



Forest Service

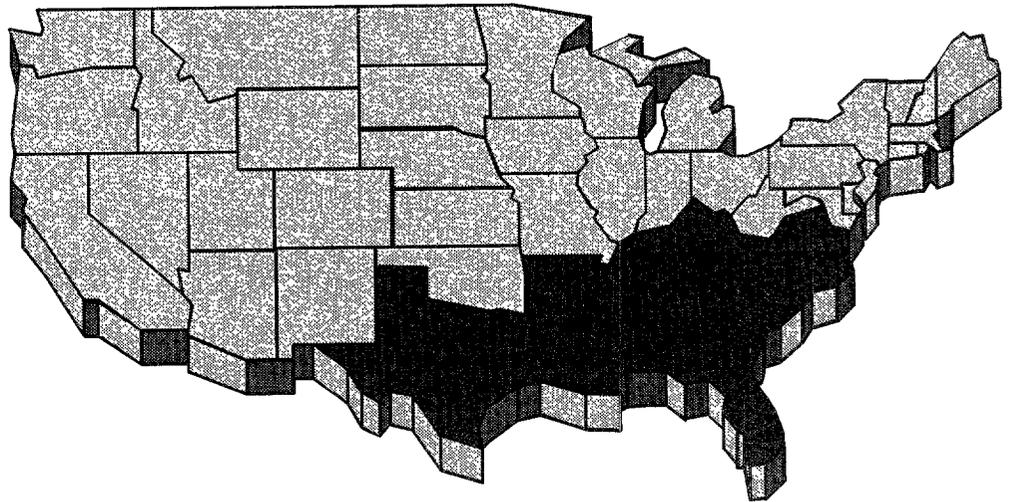
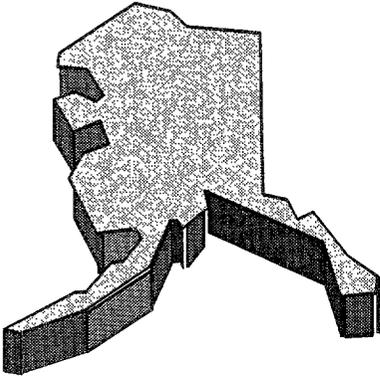
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station

Resource Bulletin NE-138



Private Forest-land Owners of the Southern United States, 1994

Thomas W. Birch



Abstract

Information from a recent study of forest-land owners has provided a new estimate of the number of ownerships and insight into the attitudes and actions of this important group of decision makers. Nearly 47 percent of private forestland is in ownerships of more than 500 acres. An estimated 45 percent of these owners have harvested timber from their holdings at some time in the past. Owners have a positive attitude toward timber cutting at a time when there is greater demand for products from the forest. Interest in harvesting the timber resource has created a situation in which watchful monitoring and good stewardship are needed to maintain the productivity of ecosystems for future generations.

The Author

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Acknowledgments

This report has been a team effort, involving the work and contributions of many people. Foremost among these were the efforts of the private forest-land owners who took the time to complete and return a questionnaire.

The help of the Forest Inventory and Analysis Research Work units at the USDA Forest Service Experiment Stations is greatly appreciated. Vickie Sharon was responsible for administrative and secretarial services. Significant contributions also were made by Cecile Stelter, Beverly Grant, Anne Cane, Ray Sheffield, Gerald Craver, Patrick Miller, Jack London, Joanne Faulkner, Earl Leatherberry, Gem Blair, Dwane VanHooser, and Willem van Hees. Members of the Coordination Committee for this study included Fred Kaiser, Chair (Forest Service); Terri Bates, (National Association of State Foresters); Bob Smith and Jeff Goebel (National Resources Conservation Service); and Robert Moulton and Jim Bones (Forest Service). The efforts of the Statistical Laboratory at Iowa State University and Sarah Nusser in choosing the sample locations drawn for most states ensured well-distributed coverage. Thanks also to those who gathered names and addresses, and contacted owners who had not responded to the questionnaire through the mail, particularly state service foresters, forest inventory staffs, and personnel with the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University coordinated by Dr. Larry Doolittle.

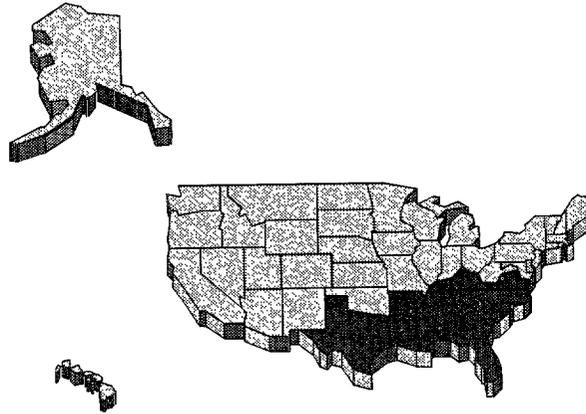
Manuscript received for publication 12 December 1996.

Published by:
USDA FOREST SERVICE
5 RADNOR CORP CTR SUITE 200
RADNOR PA 19087-4585

For additional copies:
USDA Forest Service
Publications Distribution
359 Main Road
Delaware, OH 43015

March 1997

Private Forest-land Owners of the Southern United States, 1994



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Highlights

- ◆ An estimated 4.9 million private ownerships control more than 188 million acres of forest land in the Southern United States.
- ◆ Nearly 47 percent of the private forest is in ownerships of more than 500 acres.
- ◆ Corporations, partnerships, clubs, and other ownerships with multiple owners hold 39 percent of the acreage, while “retired” owners control 30 percent of the remaining 61 percent.
- ◆ Forty-three percent of the ownerships first acquired forest land since 1978; these owners control 25 percent of the private forest.
- ◆ Five percent of the private forest-land owners have a written management plan; they control 40 percent of the private forest.

Introduction

Our forest resources are vital to the social and economic well-being of our society. Good forest management requires a thorough knowledge of the resource base and the factors affecting it. Forest owners are the essential link between the general public and the land. This publication reports results of the Southern United States from a 1994 study of forest-land owners nationwide (Birch 1996), and includes estimates of the number of private forest-land ownerships. Also described are ownership objectives, expected benefits, harvest experience, intention to harvest, and management planning. The first nationwide ownership study for the United States was conducted in 1978 (Birch and others 1982). This report also reviews trends that have occurred between the 1978 and 1994 national surveys.

In this report an ownership unit refers to persons, combinations of persons or legal entities such as corporations, partnerships, clubs, trusts, Indian Tribes, and Native corporations. One person may own several parcels or partial interest in several parcels. An ownership unit controls a parcel or group of parcels of land. Our sample is drawn from the land itself (parcel by parcel), and the owner of record (the apparent owner) is determined. Finally, an individual who has some control of an amount of land (not exclusively the parcel sampled) responds to the survey. Therefore, ownership units and not owners are being sampled.

Landowners have rights and responsibilities regarding their land. These include the right to purchase additional land or sell existing holdings, determine land use, and choose the type and level of investment. Each of these rights functions within the limits allowed and imposed by society. Ownership of land fixes responsibility for decisionmaking, establishes a claim on income accruing to land, and determines how wealth in land is distributed (Lewis 1980; Boxley 1977; Wunderlich 1978).

Data Collection

The USDA Forest Service's estimate of 736.7 million acres of forest nationwide, essentially unchanged from 1977, represents 33 percent of the total land area (Powell and others 1993). Of this, private "forest-land" owners (this and other terms are defined in the Appendix) hold 423.8 million acres (58 percent). Two-thirds of the Nation's forests are classified as timberland (490 million acres). Of this, 358 million acres are in private ownership. This study is based on an estimate of 188 million acres of private forest land, which includes essentially all of the private timberland plus samples of "other forest" in Texas and Oklahoma in the 13 Southern States.

In 1977, for comparison, 736.6 million acres of the United States were in forest; of this, 347 million acres were classified as privately owned timberland (USDA For. Serv. 1982). The 1978 study of private forest-land owners of the United States used an estimate of 333 million acres

developed by USDA Economic Research Service, Natural Resource Economics Division from the National Resources Inventory (NRI) of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The difference of 14 million acres (4 percent) was attributed to differences in definitions (Birch and others 1982). It was felt that the proportions from the 1978 study could be applied to the timberland base for resource planning purposes.

The other national estimate of forest-land owners is from the Timber Resource Review of 1953 (USDA For. Serv. 1958). The 1953 data did not include estimates of owners with fewer than 3 acres in the East. Therefore, direct comparison of numbers of owners should not be made. The comparison by broad size classes could be of some use if coupled with trend data by ownership group (Wall 1981).

The 1978 data were gathered from 11,076 sample locations by the USDA Economic Research Service. The 1994 study was conducted by the Forest Inventory and Analysis projects of the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, in support of the Forest Stewardship Program of the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. Questionnaires for the 1994 study were mailed to 23,334 owners of 28,194 privately owned forested sample plots. Sample plot locations were from NRI or Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots. Specifics as to numbers of plots used by state are included in the Appendix. Responses from 3,600 ownerships that control 5,207 of these sample plots in the South are included in this report. The procedure for estimating the number of private forest-land owners by state and the questionnaire used for this report are included in the Appendix.

