



Family Forest (10+ Acres)  
Ownership Characteristics

2018

# MINNESOTA

## WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION-MAKER?



**66** YEARS  
(AVERAGE AGE)

**49%**  
COLLEGE DEGREE

**84%** MALE

**2%** MINORITY

## PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

**10%**



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

**52%**

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

**5%**

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

**17%**

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

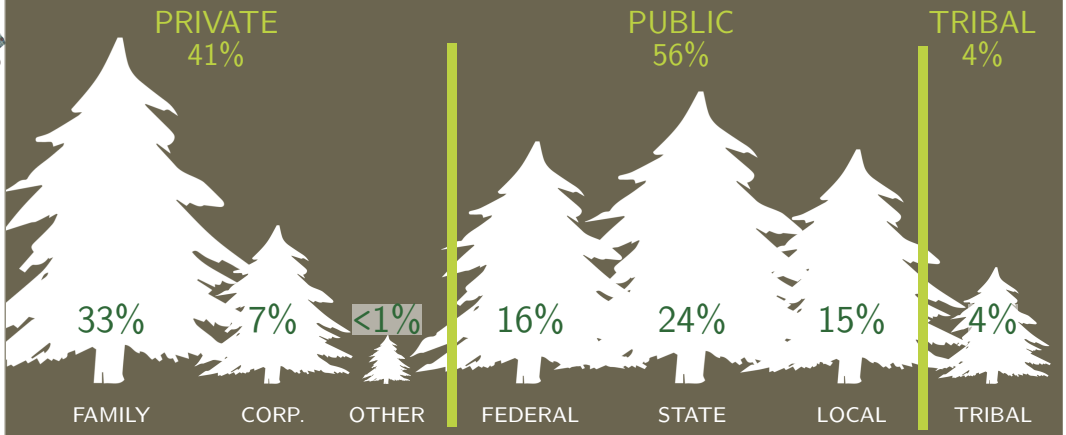
**25%**

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

**11%**



## WHO OWNS MINNESOTA'S FORESTS?



## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Management plan 12%
- Management advice 10%
- Property tax program 6%
- Cost-share programs 5%
- Green certification 2%
- Conservation easements 2%

## TOP 5 CONCERNS

- Property taxes
- Trespassing or poaching
- Keeping land intact
- Government regulation
- Dumping or vandalism

## BY THE NUMBERS Minnesota's Family Forest Ownerships

**5,377,000** ACRES

**102,000** OWNERSHIPS

**205,000** OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

**53 acres**

Median = 30 acres



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

- Beauty or scenery
- Wildlife habitat
- Nature protection
- Privacy
- Water protection



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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 256 family forest ownerships from Minnesota 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	5,880,000	89,000
Corporate	1,224,000	56,000
Other private	69,000	13,000
Federal	2,882,000	35,000
State	4,204,000	70,000
Local	2,702,000	80,000
Tribal	661,000	43,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	5,377,000	166,000
Ownerships	102,000	5,000
Owners	205,000	11,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Age (65+)	53.1	3	59.8	4.4
Education (College)	42.5	3	48.6	4.9
Gender (Male)	84.2	1.8	84.1	2.5
Minority	2.2	<1	1.7	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
(ACRES)				
10-49	27.2	2.3	65	5.2
50-99	28.7	2.3	22.6	2.2
100-499	39	2.7	12.2	1.1
500-999	2.4	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	2.7	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 53.0 ac (SE = 2.7); Median size = 30 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Beauty or scenery	81.3	3.3	82.2	4.8
Wildlife habitat	83.5	3.5	78.3	5
Nature protection	71.4	3.5	69.4	5.1
Privacy	72.1	3.3	68.6	4.7
Water protection	62.8	3.2	61.5	4.7
Hunting	73.1	3.2	55.6	4.1
Recreation	61.8	3.3	51.6	4.1
Family legacy	61.4	3.2	48	3.9
Raise family	45.6	2.9	38.4	3.9
Land investment	45.3	2.9	38.2	3.8
Firewood	23.5	2.2	22.5	3
Timber products	18.8	2	9.5	1.7
Nontimber products	11.2	1.6	8.9	1.8

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Property taxes	83.8	3.2	79.6	5.1
Trespassing	77.7	3.4	72.6	4.9
Keeping land intact	75.1	3.3	72.2	4.8
Government regulation	67.5	3.2	64.4	4.7
Vandalism	64.1	3.3	64.3	4.8
Insects or diseases	56.1	3	60.4	4.8
Water pollution	51.2	3	52.7	4.9
Wildfire	52.1	3.1	51.3	4.7
Invasive plants	50.1	3	49.2	4.3
Wind or ice storms	39.4	2.8	40.2	4.4
Air pollution	38.3	2.8	39.5	4.6
Development	35.9	2.7	39.3	4.6
Climate change	36.7	2.7	37.5	4
Drought	28.6	2.5	30.4	3.8
Off-road vehicles	27.6	2.4	30.1	4
Animal damage	17.3	2	16.1	2.8

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Controlled burn	8.4	1.3	5	<1
Cut trees - own use	50	2.4	52.2	3.7
Cut trees - sale	19.7	1.8	10.5	1.7
Insects management	5.2	1.1	4.9	1.4
Invasives	18.3	1.8	17.1	2.7
Livestock grazing	15.9	1.9	14.4	2.5
Nontimber products	29.2	2.1	29.6	3.4
Reduced fire hazard	15	1.8	11.5	2.1
Roads	16	1.9	13	2.7
Trails	45.6	2.4	35.5	3.7
Wildlife habitat	39.1	2.3	24.9	2.9
None	11.3	1.5	15.5	2.6

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Advice	22.1	2.0	10.2	1.7
Conservation easements	3.5	<1	1.8	<1
Cost-share programs	9.2	1.4	5.0	1.3
Green certification	6.4	1.1	2.1	<1
Management plan	23.0	2.1	12.5	2.0
Property tax program	15.5	1.7	6.3	1.1