Forest Landowners

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Stoneville, MS DREC
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Mississippi Forestry Association
Overview

• Review of forest landowner statistics
  – US
  – Southern US
  – Mississippi

• Summary

• Call for questions
Who owns America’s Forests?

56% of the 751 million acres of forest land in the United States is privately owned. Of this private forest land, 62% is owned by families and individuals in what we call “family forests”.

Private Forest Percentage of Total Land
- 90th percentile (62.700 to 85.760 percent private forest)
- 75th percentile (51.560 to 62.659 percent private forest)
- 50th percentile (31.730 to 51.459 percent private forest)
- Less than 50th percentile (0.628 to 31.720 percent private forest)
- Insufficient private forest for this analysis

State 9%
Local 1%
Family 35%

Federal 33%
Other Private 21%
Southern US Forests and Owners

The US South constitutes 42% of the total US family forestland

Source: Wear and Greis 2011
Mississippi Forests and Owners

Mississippi FOREST FACTS

Acreage and Ownership

- 65 percent of Mississippi’s land is in forests.
- Mississippi has 19.8 million acres of forest land, 1.1 million more acres than in 1992. In 1934, Mississippi had 16.2 million acres of forest land.
- Mississippi ranks number one in the nation in the number of Certified Tree Farms with more than 3,200. To become a Tree Farmer, visit our website at www.msforestry.net/TreeFarm

Who owns Mississippi’s forests?

- Most is owned by private nonindustrial forest land owners – individuals and families

Forestry and the Economy

Timber is a very important commodity in Mississippi. The total value of Mississippi’s timber harvest is approximately $1 billion per year.
**US distribution**

Acreage and ownership of U.S. forests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of forest holdings</th>
<th>Percent of land</th>
<th>Percent of owners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-49</td>
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<td>500-999</td>
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*Over 10 MILLION individuals or families own forestland*

## Southern US distribution

### Acreage and ownership of U.S. forests

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<td>500-999</td>
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*Over 10 MILLION individuals or families own forestland*

*Mississippi has 300,000 woodland owners

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*Numbers are conservative and based on the National Woodland Owner Survey results which included 12,830 family respondents owning between 10-999 acres in 2006.
US Landowner demographics

Mississippi Landowners:
- 9% are under 45
- 40% are 45-64
- and 51% are over 65

US Owner engagement

U.S. Forest Owners with Written Management Plan & Forest Owners that Sought Management Advice

- Only 6% of Mississippians have a written land management plan
- 31% have sought advice or information on woodland management

US- Reasons and Concerns

**Reasons for owning:**

- Beauty/scenery
- Family legacy
- Privacy
- Nature biodiversity
- Connected to home or cabin
- Land investment
- Hunting or fishing
- Part of farm or ranch
- Hiking, snowmobiling, and other recreation
- Timber production

**Concerns:**

- Insects and plant diseases
- Keeping land intact for future generations
- Wildfire

Based on the National Woodland Owners Survey
US - Importance of Owning

For Timber Production & For Beauty & Scenery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Forest Holdings</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Owners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000+</td>
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<td>100-999</td>
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## MS- Reasons and Concerns

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<th>Concerns:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family legacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land investment</td>
<td>Fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beauty/scenery</td>
<td>Insects and plant diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timber production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting/recreation</td>
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</table>
US- Planned future activities

MS- Planned future activities

- None
- Minimal activity
- Pass on to heirs
- Harvest timber
- Sell
- Harvest firewood

Summary - US

• Over ½ of the forest land in US is privately owned, and of that nearly 2/3 is owned by 10 million families and individuals

• One in four family forest owners have commercially harvested trees, but only 1 in 20 have a written management plan

• Aging family forest ownership is a concern
Summary - MS

• MS is almost 70% forested and is currently a top 3 industry in terms of state economic impact

• MS ranks #1 nationwide in the number of certified tree farms (3,800+) and having the MOST extensive county forestry association network

• Aging family forest ownership is concern as well as inadequate transfer/plans established
Conclusion

- Family legacy indicators are strong, but there is fear of inadequate plans for transfer of land.
- Mississippians have a wide array of priorities and goals yet lack professional management plans concerned with broad approaches not addressing specific landowner objectives.
- With both investment and timber production being among top 5 in percentage among reasons for owning, landowners need to seek professional assistance at the time of timber harvest.
Call for Questions

• Are there any questions?

Please purchase a First in Forestry car tag to support forestry outreach & education in Mississippi!

The official Mississippi First in Forestry license plate is available in every county Tax Assessor’s office. Sales of these tags support MFA’s mission.