Private Forest Owners

An estimated 4.9 million private forest-land ownership units hold 188 million acres of forest land in the Southern United States. These owners are diverse in legal organization, economic circumstances, personal characteristics, ownership objectives, and management experience.

About 95 percent of the private ownerships are individuals, collectively holding 61 percent of the privately owned forest land (Fig.1, Table1). Corporations hold 28 percent and the remaining 11 percent is held by partnerships, undivided estates, clubs, associations, and Indian Tribes.

Since 1978, individual ownerships, including joint husband and wife and family ownerships other than family corporations, increased in number and in the proportion of private forest land owned (Fig. 1, Table 1). Partnerships decreased both in number of ownership units and in the proportion of private forest land owned. The number of corporations that own forest land decreased and the acreage of forest land owned decreased slightly. Since 1978, "other" ownerships such as sport and recreation clubs, undivided estates, trusts, and Indian Tribes

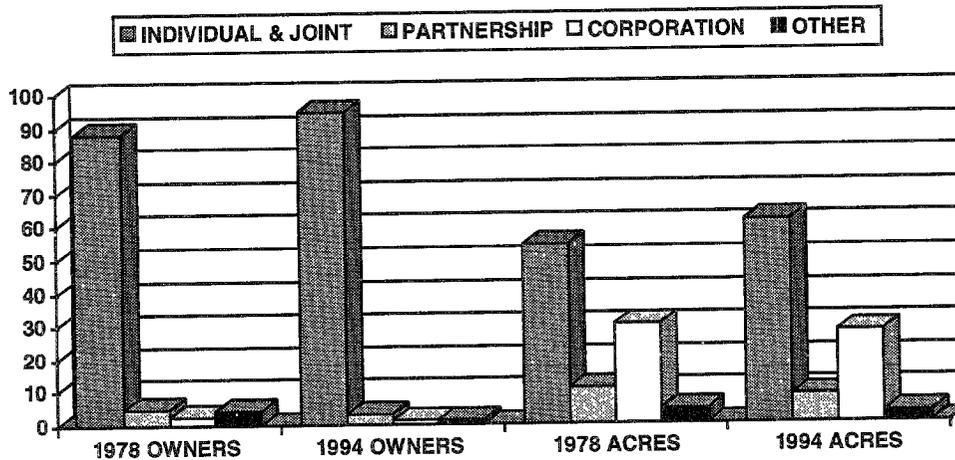


Figure 1.—Distribution of private ownerships, by form of ownership, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994.

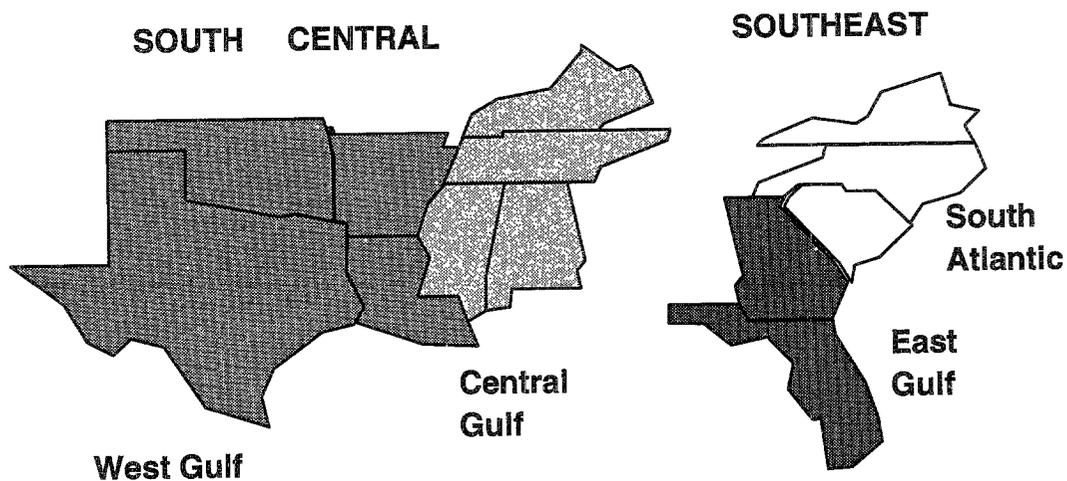


Figure 2.—Regions and subregions for private forest-land owners of the Southern United States, 1994.

decreased both in number and in acreage held. Undivided estates are important in Kentucky and other areas of Appalachia (Birch and Powell 1978). Indian Tribes are a particularly important ownership group in Oklahoma.

The South is divided into two subregions: Southeast and Southern States (Fig. 2, Table 2). Data tabulations by region, subregion, and state are presented at the end of this report. The data are further subdivided to show subtotals for Central Gulf and West Gulf sections of the South Central subregion and East Gulf and South Atlantic sections of the Southeast subregion.

In 1978, the South had an estimated 3.9 million private forest-land ownership units with 173 million acres of forest land versus 4.9 million ownerships with 188 million acres in 1994. The latter estimate includes nearly 250,000

ownerships with more than 10 million acres of "other forest" in Texas and Oklahoma that were not included in the 1978 study. Forest fragmentation is of particular importance in the East Gulf (Georgia and Florida) and other areas of high urban population density.

The distribution of ownership by size class has changed since 1978 (Fig. 3, Table 3). The number of private ownerships with fewer than 10 acres of forest land increased from 2.7 million (70 percent) to 3.2 million (64 percent). The acreage in this class increased from 5.5 to 8.3 million acres. The number of ownerships with 10 to 49 acres of forest increased from 0.6 million in 1978 to 1.2 million in 1994. The acreage in this class increased from 14.4 to 26.3 million acres. The number of owners with 50 to 99 acres of forest also increased from 1978 to 1994, as did the acreage owned by this class.

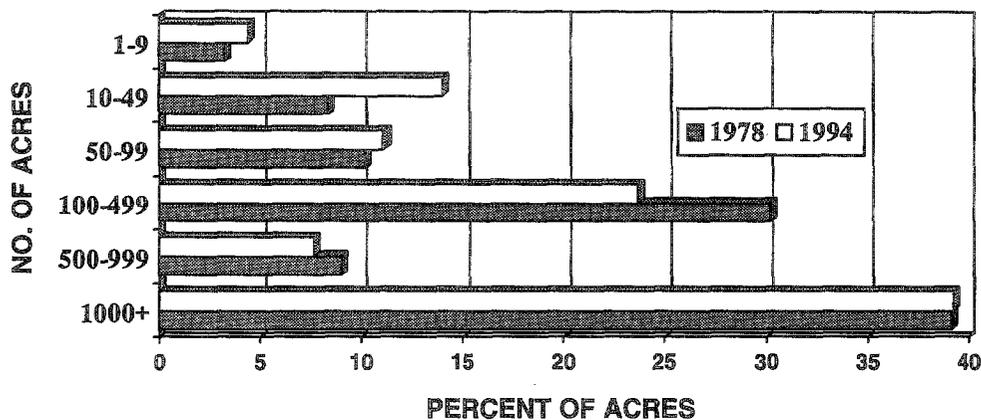
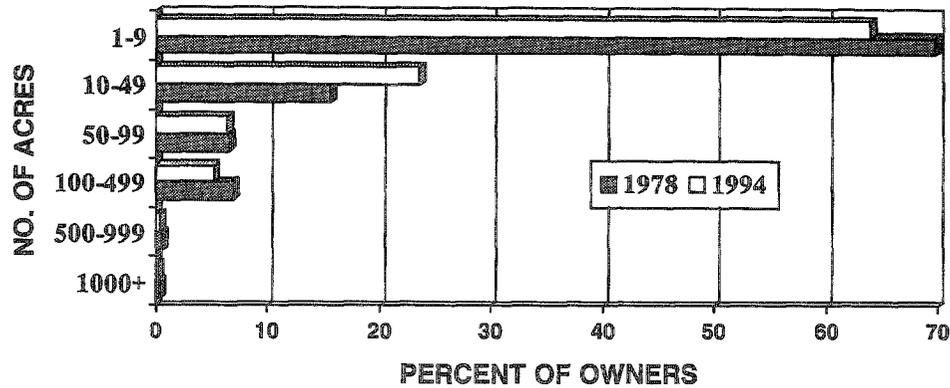


Figure 3.—Distribution of private ownerships, by size class of ownership, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994.

The area in ownerships of more than 100 acres supports effective timber management. The proportion of ownerships with a written management plan increases with size of ownership. If the approximately 301,000 owners with more than 100 acres of forest worked with professional foresters, nearly 70 percent of the South's forest could be placed under management. However, working only with this group would preclude the development of a broad-based supportive constituency (Birch and Pywell 1986).

More than 93 percent of the private ownerships have fewer than 100 acres of forest land each; they control 30 percent of the private forest land. It is this portion of the resource where concern about fragmentation and rapid turnover is concentrated. While many of these owners did not cite timber harvesting as their primary reason for owning forest land, many have harvested and will harvest trees for sale to forest-products companies.

