



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

MONTANA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

68%
COLLEGE DEGREE

74% MALE

<1% MINORITY



WHO OWNS MONTANA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
22%

PUBLIC
73%

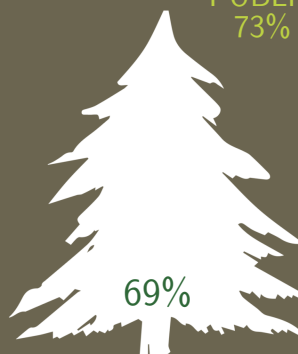
TRIBAL
4%



FAMILY

CORP.

OTHER



FEDERAL



STATE



LOCAL



TRIBAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **24%**
Management plan **12%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Cost-share programs **3%**
Green certification **2%**
Property tax program **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Keeping land intact
Wildfire
Trespassing or poaching
Property taxes
Invasive plants

BY THE NUMBERS Montana's Family Forest Ownerships

2,888,000 ACRES

29,000 OWNERSHIPS

61,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

100 acres

Median = 22 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Privacy
Water protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

5%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

51%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

21%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

56%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

21%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

46%



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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 152 family forest owners from Montana 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	2,903,000	124,000
Corporate	2,651,000	119,000
Other private	263,000	39,000
Federal	17,953,000	211,000
State	1,068,000	78,000
Local	19,000	9,000
Tribal	1,140,000	73,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	2,888,000	137,000
Ownerships	29,000	3,000
Owners	61,000	7,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	54.7	3.8	60.1	8.8
Education (College)	63.3	4.2	67.5	9.8
Gender (Male)	74.9	2.5	74	5.4
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	14.8	2.4	73.7	9.5
50-99	5.3	1.5	8.9	2.5
100-499	24.1	2.8	13.2	2
500-999	16.3	2.2	2.5	<1
1,000+	39.5	3.3	1.7	<1

Mean size = 99.9 ac (SE = 10.6); Median size = 22 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	79.4	3.9	90.9	9.1
Wildlife habitat	75.8	4	78.3	8.7
Nature protection	70.5	3.9	78.3	9.3
Privacy	66.9	4.1	74.5	9.1
Water protection	69	4	65.5	8.7
Family legacy	63.6	3.9	61.4	8.9
Recreation	54.7	3.8	50.2	7.6
Land investment	53	3.7	45.8	7.2
Raise family	43.9	3.6	34.7	7.5
Hunting	51.4	4.2	31.5	5.9
Firewood	25.1	2.8	19.6	4.6
Timber products	22.1	2.6	8.2	2.3
Nontimber products	5.6	1.3	3.7	1.8

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	76.3	4	81.3	9.2
Wildfire	81.6	4.1	79.2	8.2
Trespassing	66.1	4.1	68.5	8.8
Property taxes	69	4.1	68.3	8.5
Invasive plants	74	4.2	62.6	8.1
Vandalism	49.7	3.8	60.9	9
Insects or diseases	69.9	4.1	60.7	8.3
Drought	66.2	3.9	59.1	8.2
Off-road vehicles	29.4	3.1	52	8.7
Climate change	36.9	3.4	51.3	7.9
Development	45.8	3.6	49.5	8
Water pollution	35.9	3.7	41.7	7.8
Government regulation	66	3.9	39.6	6.6
Wind or ice storms	30.3	3.1	37.8	7.6
Air pollution	29.8	3	37.3	7
Animal damage	17.9	2.4	14.2	4.9

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	12.8	2	19.3	5.9
Cut trees - own use	52	3	51.2	6.6
Cut trees - sale	27.3	2.6	4.6	1.4
Insects management	20.7	2.3	20.9	5.3
Invasives	56.1	3	56.4	6.6
Livestock grazing	60.8	2.9	23.9	4.9
Nontimber products	14.6	2.2	23.3	5.7
Reduced fire hazard	46.6	2.9	45.9	6.5
Roads	26.9	2.5	22.2	5.8
Trails	10.7	1.9	5.6	2.3
Wildlife habitat	31.1	2.8	21.2	5.8
None	6.1	1.4	9.9	3.2

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	33.8	2.9	23.7	5.4
Conservation easements	14.9	2.0	2.9	1.0
Cost-share programs	15.5	2.1	2.7	1.2
Green certification	5.3	1.4	2.4	1.1
Management plan	23.7	2.4	12.2	3.3
Property tax program	3.4	1.0	1.0	<1