Abstract

This report summarizes the results from the 2011-2013 National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis program. The focus of the results reported here is family forest and woodland ownerships with holdings of at least 10 acres. Summaries are based on responses from 8,576 family ownerships with at least 10 acres of forest or woodland across 47 U.S. states. Survey summary tables are available at dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-RB-99 and include the 36 states in which the minimum target effective sample size of 100 respondents was obtained plus tables for the nation and four regions (North, South, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast). An additional 11 states (Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington) have sample sizes between 10 and 99 and are included in national and regional summary tables, but state-level survey summary tables are not being published due to small sample sizes. Data for three states (Alaska, Nevada, and Wyoming) are excluded due to the low numbers of respondents (n<10) in each of these states. The survey summary tables provide statistics on general forest ownership patterns, effective sample sizes, and responses to the questions asked on the survey. The 37 survey questions, many with multiple parts, focus on ownership characteristics, land characteristics, reasons for owning land, land ownership history, uses of the forest and woodland, sources of information, concerns, the future of their land, and demographics. For comparison purposes, summary tables from the 2002-2006 iteration of the NWOS are provided along with an additional set of 2011-2013 regional and national summary tables where only states in common with the 2002-2006 iteration are included. In addition, this report includes separate tables with estimated area and estimated number of private, nonindustrial private, and family forest and woodland ownerships by state.

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A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service Update of the 2010 RPA Assessment

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INTRODUCTION

A summary of the results from the 2011–2013 iteration of the U.S. Forest Service’s National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) are presented here. The NWOS is coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and serves as a social complement to FIA’s biophysical, plot-based inventory (Bechtold and Patterson 2005). The NWOS is aimed at understanding: who owns America’s forests, why they own them, how they have used them in the past, and how they intend to use them in the future. The design, implementation, and analysis of the 2011–2013 NWOS were completed through the Family Forest Research Center, a joint venture between the U.S. Forest Service and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Information presented supports the U.S. Forest Service update of the 2010 Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment. The RPA Assessment consists of a series of reports that are produced on a periodic basis under the congressional direction of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-378, 88 Stat. 476). Full assessments are completed every decade with updates done at intervening 5-year intervals. The main 2010 RPA Assessment report for forest resources is Smith et al. (2009) and the accompanying NWOS report is Butler (2008). The main forest resource report for the update to the 2010 RPA Assessment is Oswalt et al. (2014), and this report is the NWOS contribution to the update.

The primary intent of this report is to provide tabular summaries for the 2011–2013 iteration of the NWOS. Therefore, only an abbreviated description of the methods is included, and no analyses of the data are provided. Detailed documentation of the methods is available in Butler et al. (2016), and interpretation of the results and general findings will appear in forthcoming analytical publications, including Butler et al. (n.d.a.). Definitions of ownership categories used in this report, including family forest and woodland ownerships, are included in the glossary along with definitions of other key terms, such as forest land and woodland.

Although they use the same underlying FIA plot data, there are differences between the current RPA and FIA definitions of forest land (Oswalt et al. 2014). The update to the 2010 RPA Assessment forest resource uses the terms “forest” and “other wooded lands,” which is often simplified to “forest and woodland” and follows the international definition used by the Food and Agriculture Organization. FIA currently combines these categories and labels them “forest land.” The differences are largely manifest in the arid ecoregions of western Texas, western Oklahoma, and the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast regions. As this report is being published under the RPA banner, the term “forest and woodland” is used throughout and is synonymous with the FIA forest land definition.

The NWOS uses woodland in its title and the term “wooded land” throughout most of the questionnaire. The use of this term was based on extensive pretesting that showed it to be the most widely accepted phrase used by family ownerships when describing the part of their land that is dominated by trees. A lay definition of the Forest Service’s technical definition was also included in the questionnaire.