The implications of changing ownership patterns are significant. The yearly transition to many new forest-land

owners makes it difficult to impart information about management activities such as stewardship programs. As a result, the use of mass communication, particularly the electronic media, is essential (Birch and Pywell 1986). More than 40 percent of the current owners acquired forest land for the first time since 1978. These owners control 25 percent of the private forest land (Fig. 4, Table 4). The group with the largest decrease both in numbers of owners and acreage include people who first acquired forest land between 1970 and 1977.

The social and economic characteristics of private forest-land owners and their objectives must be considered when developing management programs. As owners age, for example, some may harvest because they need money for retirement. By contrast, it is believed that "baby boomers" who are well known for their environmental concerns and high educational levels might not harvest because they do not need current income (Marcin and Skog 1984). But our studies revealed that the perception that these owners are adverse to cutting trees is false.

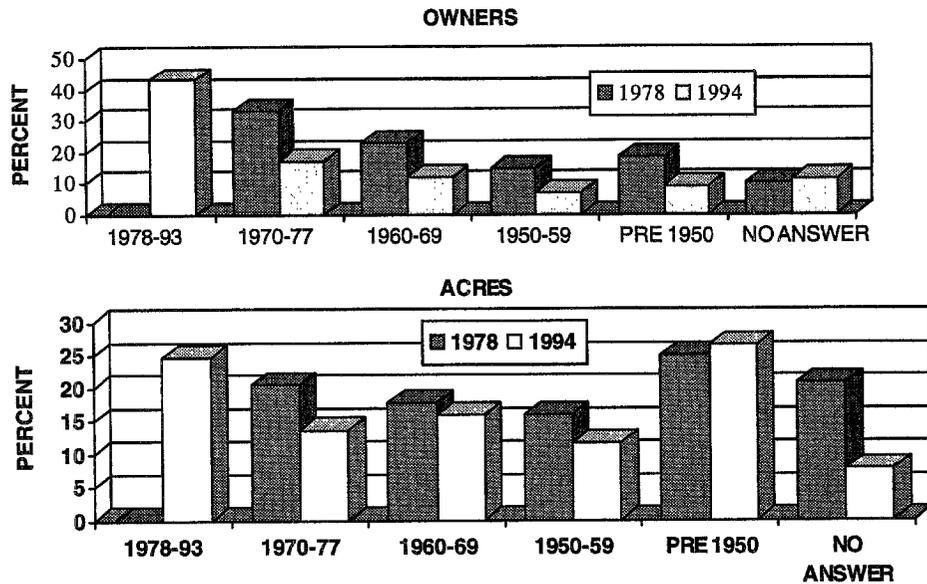


Figure 4.—Distribution of private ownerships, by year owner first acquired forest land, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994.

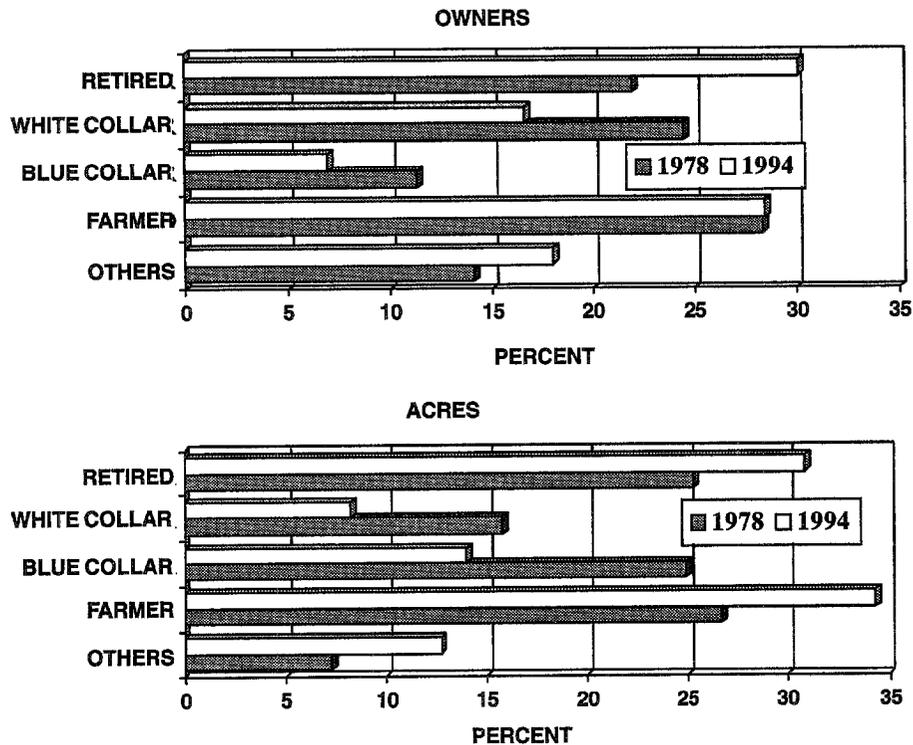


Figure 5.—Distribution of individual ownerships, by owner occupation, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994.

In general, the “new” individual private forest-land owner is younger, better educated, and earns more than the owner of a decade ago. Also, the proportion of retired and “other” owners increased (Fig. 5, Table 5). “Other” includes service workers, which coincides with the increase in service-related industries in the economy from 1978 to 1994. There has been a substantial decrease in the number of owners in

“blue collar” occupations and in the acreage held by these owners. The retired group increased both in the proportion of owners and proportion of acreage owned, possibly because owners who retired in the last decade were from occupation groups that had decreases as opposed to individuals who purchased forest land upon retirement. Also, people are retiring earlier and living longer.

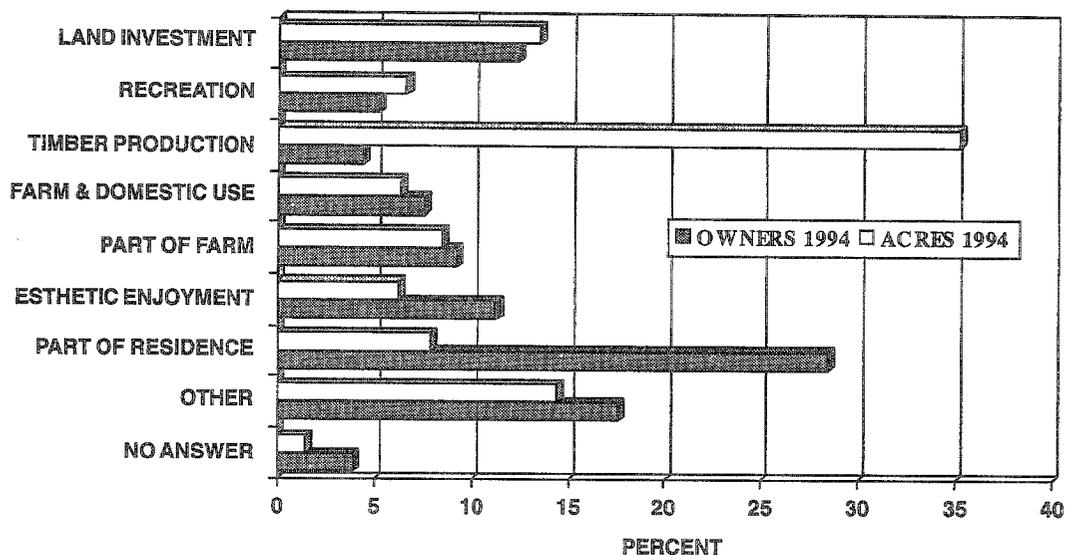


Figure 6.—Distribution of private ownerships, by primary reason for owning forest land, Southern United States, 1994.

Owner Objectives

Forest lands produce many benefits for their owners, so it is not surprising that respondents express diverse reasons for owning forest land. Many potential benefits from owning forest land are not competitive with each other: some are derived with little or no effect on others, while some even increase when another benefit is produced.

Nearly 38 percent of the private forest-land owners hold forest land primarily because it is simply “part of the farm” or “residence” (Fig. 6, Table 6). In general, these ownerships hold smaller than average-size tracts. Another 9 percent of the owners state that farm or domestic use is the most important reason for owning forest land. Many of these owners consider their woodland as a source of fenceposts, fuelwood, and similar products.

Recreation and esthetic enjoyment derived from owning forest land are why 17 percent of the owners hold forest land. The area owned by people with these objectives represents 13 percent of the private forest land.

Land investment often is thought of as a hedge against inflation. Private landowners who list land investment as their primary reason for owning account for 12 percent of the owners and 14 percent of private forest land.

Only 4 percent of the private forest-land owners hold their land primarily for timber production, but these owners control 35 percent of the private forest land. Some owners hold forest land for the minerals under the surface. Many of these are included in the “other” category. Also included in this category are lands owned by Indian Tribes and Native corporations as part of their cultural heritage.

Benefits expected in the next 10 years provide another perspective on ownership objectives. Esthetic enjoyment predominates with 29 percent of the owners expecting it to be most important benefit (Table 7); these owners control 13 percent of the private forest.

