



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

ILLINOIS

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

48%
COLLEGE DEGREE

73% MALE

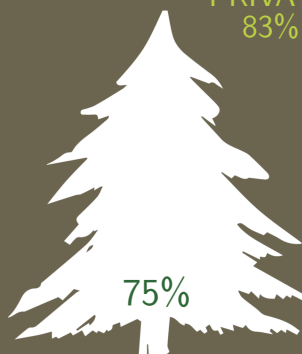
5% MINORITY



WHO OWNS ILLINOIS'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
83%

PUBLIC
17%



FAMILY



CORP.



OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **18%**
Management plan **17%**
Property tax program **15%**
Cost-share programs **10%**
Green certification **3%**
Conservation easements **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Illinois's Family Forest Ownerships

3,567,000 ACRES

82,000 OWNERSHIPS

188,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

44 acres

Median = 25 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Privacy
Family legacy



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

12%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

47%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

3%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

41%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

29%

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 175 family forest ownerships from Illinois 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	3,749,000	84,000
Corporate	367,000	42,000
Other private	73,000	20,000
Federal	368,000	23,000
State	217,000	31,000
Local	250,000	34,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	3,567,000	123,000
Ownerships	82,000	4,000
Owners	188,000	19,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	52.2	3.8	45.7	5
Education (College)	51.6	3.8	48.3	5.4
Gender (Male)	83	2.2	73.5	4
Minority	1.7	<1	4.6	2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	35.5	3.1	72.4	6.1
50-99	27.4	2.7	18.6	2.4
100-499	33	3.1	8.8	1.1
500-999	2.6	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	1.5	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 43.8 ac (SE = 2.6); Median size = 25 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	78.5	4.1	82	5.8
Wildlife habitat	79.6	3.9	77.1	5.3
Nature protection	69.1	3.9	73.4	5.8
Privacy	66.3	4	72	5.4
Family legacy	68.7	3.7	62.3	5.2
Water protection	62.5	4.1	62.2	6
Hunting	64.9	4	54.9	4.9
Recreation	54.4	3.9	53.9	5.5
Land investment	53.8	3.6	52.7	5.1
Raise family	50.6	3.7	50.9	5.2
Firewood	18.9	2.5	23.2	4
Timber products	21.1	2.6	12.4	2.6
Nontimber products	8.2	1.6	8.1	1.8

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	82.4	4	83.4	5.9
Property taxes	80.4	3.7	75.8	5.1
Trespassing	79	3.7	74.7	5.4
Vandalism	68.4	3.9	65.6	5.2
Government regulation	71.1	4	63.9	5.2
Insects or diseases	58.9	3.8	56	5.2
Invasive plants	54.8	3.8	52.4	5
Water pollution	46	3.5	47.3	5.3
Air pollution	38.5	3.3	43.9	5.2
Drought	34	3.2	37.8	5
Climate change	30.7	3	36.2	4.9
Wildfire	38.6	3.4	36.1	4.2
Wind or ice storms	32.3	3	35.1	4.5
Development	33.5	3.3	32.6	4.5
Off-road vehicles	27.6	2.9	21.2	3.2
Animal damage	23.1	2.7	20.9	3.1

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	5.8	1.4	5.7	1.5
Cut trees - own use	38.2	2.8	46.9	4.2
Cut trees - sale	18.6	2.3	11.8	3
Insects management	3.4	1.2	3.4	1.9
Invasives	37.4	2.9	41.2	4.2
Livestock grazing	12.1	2	11.2	2.7
Nontimber products	25.9	2.6	28.8	3.9
Reduced fire hazard	8.1	1.7	7.4	1.9
Roads	12.5	2	10.9	2.8
Trails	36.1	2.8	39	3.9
Wildlife habitat	39.2	2.9	28.9	3.3
None	13.4	2	11.8	2.4

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	24.3	2.5	17.5	3.0
Conservation easements	1.8	<1	<1	<1
Cost-share programs	16.6	2.0	10.3	1.9
Green certification	5.2	1.3	3.1	<1
Management plan	24.6	2.5	16.9	2.7
Property tax program	17.7	2.4	14.8	2.6