Tables containing estimates of area and number of ownerships by state are provided at the end of this report and include estimates of area of forest and woodland by private and public ownership categories and estimates of area and number for private, nonindustrial private, and family forest and woodland ownerships (see Tables 4-10; all tables begin on p. 14). Separate tables for ownerships with 1+ acres (0.4+ hectares) of forest and woodland and ownerships with 10+ acres (4.0+ hectares) of forest and woodland are provided.
In the supplemental data accompanying this report (available at dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-RB-99), separate sets of survey summary tables are available for the nation, regions, and for individual states where the minimum sample size \((n \geq 100)\) was obtained. The reporting regions are based on those used by the RPA Assessment (Fig. 1). The survey summary tables include the area of forest and woodland by ownership category along with information on sample sizes, cooperation rates, and summaries of the 37 questions asked as part of the NWOS.

Survey summary tables focus on family ownerships with 10 or more acres of forest and woodland holdings. Family and woodland ownerships with 1-9 acres were sampled as part of the 2011-2013 NWOS but are not included for a number of reasons: they are primarily large backyards associated with house lots; traditional forestry practices are not applicable at this scale; most forestry professionals do not consider these forests; many of these smaller holdings do not qualify for assistance programs; and the large sampling errors associated with estimates that include small ownerships make trend analysis more difficult. This is not to say that ownerships with less than 10 acres are unimportant, rather they are different from ownerships with larger holdings and will be the focus of separate data reporting and analysis efforts. Likewise, data on corporate and other private ownerships, such as nongovernmental conservation organizations, unincorporated partnerships, associations, clubs, and tribal ownerships, were collected as part of the 2011-2013 NWOS, but results for these important ownership groups will be reported in separate publications.

To aid in comparisons with the previous iteration of the NWOS, corresponding sets of survey summary tables for family ownerships with 10+ acres of forest and woodland are included for the 2002-2006 NWOS. See the Comparisons Between Survey Iterations section for information on how the 2002-2006 tables were generated and a brief discussion of similarities and differences between the iterations.

For those who do not find the summaries they are looking for in the tables included with this report, the NWOS Table Maker program (Butler et al., n.d.c.) is an online tool that allows users to create custom tables, including two-way, cross-tabulation tables.

* Alaska and Hawaii are included in the Pacific Coast Region

Figure 1.—Regions used by the U.S. Forest Service Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment and adopted by the National Woodland Owner Survey.
METHODS

Brief summaries of the sample design, implementation procedures, and estimation methods for the 2011-2013 NWOS are provided here and are explained in greater detail in Butler et al. (2016). Additional details and justification for the methods are provided in Dickinson and Butler (2013).

Sample Design

The NWOS sample design is based on the quasi-systematic FIA sample design (Bechtold and Patterson 2005). Although an area-based sampling frame was used to select the FIA sample, ownerships were the primary sampling units for the NWOS. Therefore, the sample selection probabilities were proportional to size—the larger the size of the forest and woodland holdings, the higher the probability of an ownership being included in the sample.

To spatially distribute the sample, each state was divided into hexagons. Each hexagon was approximately 6,000 acres (2,400 hectares) in size, a size selected by the FIA program to provide reliable statistics on basic forest attributes. Within each hexagon, a sample point was randomly selected.

Using a combination of remote sensing and field observations, each sample point was classified as either being forest and woodland or nonforest/nonwoodland. For the forest and woodland points, publicly available property tax data were used to determine the ownership of record. If the ownership of the forest and woodland point was determined to be private, it was included in the NWOS sample.

As stated in the questionnaires, the unit of analysis was an ownership and all of the forest and woodland owned in a given state. If more than one sample point fell on the land of an ownership in a state, only one survey was sent.

Survey Implementation

The methods recommended by Dillman et al. (2014) were used to solicit responses from the private ownerships identified as part of the NWOS sample. First, a prenotice postcard was sent to all potential respondents identifying the purpose of the survey and alerting them to the fact they would soon be receiving a questionnaire. Next, ownerships were mailed a copy of the questionnaire, a business reply return envelope, and a cover letter reiterating the purpose of the survey and stating how the data would be used. The third contact was a reminder/thank you postcard. Those who had not returned a questionnaire within 25 days of the first mailing were mailed a second copy of the questionnaire, a business reply envelope, and a modified cover letter. Telephone follow-up interviews, using a subset of the mail questionnaire questions, were attempted with a subset of those who had yet to respond in order to increase response rates and to measure potential nonresponse bias. The subset of nonrespondents contacted for the telephone follow-up interviews were randomly selected from the nonrespondents for whom telephone numbers were available. Financial constraints limited the total number of contacts.

