

AMERICA'S FEMALE FAMILY FOREST OWNERS

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Abstract—According to the latest data from the US Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey, there are an estimated 4 million family forest ownerships (with 10+ acres) across the U.S. Approximately 20% of these ownerships have a woman as the primary owner. A great percentage of the other ownerships are owned by a couple where the second owner is a woman and, given normal mortality patterns with woman outliving men, many more women will eventually become the primary decision makers. There has been increasing interest in establishing programs aimed specifically at female forest owners, but there has been relatively few studies looking at this important group. This presentation will explore the characteristics of female forest ownerships in the U.S. and highlight differences (and similarities) as compared to their male counterparts using data from the National Woodland Owner Survey.

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