



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

IOWA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

52%
COLLEGE DEGREE

80% MALE

<1% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

19%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

34%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

8%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

35%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

22%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

4%

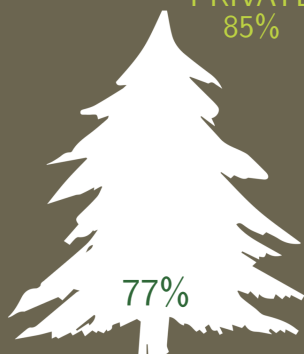


WHO OWNS IOWA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
85%

PUBLIC
15%

TRIBAL
0%



77%

FAMILY



6%

CORP.



2%

OTHER



4%

FEDERAL



6%

STATE



5%

LOCAL



<1%

TRIBAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **36%**
Management plan **15%**
Management advice **15%**
Cost-share programs **8%**
Green certification **2%**
Conservation easements **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Iowa's Family Forest Ownerships

2,010,000 ACRES

41,000 OWNERSHIPS

89,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

48 acres

Median = 30 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Nature protection
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 159 family forest ownerships from Iowa 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	2,253,000	63,000
Corporate	160,000	28,000
Other private	64,000	19,000
Federal	111,000	22,000
State	185,000	26,000
Local	132,000	24,000
Tribal	8,000	7,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	2,010,000	67,000
Ownerships	41,000	2,000
Owners	89,000	5,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	52.4	3.9	48.7	5
Education (College)	56.5	4.1	51.7	5.5
Gender (Male)	80.6	2.4	80.3	3.7
Minority	1.2	<1	<1	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	31.6	3.2	68.1	6.4
50-99	26	2.7	19.9	2.7
100-499	35.5	3.2	11.5	1.4
500-999	5.9	1.3	<1	<1
1,000+	<1	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 48.5 ac (SE = 2.8); Median size = 30 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	89.7	4.2	89.7	6.2
Beauty or scenery	83.7	4.1	89.4	5.9
Nature protection	80.1	4.3	82.6	6
Water protection	74.9	4.2	74.3	6.1
Privacy	63.1	3.9	67.9	5.9
Family legacy	66.5	4.1	65.2	5.8
Hunting	63.5	4	55	5.1
Recreation	58.1	4.1	54	5.3
Land investment	47.9	3.8	45	5.2
Raise family	41.4	3.8	40.6	5.2
Timber products	27.6	3.1	17	2.7
Firewood	17.7	2.7	16	3.2
Nontimber products	6.7	1.7	5.2	1.7

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	87.1	4.2	82.8	6
Property taxes	65.5	4	63.5	5.6
Trespassing	68.2	3.9	61.5	5.4
Vandalism	63.2	4	55.5	5.3
Insects or diseases	61.5	4.3	54.6	5.5
Invasive plants	59.1	4.1	49.1	4.9
Government regulation	53.9	3.9	46.3	5
Air pollution	41.4	3.6	38.5	4.9
Water pollution	47.4	3.7	36.4	4.6
Development	44.7	3.9	35.7	4.7
Wind or ice storms	36.6	3.4	31.4	4.4
Climate change	37.2	3.5	29.7	4.5
Drought	35.7	3.4	26.1	3.6
Off-road vehicles	27.8	3.1	25.3	4.3
Animal damage	28.9	3.1	20.2	3.3
Wildfire	24.1	3.1	20	3.6

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	13.4	2.1	9	2.3
Cut trees - own use	35.7	2.9	34.4	4.1
Cut trees - sale	28.6	2.8	19.1	2.9
Insects management	5.8	1.5	8.1	2.8
Invasives	32.8	2.9	35.2	4.2
Livestock grazing	12.8	2.2	7.9	1.7
Nontimber products	31.3	2.9	31.3	4.1
Reduced fire hazard	6.1	1.4	3.9	1.7
Roads	6.9	1.6	4.4	1.9
Trails	19.8	2.5	15.7	3.2
Wildlife habitat	29.6	2.8	21.5	3.4
None	14.7	2.1	22.3	3.7

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	24.2	2.6	15.0	2.6
Conservation easements	2.2	1.1	<1	<1
Cost-share programs	16.0	2.3	7.8	2.2
Green certification	4.1	1.4	2.0	<1
Management plan	19.7	2.5	15.5	2.7
Property tax program	44.2	3.0	35.5	3.8