A copy of the questionnaire is available in Butler et al. (2016), and state-specific questionnaires are available on the NWOS Web site. In general, the only difference among state questionnaires was the insertion of the state name, for example “How many acres of wooded land do you own in Alabama?”
Population-level Estimates

For the NWOS, the populations of interest are: family, corporate, and other private. The geographic area of interest is the United States, with sampling occurring at the state level (i.e., the strata are states). The focus of this report is on a subset of these populations: family ownerships with 10+ acres of forest and woodland. Population estimates were generated using estimators appropriate to the probability proportional to size sampling design. These estimates were calculated in terms of numbers of ownerships and area of forest and woodland, which can show different patterns. The equations used to calculate ownership-based and area-based estimates and their accompanying variances are provided in Butler et al. (2016). All estimates were calculated at the state level and then aggregated to generate estimates for larger geographic areas.

To ensure a reasonable level of certainty, full sets of survey summary tables are only being published for states where a minimum sample size of 100 was obtained. States with sample sizes between 10-99 are included in the national and regional tables, but summary tables are not being published for these states. Tables can be requested from the authors, but results from these unpublished tables should be interpreted cautiously. States with sample sizes of less than 10 are excluded from the national and regional tables, and survey summary tables are not available for these states.

RESULTS

Number of Respondents and Cooperation Rates

Across the United States, a total of 10,092 family forest or woodland ownerships responded to the NWOS between 2011 and 2013. This number includes all family forest and woodland ownerships with 1 or more acres of forest and woodland and is the basis for calculating cooperation rates since the size of holdings is unknown for nonrespondents and cooperation rates just for the subset of ownerships with 10+ acres of forest and woodland cannot be calculated. The overall cooperation rate \( \frac{\text{Responses}}{\text{Sent - Undeliverables}} \times 100 \) is 52 percent for the United States and ranges from 37 percent in Hawaii to 64 percent in Michigan (Table 1). As shown in Figure 2, some regional cooperation rate patterns exist with relatively higher rates in the Northeast, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest, and lower rates in the Southeast, South Central, and Intermountain West.

![Cooperation rates for the 2011-2013 National Woodland Owner Survey for family forest and woodland ownerships, by state.](image-url)
A total of 8,567 family forest and woodland ownerships with at least 10 acres of forest and woodland responded to the 2011-2013 NWOS, and these responses formed the basis for the statistics reported in the survey summary tables. The effective sample size varies across tables because the NWOS uses different survey instruments (mail-back questionnaire, online questionnaire, and telephone interviews), and not all questions were asked on all survey instruments. Thirty-six states had at least 100 respondents allowing for full sets of survey summary tables to be published (Fig. 3; Table 2). Six states had between 10 and 99 respondents, so even though individual state results are not being published, these states are included in national and regional summaries. For the three states that had fewer than 10 respondents, no state summary tables are being published and data are not included in regional or national summaries.

Four states (Connecticut, Oklahoma, Texas, and Vermont) have a total number of respondents that far exceeds the target sample size. The number of respondents in Connecticut and Vermont are high relative to other states due to additional funding being provided to intensify the samples in those states. For Oklahoma and Texas, the FIA forest inventory on which the NWOS is based treats the eastern and western portions of these states as separate strata, and target sample sizes are calculated separately and sampling is done differently in each substate area. The NWOS has inherited these differences in sampling intensities and uses the same approach with target sample sizes calculated separately for the eastern and western portions of these two states.

As reported in Butler et al. (2016), the potential for nonresponse bias was tested by comparing results for mail respondents to telephone respondents for key variables such as area of forest and woodland owned, land tenure, and having harvested trees. No systematic biases were detected, and therefore no adjustments were made.