Expected increases in land value is next in importance as a benefit, accounting for 27 percent of the owners and 21 percent of the private forest. Only 7 percent of the owners have income from the sale of timber as the most important benefit; and they control 40 percent of the private forest. Firewood is most important benefit for 4 percent of the owners; they hold 2 percent of private forest land.

Timber Harvesting Behavior

There is a positive attitude toward and experience with timber harvesting. An estimated 45 percent of the private owners have harvesting experience; they control 78 percent of the private forest land (Fig. 7, Table 8).

Respondents stating that they intend to harvest in the next 10 years account for an estimated 29 percent of the private forest-land owners and 60 percent of the private acreage. Conversely, 38 percent of the owners stated they never intend to harvest; they control only 12 percent of the private acreage (Fig. 8, Table 9). Owners with indefinite harvest plans (28 percent) control 27 percent of the private forest land.

Management Planning

With the advent of the Forest Stewardship Program, there is increased interest in written management plans. An estimate, 5 percent of the private forest-land owners have a written management plan for their acreage (Fig. 9, Table 10). These owners control 40 percent of the private forest land.

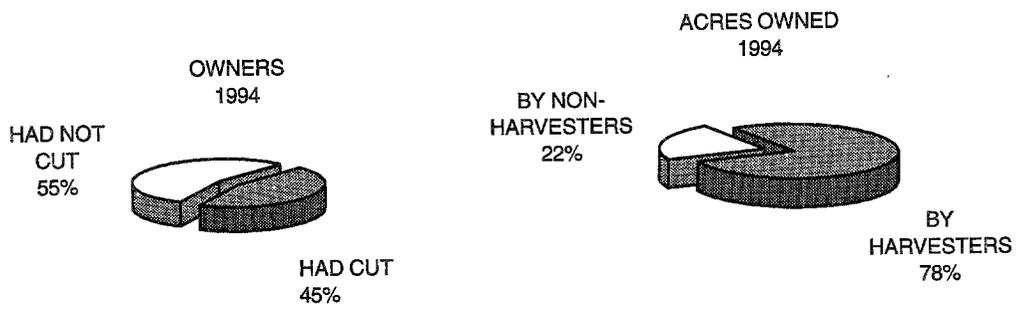


Figure 7.—Harvest experience of private ownerships and acres of forest land owned, Southern United States, 1994.

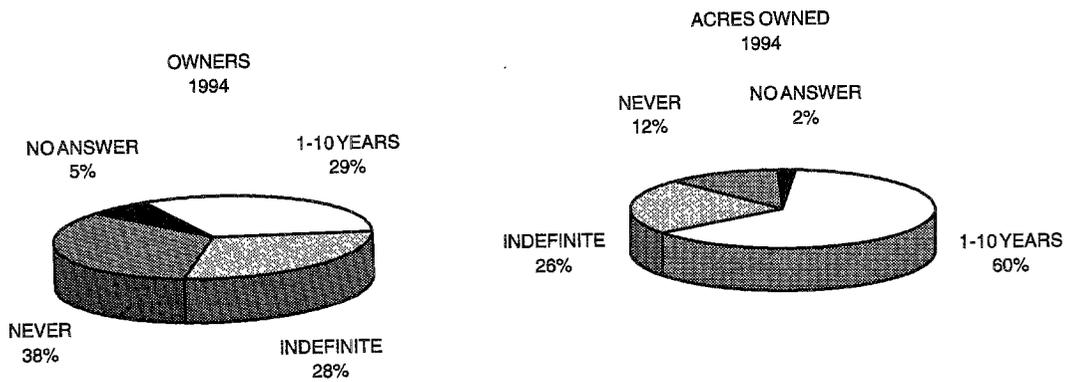


Figure 8.—Harvest intentions of private ownerships and acres of forest land owned, Southern United States, 1994.

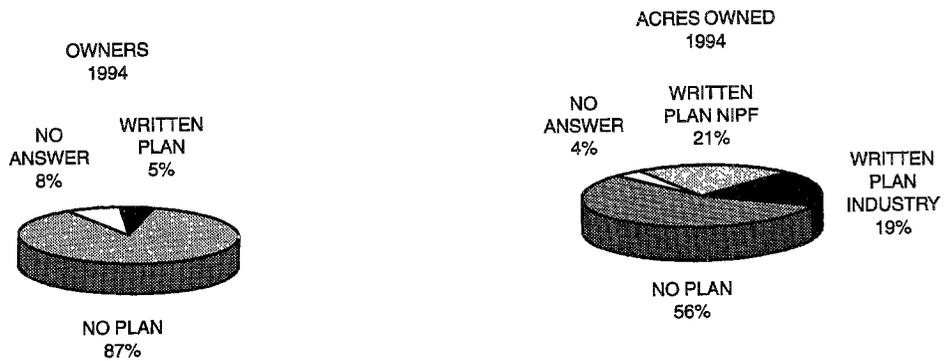


Figure 9.—Distribution of private ownerships and acres of forest land owned, by whether a written management plan had been prepared, Southern United States, 1994.

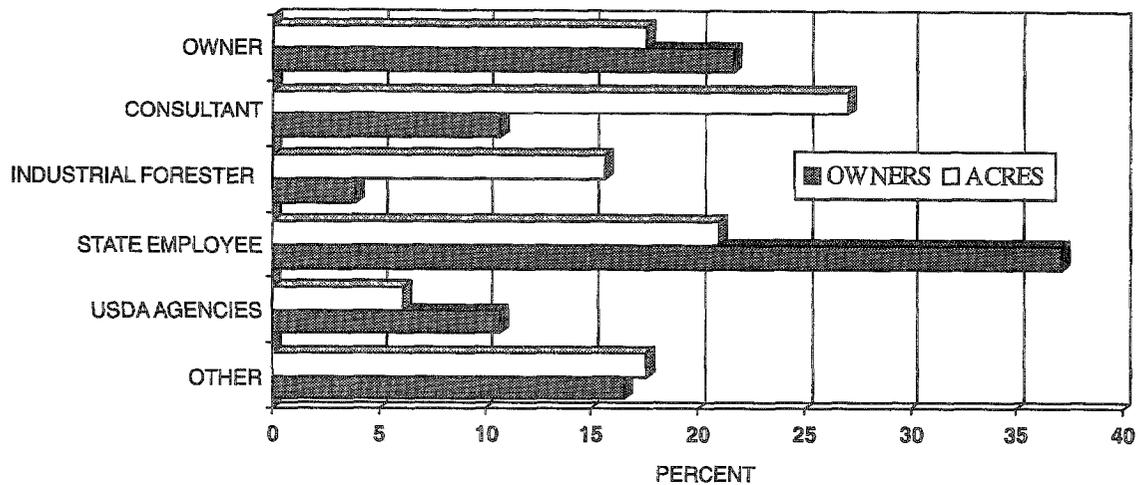


Figure 10.—Distribution of nonindustrial private ownerships (NIPF) and acres of forest land owned, by who prepared the written plan, Southern United States, 1994.

Forest industry owns 48 percent of the forest land held by those with a written plan. The other 52 percent of the forest area is controlled by nearly 250,000 non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners with some form of written plan.

Nearly 22 percent of the NIPF owners that have a plan stated that they prepared the plan themselves (Fig. 10, Table 11). These owners control 18 percent of the area covered by written plans. This includes some ownerships that employ foresters to prepare their plan. An estimated 11 percent of the NIPF plans were prepared by consultants, accounting for 27 percent of the forest land covered by written plans. Industrial foresters prepared 4 percent of the NIPF plans covering an estimated 16 percent of the area covered by a written plans.

State service foresters and wildlife biologists have been preparing management plans for a long time. They wrote 37 percent of the plans for NIPF owners that cover 21 percent of the area under a written plan. Agencies such as the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDA Extension Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service prepared the remaining 27 percent of the plans

that cover the remaining 24 percent of the forest under a management plan. Totals exceed 100 percent because some owners listed more than one agency or person preparing the plan.

Conclusion

The extent to which the private forest resources of the Southern United States are needed, managed, and utilized in the future will depend on the complex set of interrelated factors that operated in the past. These include trends in the tastes and preferences of the owners of forest land; technological changes in the production, marketing, and utilization of wood products and their substitutes; strength of the American dollar, trade deficits, inflation, and other economic forces; attitudes of forest-land owners and other citizenry toward timber management and cutting; and attractiveness of local business climates and living environments to developing industries. Only time will tell how all of these factors interact. For now, watchful monitoring and good stewardship are needed to maintain the productivity of forested ecosystems for future generations.

