



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

VERMONT

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

65 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

74%
COLLEGE DEGREE

68% MALE

3% MINORITY



WHO OWNS VERMONT'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
78%

PUBLIC
22%



60%

FAMILY



16%

CORP.



3%

OTHER



11%

FEDERAL



8%

STATE



2%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management plan **41%**
Property tax program **38%**
Management advice **31%**
Cost-share programs **4%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Vermont's Family Forest Ownerships

2,542,000 ACRES

41,000 OWNERSHIPS

77,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

63 acres

Median = 30 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Nature protection
Water protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

33%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

65%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

3%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

24%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

33%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

3%



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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 109 family forest ownerships from Vermont 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	2,679,000	73,000
Corporate	707,000	59,000
Other private	113,000	26,000
Federal	510,000	26,000
State	378,000	26,000
Local	78,000	21,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	2,542,000	105,000
Ownerships	41,000	3,000
Owners	77,000	6,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	60.6	4.6	58.5	7.4
Education (College)	69.4	5.3	73.5	9
Gender (Male)	74.1	3.2	68.2	5.6
Minority	3.7	1.4	3.1	1.5

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	24.2	3.4	67.8	8.4
50-99	19	2.7	17.6	3
100-499	44.3	4.3	13.8	1.8
500-999	5.8	1.8	<1	<1
1,000+	6.7	1.7	<1	<1

Mean size = 62.5 ac (SE = 5.6); Median size = 30 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	81.7	5	84.7	8.1
Beauty or scenery	84.1	5	82.1	7.5
Privacy	70.6	5.2	78.7	8.2
Nature protection	73.1	5.1	74.4	8.3
Water protection	65.6	5.3	69.1	8
Recreation	68.4	4.9	66.2	7.7
Family legacy	57.1	4.8	54.7	7.4
Firewood	35.7	4.2	47.5	6.3
Raise family	36.7	4.5	44.3	7.3
Land investment	34.9	4.3	38.1	6.5
Hunting	37.9	4.4	37.3	6
Nontimber products	29.9	4	26.5	5.5
Timber products	41.1	4.6	23.7	4.5

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	81.9	4.7	81.3	7.9
Keeping land intact	77.7	5.1	77.2	10.5
Vandalism	61.2	4.8	67.5	9.4
Trespassing	49.3	4.5	61.2	7.7
Insects or diseases	58.3	4.9	61.1	9.4
Development	47.9	4.4	58.6	7.4
Climate change	56.5	4.8	58.1	8
Government regulation	58.7	5.2	57.4	7.2
Water pollution	48.5	4.7	55.9	10.1
Off-road vehicles	42.1	4.3	53.6	7.7
Invasive plants	48.7	4.5	48.9	8.4
Air pollution	44.1	4.3	41.9	6.4
Wildfire	40.1	4.4	40.1	9.2
Wind or ice storms	38.3	4.1	36	7.7
Drought	25.2	4.3	33.8	9.4
Animal damage	16.9	3	22.9	5.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	<1	<1	<1	<1
Cut trees - own use	66.6	3.5	64.6	5.8
Cut trees - sale	51.6	3.7	32.7	4.7
Insects management	4.9	1.7	3.3	1.7
Invasives	23.9	3.4	23.5	5.5
Livestock grazing	8.6	2.3	15.1	4.8
Nontimber products	36.8	3.6	39.1	6.2
Reduced fire hazard	4.4	1.5	3	1.7
Roads	19.5	2.9	9.3	2.6
Trails	40.8	3.6	34.7	4.9
Wildlife habitat	38.7	3.6	33.3	5.2
None	13	2.5	20.7	5.1

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	49.5	3.8	31.2	4.8
Conservation easements	8.4	2.2	3.2	1.3
Cost-share programs	4.6	1.7	3.6	2.1
Green certification	5.9	1.6	1.7	<1
Management plan	61.2	3.5	41.0	5.4
Property tax program	57.3	3.6	37.7	5.2