



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

SOUTH CAROLINA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

57%
COLLEGE DEGREE

64% MALE

7% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

27%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

14%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

4%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

21%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

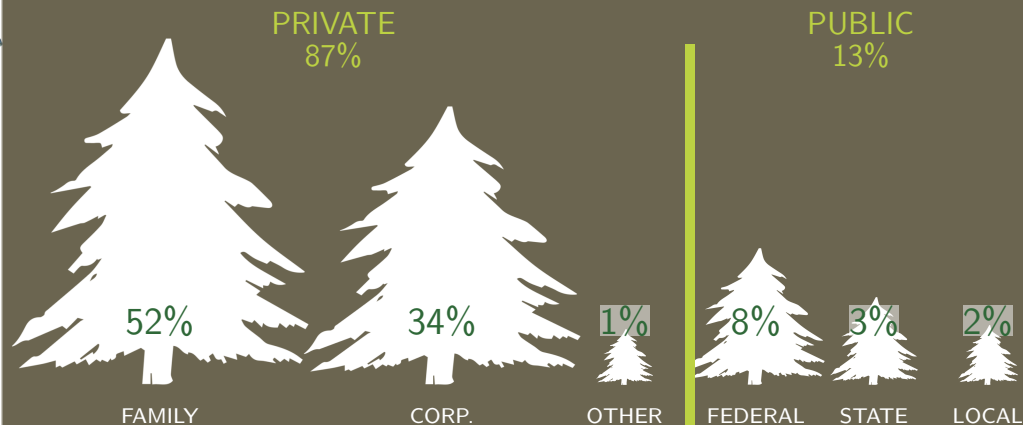
21%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

10%



WHO OWNS SOUTH CAROLINA'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **28%**
Property tax program **20%**
Management plan **13%**
Cost-share programs **7%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Green certification **3%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Trespassing or poaching
Property taxes
Dumping or vandalism
Insects or diseases
Wildfire

BY THE NUMBERS South Carolina's Family Forest Ownerships

6,259,000 ACRES

64,000 OWNERSHIPS

181,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

97 acres

Median = 40 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Nature protection
Family legacy
Privacy



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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 266 family forest ownerships from South 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	6,689,000	138,000
Corporate	4,325,000	130,000
Other private	172,000	31,000
Federal	1,043,000	50,000
State	430,000	49,000
Local	199,000	32,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	6,259,000	182,000
Ownerships	64,000	3,000
Owners	181,000	20,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	55.6	3.1	52.5	5
Education (College)	75	3.5	57.2	5.6
Gender (Male)	75.4	2	63.8	4.2
Minority	4.1	<1	7.3	2

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	15	1.6	56.8	5.9
50-99	16.2	1.7	22.7	2.9
100-499	35.6	2.6	17.8	1.9
500-999	12	1.6	1.8	<1
1,000+	21.2	2.1	<1	<1

Mean size = 97.3 ac (SE = 7.3); Median size = 40 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	77.3	3.2	72.3	5.7
Beauty or scenery	71.5	3.1	69.3	5.4
Nature protection	69	3.3	68.7	5.6
Family legacy	73	3.1	68.6	5.7
Privacy	59.7	3.1	67.5	5.2
Land investment	70.8	3.1	65.9	5.6
Water protection	65.4	3.3	61.8	5.4
Hunting	60.8	3.1	47.9	4.7
Recreation	46.6	2.9	43.3	4.8
Timber products	68.6	3	42.8	4.3
Raise family	42.1	3	39.9	4.9
Firewood	8	1.3	8.6	2.1
Nontimber products	5.3	1.1	6.2	2.3

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Trespassing	86.3	3.2	87.4	5.8
Property taxes	81.9	3.2	81.7	5.8
Vandalism	75.1	3.1	79.4	5.7
Insects or diseases	74.2	3.4	76.5	5.9
Wildfire	70.8	3.3	74.8	6.5
Keeping land intact	78.4	3.2	74.5	5.8
Government regulation	74.3	3.2	72.8	5.5
Water pollution	58.8	3.1	60.6	5.4
Wind or ice storms	67.9	3.2	56.9	5.2
Drought	50.3	3	55	6.2
Air pollution	49.6	3	54	5.1
Development	45.5	2.7	50.6	5.1
Invasive plants	48.6	3	44	4.9
Climate change	37.5	2.7	40.5	4.8
Off-road vehicles	24.9	2.3	32.7	4.9
Animal damage	34.8	2.7	25.2	3.6

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	27.8	2.2	8.2	1.6
Cut trees - own use	18	1.8	14	2.9
Cut trees - sale	56.7	2.3	27	3.2
Insects management	9	1.4	4.5	1.4
Invasives	28.8	2.2	21.3	3.5
Livestock grazing	8.4	1.4	7.5	2.1
Nontimber products	8.4	1.3	8.8	2.9
Reduced fire hazard	23.6	2	10.4	2
Roads	34.7	2.3	15.1	2.6
Trails	27.5	2.1	18.9	3.2
Wildlife habitat	41.9	2.4	21.1	3.3
None	17.6	1.8	37.6	4.3

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	53.5	2.3	28.4	3.5
Conservation easements	12.3	1.7	3.2	1.2
Cost-share programs	19.7	1.9	7.2	1.5
Green certification	9.0	1.3	2.6	1.5
Management plan	33.9	2.2	13.0	2.0
Property tax program	32.6	2.3	19.8	3.1