



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

PENNSYLVANIA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



61 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

48%
COLLEGE DEGREE

83% MALE

<1% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

17%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

43%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

7%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

17%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

31%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

11%



WHO OWNS PENNSYLVANIA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
70%

PUBLIC
30%



51%

FAMILY



14%

CORP.



4%

OTHER



4%

FEDERAL



23%

STATE



3%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **51%**
Management advice **13%**
Green certification **8%**
Management plan **6%**
Conservation easements **4%**
Cost-share programs **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Pennsylvania's Family Forest Ownerships

7,501,000 ACRES

163,000 OWNERSHIPS

326,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

46 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Water protection
Privacy
Nature 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 184 family forest ownerships from Pennsylvania 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	8,550,000	144,000
Corporate	2,381,000	115,000
Other private	729,000	68,000
Federal	641,000	31,000
State	3,895,000	50,000
Local	558,000	58,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	7,501,000	249,000
Ownerships	163,000	8,000
Owners	326,000	17,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	42.4	3.4	37.6	4.5
Education (College)	53.7	3.9	48.3	5.1
Gender (Male)	81.8	2.3	82.7	3.3
Minority	<1	<1	<1	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	34.3	3	75.4	6.2
50-99	21.4	2.3	14.4	1.8
100-499	34.1	2.9	9.7	1.1
500-999	7.1	1.5	<1	<1
1,000+	3.1	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 46.0 ac (SE = 2.6); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	90.2	4	94.9	5.6
Wildlife habitat	87.4	3.9	85.2	5.5
Water protection	77.9	4.2	79.7	6.5
Privacy	80.6	3.9	79.5	5.8
Nature protection	77.3	4	76.8	5.8
Family legacy	68.8	3.8	62.3	5.3
Recreation	59.6	3.6	54	5
Hunting	64.3	3.7	50.9	4.9
Land investment	55.6	3.6	47.9	4.9
Raise family	47.7	3.4	46.4	4.7
Firewood	29	2.8	33.9	4.4
Timber products	33.8	3	22.1	3.5
Nontimber products	8.3	1.6	10.1	2.2

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	88.6	3.8	88.2	5.9
Insects or diseases	76.7	3.9	81.6	6
Property taxes	81.8	3.6	81	5.6
Trespassing	81.8	3.8	80.9	5.7
Vandalism	75.4	3.9	75.4	5.5
Water pollution	63.3	3.8	67.1	5.7
Government regulation	72.4	3.8	65.7	5.4
Development	50.3	3.5	53.9	5.5
Wildfire	48.5	3.7	52.8	5.6
Invasive plants	49.3	3.5	51	5.2
Air pollution	45.2	3.4	50.2	5.2
Climate change	42.6	3.3	45.7	5.1
Drought	35.7	3.1	40.8	4.8
Off-road vehicles	39.1	3.3	36.5	4.6
Wind or ice storms	38	3.1	35.5	4.5
Animal damage	28.4	2.8	23	3.6

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	1.4	<1	3.2	1.8
Cut trees - own use	43.9	3	42.7	4.2
Cut trees - sale	31.1	2.7	16.6	2.7
Insects management	8.8	1.6	7.4	1.9
Invasives	20	2.3	16.7	3
Livestock grazing	8.1	1.7	6	1.5
Nontimber products	29.7	2.6	27.6	3.6
Reduced fire hazard	6.6	1.5	10.8	2.9
Roads	18.8	2.2	9.6	2.1
Trails	32.3	2.6	30.3	3.5
Wildlife habitat	38.1	2.9	31.2	3.8
None	17.3	2.2	23.3	4

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	25.0	2.4	12.6	2.5
Conservation easements	7.3	1.5	4.4	1.6
Cost-share programs	3.9	1.1	<1	<1
Green certification	14.1	1.9	8.2	1.8
Management plan	14.7	2.1	6.3	1.7
Property tax program	63.2	2.7	50.7	4.4