



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

OHIO

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



63 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

45%
COLLEGE DEGREE

74% MALE

2% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

19%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

52%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

8%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

31%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

23%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

6%



WHO OWNS OHIO'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
85%

PUBLIC
15%



69%

FAMILY



12%

CORP.



3%

OTHER



5%

FEDERAL



7%

STATE



4%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **23%**
Property tax program **14%**
Management plan **12%**
Cost-share programs **5%**
Green certification **4%**
Conservation easements **3%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Ohio's Family Forest Ownerships

4,659,000 ACRES

115,000 OWNERSHIPS

208,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

40 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
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 219 family forest ownerships from Ohio 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	5,457,000	104,000
Corporate	982,000	73,000
Other private	217,000	37,000
Federal	355,000	27,000
State	529,000	32,000
Local	318,000	38,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	4,659,000	145,000
Ownerships	115,000	5,000
Owners	208,000	10,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	48.5	3.1	47.9	4.5
Education (College)	49.6	3.4	44.5	4.6
Gender (Male)	80	2.1	74.5	3.4
Minority	1.6	<1	1.5	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	39.7	2.8	78	5.2
50-99	24	2.3	14.3	1.8
100-499	31.2	2.7	7.5	<1
500-999	2.9	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	2.2	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 40.4 ac (SE = 2.2); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	77.7	3.6	83	5.5
Beauty or scenery	78.4	3.5	80.1	4.9
Privacy	71.6	3.5	76	5.1
Nature protection	69.1	3.6	73.8	5.6
Water protection	60.9	3.5	66.4	5.3
Raise family	58.3	3.5	58.8	5
Family legacy	66.5	3.4	58.5	4.5
Recreation	53.3	3.2	54.6	4.7
Land investment	51.2	3.3	51.3	4.7
Hunting	53.4	3.3	40.4	4.3
Firewood	23.5	2.3	31.2	4.1
Timber products	33.2	2.7	25.9	3.2
Nontimber products	7.5	1.5	7.5	2.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	83.3	3.4	82.6	5.1
Trespassing	82.2	3.5	81.6	5.2
Vandalism	76.9	3.5	77.9	5.1
Keeping land intact	76.8	3.4	76	5.3
Insects or diseases	70	3.5	71.7	5.4
Government regulation	67.4	3.5	63.8	5
Water pollution	57.4	3.3	63.7	5.1
Air pollution	47.7	3	59.2	4.9
Invasive plants	53.8	3.3	55.4	4.9
Development	47.2	3.2	45.2	4.8
Wildfire	43.1	3	45.1	4.8
Off-road vehicles	40.3	2.9	37.7	4.1
Climate change	34.6	2.9	35.7	4.1
Drought	31.2	2.7	35	4.8
Wind or ice storms	35.8	2.9	33.3	4.2
Animal damage	23.8	2.4	24	3.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	3.1	<1	2.9	1.1
Cut trees - own use	44.1	2.6	52.2	3.6
Cut trees - sale	25.4	2.3	19.2	2.9
Insects management	8.4	1.4	7.5	2.2
Invasives	33.9	2.5	30.9	3.4
Livestock grazing	9.8	1.6	9.7	2.2
Nontimber products	30.6	2.4	26.4	3.5
Reduced fire hazard	7.7	1.4	5.9	1.8
Roads	11.5	1.7	9.2	2.1
Trails	39.9	2.5	32.6	3.2
Wildlife habitat	32	2.5	23	3
None	14.9	1.8	15.5	2.6

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	33.4	2.4	23.0	3.0
Conservation easements	5.0	1.1	3.2	1.5
Cost-share programs	6.8	1.3	4.6	1.6
Green certification	4.5	1.0	3.9	1.4
Management plan	25.4	2.2	11.6	1.8
Property tax program	20.8	2.1	14.4	2.7