



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NEW YORK

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

63 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

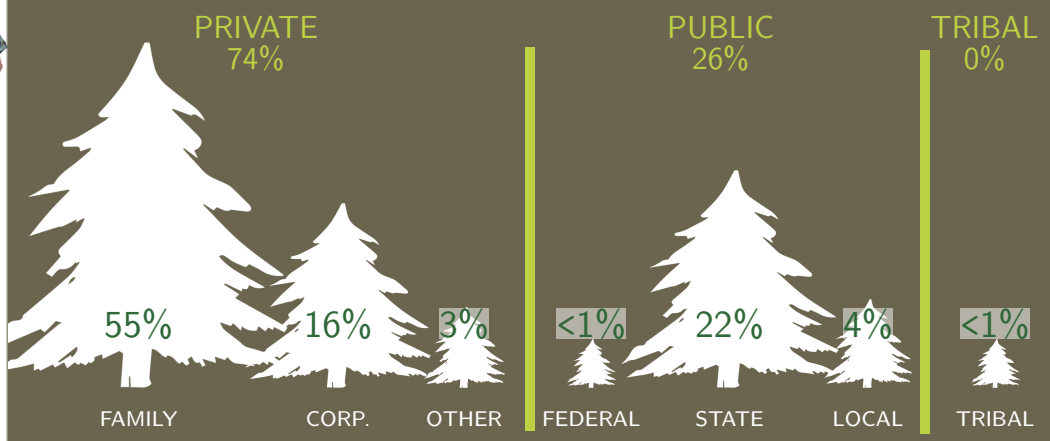
57%
COLLEGE DEGREE

85% MALE

4% MINORITY



WHO OWNS NEW YORK'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **17%**
Management plan **8%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Property tax program **3%**
Green certification **1%**
Cost-share programs **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Trespassing or poaching
Keeping land intact
Dumping or vandalism
Insects or diseases

BY THE NUMBERS New York's Family Forest Ownerships

9,283,000 ACRES

187,000 OWNERSHIPS

348,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
50 acres

Median = 25 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

14%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

50%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

5%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

16%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

30%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

9%



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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 260 family forest ownerships from New York 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	10,272,000	151,000
Corporate	2,937,000	121,000
Other private	553,000	59,000
Federal	154,000	28,000
State	4,054,000	56,000
Local	664,000	63,000
Tribal	40,000	16,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	9,283,000	262,000
Ownerships	187,000	8,000
Owners	348,000	17,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	50.4	2.9	46.7	4.2
Education (College)	59.7	3.3	56.6	4.8
Gender (Male)	82.4	1.8	84.5	2.3
Minority	5.4	1.1	4.3	1.2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	30.7	2.4	71	5
50-99	21.7	2	16.3	1.8
100-499	40.4	2.6	12.5	1.1
500-999	2.9	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	4.4	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 49.6 ac (SE = 2.5); Median size = 25 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	82.2	3.2	86.6	4.6
Wildlife habitat	75.8	3.2	81.6	4.5
Nature protection	71.9	3.3	78.4	4.8
Privacy	71.7	3.3	78.2	4.8
Water protection	61.6	3.1	65.9	4.5
Recreation	61.5	3.2	63.3	4.6
Family legacy	55.7	3.2	57	4.4
Hunting	57.4	3.4	54	5.1
Raise family	47.8	2.9	52.3	4.3
Land investment	43.8	2.9	39.3	4.1
Firewood	33.1	2.5	31.7	3.8
Timber products	34.2	2.5	23.2	2.9
Nontimber products	12.7	1.6	11.2	2.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	89.1	2.8	86.1	4.3
Trespassing	81.2	3.2	83.7	4.8
Keeping land intact	76.4	3.2	78.5	4.4
Vandalism	75.2	3.2	77.8	4.6
Insects or diseases	73.3	3.3	75.3	4.9
Government regulation	70.8	3.2	68.2	4.6
Water pollution	55.2	3.1	58.8	4.4
Invasive plants	52.7	3	55.3	4.3
Air pollution	53.4	3	55	4.4
Climate change	48.9	2.9	52.4	4.3
Development	46.3	2.9	50.4	4.4
Wildfire	46.3	3	48.6	4.5
Wind or ice storms	46.2	3	46.2	4.2
Off-road vehicles	37.3	2.5	39	3.9
Drought	36.7	2.7	38.5	3.9
Animal damage	28.9	2.4	26.3	3.3

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	2.6	<1	3.2	1.3
Cut trees - own use	54	2.5	49.6	3.7
Cut trees - sale	27.1	2.2	13.7	2.3
Insects management	5.3	1.1	5.2	1.8
Invasives	17.2	1.8	16.3	2.4
Livestock grazing	6.8	1.2	5.8	1.9
Nontimber products	27.1	2.1	32.9	3.5
Reduced fire hazard	7.2	1.2	8.7	1.8
Roads	14.6	1.6	6.5	1.4
Trails	36.3	2.3	31.4	3.1
Wildlife habitat	33.1	2.3	29.9	3.2
None	19.5	1.9	23.9	2.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	25.7	2.1	16.7	2.5
Conservation easements	6.1	1.1	2.8	<1
Cost-share programs	1.6	<1	<1	<1
Green certification	2.7	<1	<1	<1
Management plan	16.4	1.8	7.6	1.6
Property tax program	10.0	1.4	2.5	<1