



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

NORTH DAKOTA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



67 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

51%
COLLEGE DEGREE

76% MALE

1% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

4%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

26%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

11%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

28%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

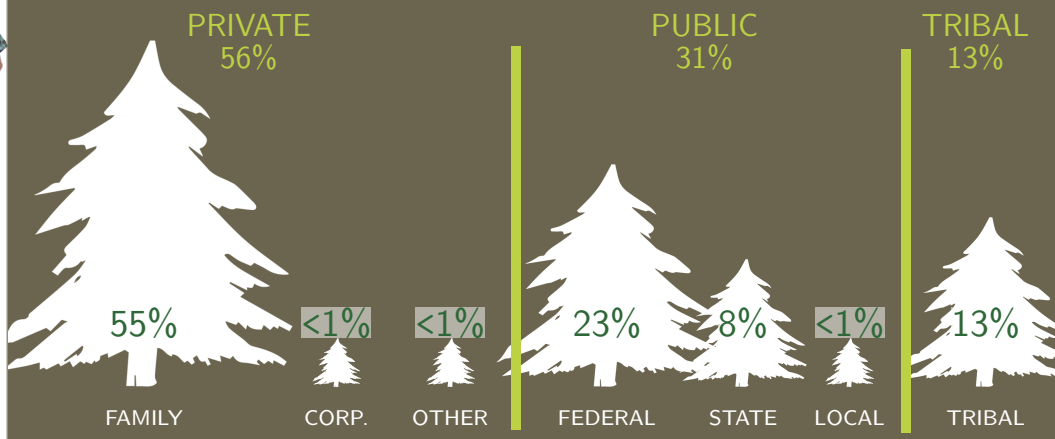
19%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

8%



WHO OWNS NORTH DAKOTA'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **9%**
Management advice **5%**
Management plan **4%**
Conservation easements **2%**
Cost-share programs **1%**
Green certification **0%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS North Dakota's Family Forest Ownerships

429,000 ACRES

6,000 OWNERSHIPS

14,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

66 acres

Median = 27 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Wildlife habitat
Beauty or scenery
Family legacy
Nature protection
Hunting



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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 164 family forest ownerships from North Dakota 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	454,000	37,000
Corporate	0	0
Other private	1,000	1,000
Federal	187,000	28,000
State	62,000	18,000
Local	7,000	6,000
Tribal	109,000	22,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	429,000	22,000
Ownerships	6,000	<1
Owners	14,000	2,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	56.2	4	59	6.7
Education (College)	52	3.8	51.2	6.7
Gender (Male)	77.3	2.4	75.7	4.4
Minority	2.2	<1	1.2	<1

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	19.6	2.4	66.9	6.9
50-99	15.8	2.4	15.8	3
100-499	47.6	3.3	16	1.7
500-999	6.6	1.5	<1	<1
1,000+	10.4	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 66.5 ac (SE = 5.2); Median size = 27 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Wildlife habitat	77.8	3.7	81.9	6.9
Beauty or scenery	78.8	3.8	76.1	6.9
Family legacy	74.2	3.9	71.9	7.1
Nature protection	73.7	3.8	68.8	7.2
Hunting	72.5	3.9	60.8	6.7
Privacy	61.8	3.9	56.5	6.8
Water protection	67.6	3.8	54.8	6.3
Land investment	44.3	3.3	42	7
Raise family	45.3	3.4	40.3	5.9
Recreation	33.7	3.5	24.5	4.2
Nontimber products	10.1	1.8	11.4	3.8
Firewood	15.6	2.1	7.3	2.4
Timber products	5.6	1.2	1.7	1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Keeping land intact	80.7	3.9	81.5	7.1
Trespassing	78.8	3.7	77.3	6.6
Insects or diseases	61.4	5	63.4	6.6
Property taxes	64.9	4.7	61.8	6.5
Vandalism	63.8	5.4	60.4	6.5
Invasive plants	63.3	3.7	55.4	6.4
Government regulation	63.3	3.7	53.6	6.3
Wildfire	52.5	3.9	51.1	6.7
Water pollution	44	5.2	45.4	6.1
Drought	47.1	3.4	42	6.3
Wind or ice storms	34.6	3.9	38.3	6.2
Air pollution	28.5	2.9	37.2	6
Development	37.4	4.9	35.4	5.6
Climate change	25	3.8	31.8	5.8
Off-road vehicles	28.9	2.6	24.6	3.6
Animal damage	17.8	3.2	15.3	3.7

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	4.5	1	3	1.4
Cut trees - own use	34.9	2.6	25.6	4.6
Cut trees - sale	4.5	1.1	4.1	2
Insects management	4.1	1.2	11.4	4
Invasives	31.7	2.5	28.1	4.9
Livestock grazing	41.8	2.7	23.2	3.2
Nontimber products	33.8	2.4	25	3.6
Reduced fire hazard	4.6	1.2	8.2	3.6
Roads	9.2	1.6	4.1	1.1
Trails	26.8	2.4	10.9	2.5
Wildlife habitat	25	2.4	19.3	3.5
None	16.6	2.2	28.5	4.7

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	11.1	1.6	5.3	1.8
Conservation easements	3.7	1.2	1.5	<1
Cost-share programs	1.3	<1	<1	<1
Green certification	<1	<1	<1	<1
Management plan	5.4	1.5	4.2	2.2
Property tax program	10.0	2.3	9.0	2.9