



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

MASSACHUSETTS

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



67 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

70%
COLLEGE DEGREE

79% MALE

<1% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

18%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

52%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

7%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

35%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

24%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

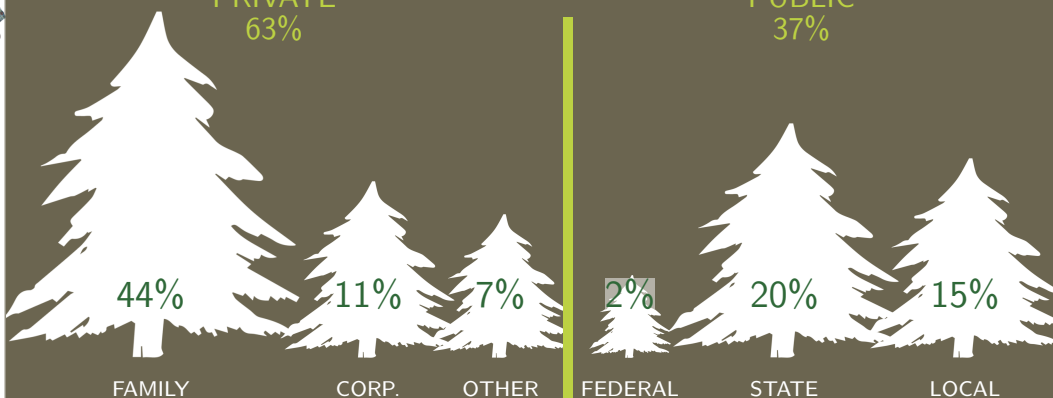
6%



WHO OWNS MASSACHUSETTS'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
63%

PUBLIC
37%



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **45%**
Management plan **38%**
Management advice **36%**
Conservation easements **14%**
Cost-share programs **4%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Keeping land intact
Property taxes
Insects or diseases
Invasive plants
Climate change

BY THE NUMBERS Massachusetts's Family Forest Ownerships

884,000 ACRES

21,000 OWNERSHIPS

39,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

42 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
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 114 family forest ownerships from Massachusetts 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	1,321,000	60,000
Corporate	344,000	43,000
Other private	225,000	37,000
Federal	74,000	20,000
State	608,000	41,000
Local	439,000	46,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	884,000	44,000
Ownerships	21,000	1,000
Owners	39,000	3,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	59.1	4.8	63.4	7.1
Education (College)	72.1	5.4	69.9	7.8
Gender (Male)	81.3	2.8	78.7	4.4
Minority	<1	<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	36.6	4	75.1	7.3
50-99	29.4	3.4	17.7	2.7
100-499	25.4	3.4	7	1.3
500-999	3.3	1.3	<1	<1
1,000+	5.2	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 42.0 ac (SE = 2.9); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	82.1	4.7	85.6	6.7
Privacy	73	4.9	74.4	6.8
Wildlife habitat	75.9	4.9	71.9	6.7
Nature protection	74.9	4.9	70.8	6.8
Water protection	64.7	4.9	54.8	6.4
Recreation	53.8	4.5	52.1	6.5
Family legacy	57	4.6	51.1	6.5
Raise family	43.8	4.4	44.9	5.9
Firewood	33.5	3.9	28.8	4.7
Land investment	35.5	3.8	25	4.5
Timber products	33.5	3.6	14.7	2.7
Hunting	25.8	3.2	14.6	3
Nontimber products	11.7	2.1	6.2	1.9

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	76.7	5	76.5	7
Property taxes	73.5	4.7	65.2	6.4
Insects or diseases	68.7	4.7	64.4	6.7
Invasive plants	51.1	4.4	57.8	6.1
Climate change	55.8	4.7	56	6.2
Water pollution	46.7	4.2	54.7	6.5
Vandalism	64.4	4.6	53.5	6.2
Trespassing	53.7	4.4	46.6	6.2
Government regulation	55.7	4.5	45.6	5.9
Air pollution	46.9	4.4	44.1	5.9
Drought	33.1	3.9	41.5	5.9
Off-road vehicles	41.8	4	40.6	5.8
Wind or ice storms	38.4	3.7	39.9	5.7
Development	38.2	4	38.8	5.9
Wildfire	40	4.1	38	5.8
Animal damage	12.6	2.5	7.1	2.1

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	8.3	2	11.6	3
Cut trees - own use	56	3.7	51.6	5.2
Cut trees - sale	34.8	3.3	17.6	3
Insects management	13.7	2.2	6.8	1.9
Invasives	35.2	3.4	35.2	4.8
Livestock grazing	15.6	2.6	7.8	1.6
Nontimber products	26.8	3.2	30.8	4.8
Reduced fire hazard	10	2.2	6.4	2
Roads	21.3	2.8	10	2.4
Trails	38.9	3.6	29.7	4.3
Wildlife habitat	31	3.3	23.7	4
None	14.4	2.5	27.3	5.2

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	47.6	3.7	35.7	4.7
Conservation easements	24.1	3.0	14.4	3.3
Cost-share programs	9.7	2.0	3.8	1.2
Green certification	8.2	1.5	1.6	<1
Management plan	56.0	3.4	38.1	5.0
Property tax program	67.1	3.3	45.4	5.3