Item nonresponse occurs when a respondent is asked a question but chooses not to respond to that specific question. As reported in Butler et al. (2016), the median item nonresponse rate was 5 percent. The tables in this publication list the number of respondents used to calculate the statistics in each row of each table. A separate row labeled “no answer” is included in the tables for those who were asked to respond to a specific question but opted not to (i.e., item nonresponse). To make interpretation of the results easier, item nonresponse was excluded from the percentage calculations.

Figure 3.—Number of family forest and woodland ownerships with 10 or more acres of forest/woodland who responded to the 2011-2013 National Woodland Owner Survey, by state.
Comparisons Between Survey Iterations

To make accurate comparisons across surveys, it is important to ensure the populations of interest are the same and the questions asked are the same, or at least compatible. To aid in comparisons between the 2002-2006 and 2011-2013 iterations of the NWOS, the 2002-2006 data were reprocessed to include only family ownerships with 10 or more acres of forest or woodland. The previously published data (Butler 2008) included family ownerships with 1 or more acres of forest or woodland. To further improve comparisons, the 2002-2006 data were reprocessed with the same estimation methods used for the 2011-2013 data. The estimation methods were similar between iterations, but the estimation units changed from multi-county survey units of typically four or more per state (Butler et al. 2005) to the state as a whole.

Due to sampling issues, different states were included in the summaries of the 2002-2006 and 2011-2013 iterations of the NWOS. To aid in the comparison of national and regional results, a second set of 2011-2013 national and regional tables is included that contains only those states that are also summarized in 2002-2006 national and regional tables. The states included in the national and regional tables are indicated in Table 2.

The questions in common between the 2002-2006 and 2011-2013 iterations are listed in Table 3. While most of the questions were identical in wording, some had slight changes that are noted in Table 3. These notes should be considered when making comparisons. For the specific wording of the questions, refer to Butler (2008) and Butler et al. (2016). To assess if differences are statistically significant, z-tests or similar statistical tests that incorporate variances and covariances should be considered (Dorofeev and Grant 2006). The covariance is important because the two samples are not completely independence since many of the sample points and respondents are the same between surveys. The sampling errors reported provide an estimate of the variances, but covariances are not provided and differences must therefore be interpreted cautiously.

Survey Summary Table Descriptions

The main results in this report consist of sets of 44 survey summary tables that are produced separately for the nation (all states combined where the minimum state sample sizes of n ≥10 were obtained), the four RPA regions (North, South, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Coast), and each state where the number of survey responses met or exceeded the minimum sample size of 100 (Table 2).

To aid in comparisons, the table numbering and naming convention used for survey summary tables are consistent across sets. Tables are designated as Table XX-# (YYYY) where XX indicates the state, region, or nation abbreviation, # indicates the table number, and YYYY indicates the year for the iteration of the data used to generate the results. Parallel tables were produced for the 2011-2013 and 2002-2006 data, but tables were left blank for the latter if the requisite data were not available (Table 3).

- Table XX-# (2013) designates tables with results from the 2011-2013 data.
- Table XX-# (2006) designates tables with results from the 2002-2006 data.
- Table XX-# (2013 Compare) designates 2011-2013 regional and national tables generated for comparisons with the 2002-2006 data. The 2011-2013 values were recalculated only using those states in common with the 2002-2006 data.
The first table in each summary set shows area of forest and woodland by broad ownership categories. These area numbers are derived from the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis plot data. The specific inventory years used for each state are indicated in the table caption. The second table shows the sample size and cooperation rate. Subsequent tables summarize specific survey questions or subquestions as listed in Table 3. These tables include separate columns for area and ownerships in terms of totals and percentages along with the associated standard errors (SE) and effective sample sizes (n). Sampling errors help interpret the uncertainty associated with the estimates. Footnotes in tables provide key definitions, define abbreviations, and list any data that are excluded. A list of titles for the survey summary tables is provided below, and tables are available at dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-RB-99. Titles for the 2006 summary tables may be slightly different due to variations in the wording and formatting of survey questions.

