



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

GEORGIA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

49%
COLLEGE DEGREE

69% MALE

2% MINORITY



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

22%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

16%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

7%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

11%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

24%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

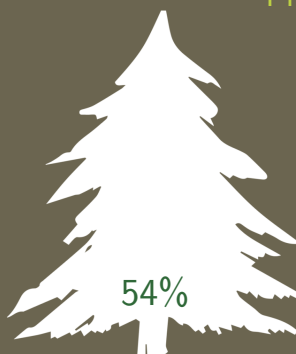
11%



WHO OWNS GEORGIA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
89%

PUBLIC
11%



54%

FAMILY



33%

CORP.



1%

OTHER



7%

FEDERAL



2%

STATE



1%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **52%**
Management advice **20%**
Management plan **8%**
Cost-share programs **6%**
Conservation easements **5%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Georgia's Family Forest Ownerships

12,925,000 ACRES

131,000 OWNERSHIPS

215,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

99 acres

Median = 36 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Nature protection
Wildlife habitat
Water protection
Privacy



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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 311 family forest ownerships from Georgia 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	13,303,000	191,000
Corporate	8,183,000	182,000
Other private	359,000	45,000
Federal	1,831,000	65,000
State	488,000	52,000
Local	355,000	44,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	12,925,000	332,000
Ownerships	131,000	7,000
Owners	215,000	12,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	58.9	3	54.3	5.1
Education (College)	66.5	3.1	49	4.9
Gender (Male)	78	1.8	69.3	4.2
Minority	2.2	<1	2	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	13.5	1.5	60.1	6.3
50-99	13	1.4	18.9	2.4
100-499	37.6	2.4	18	1.8
500-999	15	1.6	2.2	<1
1,000+	20.9	1.8	<1	<1

Mean size = 98.7 ac (SE = 7.8); Median size = 36 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	80.8	3	79.9	6
Nature protection	74	3.1	77.8	6.2
Wildlife habitat	80.4	3.2	77.5	6.1
Water protection	69.3	3.1	73.1	6.5
Privacy	67.2	3.2	72.3	5.8
Family legacy	75.2	2.9	66.8	5.2
Raise family	46.2	2.6	53.4	5.9
Land investment	67.9	3	52.1	5.5
Hunting	65.1	2.9	43.2	4.7
Recreation	52	2.9	38.9	4.3
Timber products	65.7	2.8	33.2	3.7
Firewood	9.9	1.4	12.2	2.6
Nontimber products	4.8	1.1	3.4	1.5

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Trespassing	82.8	2.9	82.8	5.9
Property taxes	91.2	2.5	81.7	5.9
Vandalism	77.2	2.8	79.7	5.7
Keeping land intact	82.1	3.1	73.5	5.7
Government regulation	76.7	2.9	70	5.8
Insects or diseases	74.7	2.9	67.8	5.9
Water pollution	60.3	2.9	62.5	5.7
Wildfire	69.5	3	62.4	5.6
Air pollution	47.7	2.7	54.2	5.6
Drought	58.2	2.9	53.5	5.3
Development	44.8	2.7	51.5	5.7
Climate change	34.3	2.5	44.4	5.6
Wind or ice storms	52.6	2.7	39.9	4.6
Invasive plants	48.8	2.7	37.2	4.4
Off-road vehicles	28.3	2.1	36.2	4.7
Animal damage	29.2	2.2	24.5	4.3

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	40.4	2.1	21.6	3.8
Cut trees - own use	16.2	1.6	15.9	2.9
Cut trees - sale	55.8	2.2	21.8	3
Insects management	12.5	1.4	7.2	1.7
Invasives	25.2	1.9	10.9	2
Livestock grazing	9.5	1.2	10.6	2.5
Nontimber products	9.9	1.3	8.8	1.9
Reduced fire hazard	24.7	1.9	10.6	2
Roads	29.3	2	11.2	2.2
Trails	26.1	1.9	13.7	2.3
Wildlife habitat	48.6	2.2	23.6	2.8
None	13.1	1.4	30.1	4.5

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	48.4	2.2	20.3	3.1
Conservation easements	8.1	1.2	5.0	1.4
Cost-share programs	19.1	1.8	5.8	1.2
Green certification	6.1	1.1	1.9	<1
Management plan	28.9	2.1	8.4	1.5
Property tax program	66.8	2.1	52.3	4.4