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Table 1. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by type of ownership, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994

| Form of ownership | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Thousands | Percent |
| OWNERS | | | | |
| Individual | 3,388 | 87.9 | 4,680 | 94.7 |
| Partnership | 195 | 5.1 | 147 | 3.0 |
| Corporation | 96 | 2.5 | 58 | 1.2 |
| Other | 172 | 4.5 | 55 | 1.1 |
| Total | 3,851 | 100.0 | 4,940 | 100.0 |

| Form of ownership | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Millions | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| ACRES | | | | |
| Individual | 94.0 | 54.3 | 114.9 | 61.2 |
| Partnership | 19.3 | 11.1 | 15.5 | 8.3 |
| Corporation | 52.4 | 30.3 | 52.0 | 27.7 |
| Other | 7.4 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 2.8 |
| Total | 173.1 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 2. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by state, subregion, and region, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994

| State, subregion, and region | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | Owners (Thousands) | Acres (Millions) | Owners (Thousands) | Acres (Millions) |
| Alabama | 429.0 | 19.760 | 452.4 | 20.770 |
| Kentucky | 372.3 | 10.325 | 306.9 | 11.424 |
| Mississippi | 185.0 | 14.101 | 341.2 | 15.126 |
| Tennessee | 224.0 | 13.790 | 475.9 | 11.763 |
| Central Gulf | 1,210.3 | 57.885 | 1,576.4 | 58.678 |
| Arkansas | 308.0 | 14.650 | 296.1 | 14.510 |
| Louisiana | 215.0 | 11.870 | 148.9 | 12.544 |
| Oklahoma | 43.0 | 5.370 | 158.0 | 6.926 |
| Texas | 185.0 | 9.190 | 319.8 | 18.269 |
| West Gulf | 751.0 | 41.080 | 922.8 | 52.249 |
| Southern | 1,961.3 | 98.965 | 2,499.2 | 111.332 |
| Florida | 232.1 | 11.898 | 320.8 | 13.112 |
| Georgia | 278.0 | 21.480 | 610.7 | 21.985 |
| East Gulf | 510.0 | 33.378 | 931.5 | 35.097 |
| North Carolina | 693.0 | 16.420 | 704.9 | 16.774 |
| South Carolina | 244.0 | 10.610 | 335.9 | 11.006 |
| Virginia | 442.0 | 13.760 | 468.8 | 13.442 |
| South Atlantic | 1,379.0 | 40.790 | 1,509.6 | 41.222 |
| Southeast | 1,889.1 | 74.168 | 2,441.1 | 76.319 |
| South Total | 3,850.4 | 173.133 | 4,940.2 | 187.651 |

Table 3. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by size class of ownership, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994

| Size class (acres) | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Thousands | Percent |
| OWNERS | | | | |
| 1-9 | 2,688 | 69.8 | 3,158 | 63.9 |
| 10-49 | 600 | 15.6 | 1,165 | 23.6 |
| 50-99 | 254 | 6.6 | 316 | 6.4 |
| 100-499 | 272 | 7.0 | 261 | 5.3 |
| 500-999 | 23 | .6 | 24 | .5 |
| 1000+ | 14 | .4 | 16 | .3 |
| Total | 3,851 | 100.0 | 4,940 | 100.0 |

| Size class (acres) | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Millions | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| ACRES | | | | |
| 1-9 | 5.5 | 3.2 | 8.3 | 4.4 |
| 10-49 | 14.4 | 8.3 | 26.3 | 14.0 |
| 50-99 | 17.6 | 10.2 | 20.7 | 11.1 |
| 100-499 | 52.4 | 30.2 | 44.5 | 23.7 |
| 500-999 | 15.7 | 9.0 | 14.3 | 7.6 |
| 1000+ | 67.6 | 39.1 | 73.6 | 39.2 |
| Total | 173.1 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 4. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by date of acquisition, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994

| Date of acquisition | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|---------------------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Thousands* | Percent | Thousands | Percent |
| OWNERS | | | | |
| 1978-93 | 0 | 0 | 2,148 | 43.5 |
| 1970-77 | 1,279 | 33.2 | 854 | 17.3 |
| 1960-69 | 893 | 23.2 | 591 | 12.0 |
| 1950-59 | 574 | 14.9 | 348 | 7.0 |
| Prior to 1950 | 716 | 18.6 | 424 | 8.6 |
| No answer | 389 | 10.1 | 575 | 11.6 |
| Total | 3,851 | 100.0 | 4,940 | 100.0 |

| Date of acquisition | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|---------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Millions | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| ACRES | | | | |
| 1978-93 | 0 | 0 | 46.3 | 24.7 |
| 1970-77 | 35.5 | 20.5 | 25.6 | 13.6 |
| 1960-69 | 30.7 | 17.7 | 29.8 | 15.9 |
| 1950-59 | 27.6 | 16.0 | 21.8 | 11.6 |
| Prior to 1950 | 43.3 | 25.0 | 50.0 | 26.6 |
| No answer | 36.0 | 20.8 | 14.2 | 7.6 |
| Total | 173.1 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 5. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by owner's occupation, Southern United States, 1978 and 1994

| Occupation | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Thousands | Percent |
| OWNERS | | | | |
| White collar | 742 | 21.9 | 1,411 | 30.1 |
| Blue collar | 827 | 24.4 | 775 | 16.6 |
| Farmer | 384 | 11.3 | 321 | 6.9 |
| Retired | 957 | 28.3 | 1,332 | 28.4 |
| Other | 478 | 14.1 | 841 | 18.0 |
| Total, individuals | 3,388 | 100.0 | 4,680 | 100.0 |

| Occupation | 1978 | | 1994 | |
|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Millions | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| ACRES | | | | |
| White collar | 23.8 | 25.3 | 35.4 | 30.8 |
| Blue collar | 14.8 | 15.8 | 9.4 | 8.2 |
| Farmer | 23.4 | 24.9 | 16.1 | 14.0 |
| Retired | 25.1 | 26.7 | 39.4 | 34.3 |
| Other | 6.9 | 7.3 | 14.6 | 12.7 |
| Total, individuals | 94.0 | 100.0 | 114.9 | 100.0 |

Table 6. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by primary reason for owning forest land, Southern United States, 1994

| Reason for owning: | Owners | | Acres | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| Land investment | 613.7 | 12.4 | 25.4 | 13.5 |
| Recreation | 254.3 | 5.2 | 12.4 | 6.6 |
| Timber production | 219.3 | 4.4 | 66.0 | 35.2 |
| Farm and domestic use | 374.9 | 7.6 | 11.8 | 6.3 |
| Enjoyment of owning | 558.5 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 6.2 |
| Part of farm | 456.1 | 9.2 | 15.9 | 8.5 |
| Part of residence | 1,401.0 | 28.4 | 14.9 | 7.9 |
| Other | 869.5 | 17.6 | 27.1 | 14.4 |
| No answer | 192.9 | 3.9 | 2.5 | 1.4 |
| Total | 4,940.2 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 7. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by primary benefit expected in the next 10 years from owning forest land, Southern United States, 1994

| Expected benefit | Owners | | Acres | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| Land value increase | 1,340.6 | 27.1 | 40.1 | 21.4 |
| Recreation | 341.3 | 6.9 | 15.3 | 8.1 |
| Timber production | 331.2 | 6.7 | 76.0 | 40.5 |
| Farm and domestic use | 860.0 | 17.4 | 17.7 | 9.4 |
| Enjoyment of owning | 1,444.9 | 29.3 | 23.9 | 12.8 |
| Firewood | 192.7 | 3.9 | 3.0 | 1.6 |
| Other | 136.4 | 2.8 | 7.2 | 3.8 |
| No answer | 193.1 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 2.4 |
| Total | 4,940.2 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 8. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by harvest experience, Southern United States, 1994

| Harvest experience | Owners | | Acres | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| Harvesters | 2,229.4 | 45.1 | 146.3 | 77.9 |
| Nonharvesters | 2,710.8 | 54.9 | 41.4 | 22.1 |
| Total | 4,940.2 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 9. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by expected time of future harvest, Southern United States, 1994

| Harvest experience | Owners | | Acres | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| 1-10 years | 1,446.0 | 29.3 | 112.2 | 59.8 |
| Indefinite | 1,392.8 | 28.2 | 50.0 | 26.6 |
| Never | 1,882.4 | 38.1 | 22.0 | 11.7 |
| No answer | 219.1 | 4.4 | 3.5 | 1.9 |
| Total | 4,940.2 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 10. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by whether a written management plan had been prepared, Southern United States, 1994

| Preparation of management plan | Owners | | Acres | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| Owners with written plans: | 248.4 | 5.0 | 75.4 | 40.2 |
| Forest industry | 1.0 | 0.4 | 36.3 | 48.1 |
| NIPF owners | 247.4 | 99.6 | 39.1 | 51.9 |
| Owners with no written plan | 4,243.7 | 85.9 | 105.6 | 56.3 |
| No answer | 448.2 | 9.1 | 6.7 | 3.5 |
| Total | 4,940.2 | 100.0 | 187.7 | 100.0 |

Table 11. Estimated number of private ownership units and acres of forest land owned, by who prepared the written management plan for NIPF owners, Southern United States, 1994

| Management plan preparation | Owners | | Acres | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Thousands | Percent | Millions | Percent |
| NIPF owners with written plans | 247.4 | 100.0 | 39.1 | 100.0 |
| Who prepared the plan | | | | |
| Owner | 60.2 | 21.7 | 6.9 | 17.6 |
| Consultant | 21.8 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 27.1 |
| Industrial forester | 12.8 | 3.9 | 6.1 | 15.6 |
| State employee | 111.0 | 37.1 | 8.2 | 21.0 |
| Extension | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| NRCS ^a | 17.0 | 9.0 | 2.2 | 5.6 |
| Other | 24.9 | 16.6 | 6.9 | 17.6 |
| Total^b | 249.3 | 100.7 | 41.1 | 105.1 |

^a National Resource Conservation Service.

