1.1
500-999	7.7	1.3	<1	<1
1,000+	3.7	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 44.6 ac (SE = 3.1); Median size = 22 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	81.4	4.1	79.9	6.4
Beauty or scenery	75.2	4.2	77.4	6
Privacy	61.5	4.1	72.8	6.5
Nature protection	73.1	4.4	71.8	6.5
Family legacy	68.1	4.1	71.3	6.3
Water protection	68	4.6	65.5	6.8
Raise family	50.3	3.8	59.2	6
Hunting	59.5	4	55.1	6
Recreation	45	4.1	49.7	6.5
Land investment	52.9	3.8	46.8	5.8
Firewood	15	2.5	25.7	4.9
Timber products	35.4	3.6	25	4.4
Nontimber products	3.6	1.3	4.7	2.3

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	81.9	4.2	85.3	6.2
Trespassing	82.9	4.9	80.6	6.2
Vandalism	79.1	3.8	77.5	5.8
Property taxes	74.4	4	73.4	5.6
Government regulation	77.7	4.1	72.3	6.2
Development	55.1	4.3	64.5	6.9
Insects or diseases	65.8	4.1	60.7	6.1
Water pollution	49.5	4	56.5	6.1
Wildfire	51.6	3.9	54.2	6.5
Invasive plants	49.8	3.8	49.7	6
Air pollution	42.2	3.8	49.5	5.9
Drought	36.8	3.7	43.2	5.7
Wind or ice storms	37.5	3.8	39	5.7
Climate change	33.7	3.6	37.3	5.3
Off-road vehicles	28.6	3.1	37.3	5.4
Animal damage	27.6	3	32.6	5.4

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	1.6	<1	<1	1.6
Cut trees - own use	20.5	2.5	29	4.6
Cut trees - sale	21	2.2	6.6	2.3
Insects management	9.9	1.7	14.5	4
Invasives	11.4	1.7	10.6	3.3
Livestock grazing	2.7	1.3	5.5	3
Nontimber products	5.3	1.1	8.8	3.5
Reduced fire hazard	8.4	1.8	9.1	3.6
Roads	11.7	1.7	11.6	3.5
Trails	25.9	2.8	25.6	4.4
Wildlife habitat	33.2	2.9	31	4.3
None	32.2	3	37.8	5.2

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	27.9	2.7	13.5	2.5
Conservation easements	26.8	2.7	21.9	4.2
Cost-share programs	8.8	1.9	3.7	1.2
Green certification	2.0	<1	<1	<1
Management plan	27.6	2.7	10.6	2.4
Property tax program	14.3	2.1	7.9	2.2