



Family Forest (10+ Acres)  
Ownership Characteristics

2018

# TEXAS - WEST

## WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



**66** YEARS  
(AVERAGE AGE)

**64%**  
COLLEGE DEGREE

**64%** MALE

**23%** MINORITY

## PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

**<1%**



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

**37%**

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

**6%**

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

**44%**

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

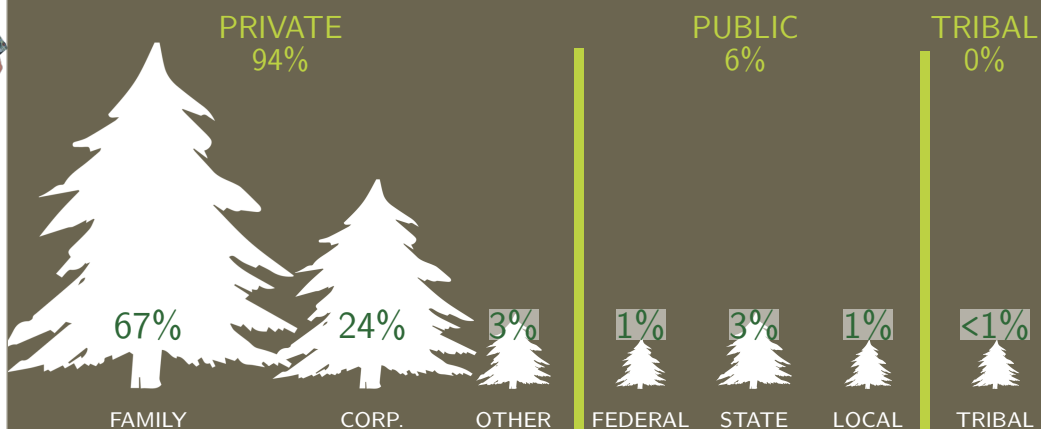
**29%**

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

**29%**



## WHO OWNS TEXAS - WEST'S FORESTS?



## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **22%**  
Property tax program **11%**  
Management plan **11%**  
Cost-share programs **4%**  
Green certification **3%**  
Conservation easements **1%**

## TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes  
Drought  
Government regulation  
Keeping land intact  
Trespassing or poaching

## BY THE NUMBERS Texas - West's Family Forest Ownerships

**32,306,000** ACRES

**163,000** OWNERSHIPS

**331,000** OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

**199 acres**

Median = 46 acres



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery  
Wildlife habitat  
Nature protection  
Water protection  
Land investment



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### TEXAS - WEST

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 226 family forest ownerships from Texas-West 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        | 33,316,000 | 475,000 |
| Corporate     | 12,186,000 | 295,000 |
| Other private | 1,545,000  | 107,000 |
| Federal       | 709,000    | 70,000  |
| State         | 1,578,000  | 105,000 |
| Local         | 536,000    | 59,000  |
| Tribal        | 7,000      | 7,000   |

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

| UNITS      | TOTAL      | SE      |
|------------|------------|---------|
| Acres      | 32,306,000 | 811,000 |
| Ownerships | 163,000    | 11,000  |
| Owners     | 331,000    | 25,000  |

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

| DEMOGRAPHIC         | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE  |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                     | Percentage |     |             |     |
| Age (65+)           | 62.6       | 3.4 | 58.5        | 7.8 |
| Education (College) | 69.4       | 3.7 | 63.6        | 8.7 |
| Gender (Male)       | 76.4       | 2.2 | 63.7        | 7.1 |
| Minority            | 12.2       | 1.6 | 22.8        | 5.6 |

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

| SIZE OF HOLDINGS | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE   |
|------------------|------------|-----|-------------|------|
| (ACRES)          | Percentage |     |             |      |
| 10-49            | 5.6        | 1.1 | 50.7        | 10.2 |
| 50-99            | 6.3        | 1.3 | 17.4        | 4.1  |
| 100-499          | 22.8       | 2.4 | 24.2        | 3.6  |
| 500-999          | 13.8       | 1.8 | 4           | <1   |
| 1,000+           | 51.5       | 3.2 | 3.7         | <1   |