^b Totals exceed 100 percent because some plans prepared by more than one person.

Appendix

Study Method

The sampling scheme used in this study was derived from the sampling design used by the USDA Forest Service's, FIA projects and that used by the NRCS's NRI. Mailing addresses were obtained for the owners of forested land on which a sample location from one of the two inventory systems was located. These addresses were obtained by crews from the forest inventory projects or from cooperating state forestry agencies. The names were obtained from a variety of sources—tax offices, other government agencies, neighbors, or the owner. Usable addresses were obtained for more than 95 percent of the sample locations. Of the 30,870 locations chosen, 2,602 were in some form of public ownership. Many large ownerships were identified that had multiple sample locations. Efforts were made to send only one questionnaire per state to these large owners. In all 23,330 questionnaires was sent to owners of forest land; 11,745 (50 percent) were eventually returned with useable information.

The questionnaire, derived from several earlier ownership studies, has been revised as work has progressed over 20 years in the Northeastern States. A copy of the 4-page, 18 question questionnaire is included in this report. The mailing consisted of a questionnaire and cover letter explaining the purpose of the study. Approximately 3 weeks after the first mailing, a second questionnaire was mailed to those who had not responded with a second letter urging their cooperation. Approximately 1 month after the final followup mailing, a field followup of nonrespondents was conducted to obtain additional questionnaires and provide a basis for determining whether there was a significant difference between those who returned a questionnaire and those who did not. Questionnaires obtained by mail and followup were used in the same way for estimation. For 12 Southern States, the followup was conducted by phone interviews through the Social Science Research Center, Survey Research Unit, Mississippi State University. Some state forestry organizations had local service foresters contact nonrespondents.

Estimation Procedure

The probability that a forest-land owner will be sampled depends on the rate of sampling and the acreage of forest

land owned. Each state and often areas within states have different rates of sampling. Also, response rates differ affecting the probability that an owner will be included in the final tabulations. The total acreage of forest land in private ownership for a state or sampled area is obtained from the forest inventory. The area in large ownerships, ownerships with a probability of selection approaching 1, is subtracted and the large ownerships form a separate strata. The remaining forest land is divided by the number of "small acreage" sample locations represented by the remaining valid questionnaires to determine the area represented by each sample plot.

Since the sampling scheme is essentially the one used for the forest inventory, there is a low probability of inclusion for owners of small parcels of forest land. To estimate the total number of persons or ownership units, it is necessary to weight the number of owners in the sample. This procedure can be stated as:

$$N = \frac{T_p}{n_r} \sum \frac{1}{A_i}$$

N = estimated number of private owners in the sampling strata.

T_p = acres of forest land in the sampling strata

n_r = number of respondents in the sampling strata

A_i = acres owned by individual respondents

The summation estimate equals the estimated number of ownership units in the state, region, or nation. This is an unbiased estimate of the total number of ownership units that own forest land. The data were edited, processed, and compiled using FINSYS-2, a generalized computer system (Barnard 1978). The survey units within states were combined to state level statistics. States were summed to regions, and finally to national summaries to increase the accuracy and precision of the estimates. The following tabulation shows the pertinent data for each state, region, and the nation.

| State, subregion, and region | Number of private plots | Number of questionnaires sent | Number of respondents | No. plots owned by respondents | Aver. No. acres per plot |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alabama | 955 | 741 | 436 | 637 | 32,606 |
| Kentucky | 424 | 412 | 208 | 216 | 52,889 |
| Mississippi | 643 | 514 | 291 | 412 | 36,714 |
| Tennessee | 456 | 417 | 260 | 294 | 40,010 |
| Central Gulf | 2,478 | 2,084 | 1,195 | 1,559 | 37,638 |
| Arkansas | 687 | 483 | 277 | 475 | 30,547 |
| Louisiana | 585 | 384 | 205 | 393 | 31,919 |
| Oklahoma | 283 | 240 | 136 | 179 | 38,693 |
| Texas | 499 | 354 | 174 | 312 | 58,554 |
| West Gulf | 2,054 | 1,461 | 792 | 1,359 | 38,447 |
| Southern | 4,532 | 3,545 | 1,987 | 2,918 | 38,154 |
| Florida | 686 | 423 | 213 | 452 | 29,009 |
| Georgia | 1088 | 872 | 467 | 676 | 32,522 |
| East Gulf | 1,774 | 1,295 | 680 | 1,128 | 31,114 |
| North Carolina | 684 | 593 | 338 | 409 | 41,012 |
| South Carolina | 565 | 454 | 282 | 395 | 27,863 |
| Virginia | 561 | 512 | 313 | 357 | 37,653 |
| South Atlantic | 1,810 | 1,559 | 933 | 1,161 | 35,506 |
| Southeast | 3,584 | 2,854 | 1,613 | 2,289 | 33,342 |
| South | 8,116 | 6,399 | 3,600 | 5,207 | 36,038 |
| Nation | 28,207 | 23,330 | 11,745 | 15,700 | 25,057 |

Data Accuracy and Reliability

It is important to know the variation associated with the estimates. Not every acre and every owner are sampled. When judging the effectiveness of the estimating procedure, we are concerned with two important criteria: how accurate is the estimate, and how precise is the estimate? Accuracy is the correspondence between the sample result and the result from a complete count or census using the same definitions and procedures. Reliability is the precision of the statistical estimates. We are interested primarily in the accuracy of the sample but in most instances we can only measure reliability.

To check the accuracy of the data, we had outside experts review this report. The response level obtained in the study also is an attempt to assure accuracy by minimizing nonresponse bias. Beyond the search for accuracy, the reliability of the estimate is given by the calculated sampling errors. Sampling errors are calculated for the estimated number of forest-land ownership units and the acreage of forest land in each cell of the tables. Sampling errors are included in the tables for the most important categories. The sampling error for the number of acres of forest land in private ownership is calculated as part of the forest

inventory, and is designed to achieve a national standard of plus or minus 3 percent at a million acres of forest land. Because this study has a much smaller sample size than the normal forest inventory, sampling errors rise rapidly for smaller areas of forest land. There is no similar standard for the estimates of forest-land ownership units.

Because the ownership survey was conducted using a land-area sample, the estimates of area have smaller sampling errors than the estimates of numbers of owners. Estimates for the Nation as a whole are the most reliable (having the smallest sampling errors in percent), followed by regions, subregions, and states. The inclusion of small forest parcels (fewer than 10 acres) in the study population substantially increases the sampling error for the estimated number of owners. In discussions with representatives of the National Association of State Foresters and other users, most believed that the level of precision achieved by the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station was sufficient. Because the accuracy of estimates at the state level from the previous national forest-land owner study were insufficient, we allocated increased sample sizes to areas of the country with high sampling errors in an attempt to correct this problem. The following are sampling errors (in percent).

| State, subregion, and region | Private forest land | Owners of private forest land | Owners holding 10 or more acres |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alabama | 0.3 | 18.5 | 8.9 |
| Arkansas | 0.3 | 19.0 | 9.2 |
| Kentucky | 0.8 | 16.2 | 8.6 |
| Louisiana | 0.2 | 21.5 | 13.2 |
| Mississippi | 0.3 | 18.2 | 8.8 |
| Oklahoma | 0.3 | 25.8 | 16.1 |
| Tennessee | 0.3 | 17.6 | 8.5 |
| Texas | 0.1 | 23.7 | 12.6 |
| Southern | 0.1 | 7.2 | 3.7 |
| Florida | 0.2 | 22.1 | 13.2 |
| Georgia | 0.3 | 17.3 | 8.7 |
| North Carolina | 0.3 | 16.9 | 7.4 |
| South Carolina | 0.4 | 21.6 | 10.0 |
| Virginia | 0.3 | 16.8 | 8.1 |
| Southeast | 0.1 | 8.4 | 4.1 |
| South | 0.1 | 5.5 | 2.8 |
| Nation | 0.1 | 3.4 | 1.6 |

Definition of Terms

Farmer-owned lands. Lands owned by farm operators, whether part of the farmstead or not.

Forest industries. Companies or individuals operating primary wood-using plants.

Forest industry lands. Lands owned by companies of individuals operating wood-using plants.

Forest land. Land that is at least 16.7 percent stocked (contains at least 7.5 square feet of basal area) by forest trees of any size, or that formerly had such tree cover and is not currently developed for nonforest use. (Forest trees are woody plants that have a well-developed stem and usually are more than 12 feet in height at maturity.) The minimum area for classification of forest land is one acre.

Ownership unit. All types of legal entities having ownership interest in land, regardless of the number of people involved. It is the locus of decision making for each parcel, whether an individual (sole proprietor), group of individuals (partnerships, or undivided estates), or legal entity (corporation, trust, or tribe).

Private timberland. All timberland other than that owned by Federal, state, or local governments or their agencies.

