



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NORTH CAROLINA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION-MAKER?

67 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

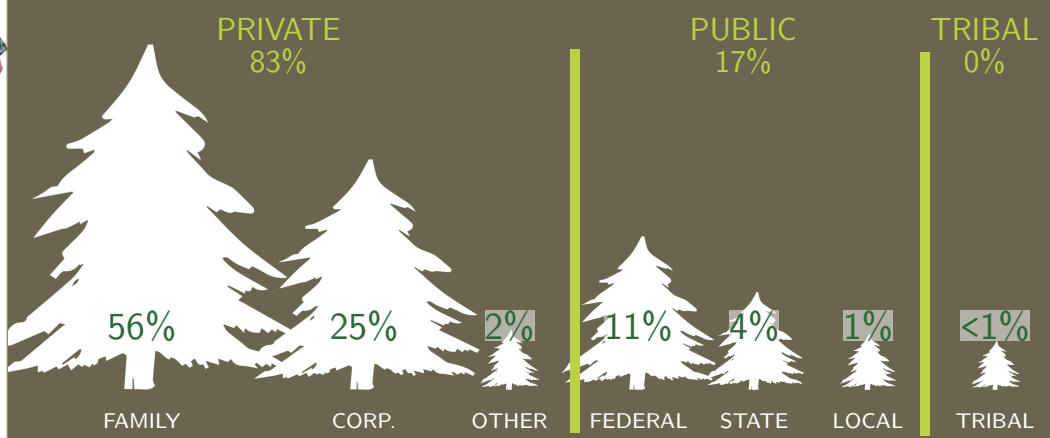
62%
COLLEGE DEGREE

72% MALE

3% MINORITY



WHO OWNS NORTH CAROLINA'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **20%**
Property tax program **19%**
Management plan **18%**
Cost-share programs **3%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Green certification **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Trespassing or poaching
Dumping or vandalism
Wildfire
Water pollution

BY THE NUMBERS North Carolina's Family Forest Ownerships

9,485,000 ACRES

179,000 OWNERSHIPS

354,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE
53 acres

Median = 20 acres



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

21%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

21%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

9%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

15%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

14%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

12%



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Nature protection
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 240 family forest ownerships from North Carolina 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	10,548,000	162,000
Corporate	4,686,000	141,000
Other private	306,000	41,000
Federal	2,082,000	60,000
State	842,000	68,000
Local	269,000	37,000
Tribal	25,000	12,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	9,485,000	284,000
Ownerships	179,000	9,000
Owners	354,000	20,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	63.1	3.3	62.7	5.3
Education (College)	65.2	3.7	61.5	5.8
Gender (Male)	80	2	72.5	4.1
Minority	2.6	<1	3.5	1.6

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	28.3	2.4	75.7	6
50-99	15.6	1.8	12.7	1.8
100-499	34.2	2.8	10.4	1.3
500-999	11.3	1.5	<1	<1
1,000+	10.6	1.7	<1	<1

Mean size = 53.1 ac (SE = 4.0); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	72.5	3.7	67.5	5.7
Wildlife habitat	73.9	3.6	66.9	5.6
Privacy	62.2	3.3	63.7	5.7
Nature protection	63.5	3.7	63.1	5.8
Water protection	62.4	3.6	62.8	5.6
Land investment	70.8	3.6	62.6	5.7
Family legacy	72.8	3.4	57.7	5.5
Raise family	45.3	3.1	42.5	5.4
Hunting	44.9	3.2	37.1	4.7
Recreation	38.1	3.3	29.8	4.3
Timber products	55.6	3.2	27.8	3.2
Firewood	11.3	1.6	15.3	3.4
Nontimber products	4.6	1.1	2.5	<1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	79.8	3.3	76.3	6.1
Trespassing	76.8	3.6	72.1	6
Vandalism	74	3.4	65.9	6
Wildfire	68.3	3.4	61	5.8
Water pollution	62.8	3.5	59.9	5.9
Insects or diseases	67.8	3.4	59.8	5.7
Keeping land intact	73	3.4	59	5.7
Government regulation	66.5	3.6	58.1	5.5
Air pollution	48.1	3.2	52.7	5.5
Development	46.4	3.3	46.1	5.6
Drought	49.1	3.1	45.1	5.5
Wind or ice storms	51.6	3.4	44.2	5.1
Climate change	39.3	3	43.7	5.3
Invasive plants	40.9	3.4	40.8	5.6
Off-road vehicles	38.3	2.9	38	5.1
Animal damage	25.2	2.7	21.2	4

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	15.9	1.9	4.6	1.2
Cut trees - own use	18.5	2	20.9	3.9
Cut trees - sale	41.5	2.6	20.6	3.5
Insects management	9.7	1.6	8.5	2.6
Invasives	15.9	1.9	14.7	2.9
Livestock grazing	10	1.6	7.2	2
Nontimber products	7.9	1.3	13.4	3.3
Reduced fire hazard	14.8	1.8	12.3	3.3
Roads	22.5	2.2	9.7	2
Trails	20.5	2.1	12	2.7
Wildlife habitat	25	2.3	14	2.7
None	23.4	2	35.5	3.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	44.1	2.5	19.6	2.6
Conservation easements	6.9	1.3	2.5	<1
Cost-share programs	15.1	1.8	3.4	<1
Green certification	4.6	1.1	<1	<1
Management plan	45.8	2.6	18.2	2.4
Property tax program	39.4	2.5	19.0	2.5