

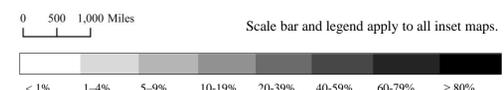
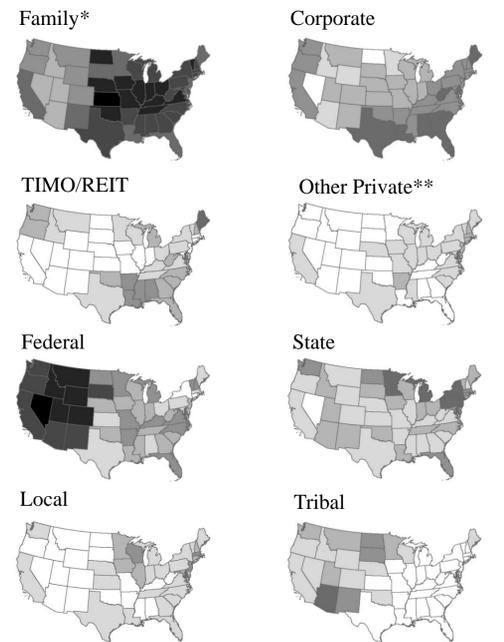
Estimated Distribution of Forest Ownerships Across the Conterminous United States, 2017

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Map Description

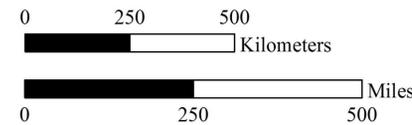
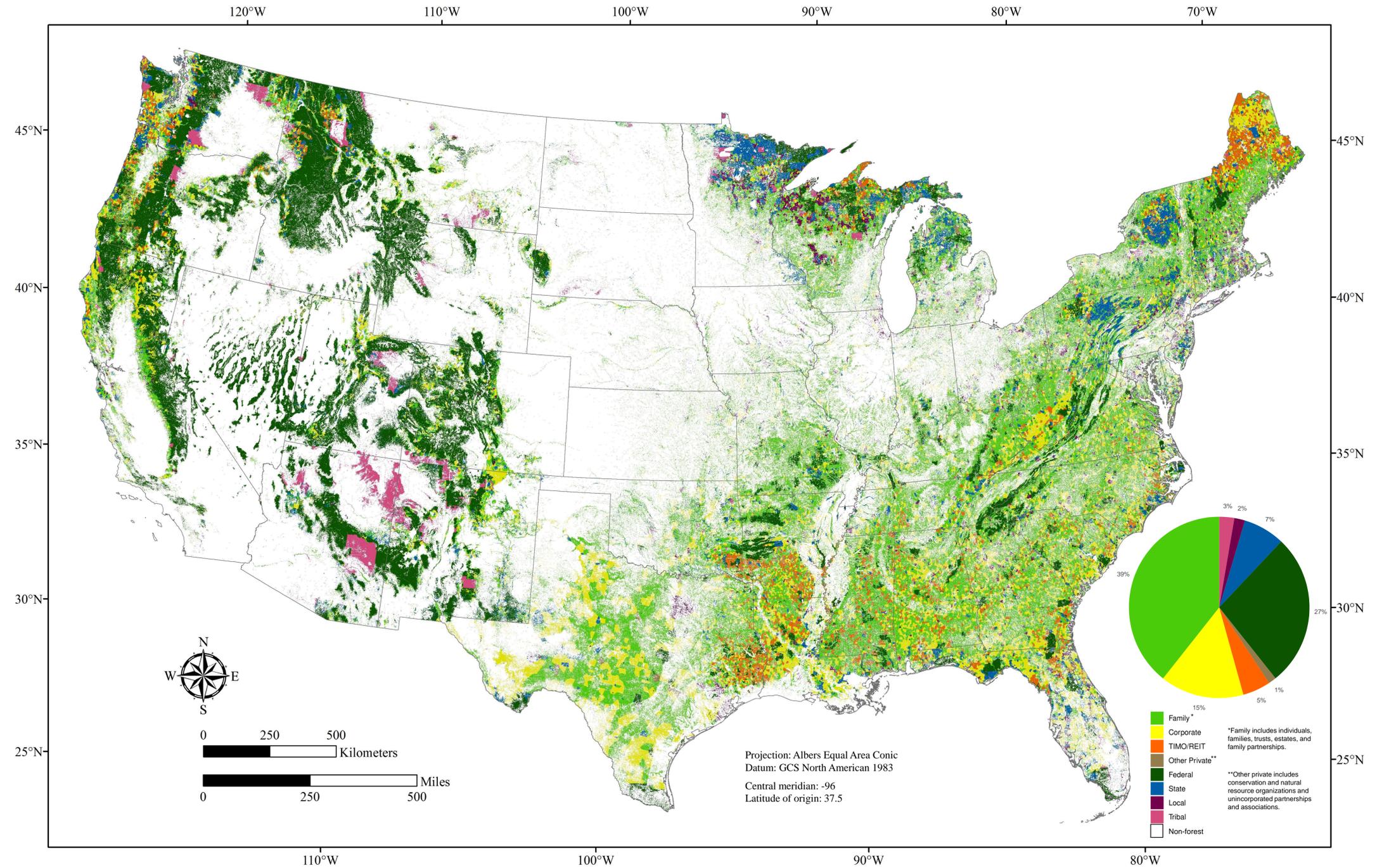
This map depicts the spatial distribution of forested land by ownership type for the conterminous United States. The underlying data were collected between 2012 and 2017. It updates a map product depicting forest ownership in 2009 (Hewes et al. 2014) and follows the same methods, but adds a new category for Timber Investment Management Organization (TIMO)/Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) ownerships which were previously included in the Corporate category. This map is intended to support national- and regional-scale planning and analyses and is not intended for use at the subregional or local scale. Map accuracy varies between ownership categories and regions, limiting its use for local or specific decision making.

The ownership data underlying the distribution are primarily from USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventor, and Analysis (FIA) data, which consists of plots distributed across the landscape at about one per 2400 ha (McRoberts 2008). Supplemental data from the Protected Area Database of the United States (PAD-US) were used for federal and state ownerships (USGS 2018). Ownership designations were extrapolated to the landscape using Thiessen polygons, which were then restricted to areas considered forested based on NLCD Tree Canopy Cover (USGS 2014) and FIA estimates of forest area per ecoregion and state (Hewes et al. 2017). Inset maps (below) show the percentage of forest land in each state owned by a particular ownership category. Darker colors indicate that more of a state's forests are held by that ownership type, but not that it necessarily has more forest by area in that category.



*Family includes individuals, families, trusts, estates, and family partnerships.

**Other private includes conservation and natural resource organizations and unincorporated partnerships and associations.



Projection: Albers Equal Area Conic
Datum: GCS North American 1983
Central meridian: -96
Latitude of origin: 37.5

Suggested Citation

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Data Sources

Forest ownership was derived from FIA plot data (2012 – 2017); TIMO and REIT classification of FIA points was refined by data from FORISK and expert opinion. Federal and state ownership data were augmented with data from the Protected Areas Database of the United States (USGS 2018), and polygon data representing the depictions of American Indian Land Area Representations are provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (U.S. BIA 2019). Forest and nonforest areas were determined from applying a threshold per ecoregion in each state to the 2011 NLCD Tree Canopy Cover data (USGS 2014) to align estimates with FIA estimates of forest area in that ecoregion. The geospatial data that were used to create this map are available for download (Sass et al. 2020).

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