



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics

2018

VIRGINIA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?



64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

57%
COLLEGE DEGREE

71% MALE

3% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

20%

CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

34%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

19%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

20%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

7%



WHO OWNS VIRGINIA'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
82%

PUBLIC
18%



60%

FAMILY



21%

CORP.

1%

OTHER



14%

FEDERAL

2%

STATE

2%

LOCAL

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Property tax program **26%**
Management advice **17%**
Management plan **16%**
Cost-share programs **5%**
Conservation easements **4%**
Green certification **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

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

BY THE NUMBERS Virginia's Family Forest Ownerships

9,114,000 ACRES

139,000 OWNERSHIPS

307,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

66 acres

Median = 30 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Privacy
Wildlife habitat
Nature protection
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 221 family forest ownerships from Virginia 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	9,714,000	145,000
Corporate	3,310,000	122,000
Other private	205,000	33,000
Federal	2,199,000	59,000
State	347,000	43,000
Local	291,000	39,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	9,114,000	273,000
Ownerships	139,000	8,000
Owners	307,000	19,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	54.7	3.3	52.2	5.8
Education (College)	61.2	3.8	56.8	5.9
Gender (Male)	76.3	2.2	70.8	4
Minority	3	<1	3.2	1.7

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	22.4	2.3	66.2	6.4
50-99	15.8	1.8	15.9	2.2
100-499	42.8	3	16.6	1.8
500-999	10.2	1.5	1	<1
1,000+	8.8	1.5	<1	<1

Mean size = 65.8 ac (SE = 4.7); Median size = 30 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	76.2	4	80.4	6.4
Privacy	68.8	3.7	78.7	5.9
Wildlife habitat	78.1	3.6	76.8	5.5
Nature protection	70.2	3.5	71.1	5.7
Water protection	66.7	3.6	68.7	6.1
Family legacy	66.1	3.6	66.5	5.9
Raise family	45.2	3.2	51.8	5.2
Land investment	63.9	3.8	50	5.4
Recreation	49.6	3.2	49.3	5.7
Hunting	57	3.5	45.2	5
Timber products	48.4	3.4	25.2	3.8
Firewood	17.1	2	18	3.6
Nontimber products	12.8	1.8	15.5	3.2

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Trespassing	78.7	3.4	81.4	5.6
Property taxes	80.1	3.5	79.2	5.4
Vandalism	72.6	3.6	75.5	5.8
Keeping land intact	75.7	3.4	73.1	5.9
Insects or diseases	67.3	3.5	70.9	5.9
Government regulation	69.9	3.4	69.3	5.7
Wildfire	63.2	3.6	64.9	6.3
Development	49.6	3.3	56.2	5.7
Water pollution	53.7	3.4	55.7	5.5
Invasive plants	48.1	3.4	49.4	5.4
Wind or ice storms	50.1	3.3	46.9	5.2
Air pollution	42.1	3	44.9	5.3
Climate change	40	2.9	41.9	5
Drought	39.7	2.8	41.5	5
Off-road vehicles	31.7	2.7	34.8	4.5
Animal damage	23.1	2.5	24.2	4.2

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	9.6	1.6	2.2	<1
Cut trees - own use	31.8	2.5	33.9	4.1
Cut trees - sale	39.2	2.5	20.3	3.2
Insects management	8.6	1.5	5.6	2.1
Invasives	24.4	2.3	18.8	3.1
Livestock grazing	12.5	1.7	13.1	2.9
Nontimber products	22.2	2.2	25.1	3.8
Reduced fire hazard	11.5	1.7	7.2	1.5
Roads	24.3	2.2	13	2.5
Trails	31.6	2.4	23.1	3.4
Wildlife habitat	29.8	2.5	20.4	3.5
None	19	2	25.5	3.9

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	38.4	2.5	17.2	2.4
Conservation easements	8.7	1.5	4.4	1.5
Cost-share programs	18.3	2.1	5.2	<1
Green certification	9.4	1.5	2.1	<1
Management plan	30.8	2.5	16.0	2.9
Property tax program	38.8	2.5	25.8	3.2