Table XX-1 (YYYY)—Estimated area of forest and woodland by ownership category

Table XX-2 (YYYY)—Sample size and cooperation rate for family forest and woodland ownerships for the U.S. Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey

Table XX-3 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by ownership subcategory

Table XX-4 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by number of owners

Table XX-5 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by percent of ownership's land that is forested/wooded

Table XX-6 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by size of forest/woodland holdings

Table XX-7 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by number of parcels owned

Table XX-8 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) that are within 1 mile of ownerships’ primary residences

Table XX-9 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) that are within 1 mile of ownerships’ vacation homes

Table XX-10 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) that are within 1 mile of ownerships’ farms

Table XX-11 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by reason for owning forest and woodland. Numbers include ownerships that rated an objective as very important or important on a five-point Likert scale.

Table XX-12 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by type and source of forest and woodland acquisition

Table XX-13 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by land tenure
Table XX-14 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by frequency of selling or giving away forest and woodland and
recipients of this land

Table XX-15 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by decisionmaker

Table XX-16 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by written management plan status

Table XX-17 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by activities that cut or removed trees

Table XX-18 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by types of timber products and trees cut or removed

Table XX-19 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by use of professional foresters for timber harvesting

Table XX-20 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by activities related to nontimber forest products (NTFPs)

Table XX-21 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by activities related to nontimber forest products (NTFPs)

Table XX-22 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by past 5 years’ forestry activity

Table XX-23 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by next 5 years’ forestry activity. Numbers include ownerships that
rated an activity as extremely likely or likely on a five-point Likert scale.

Table XX-24 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by lease status

Table XX-25 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by familiarity with and participation in cost-share programs

Table XX-26 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by familiarity with and participation in green certification programs

Table XX-27 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by familiarity with and participation in forestry related property tax
programs

Table XX-28 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by familiarity with and status of easements that restrict land use
conversions

Table XX-29 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by who recreated on the forest and woodland and type of recreation
Table XX-30 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by whether the ownership has its forest/woodland posted to restrict
public access and type of restriction

Table XX-31 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by advice received in the preceding 5 years and advice source

Table XX-32 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by type of assistance desired by ownership. Numbers include
ownerships that rated a topic as very helpful or helpful on a five-point Likert scale.

Table XX-33 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by preferred methods to receive forest/woodland management
information. Numbers include ownerships that rated a method as very useful or useful on a
five-point Likert scale.

Table XX-34 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by ownerships’ concerns. Numbers include ownerships that rated an
issue a great concern or concern on a five-point Likert scale.

Table XX-35 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by ownerships’ likelihood of selling or giving away land in the next 5
years and who is likely to receive it

Table XX-36 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by ownerships’ agreement/disagreement about statements related to
keeping land forested/wooded and selling forest/woodland

Table XX-37 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ retirement statuses

Table XX-38 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ occupations

Table XX-39 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ ages

Table XX-40 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ genders

Table XX-41 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ highest levels of formal education
attained

Table XX-42 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by primary and secondary owners’ ethnicities and races

Table XX-43 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by ownerships’ annual household income

Table XX-44 (YYYY)—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland
ownerships (10+ acres) by ownerships’ percent of household annual income derived from
forest and woodland owned
OTHER NWOS RESOURCES

Additional information about the 2011-2013 NWOS methods, results, and general program attributes is available through a series of publications, tools, and Web sites. Details of the design, implementation, and analysis methods can be found in Butler et al. (2016) and Dickinson and Butler (2013). Butler et al. (2016) also contains a copy of the questionnaire and documentation for the NWOS database.

Butler et al. (n.d.a.) presents an analysis of the general findings of the 2011-2013 NWOS concentrating on family forest and woodland ownerships with 10 or more acres of forest or woodland and examines trends between the 2002-2006 and 2011-2013 iterations of the NWOS. Summaries highlighting ownership patterns and general results from the 2011-2013 NWOS are published in U.S. Forest Service (2015) and will be available in a series of two-page graphical summaries, one for each state where the minimum sample size (n ≥ 100) was obtained, each region, and the nation (Butler et al., n.d.b.). The U.S. Forest Service (2015) brochure is intended primarily for those people who responded to the NWOS questionnaire and other private landowners. The Butler et al. (n.d.b.) summaries are intended primarily for a more technical audience including people who work for state forestry agencies, research institutions, and nonprofit organizations that are familiar with the NWOS program.

