



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

WISCONSIN

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



63 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

39%
COLLEGE DEGREE

89% MALE

<1% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

23%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

48%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

4%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

15%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

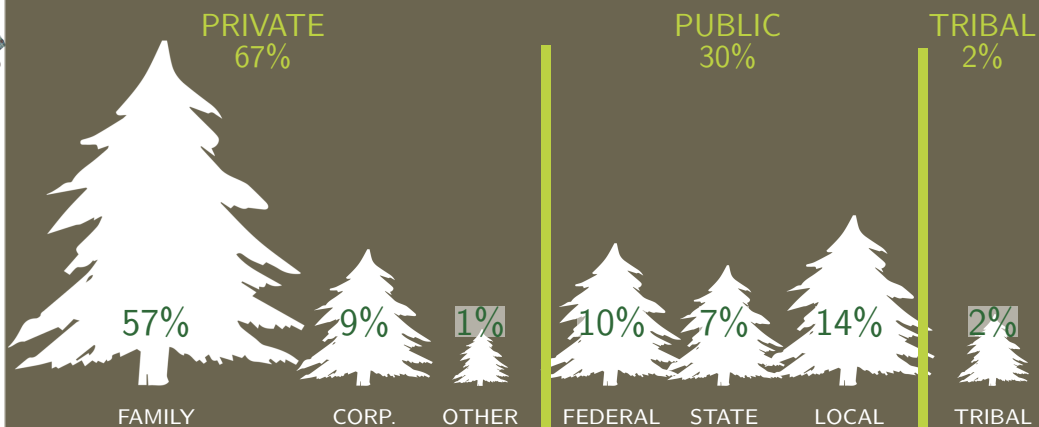
32%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

9%



WHO OWNS WISCONSIN'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management advice **22%**
Property tax program **21%**
Management plan **17%**
Cost-share programs **3%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Green certification **0%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Wisconsin's Family Forest Ownerships

9,000,000 ACRES

153,000 OWNERSHIPS

313,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

59 acres

Median = 38 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Hunting
Nature protection
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 214 family forest ownerships from Wisconsin 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	9,680,000	93,000
Corporate	1,516,000	63,000
Other private	253,000	27,000
Federal	1,635,000	27,000
State	1,169,000	48,000
Local	2,357,000	52,000
Tribal	408,000	34,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	9,000,000	272,000
Ownerships	153,000	7,000
Owners	313,000	15,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	44.2	3.3	39.8	4.5
Education (College)	45.6	3.5	39.3	4.3
Gender (Male)	88.4	1.8	88.6	2.5
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	26.8	2.4	63.1	5.7
50-99	25.7	2.3	21.7	2.4
100-499	40.7	3	14.6	1.5
500-999	4.8	1.1	<1	<1
1,000+	2	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 58.7 ac (SE = 3.4); Median size = 38 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	83.2	3.8	78.7	5.7
Beauty or scenery	81.3	3.6	78	5.4
Hunting	79	3.7	73	5.4
Nature protection	70.6	3.6	72.1	5.3
Privacy	70.3	3.7	68.7	5.4
Family legacy	62.7	3.7	57.7	5.3
Recreation	65.4	3.6	57.6	4.9
Water protection	58.5	3.4	56.5	4.8
Raise family	45.3	3.4	50.9	5.1
Land investment	38.9	3	36.4	4.2
Firewood	28.1	2.6	26	3.7
Timber products	27.5	2.7	16.7	2.5
Nontimber products	11.5	1.8	10.9	2.5

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	88.4	3.5	86.8	5.1
Keeping land intact	84.3	3.7	78.4	5.2
Trespassing	77.3	3.6	77.6	5.2
Vandalism	65.6	3.5	69.5	5
Insects or diseases	64.6	3.5	67.5	5.1
Government regulation	63.7	3.6	62.8	5.2
Invasive plants	54.2	3.2	57.3	4.6
Water pollution	52.7	3.2	56.9	4.7
Wildfire	47.9	3.3	46.6	4.7
Development	43.1	3.1	43.5	4.2
Air pollution	41.6	3	41.9	4.2
Climate change	41.5	3	41.6	4.2
Wind or ice storms	38.6	3	33.3	3.7
Drought	27.4	2.6	27.5	3.7
Off-road vehicles	25	2.5	23.8	3.3
Animal damage	26.1	2.5	22.4	3.1

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	3.2	<1	3	1.1
Cut trees - own use	51.5	2.7	47.6	3.9
Cut trees - sale	36.6	2.5	22.7	2.9
Insects management	3	<1	3.7	1.6
Invasives	19.2	2.1	14.9	2.4
Livestock grazing	5.8	1.2	3.9	1.2
Nontimber products	34.4	2.5	36.3	3.8
Reduced fire hazard	8.1	1.5	9.5	2.3
Roads	12.9	1.9	6.5	1.5
Trails	39.2	2.6	40.8	3.8
Wildlife habitat	38	2.6	31.7	3.4
None	11.7	1.7	15.5	2.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	32.9	2.4	22.0	2.8
Conservation easements	5.4	1.2	2.0	<1
Cost-share programs	7.5	1.4	3.5	1.1
Green certification	2.9	<1	<1	<1
Management plan	34.1	2.5	17.3	2.1
Property tax program	39.4	2.6	20.5	2.6