Timberland. Forest land that is producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood (more than 20 cubic feet/acre/year) and that is not withdrawn from timber utilization.

Other forest. Forest land other than timberland, including: oak woodlands in western Texas and Oklahoma; Juniper woodlands in California and Oregon, Pinon Juniper land in the Rocky Mountains, and much of interior Alaska.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF FOREST-LAND OWNERSHIP

THIS SURVEY IS VOLUNTARY AND THERE ARE NO PENALTIES FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. BECAUSE IT WOULD INVOLVE A TREMENDOUS COST TO THE TAXPAYERS WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT ALL WOODLAND OWNERS. THEREFORE, WE TAKE A SMALL BUT REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF WOODLANDS, ONE OF WHICH HAPPENS TO BE YOURS. SINCE YOU REPRESENT HUNDREDS OF OTHER WOODLAND OWNERS, YOUR COOPERATION IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPREHENSIVE, ACCURATE, AND TIMELY. THANK YOU.

Please complete the following questions. Where actual records are not available please use your best estimate. Please be assured your answers will be strictly confidential, only statistical tabulations will be published. If you do not now own woodland, please answer question 1 and return the questionnaire.

1. In what states do you own land?

| State | Total acres | Acres* wooded |
|-------|----------------|------------------|
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |

* Include idle fields and pastures with young trees.

2. How many individual tracts or parcels of woodland do you now own? number _____

3. In what year did you first acquire woodland? (Whether or not you still own the first tract you acquired.) year _____

How much woodland have you acquired in the last 12 years? acres _____

How much woodland have you disposed of (sold or deeded to others) in the last 12 years? acres _____

4. In which of the following ownership categories does the major portion of your woodland holding fall? (Please check only one.)

- Individual (including joint husband and wife and family ownerships other than family corporations) 1. _____
- Partnership 2. _____
- Corporate 3. _____
- Club or association 4. _____
- Other (Please specify _____) 5. _____

5. If your ownership has a business or association with it, what is the nature of the organization:

Check one

- Forest industry (sawmill, pulpmill, etc.)
- Farm
- Industrial business (manufacturing, mineral extraction, etc.)
- Real estate
- Non-industrial business (retail, sales, service industry, etc.)
- Sport/recreation club or association
- Public utility
- Other (please specify _____)

6. What is the approximate road mileage from your primary residence to your nearest and farthest tract of woodland? (For businesses or organizations consider primary residence to mean nearest place of business.)

Miles to the nearest tract _____
(enter zero if you live on the tract)
Miles to farthest tract _____

7. Have trees been harvested from your land, either by you personally or by someone else, during the time you have owned your woodland?

Yes 1. _____ Year of the most recent harvest _____
No. 2. _____

8. During the cutting, what products were harvested? (Check as many as apply.)

- Check
- 1. Fuelwood for your own use or for the use of friends
 - 2. Other products for personal use (fence posts, lumber, etc.)
 - 3. Fuelwood for sale
 - 4. Sawlogs for sale
 - 5. Pulpwood for sale
 - 6. Posts, poles, and pilings for sale
 - 7. Christmas trees for sale
 - 8. Other products (please specify _____)
 - 9. Don't know what products were harvested

9. Do you plan to cut or harvest trees from your land for your personal use or for sale?

| | <u>Wood for own use</u> | <u>Wood for sale</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | (Check one) | (Check one) |
| In the next 10 years? | 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| Possibly at some future date? | 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| Never plan to harvest? | 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

10. Is there a written forestry or wildlife management plan for your property?

1. Yes _____ 2. No _____

If yes, who prepared the plan?

- 1. _____ I prepared the plan.
- 2. _____ Other, please specify _____

11. Have you ever sought advice or assistance in managing your woodland?

1. Yes _____ 2. No _____

12. What office, agency, or individual would you contact for forestry help or advice? (If you don't know, please check "Don't Know".)

Check one

1. _____ Private consulting forester or wildlife biologist
2. _____ Industrial forester
3. _____ State employee (project forester or wildlife biologist)
4. _____ Extension Service
5. _____ Soil Conservation Service
6. _____ Other, please specify _____
7. _____ Don't know

13. What types of assistance or improvements would you be willing to pay for?

Please specify _____

14. Why do you own woodland? (Please rank with number 1 the most important.)

Rank

1. _____ Land investment (hope to sell all or most of my woodland at a profit)
2. _____ Recreation (hunting, camping, fishing, bird watching, etc.)
3. _____ Timber production (growing timber or other forest products for sale)
4. _____ Farm or domestic use (having the woods as a source of timber for my own use, e.g., firewood, fence posts, etc.)
5. _____ Enjoyment of owning "green space"
6. _____ Part of the farm (woodland is the untillable part of the farm and serves no useful function in the farm operation)
7. _____ Woodland is part of my residence
8. _____ For an estate to pass on to my children
9. _____ Other (please specify _____)

15. Which of the following do you feel will be the most important benefits you expect to derive from your woodland during the next 10 years? (Please rank these benefits in order of importance, with number 1 the most important.)

Rank

1. _____ Increase in land value (investment)
2. _____ Recreation (hunting, camping, bird watching, etc.)
3. _____ Timber production
4. _____ Farm or domestic use
5. _____ Enjoyment of woods, wildlife, and "green space"
6. _____ Firewood
7. _____ Other (please specify _____)

The following questions are asked to insure proper classification to questions 1 through 15 by categories such as age, occupation, and income. Please be as accurate as possible. If you need space to expand on any of your answers, use the space at the end of the questionnaire. Again, answers are strictly confidential and only statistical tabulations are published. No information that could identify you as an individual is ever published.

THESE QUESTIONS DO NOT PERTAIN TO AND SHOULD NOT BE ANSWERED BY CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

If the woodland is owned by more than one person, the following questions should be answered for the person to whom the questionnaire is addressed. If the questionnaire is addressed to joint owners, as husband and wife, these questions should be answered by the person who makes most of the decisions.

16. What is the age of the owner? Check one
- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. _____ | Under 25 |
| 2. _____ | 25-34 |
| 3. _____ | 35-44 |
| 4. _____ | 45-54 |
| 5. _____ | 55-64 |
| 6. _____ | 65 and over |

17. What is the primary occupation of the owner?
-

18. What is your best estimate of the total combined income of all members of the owner's household over 14 years of age during the past 12 months? (Please include NET income from businesses, farming, and rentals, money from jobs, pensions, dividends, interest, social security, unemployment, welfare, and workman's compensation.)

- Check one
- | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ | Less than \$10,000 | 2. _____ | \$10,000 to \$19,999 |
| 3. _____ | \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 4. _____ | \$30,000 to \$39,999 |
| 5. _____ | \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 6. _____ | \$50,000 to \$59,999 |
| 7. _____ | \$60,000 to \$74,999 | 8. _____ | \$75,000 to \$99,999 |
| 9. _____ | Over \$100,000 | | |

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our questionnaire. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Would you like to be sent a copy of the results of this survey? 1. _____ yes 2. _____ no Please feel free to write in any comments you have in the space below.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-w, Washington, DC 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB# 0596-0078), Washington, DC 20503.

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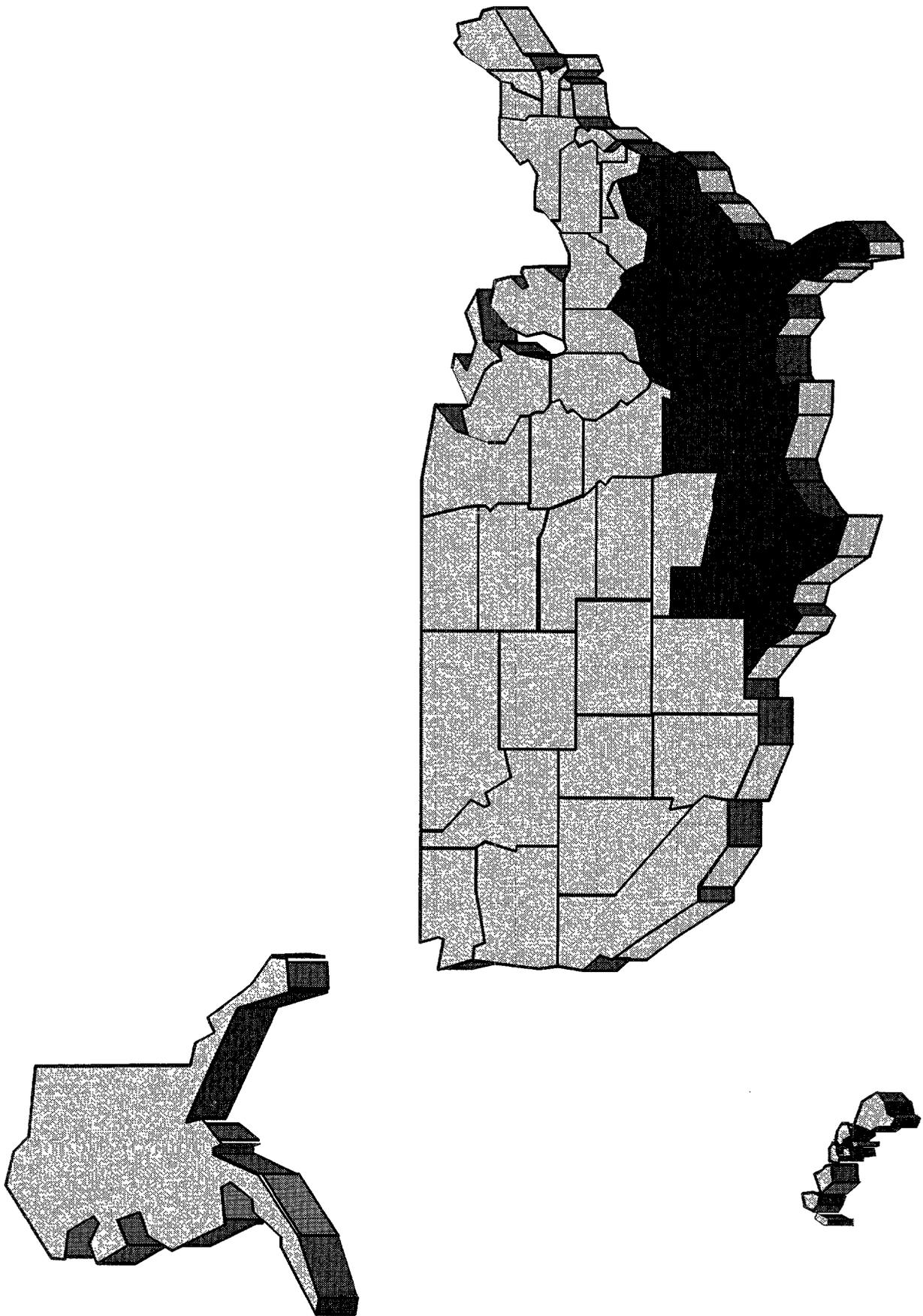


