



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

LOUISIANA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

68 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

48%
COLLEGE DEGREE

65% MALE

12% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

22%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

20%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

9%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

27%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

15%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

2%



WHO OWNS LOUISIANA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
87%

PUBLIC
13%

TRIBAL
0%

36%

FAMILY

50%

CORP.

1%

OTHER

7%

FEDERAL

4%

STATE

2%

LOCAL

<1%

TRIBAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **18%**
Property tax program **9%**
Management plan **8%**
Conservation easements **7%**
Cost-share programs **5%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Louisiana's Family Forest Ownerships

5,178,000 ACRES

47,000 OWNERSHIPS

128,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

109 acres

Median = 40 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Family legacy
Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Wildlife habitat
Nature 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 138 family forest owners from Louisiana 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	5,411,000	141,000
Corporate	7,482,000	153,000
Other private	156,000	30,000
Federal	1,085,000	56,000
State	632,000	60,000
Local	283,000	40,000
Tribal	0	0

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	5,178,000	225,000
Ownerships	47,000	4,000
Owners	128,000	15,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	51.4	4.3	64.7	9.2
Education (College)	72.2	4.8	48	6.6
Gender (Male)	74.5	2.9	64.8	6.6
Minority	5.7	1.8	11.6	4.1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	12.6	2.2	58.8	9.8
50-99	10	1.8	16.2	3.5
100-499	37	3.6	21.4	3.2
500-999	14.6	2.3	2.4	<1
1,000+	25.8	2.7	1.1	<1

Mean size = 109.2 ac (SE = 12.4); Median size = 40 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Family legacy	83.4	4.1	79.1	6.8
Beauty or scenery	70.7	4.4	75.1	9.4
Privacy	58	4.2	66.8	9.2
Wildlife habitat	72.6	4.3	64.4	9.5
Nature protection	63.2	4.2	61	8.6
Water protection	48.9	3.9	51	10
Land investment	73.5	4.3	48.1	7.7
Raise family	34.6	3.6	45.4	8.1
Hunting	62	4.2	42.5	7
Timber products	73	4.1	40.5	5.9
Recreation	45.3	3.8	31.2	6.4
Firewood	9.1	1.8	21	5.7
Nontimber products	2.1	<1	<1	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	84.8	4.3	78.6	7.7
Vandalism	79.6	4.4	77.1	8
Trespassing	84.5	4.4	75.7	8.8
Government regulation	72.8	4.2	71.8	7.3
Property taxes	72.5	4.1	67.4	7.3
Wildfire	66	4.5	61.9	7.9
Insects or diseases	68.2	4.4	60.7	7.9
Water pollution	51.3	4	56.7	7.8
Air pollution	34.5	3.9	51.6	8
Invasive plants	47.7	4.1	48.3	8
Wind or ice storms	37.4	4.1	41.3	7.6
Climate change	28.9	3.8	39.9	7.8
Development	36.1	3.7	38.5	6.5
Drought	32	3.5	25	4.9
Animal damage	38.1	3.8	24.3	5.1
Off-road vehicles	17.1	2.8	17.4	4.2

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	19.9	2.3	7.2	2.8
Cut trees - own use	12.6	2	19.6	5.2
Cut trees - sale	49.8	3.2	22.1	4.1
Insects management	9.4	1.8	9.4	3.7
Invasives	28.6	2.8	26.6	5.9
Livestock grazing	11.9	2.2	7	2.3
Nontimber products	12.4	2.3	9.4	3
Reduced fire hazard	9	2	1.9	<1
Roads	30.9	2.9	13.4	3.2
Trails	36.8	3.2	14.4	3.1
Wildlife habitat	40.7	3.3	15.4	3.3
None	21.2	2.7	47.9	6.5

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	49.7	3.1	17.8	3.3
Conservation easements	7.8	1.7	6.7	2.9
Cost-share programs	21.1	2.6	5.1	1.3
Green certification	12.4	1.8	1.8	<1
Management plan	25.3	2.8	7.7	2.2
Property tax program	10.5	2.0	8.8	3.1