Additional program information, including links to some of the items listed above and copies of the state-specific questionnaires, is available at the following Web sites:

- National Woodland Owner Survey: www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos
- Forest Inventory and Analysis program: www.fia.fs.fed.us
- Family Forest Research Center, a joint venture between the U.S. Forest Service and the University of Massachusetts Amherst: www.familyforestresearchcenter.org
- Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment: www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa
GLOSSARY

Corporate forest and woodland ownerships—ownerships that are incorporated, including timber investment management organizations (TIMOs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), native corporations in Alaska, and private universities, that own forest or woodland. Where identifiable, family ownerships that have been incorporated primarily for tax, estate, or other purposes (e.g., family limited liability corporations) are included with the family forest and woodland ownerships category.

Family forest and woodland ownerships—families, individuals, trusts, estates, and family partnerships that own forest or woodland.

Federal forest and woodland ownerships—National Forest, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, and other federal ownerships that own forest or woodland.

Forest land—land at least 120 feet (37 meters) wide and at least 1 acre (0.4 hectare) in size with at least 10 percent cover (or equivalent stocking) by live trees including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated. Trees are woody plants having a more or less erect perennial stem(s) capable of achieving at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter at breast height, or 5 inches (12.7 cm) diameter at root collar, and a height of 16.4 feet (5 meters) at maturity in situ. The definition here includes all areas recently having such conditions and currently regenerating or capable of attaining such condition in the near future. Forest land also includes transition zones, such as areas between forest and nonforest lands, that have at least 10 percent cover (or equivalent stocking) with live trees and forest areas adjacent to urban and built-up lands. Unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas are classified as forest if they are less than 120 feet (37 meters) wide or an acre (0.4 hectare) in size. Forest land does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (Oswalt et al. 2014 p. 31).

Local forest and woodland ownerships—county, municipal, and other nonfederal public ownerships that own forest or woodland.

Nonindustrial private forest and woodland ownerships—private forest and woodland ownerships that do not own and operate a primary wood processing plant. A primary wood processing plant is any commercial operation that originates the primary processing of wood on a regular and continuing basis. Examples include: pulp or paper mill, sawmill, panel board mill, post or pole mill (Woudenberg et al. 2010 p. 49).

Other private forest and woodland ownerships—nongovernmental conservation and natural resources organizations (e.g., the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, Pacific Forest Trust, Boy Scouts of America) and unincorporated partnerships, associations, and clubs (e.g., hunting clubs that own, not lease property; recreation associations; 4H clubs; churches) that own forest or woodland.

Ownership—a legal entity that has proscribed legal rights over a specific resource. In the case of family ownerships, it is composed of one or more owners (i.e., individuals).

Private forest and woodland ownerships—corporate, family, other private, and tribal ownerships that own forest or woodland.
Public forest and woodland ownerships—federal, state, and local ownerships that own forest or woodland.

State forest and woodland ownerships—state owned parks, forests, wildlife, and other lands that own forest or woodland.

Tribal forest and woodland ownerships—Native American (Indian) ownerships that are within reservation boundaries that own forest or woodland. Due to data confidentiality rules and small numbers of these ownerships in many states, these ownerships are often included in the other private forest ownership category.

Woodland—land at least 120 feet (37 meters) wide and at least 1 acre (0.4 hectares) in size with sparse trees capable of achieving 16.4 feet (5 meters) in height with a tree canopy cover of 5 to 10 percent combined with shrubs at least 6 feet (2 meters) in height to achieve an overall cover of greater than 10 percent of woody vegetation. Trees are woody plants having a more or less erect perennial stem(s) capable of achieving at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter at breast height, or 5 inches (12.7 cm) diameter at root collar, and a height of 16.4 feet (5 meters) at maturity in situ. The definition here includes all areas recently having such conditions and currently regenerating or capable of attaining such condition in the near future. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (Oswalt et al. 2014 p. 35).

