



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

MAINE

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

67 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

51%
COLLEGE DEGREE

84% MALE

6% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

18%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

51%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

1%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

7%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

19%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

8%

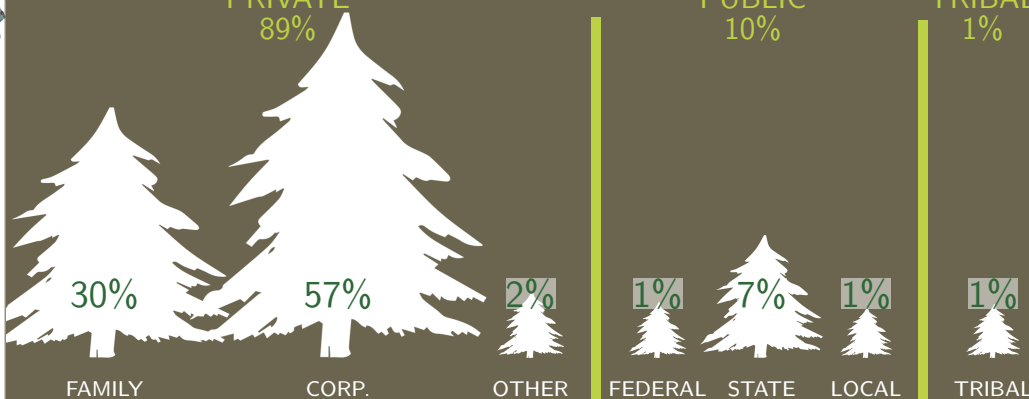


WHO OWNS MAINE'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
89%

PUBLIC
10%

TRIBAL
1%



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management plan **27%**
Property tax program **26%**
Management advice **19%**
Green certification **3%**
Conservation easements **3%**
Cost-share programs **3%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Maine's Family Forest Ownerships

4,664,000 ACRES

75,000 OWNERSHIPS

133,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

63 acres

Median = 38 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
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 167 family forest ownerships from Maine 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	5,226,000	127,000
Corporate	9,964,000	139,000
Other private	370,000	46,000
Federal	257,000	36,000
State	1,239,000	48,000
Local	211,000	35,000
Tribal	236,000	37,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	4,664,000	151,000
Ownerships	75,000	4,000
Owners	133,000	8,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	58.7	4.1	63.1	6.3
Education (College)	56.1	4.1	51.5	5.7
Gender (Male)	81.7	2.3	84.4	2.8
Minority	4.9	1.3	6	1.7

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	26	2.7	64.8	6.8
50-99	26.9	2.7	25.7	3.1
100-499	26.4	2.8	8.4	1.1
500-999	8.9	1.8	<1	<1
1,000+	11.9	1.5	<1	<1

Mean size = 62.5 ac (SE = 4.0); Median size = 38 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	84	4	83.9	6.2
Beauty or scenery	82.2	4	82.4	6.6
Nature protection	76	4	74	6.2
Privacy	74.1	4.1	72.4	6.6
Water protection	67.5	3.9	72	6.1
Family legacy	66.8	4.1	59.4	5.7
Recreation	59.6	3.9	54.4	5.5
Land investment	59.4	3.9	52.7	5.8
Raise family	44.4	3.4	45.7	5.2
Hunting	39	3.5	37.2	5
Firewood	35.5	3.2	30	3.8
Timber products	44	3.3	27.6	4.2
Nontimber products	11.1	1.7	9.9	2.5

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	76.6	3.8	74.6	6.1
Keeping land intact	73.4	3.9	72.4	5.8
Vandalism	77.8	3.7	71.5	5.7
Insects or diseases	61.2	3.9	64	6.1
Trespassing	65.6	3.8	64	6.3
Wildfire	51.8	3.8	55.1	5.3
Government regulation	61.2	3.9	52.2	5.6
Water pollution	50.7	3.8	50.1	5.2
Development	43	3.5	47.7	5.2
Air pollution	44.8	3.4	42.8	5
Climate change	44.5	3.4	42.6	4.9
Wind or ice storms	43.7	3.3	40.9	5.4
Invasive plants	39.4	3.4	39.6	4.9
Drought	32.4	3.3	38	5.5
Off-road vehicles	39.6	3.3	31.2	4.5
Animal damage	15.2	2.2	9.4	2.1

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	53.2	2.9	51.4	4.5
Cut trees - sale	38.7	2.9	18.3	3.4
Insects management	2.6	<1	1.1	<1
Invasives	12.8	2.3	6.7	1.6
Livestock grazing	3.2	1.1	2.3	<1
Nontimber products	30	2.7	19.4	3.1
Reduced fire hazard	9.3	1.7	7.6	1.9
Roads	32.5	2.8	15.3	2.6
Trails	30.9	3.1	21.9	3.6
Wildlife habitat	27.6	2.8	19.3	3.2
None	18.4	2.3	31.9	4.3

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	42.0	2.8	19.5	2.7
Conservation easements	7.3	1.4	3.0	1.3
Cost-share programs	5.2	1.3	2.8	<1
Green certification	8.6	1.7	3.0	<1
Management plan	48.3	3.0	27.4	3.5
Property tax program	46.9	3.0	26.0	4.0