



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

INDIANA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

63 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

42%
COLLEGE DEGREE

87% MALE

2% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

21%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

41%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

10%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

28%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

22%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

3%



WHO OWNS INDIANA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
84%

PUBLIC
16%



FAMILY



CORP.



OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **27%**
Property tax program **16%**
Management plan **13%**
Cost-share programs **6%**
Green certification **3%**
Conservation easements **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Trespassing or poaching
Property taxes
Keeping land intact
Dumping or vandalism
Insects or diseases

BY THE NUMBERS Indiana's Family Forest Ownerships

3,274,000 ACRES

83,000 OWNERSHIPS

174,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

39 acres

Median = 21 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Privacy
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 237 family forest ownerships from Indiana 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	3,604,000	72,000
Corporate	381,000	42,000
Other private	108,000	24,000
Federal	383,000	29,000
State	349,000	28,000
Local	57,000	14,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	3,274,000	108,000
Ownerships	83,000	4,000
Owners	174,000	9,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	46.7	3.1	42.3	3.9
Education (College)	49	3.4	41.7	3.9
Gender (Male)	84.8	1.9	86.7	2.3
Minority	2.5	<1	2.4	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	43.3	2.8	79.4	5
50-99	22	2	13.1	1.5
100-499	29.3	2.4	7.3	<1
500-999	3.5	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	1.9	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 39.3 ac (SE = 1.8); Median size = 21 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	81.6	3.5	82.3	4.8
Wildlife habitat	77.9	3.5	78.8	4.8
Nature protection	76.8	3.5	74.6	4.7
Privacy	66.1	3.3	69.6	4.6
Water protection	63.3	3.4	66.4	4.7
Family legacy	62.9	3.3	56.4	4.2
Recreation	52.8	3.2	54.7	4.4
Raise family	49	3.2	50.3	4.4
Land investment	51.2	3.2	47.3	3.9
Hunting	42.8	3	44.7	4.2
Firewood	22.7	2.2	29.4	3.5
Timber products	35	2.8	25.3	3.1
Nontimber products	6.2	1.2	7.3	2.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Trespassing	77	3.3	77.3	4.7
Property taxes	76.9	3.3	74.9	4.4
Keeping land intact	76.5	3.5	71.7	4.6
Vandalism	72.9	3.4	69.5	4.6
Insects or diseases	66.8	3.5	65.2	4.5
Government regulation	64.6	3.4	61.7	4.4
Water pollution	47.4	3.1	51.8	4.3
Invasive plants	58	3.3	51.4	4.3
Air pollution	42.8	2.9	50.9	4.3
Development	41.5	2.9	44	4.2
Climate change	35.1	2.8	37.1	3.9
Wildfire	38.1	2.8	36.9	3.7
Wind or ice storms	37.2	2.7	34.8	3.6
Off-road vehicles	28.1	2.5	23.3	2.9
Drought	27.4	2.4	21.1	2.8
Animal damage	21.8	2.4	18.8	2.9

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	3	<1	1.5	<1
Cut trees - own use	37	2.6	41.4	3.6
Cut trees - sale	31	2.4	21.2	2.6
Insects management	8.6	1.3	10.2	2.1
Invasives	42.4	2.6	28.1	3.3
Livestock grazing	9.5	1.4	11.7	2.4
Nontimber products	31.6	2.3	28.9	3
Reduced fire hazard	3.9	1	3.4	1.3
Roads	11.8	1.7	5.9	1.4
Trails	35.5	2.4	27.4	2.9
Wildlife habitat	30.3	2.3	21.8	2.7
None	16.5	1.8	20.5	2.8

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	39.0	2.5	26.7	2.9
Conservation easements	3.1	<1	1.4	<1
Cost-share programs	10.5	1.7	5.6	1.4
Green certification	8.1	1.4	3.1	<1
Management plan	22.3	2.1	12.7	2.2
Property tax program	29.2	2.3	15.6	2.3