



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NEBRASKA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

62 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

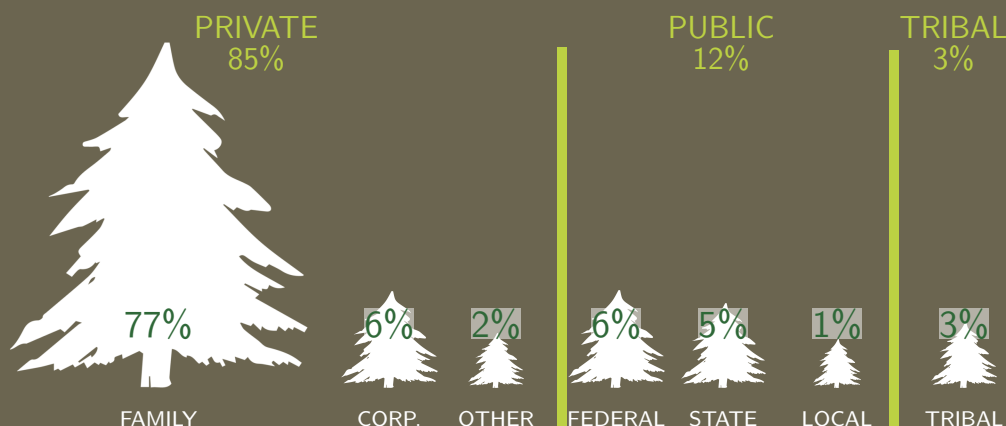
70%
COLLEGE DEGREE

82% MALE

3% MINORITY



WHO OWNS NEBRASKA'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **10%**
Cost-share programs **9%**
Management plan **3%**
Property tax program **2%**
Conservation easements **0%**
Green certification **0%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Nebraska's Family Forest Ownerships

1,081,000 ACRES

20,000 OWNERSHIPS

40,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
53 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Beauty or scenery
Water protection
Family legacy



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

10%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

37%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

5%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

37%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

17%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

15%



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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 Nebraska 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	1,144,000	59,000
Corporate	89,000	20,000
Other private	28,000	13,000
Federal	89,000	20,000
State	68,000	19,000
Local	22,000	10,000
Tribal	41,000	15,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	1,081,000	49,000
Ownerships	20,000	2,000
Owners	40,000	3,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	50.7	3.7	41.4	5.2
Education (College)	61.4	4.1	69.7	6.9
Gender (Male)	83.4	2.4	82.3	3.8
Minority	3.7	1	2.9	1.8

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	28.6	3.1	75.1	7
50-99	15.2	2.2	13	2
100-499	31.7	3	10.4	1.2
500-999	11.4	1.8	<1	<1
1,000+	13.1	1.7	<1	<1

Mean size = 53.0 ac (SE = 3.6); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	79.5	4.3	76.5	8
Nature protection	64.9	3.9	63.8	6.9
Beauty or scenery	67.3	4.1	60.9	6.3
Water protection	58.6	3.9	59.4	6.2
Family legacy	61.9	3.9	51.6	7
Hunting	57.2	3.8	43.8	6.5
Privacy	49.1	3.8	42.9	6.6
Raise family	37.1	3.4	38.2	6.3
Recreation	41.2	3.7	35.9	6.7
Land investment	33.8	3.3	20.4	4.4
Firewood	12.4	2	10.6	2.7
Nontimber products	8.1	1.7	4.7	1.9
Timber products	6.3	1.5	3.4	2.4

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	89.1	3.3	81.4	6.9
Keeping land intact	81.6	4	77.6	7.5
Trespassing	72.9	4	74.1	6.7
Government regulation	70.2	4	67.2	7.1
Vandalism	55.8	4.3	62.7	7.4
Invasive plants	63	4.3	61	7.2
Insects or diseases	55.3	4	60.8	7.6
Water pollution	48.8	3.7	48.4	7
Drought	56.1	3.9	47.6	6.7
Wildfire	52.3	4	40.2	6.9
Development	33.8	3.7	33.1	5.6
Air pollution	31	3.2	31.1	6
Climate change	25	3.5	26.9	5.8
Wind or ice storms	28.7	3.7	26.1	5.1
Animal damage	17.5	2.6	17.9	4.9
Off-road vehicles	17.9	2.6	15.6	4.1

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	19.6	2.1	8.2	3.1
Cut trees - own use	33	2.9	37.4	5.1
Cut trees - sale	10.6	1.8	9.8	2.9
Insects management	5.5	1.2	5.1	2.3
Invasives	52.3	2.9	37	4.8
Livestock grazing	60.7	2.9	42.5	4.9
Nontimber products	27.8	2.7	24.9	4
Reduced fire hazard	20.9	2.2	15.4	3.2
Roads	7.4	1.4	4.5	2.9
Trails	15.6	2.1	6.8	1.7
Wildlife habitat	31.3	2.8	17.2	3.3
None	8.9	1.7	9.9	2.7

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	19.5	2.5	10.0	2.5
Conservation easements	<1	<1	<1	<1
Cost-share programs	15.2	2.2	9.3	2.4
Green certification	<1	<1	<1	<1
Management plan	6.1	1.5	3.4	1.9
Property tax program	<1	<1	2.0	1.8