



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NEW JERSEY

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

57%
COLLEGE DEGREE

67% MALE

12% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

35%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

52%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

8%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

26%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

32%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

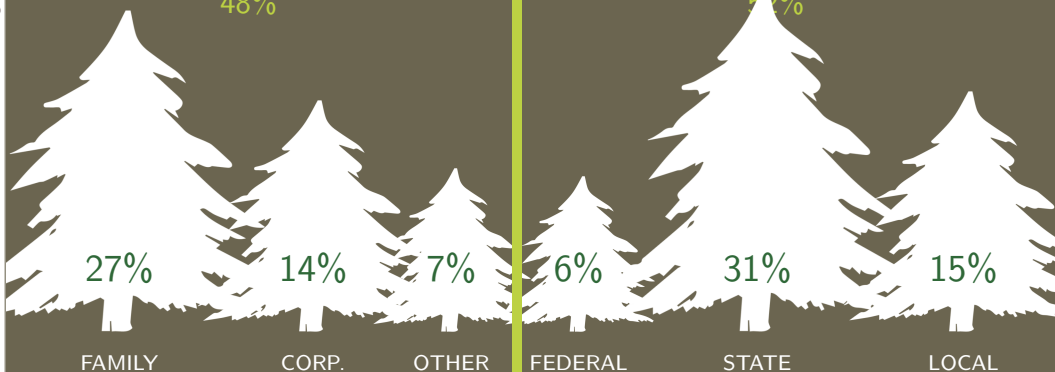
13%



WHO OWNS NEW JERSEY'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
48%

PUBLIC
52%



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **51%**
Management advice **45%**
Management plan **43%**
Conservation easements **15%**
Green certification **5%**
Cost-share programs **4%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS New Jersey's Family Forest Ownerships

325,000 ACRES

11,000 OWNERSHIPS

21,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

29 acres

Median = 18 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Nature protection
Privacy
Wildlife habitat
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 103 family forest ownerships from New Jersey 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	531,000	34,000
Corporate	275,000	28,000
Other private	137,000	22,000
Federal	125,000	20,000
State	617,000	28,000
Local	297,000	29,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	325,000	20,000
Ownerships	11,000	<1
Owners	21,000	2,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Age (65+)	59.6	4.8	55.6	6.3
Education (College)	54.7	5.3	57.3	6.6
Gender (Male)	73.2	3.2	67.3	4.6
Minority	7.7	2.2	12	3.5

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	----- Percentage -----			
10-49	60.4	4.8	88.4	6.1
50-99	17.9	2.8	7.9	1.5
100-499	18.9	3	3.6	<1
500-999	1.9	1	<1	<1
1,000+	<1	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 29.2 ac (SE = 1.7); Median size = 18 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Beauty or scenery	82.5	5.1	82	6.3
Nature protection	76.4	5.4	80.7	7.4
Privacy	77.7	5.3	78.2	6.2
Wildlife habitat	77.7	5.2	75.7	6.9
Water protection	70.8	5.2	69.2	6.8
Family legacy	66.6	5.3	66.8	6.6
Raise family	53.8	4.8	52.7	6.3
Land investment	54.2	5.1	50.1	6.1
Recreation	51.9	4.7	49.8	6
Hunting	50.4	4.8	39.2	5.1
Firewood	33.2	4.1	32.9	5.1
Timber products	20.4	3.4	14.3	3.3
Nontimber products	10.6	2.4	11.2	3.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Property taxes	96.2	4.6	96.5	4.9
Trespassing	80.2	4.9	80.5	6.2
Government regulation	73.4	5	73.7	6.8
Keeping land intact	73.4	5	73.3	6.7
Vandalism	72.5	4.7	73.1	6
Insects or diseases	68.9	5.1	66	6.5
Water pollution	61.9	4.9	63.5	6.3
Development	58.1	4.9	61.5	6.5
Air pollution	50.8	4.7	57.4	6.6
Invasive plants	58.3	5	55	6.4
Wildfire	55.7	4.8	52.8	6.2
Wind or ice storms	52.1	5.2	52.1	6.5
Climate change	41.5	4.4	44.8	6.1
Drought	35.8	4.3	40	5.9
Off-road vehicles	39.1	4.3	34.8	5.4
Animal damage	33.8	4.2	34.2	5.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Controlled burn	1.9	1	<1	<1
Cut trees - own use	52.3	3.7	52.2	4.8
Cut trees - sale	42.8	3.8	34.7	4.7
Insects management	10.4	2.4	8.2	2.3
Invasives	34.2	3.7	26.4	4
Livestock grazing	7	2	7.4	2.6
Nontimber products	15.1	2.7	16.4	3.4
Reduced fire hazard	14.5	2.7	12.7	3
Roads	9.8	2.5	5.7	1.8
Trails	32.5	3.7	26.3	4.1
Wildlife habitat	38.3	3.7	31.9	4.4
None	16	2.6	22.9	4.3

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Advice	53.6	3.8	45.1	4.8
Conservation easements	16.0	2.6	15.3	3.5
Cost-share programs	7.5	2.1	4.1	1.3
Green certification	6.6	1.8	4.6	1.6
Management plan	55.8	3.7	43.1	4.8
Property tax program	63.4	3.6	51.4	4.9