



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

MARYLAND

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION- MAKER?

64 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

51%
COLLEGE DEGREE

74% MALE

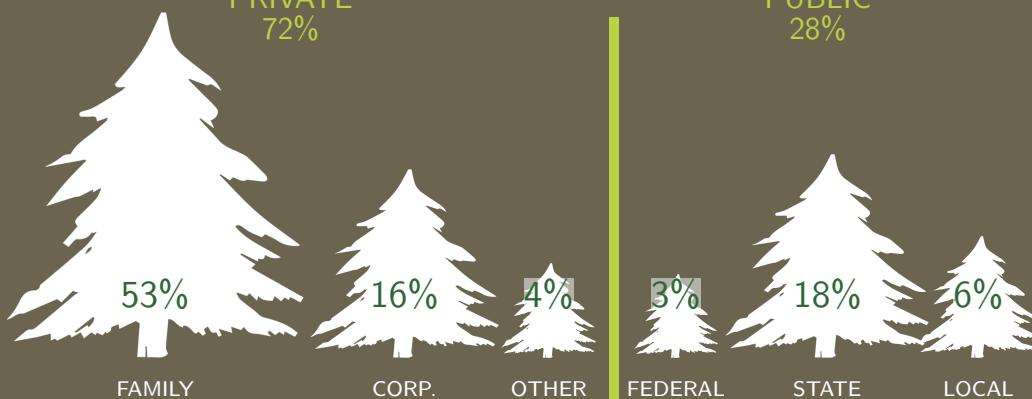
6% MINORITY



WHO OWNS MARYLAND'S FORESTS?

PRIVATE
72%

PUBLIC
28%



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Management plan **37%**
Property tax program **32%**
Management advice **23%**
Conservation easements **14%**
Cost-share programs **4%**
Green certification **1%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

Property taxes
Keeping land intact
Insects or diseases
Government regulation
Development

BY THE NUMBERS Maryland's Family Forest Ownerships

1,055,000 ACRES

25,000 OWNERSHIPS

52,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

42 acres

Median = 20 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

Beauty or scenery
Wildlife habitat
Privacy
Nature protection
Water protection



PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

7%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

31%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

6%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

19%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

23%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

11%



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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 166 family forest ownerships from Maryland 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	1,289,000	63,000
Corporate	381,000	45,000
Other private	96,000	25,000
Federal	74,000	21,000
State	445,000	35,000
Local	159,000	29,000

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

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	1,055,000	40,000
Ownerships	25,000	2,000
Owners	52,000	3,000

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

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Age (65+)	49.2	4	41.9	4.9
Education (College)	51.9	4.3	50.6	5.6
Gender (Male)	73.4	2.7	74.4	4
Minority	3.1	1	5.7	2.9

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

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES)	Percentage			
10-49	35.7	3.3	77.2	6.1
50-99	22.8	2.5	14.3	1.9
100-499	30.5	3	8	1
500-999	6.7	1.3	<1	<1
1,000+	4.4	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 41.9 ac (SE = 2.6); Median size = 20 acres

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

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Beauty or scenery	77.8	4.1	78.9	5.7
Wildlife habitat	79	4.1	78	6.1
Privacy	70.4	4.1	75.4	6.1
Nature protection	73.5	4.2	74.5	6.2
Water protection	67.7	4.1	68.6	6.2
Family legacy	69.4	3.8	63.8	5.6
Raise family	46.4	3.7	53.3	5.5
Hunting	54.5	3.7	46.7	5.3
Recreation	47.6	3.7	42.9	5.3
Land investment	50.2	3.7	42.8	5.4
Firewood	25.6	2.8	29.1	4.2
Timber products	31.7	3.2	17.9	3
Nontimber products	4.7	1.3	3.3	1.1

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

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Property taxes	81.5	3.9	83.1	5.3
Keeping land intact	79.7	4	77.9	5.3
Insects or diseases	69.1	4	74.2	5.9
Government regulation	70.7	3.9	71	5.8
Development	60.5	4	70.7	5.8
Vandalism	75.4	4	70.5	5.3
Trespassing	78	4	69	4.8
Water pollution	57.9	3.9	68	5.7
Invasive plants	54	3.9	56.9	5.6
Wildfire	58.5	4.2	56.8	5.5
Drought	45.5	3.6	48.8	5.5
Air pollution	44.1	3.7	48.7	5.2
Wind or ice storms	45.9	3.7	46.5	5.6
Climate change	44.5	3.7	46	5.3
Off-road vehicles	38.4	3.2	39.1	4.6
Animal damage	26.9	3	24.1	4.5

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

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Controlled burn	1.9	<1	1.6	<1
Cut trees - own use	30.3	2.7	31.5	4.3
Cut trees - sale	17.3	2.3	7.3	1.8
Insects management	5	1.4	6.4	2.4
Invasives	18.1	2.7	19.3	4.1
Livestock grazing	4.7	1.4	5.2	2.4
Nontimber products	12.2	2	10.9	2.7
Reduced fire hazard	9.1	1.9	11.2	3.3
Roads	15.5	2	8.2	2.2
Trails	28.1	2.6	21.4	3.7
Wildlife habitat	26	2.5	22.8	3.6
None	30.4	2.9	37.3	4.6

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

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
	Percentage			
Advice	29.8	2.7	23.2	3.6
Conservation easements	21.8	2.5	13.5	2.7
Cost-share programs	12.3	1.8	3.8	1.0
Green certification	4.4	1.3	<1	<1
Management plan	47.0	2.9	37.2	4.1
Property tax program	32.4	2.8	31.9	4.2