Mean size = 198.8 ac (SE = 26.6); Median size = 46 acres

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

| OBJECTIVE          | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE  |
|--------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                    | Percentage |     |             |     |
| Beauty or scenery  | 79.2       | 3.5 | 87.6        | 8.2 |
| Wildlife habitat   | 79.5       | 3.5 | 82.4        | 8.8 |
| Nature protection  | 66.3       | 3.5 | 78.2        | 9.7 |
| Water protection   | 72.1       | 3.4 | 72.3        | 9.2 |
| Land investment    | 61.5       | 3.4 | 71          | 8.8 |
| Privacy            | 69         | 3.3 | 70.7        | 8.3 |
| Family legacy      | 74.2       | 3.2 | 56.2        | 7.5 |
| Hunting            | 68.9       | 3.5 | 51.7        | 8.2 |
| Recreation         | 51.9       | 3.2 | 40.3        | 7.7 |
| Raise family       | 40.2       | 2.9 | 26.8        | 5.1 |
| Firewood           | 10         | 1.6 | 9.1         | 2.7 |
| Timber products    | 7.2        | 1.6 | 3.1         | 1.6 |
| Nontimber products | 1.6        | <1  | 2.7         | 2   |

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

| CONCERN               | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE  |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                       | Percentage |     |             |     |
| Property taxes        | 90.9       | 3.3 | 93.9        | 5.1 |
| Drought               | 86.3       | 3.4 | 87.7        | 9.7 |
| Government regulation | 84.5       | 3.5 | 84.2        | 7.1 |
| Keeping land intact   | 81.9       | 3.3 | 78.9        | 9   |
| Trespassing           | 80         | 3.5 | 78          | 8.2 |
| Water pollution       | 65.4       | 3.5 | 76.8        | 9.6 |
| Vandalism             | 62.8       | 3.5 | 72.4        | 9.2 |
| Air pollution         | 42         | 3.1 | 66.7        | 9.3 |
| Wildfire              | 66.5       | 3.5 | 64.8        | 9.1 |
| Development           | 48.5       | 3.3 | 62.8        | 9   |
| Invasive plants       | 60.8       | 3.4 | 56.9        | 8.4 |
| Insects or diseases   | 60         | 3.6 | 48.2        | 7   |
| Wind or ice storms    | 34.7       | 3.1 | 43.2        | 8.6 |
| Animal damage         | 44.1       | 3.3 | 42          | 6.7 |
| Climate change        | 34.1       | 2.7 | 37.3        | 6.2 |
| Off-road vehicles     | 30.2       | 2.9 | 32.6        | 6.8 |

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

| ACTIVITY            | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE  |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                     | Percentage |     |             |     |
| Controlled burn     | 20.4       | 2.1 | 14          | 5.4 |
| Cut trees - own use | 31.5       | 2.4 | 37.3        | 6.9 |
| Cut trees - sale    | 3          | <1  | <1          | <1  |
| Insects management  | 8.6        | 1.3 | 6.3         | 1.8 |
| Invasives           | 51.1       | 2.6 | 44          | 6.8 |
| Livestock grazing   | 66.7       | 2.4 | 43.6        | 6.4 |
| Nontimber products  | 13.4       | 1.7 | 19.9        | 7   |
| Reduced fire hazard | 26.3       | 2.3 | 28.6        | 7.5 |
| Roads               | 33.4       | 2.4 | 16.4        | 4.2 |
| Trails              | 22.7       | 2.3 | 14.6        | 3.8 |
| Wildlife habitat    | 48.9       | 2.7 | 29          | 6.2 |
| None                | 4.3        | 1.1 | 6.6         | 3.4 |

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

| PROGRAM                | ACRES      | SE  | OWNER-SHIPS | SE  |
|------------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                        | Percentage |     |             |     |
| Advice                 | 44.3       | 2.6 | 22.4        | 4.7 |
| Conservation easements | 4.2        | <1  | <1          | <1  |
| Cost-share programs    | 19.9       | 2.0 | 3.6         | <1  |
| Green certification    | <1         | <1  | 2.5         | 2.0 |
| Management plan        | 23.3       | 2.3 | 11.3        | 4.1 |
| Property tax program   | 20.1       | 2.1 | 11.4        | 3.9 |