

# THE NEW FACE OF AMERICA'S FAMILY FOREST OWNERS: RESULTS FROM THE 2011-2013 USDA FOREST SERVICE, NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNER SURVEY

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**Abstract**—Family forest owners rule! Across the United States, no other groups owns more forestland than families, individuals, trusts, and estates – collectively referred to as family forest owners. In total this group owns 117 million hectares of forestland, or 36% of the US forestland. Understanding the attitudes, behaviors, and general characteristics of this group of owners is necessary for understanding not just the current state of the forests, but also its future. This information is also important for designing effective programs and programs to meet the need of current and future owners. Data from the latest (2011-2013) iteration of the USDA Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS; [www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos)) will be used to explore differences between new and established forest ownerships in the US. Nearly 20% of America's forest owners have acquired their land within the past 10 years. These new owners have a number of factors that are similar to the more established owners, but also a number of factors that are different and these will be explored during this presentation.

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