



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

TENNESSEE

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

47%
COLLEGE DEGREE

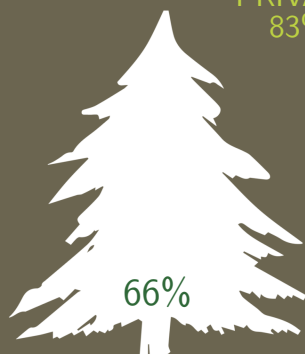
76% MALE

15% MINORITY

WHO OWNS TENNESSEE'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
83%

PUBLIC
17%



66%

FAMILY



17%

CORP.



<1%

OTHER



10%

FEDERAL



6%

STATE



<1%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **30%**
Management advice **8%**
Green certification **5%**
Management plan **4%**
Cost-share programs **1%**
Conservation easements **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Keeping land intact
Government regulation
Trespassing or poaching
Insects or diseases

BY THE NUMBERS Tennessee's Family Forest Ownerships

8,494,000 ACRES

193,000 OWNERSHIPS

335,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

44 acres

Median = 18 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
Water protection
Privacy



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

10%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

21%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

3%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

13%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

11%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

6%



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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 204 family forest ownerships from Tennessee 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	9,168,000	138,000
Corporate	2,360,000	105,000
Other private	72,000	20,000
Federal	1,384,000	51,000
State	821,000	66,000
Local	115,000	25,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	8,494,000	330,000
Ownerships	193,000	12,000
Owners	335,000	22,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	52.3	3.5	49.1	5.4
Education (College)	54.9	3.6	47	5.7
Gender (Male)	79.2	2.3	76.3	4
Minority	6.6	1.2	15.4	3.8

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	30.9	2.7	77.7	5.8
50-99	17.6	2	11.6	1.7
100-499	39.7	3.1	10.2	1.2
500-999	5.7	1.4	<1	<1
1,000+	6.1	1.4	<1	<1

Mean size = 44.1 ac (SE = 3.2); Median size = 18 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	76.6	3.8	78.6	5.9
Wildlife habitat	73.1	3.6	74.6	6.2
Nature protection	69.1	3.6	73.6	6.2
Water protection	65.1	3.6	70.7	5.9
Privacy	65.1	3.7	68.3	6.3
Land investment	64	3.6	58.3	5.7
Family legacy	65.7	3.5	56.5	4.9
Raise family	45.2	3.2	49.8	5.4
Recreation	44.8	3.2	39.3	5
Hunting	43.4	3.1	31.8	4.6
Timber products	34.8	3	21.2	4.1
Firewood	13.1	1.9	19.8	4.5
Nontimber products	4.3	1.1	8.3	2.6

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	80.6	3.5	81	6.1
Keeping land intact	73.9	3.6	74.5	6.1
Government regulation	71.6	3.8	71.5	6.2
Trespassing	75.3	3.7	69.1	5.8
Insects or diseases	65.6	3.9	68.4	6.2
Vandalism	71.9	3.6	64.8	5.6
Water pollution	55.6	3.5	60.1	5.8
Wildfire	58.6	3.5	59.1	5.9
Air pollution	42.5	3.1	52.1	5.6
Drought	45.2	3.1	51.1	5.5
Development	45.9	3.1	49.2	5.3
Invasive plants	39.8	3.1	44.5	5.8
Wind or ice storms	49	3.2	44.5	5.2
Climate change	33.7	2.9	41.1	5.1
Animal damage	24	2.5	28.5	4.3
Off-road vehicles	30.2	2.8	26.5	4.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	5.9	1.3	4.2	1.8
Cut trees - own use	24	2.4	21.4	3.7
Cut trees - sale	26.1	2.4	10	1.7
Insects management	3.8	1.1	3.5	1.3
Invasives	17.5	2.2	12.7	3
Livestock grazing	19.9	2.2	16.1	3.1
Nontimber products	19.7	2.1	21.5	3.7
Reduced fire hazard	7.9	1.6	6.1	2.2
Roads	16.5	2	3.9	<1
Trails	25.4	2.3	14.5	3.1
Wildlife habitat	24.7	2.5	11.1	2.4
None	19.9	2.1	31.2	4.2

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	15.9	2.0	7.6	1.6
Conservation easements	4.2	1.1	<1	<1
Cost-share programs	5.3	1.1	1.1	<1
Green certification	9.4	1.5	5.0	1.5
Management plan	16.6	2.1	4.5	1.1
Property tax program	48.5	2.6	29.7	4.1