REFERENCES


Butler, B.J.; Hewes, J.H.; Dickinson, B.J.; Andrejczyk, K.; Butler, S.M.; Markowski-Lindsay, M. [N.d.b.]. Family forest ownerships (with 10+ forest and woodland acres) in [STATE], 2011-2013. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 2 p. [Separate summaries for each state, region, and the nation are in preparation].


NATIONAL FOREST AND WOODLAND OWNERSHIP TABLES

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Table 1.—Sample sizes and cooperation rates for family forest and woodland ownerships (1+ acres) for the U.S. Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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Note: These numbers are for all family forest and woodland ownerships. The size of holdings is unknown for nonrespondents and therefore these statistics cannot be subset just to ownerships with 10+ acres of forest or woodland.

\[
\text{Cooperation rate} = \left( \frac{\text{Responses}}{\text{Sent} - \text{Undeliverables}} \right) \times 100
\]

\[a\] Estimates are made at the substate level.
Table 2.—States included in regional and national summary tables and states for which full sets of state-level summary tables are being published in this report for the 2013 and 2006 iterations of the U.S. Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey

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<td>Alaska&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
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<sup>a</sup> Estimates are made at the substate level
Table 3.—Descriptions of survey summary tables for the U.S. Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey and crosswalk between survey questions by questionnaire version

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Acres by ownership category for all ownerships</td>
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<td>–</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sample size and cooperation rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Acres by ownership category</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Categories were simplified, especially for corporations. Switched from “check all that apply” to “check only one”.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Number of owners</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Percent of land that is forested/wooded</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Size of forest/wooded land holdings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Subquestion of wooded land outside of State of interest was dropped.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number of parcels owned</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>The number of parcels subquestion was separated into two subquestions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Primary residence</td>
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<td>Vacation home</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Added “not applicable” option. Dropped subquestion on farm acreage.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Reasons for owning</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Converted from a 7-point to a 5-point Likert scale and all options were labeled with words. Added objectives related to water resources and raising a family. Split home and vacation home objectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Land acquisition</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Added more detail on family relationships. Dropped the don’t know option for acquisition year.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Land tenure</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Past selling/giving away land</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Added more detail on family relationships.</td>
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<td>Decision maker</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Added more detail on family relationships and dropped logging contractor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Management plans</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Added subquestions on whether plan was implemented, who prepared the plan, and reasons for no plan. Don’t know option was dropped.</td>
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</table>
Table 3.—(continued)

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<td>Timber harvesting</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Converted to a matrix format. Added options for wood chips and unwanted trees. Dropped veneer logs and pulpwood. Added subquestion on certified logger. Dropped reason for cutting.</td>
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<td>Timber harvesting (simplified)</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Use of foresters</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Converted to matrix format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nontimber forest products</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Converted to matrix format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Nontimber forest products (simplified)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Recent forestry activities</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Added controlled burn, invasive species, and livestock grazing. Dropped planted trees and chemical use. Separated road and trails. Recreation and posting converted to separate questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Future forestry activities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Switched to a likelihood rating. Dropped convert land, buy more land, leave as is, minimum activities, no plans, and don't know. Sell and give away converted to separate question.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Leases</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Added land conservation, carbon sequestration, water supply, and wildlife. Dropped timber production and nontimber forest products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Cost-share programs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Converted familiarity from yes/no to rating. Added subquestion on recency. Dropped specification of programs.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Green certification programs</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Converted familiarity from yes/no to rating. Dropped subquestion on future intentions for certification.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Property tax programs</td>
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<td>–</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Easements</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Used phrase sell development rights instead of conservation easement. Converted familiarity from yes/no to rating. Dropped subquestion on what was eased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Added information on who recreated and the types of recreation activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Posting</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Added information on what activities are restricted.</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Advice received</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Added subquestion on advice topic and method of receiving advice.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Preferred methods to receive information</td>
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<td>Concerns</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21 and 22</td>
<td>Converted from a 7-point to a 5-point Likert scale and all options were labeled with words. Added climate change. Separated air and water pollution. Dropped endangered species, lawsuits, regulations, and timber theft. Changed unwanted plants to invasive plant species.</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Future selling/giving away land</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Added subquestion on who will receive it and why they are planning to dispose it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Conservation attitudes</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Demographics - retired</td>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Demographics - occupation</td>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Demographics - age</td>
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<td>32&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Changed graduate degree to advanced degree.</td>
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<td>Demographics - ethnicity and race</td>
<td>34&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; and 35&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Demographics - income</td>
<td>36&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Income from forest/wooded land</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>–</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Asked for demographic information for up to two owners in version 5.1
Table 4.—Estimated area of forest and woodland ownerships (1+ acres) by category and state/region/nation, 2011-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/state</th>
<th>All Ownerships</th>
<th>Total (thousands)</th>
<th>Private Corporate (thousands)</th>
<th>Tribal (thousands)</th>
<th>Other Private (thousands)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
<td>Corporate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,799</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1,308</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
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<td>362</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4,902</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>4,053</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
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Note: SE = Standard Error.
Table 4.—(continued)

