



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

MISSISSIPPI

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



63 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

38%
COLLEGE DEGREE

77% MALE

4% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

25%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

18%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

11%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

15%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

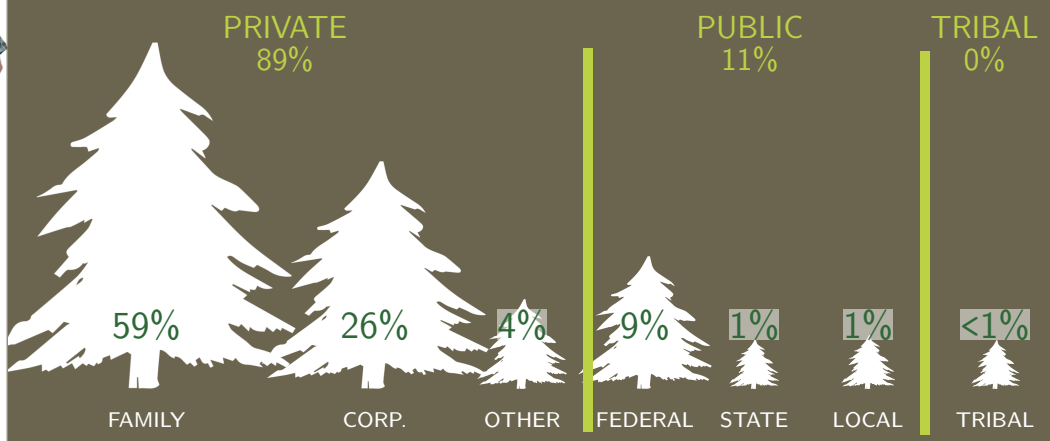
33%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

8%



WHO OWNS MISSISSIPPI'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **20%**
Cost-share programs **7%**
Management plan **5%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Green certification **1%**
Property tax program **0%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Mississippi's Family Forest Ownerships

11,113,000 ACRES

120,000 OWNERSHIPS

224,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

92 acres

Median = 28 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Family legacy
Land investment
Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
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 230 family forest ownerships from Mississippi 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	11,432,000	167,000
Corporate	4,950,000	148,000
Other private	759,000	64,000
Federal	1,675,000	54,000
State	228,000	36,000
Local	269,000	39,000
Tribal	18,000	10,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	11,113,000	341,000
Ownerships	120,000	7,000
Owners	224,000	15,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	54.2	3.5	43.2	6.2
Education (College)	64.9	3.5	38.4	5.3
Gender (Male)	80.5	2	76.9	4.6
Minority	1.9	<1	3.7	1.8

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	12.8	1.6	61.1	7.5
50-99	13.8	1.7	19.3	3.1
100-499	36.6	2.7	16.7	2.2
500-999	13.7	1.7	1.8	<1
1,000+	23.2	2.2	1.1	<1

Mean size = 92.3 ac (SE = 9.6); Median size = 28 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Family legacy	79.6	3.4	73.2	6.9
Land investment	78.4	3.5	73	7.8
Beauty or scenery	73.1	3.5	70.3	7.3
Wildlife habitat	79.5	3.6	69.5	8.6
Privacy	61.4	3.3	65.3	7.2
Hunting	70.4	3.4	59.1	6.8
Nature protection	62.2	3.3	56.2	6.6
Raise family	42	3.2	51.9	6.7
Timber products	75.2	3.3	46.3	5.9
Water protection	54.3	3.2	45.2	5.6
Recreation	43.2	3.1	42.5	5.9
Firewood	8.1	1.5	16.6	4.6
Nontimber products	4.6	1.1	3.5	1.6

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	78.3	3.2	80.8	6.4
Trespassing	80.9	3.4	79.8	7.3
Vandalism	72.9	3.4	79.1	7.3
Government regulation	70	3.4	74.5	7.1
Keeping land intact	78	3.5	69.4	6.8
Insects or diseases	68.8	3.5	68.4	6.9
Water pollution	47.6	3.1	54.8	6.9
Wildfire	63.3	3.4	50.2	6.1
Wind or ice storms	55.7	3.3	47.3	6.6
Air pollution	35.6	2.9	37.4	6.2
Invasive plants	43.5	3.1	35.8	5.9
Drought	37.3	2.9	35.6	5.3
Development	31	2.7	34.5	5.7
Animal damage	35.7	2.7	26	5.3
Off-road vehicles	21.5	2.3	21.3	4.4
Climate change	23.5	2.8	17.2	3.7

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	25.4	2.2	6.5	1.4
Cut trees - own use	15.8	1.8	18.2	4.6
Cut trees - sale	53.4	2.5	25.4	4.4
Insects management	13	1.5	10.8	4.2
Invasives	28.5	2.3	15.1	3.6
Livestock grazing	8.9	1.4	8.9	2.9
Nontimber products	11	1.6	9.6	2.4
Reduced fire hazard	20.8	2	8.4	3.2
Roads	33.3	2.4	19.4	4
Trails	33.4	2.4	29	5.2
Wildlife habitat	50.2	2.5	33.1	5
None	17.7	1.9	30.9	4.8

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	47.0	2.6	20.4	3.9
Conservation easements	3.8	<1	1.5	<1
Cost-share programs	23.7	2.1	6.6	1.8
Green certification	6.6	1.3	1.2	<1
Management plan	22.4	2.0	5.5	1.3
Property tax program	3.0	<1	<1	<1