



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

KENTUCKY

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

48%
COLLEGE DEGREE

73% MALE

2% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

12%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

33%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

5%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

15%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

20%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

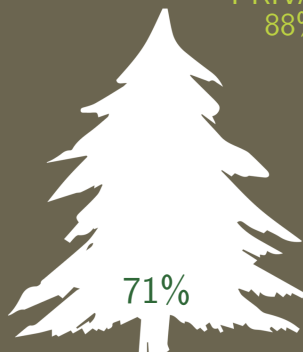
9%



WHO OWNS KENTUCKY'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
88%

PUBLIC
12%



FAMILY



CORP.



OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **6%**
Property tax program **5%**
Management plan **3%**
Cost-share programs **2%**
Conservation easements **1%**
Green certification **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Dumping or vandalism
Trespassing or poaching
Property taxes
Keeping land intact
Wildfire

BY THE NUMBERS Kentucky's Family Forest Ownerships

8,003,000 ACRES

136,000 OWNERSHIPS

280,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

59 acres

Median = 31 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Family legacy
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 163 family forest ownerships from Kentucky 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	8,842,000	126,000
Corporate	1,989,000	94,000
Other private	97,000	23,000
Federal	1,174,000	53,000
State	207,000	34,000
Local	71,000	19,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	8,003,000	283,000
Ownerships	136,000	8,000
Owners	280,000	20,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Age (65+)	59.4	3.9	57.1	5.9
Education (College)	47.6	3.8	47.7	5.8
Gender (Male)	82.5	2.5	72.9	4.7
Minority	2.7	1	2.1	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	----- Percentage -----			
10-49	23.1	2.7	64.2	7.2
50-99	24	2.5	21.4	2.9
100-499	40.7	3.4	13.7	1.6
500-999	7	1.6	<1	<1
1,000+	5.1	1.4	<1	<1

Mean size = 59.0 ac (SE = 4.5); Median size = 31 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Beauty or scenery	78.6	4.1	80.7	6.6
Wildlife habitat	78	4.3	79.7	6.5
Privacy	69	3.9	74.3	6.9
Family legacy	71.7	3.8	73.7	6.4
Water protection	65.9	4	69.9	6.6
Nature protection	66.6	4.1	69.1	6.5
Hunting	58.1	4.1	55.7	6.1
Land investment	61.6	4	53.2	5.8
Raise family	47.4	3.7	52.1	6.1
Recreation	51.1	3.7	52.1	6
Timber products	37.7	3.3	28.3	4.4
Firewood	19	2.5	23.1	5
Nontimber products	13	2	19.5	4.2

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Vandalism	77.6	4.1	69.4	6.1
Trespassing	78.4	3.9	68.9	6.1
Property taxes	72.5	3.8	63.8	6.4
Keeping land intact	70.3	3.9	57.4	6.1
Wildfire	64.2	3.9	54.1	5.9
Insects or diseases	62.1	4	53.4	5.8
Water pollution	53.7	3.9	48.8	5.8
Government regulation	59.6	3.9	47.4	5.7
Air pollution	42.8	3.5	46.6	5.6
Wind or ice storms	50.6	3.8	39.3	5
Invasive plants	44.4	3.8	32.8	4.8
Climate change	37.3	3.3	31.6	4.5
Development	37	3.5	30.2	4.6
Drought	36.8	3.3	22.7	3.3
Off-road vehicles	30	3.2	18.7	3.4
Animal damage	19.5	3	16.2	3.4

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Controlled burn	2.2	<1	1.7	<1
Cut trees - own use	29.5	2.8	32.9	4.5
Cut trees - sale	21.1	2.5	12.2	2.9
Insects management	5.2	1.3	4.5	1.7
Invasives	15.8	2.3	15.3	3.7
Livestock grazing	17.3	2.5	12.7	2.8
Nontimber products	18.4	2.2	13.2	3
Reduced fire hazard	8.7	1.7	8.9	2.6
Roads	11.1	2	4.8	1.5
Trails	23.8	2.7	19.2	3.5
Wildlife habitat	24.1	2.7	19.7	3.5
None	26.7	2.6	38.3	4.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Advice	10.8	1.9	5.7	2.2
Conservation easements	1.5	<1	<1	<1
Cost-share programs	3.4	1.1	1.9	<1
Green certification	2.7	1.0	<1	<1
Management plan	9.2	1.9	2.9	<1
Property tax program	1.2	<1	4.7	2.8