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<th>Region/state</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
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<td>SE&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Region/state</td>
<td>All Ownerships</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Private Corporate</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<td>Acres</td>
<td>SE(^b)</td>
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<td>11,139</td>
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### Table 4—(continued)

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<sup>a</sup> Due to data confidentiality, Tribal is included with Other Private at the state level  
<sup>b</sup> SE = standard error
Table 5.--Estimated area and estimated number of private forest and woodland ownerships (1+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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\(^a\) SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding
Table 6.—Estimated area and estimated number of private forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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<sup>a</sup> SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding
### Table 7.—Estimated area and estimated number of non-industrial private forest and woodland ownerships (1+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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<sup>a</sup> SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding
Table 8.—Estimated area and estimated number of non-industrial private forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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<sup>a</sup> SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding
Table 9.—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (1+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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Table 9.—(continued)

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<sup>a</sup> SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding
Table 10.—Estimated area and estimated number of family forest and woodland ownerships (10+ acres) by state/region/nation, 2011-2013

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Table 10.—(continued)

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<tr>
<th>Region/state</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>Ownerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rocky Mountain</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rocky Mountain total</strong></td>
<td>23,512</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pacific Coast</strong></td>
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<td>Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pacific Coast total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. total</strong></td>
<td>268,555</td>
<td>1,367</td>
<td>4,030</td>
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</table>

*SE = standard error

Note: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding.
This report summarizes the results from the 2011-2013 National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis program. The focus of the results reported here is family forest and woodland ownerships with holdings of at least 10 acres. Summaries are based on responses from 8,576 family ownerships with at least 10 acres of forest or woodland across 47 U.S. states. Survey summary tables are available at dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-RB-99 and include the 36 states in which the minimum target effective sample size of 100 respondents was obtained plus tables for the nation and four regions (North, South, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast). An additional 11 states (Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington) have sample sizes between 10 and 99 and are included in national and regional summary tables, but state-level survey summary tables are not being published due to small sample sizes. Data for three states (Alaska, Nevada, and Wyoming) are excluded due to the low numbers of respondents (n<10) in each of these states. The survey summary tables provide statistics on general forest ownership patterns, effective sample sizes, and responses to the questions asked on the survey. The 37 survey questions, many with multiple parts, focus on ownership characteristics, land characteristics, reasons for owning land, land ownership history, uses of the forest and woodland, sources of information, concerns, the future of their land, and demographics. For comparison purposes, summary tables from the 2002-2006 iteration of the NWOS are provided along with an additional set of 2011-2013 regional and national summary tables where only states in common with the 2002-2006 iteration are included. In addition, this report includes separate tables with estimated area and estimated number of private, nonindustrial private, and family forest and woodland ownerships by state.

KEY WORDS: landowner survey, private forest, family forest, nonindustrial private forest, United States.