Table 12. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by size class and form of ownership, Southern United States, 1993

| Size class (acres) | Ownership class | | | | | | Total | SE |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------|
| | Individual | Percent | Corporation | Percent | Other | Percent | | |
| | (In owners) | | | | | | | |
| 1-9 | 3,028,300 | 65 | 27,700 | 48 | 102,100 | 51 | 3,158,100 | 8.7 |
| 10-19 | 453,800 | 10 | 2,900 | 5 | 22,100 | 11 | 478,800 | 8.8 |
| 20-49 | 652,200 | 14 | 5,200 | 9 | 28,500 | 14 | 685,900 | 4.9 |
| 50-99 | 291,500 | 6 | 6,000 | 10 | 18,500 | 9 | 316,100 | 4.8 |
| 100-199 | 149,700 | 3 | 5,900 | 10 | 14,800 | 7 | 170,400 | 4.9 |
| 200-499 | 76,100 | 2 | 5,900 | 10 | 8,700 | 4 | 90,700 | 6.9 |
| 500-999 | 18,100 | W | 1,800 | 3 | 4,500 | 2 | 24,400 | 7.2 |
| 1000-4999 | 7,800 | W | 1,500 | 3 | 2,300 | 1 | 11,600 | 6 |
| 5000+ | 2,500 | W | 1,200 | 2 | 500 | W | 4,200 | 48.5 |
| Sub total over 10 | 1,651,700 | 35 | 30,400 | 52 | 100,000 | 49 | 1,782,100 | 2.8 |
| Total | 4,680,000 | 100 | 58,100 | 100 | 202,100 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 5.7 | | 29.8 | | 25.6 | | 5.5 | |
| | (In thousands of acres) | | | | | | | |
| 1-9 | 7,960 | 7 | 137 | W | 256 | 1 | 8,353 | 7.4 |
| 10-19 | 5,842 | 5 | 44 | W | 251 | 1 | 6,137 | 9 |
| 20-49 | 19,150 | 17 | 123 | W | 870 | 4 | 20,143 | 5.1 |
| 50-99 | 18,993 | 17 | 372 | 1 | 1,299 | 6 | 20,664 | 5 |
| 100-199 | 18,151 | 16 | 792 | 1 | 1,875 | 9 | 20,818 | 4.9 |
| 200-499 | 19,589 | 17 | 1,674 | 3 | 2,415 | 12 | 23,679 | 4.7 |
| 500-999 | 10,621 | 9 | 1,211 | 2 | 2,468 | 12 | 14,300 | 5.9 |
| 1000-4999 | 11,032 | 9 | 3,082 | 6 | 3,675 | 18 | 17,789 | 5.5 |
| 5000+ | 3,608 | 3 | 44,517 | 86 | 7,642 | 37 | 55,768 | 5.1 |
| Subtotal over 10 | 106,987 | 93 | 51,815 | 100 | 20,495 | 99 | 179,298 | 0.4 |
| Total | 114,947 | 100 | 51,952 | 100 | 20,752 | 100 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 2.3 | | 5.5 | | 7.4 | | 0.1 | |

W- Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent.

Table 13. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by form of ownership and past harvest experience, Southern United States, 1993

| Form of ownership | Harvest experience | | | | Total | SE |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------|------|
| | Harvested | Percent | Did not harvest | Percent | | |
| (In owners) | | | | | | |
| Individual + joint | 2,064,100 | 93 | 2,616,000 | 97 | 4,680,000 | 5.7 |
| Partnership | 105,800 | 5 | 41,400 | 1 | 147,200 | 32.1 |
| Corporation | 12,700 | 1 | 45,500 | 2 | 58,100 | 29.8 |
| Club/association | 14,700 | 1 | 800 | W | 15,500 | 67.3 |
| Other | 32,200 | 1 | 7,100 | W | 39,400 | 46.8 |
| Total | 2,229,500 | 100 | 2,710,800 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 7.2 | | 8.4 | | 5.5 | |
| (In thousands of acres) | | | | | | |
| Individual + joint | 80,190 | 55 | 34,757 | 84 | 114,947 | 2.3 |
| Partnership | 13,007 | 9 | 2,481 | 6 | 15,489 | 9.5 |
| Corporation | 48,750 | 33 | 3,202 | 8 | 51,952 | 5.5 |
| Club/association | 478 | W | 257 | 1 | 735 | 23.3 |
| Other | 3,805 | 3 | 723 | 2 | 4,528 | 10.1 |
| Total | 146,231 | 100 | 41,421 | 100 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 1 | | 3.5 | | 0.1 | |

W-Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent

Table 14. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by incorporated and unincorporated businesses and past harvest experience, Southern United States, 1993

| Nature of business | Harvest | | | | Total | SE |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| | Harvested | Percent | Did not harvest | Percent | | |
| (In owners) | | | | | | |
| Incorporated: | | | | | | |
| Forest industry | 900 | W | 0 | 0 | 900 | 20.3 |
| Farm | 2,600 | W | 1,400 | W | 4,000 | 26.3 |
| Industrial business | 1,300 | W | 500 | W | 1,900 | 26 |
| Real estate | 2,300 | W | 11,400 | W | 13,700 | 51.6 |
| Non-industrial | 3,500 | W | 11,700 | W | 15,200 | 68.4 |
| Sport/ recreation club | 300 | W | 200 | W | 500 | 47.3 |
| Public utility | W | W | 0 | 0 | W | 39.8 |
| Other | 1,800 | W | 20,300 | 1 | 22,000 | 53.8 |
| Total corporate | 12,700 | 1 | 45,500 | 2 | 58,100 | 29.89 |
| Unincorporated: | | | | | | |
| Forest industry | 2,500 | W | W | W | 2,500 | 45.9 |
| Farm | 702,500 | 31 | 372,700 | 14 | 1,075,200 | 8.7 |
| Misc. individual | 1,356,900 | 61 | 2,160,100 | 80 | 3,517,000 | 7.1 |
| Industrial business | 2,700 | W | 4,800 | W | 7,500 | 60.1 |
| Real estate | 59,900 | 3 | 80,700 | 3 | 140,600 | 44.5 |
| Nonindustrial business | 2,200 | W | 17,400 | 1 | 19,600 | 58.2 |
| Sport/ recreation club | 25,400 | 1 | 7,300 | W | 32,700 | 46.4 |
| Other | 64,700 | 3 | 22,300 | 1 | 87,000 | 28.2 |
| Total noncorporate | 2,216,800 | 99 | 2,665,300 | 98 | 4,882,100 | 5.6 |
| Total | 2,229,500 | 100 | 2,710,800 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 7.2 | | 8.4 | | 5.5 | |
| (In thousands of acres) | | | | | | |
| Incorporated: | | | | | | |
| Forest industry | 34,342 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 34,342 | 8.9 |
| Farm | 2,395 | 2 | 631 | 1 | 3,026 | 14.3 |
| Industrial business | 3,356 | 2 | 315 | 1 | 3,670 | 12.2 |
| Real estate | 4,407 | 3 | 522 | 1 | 4,929 | 12.2 |
| Non-industrial | 762 | 1 | 234 | 1 | 996 | 21 |
| Sport/ recreation club | 434 | W | 115 | W | 550 | 27.1 |
| Public utility | 836 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 836 | 31.3 |
| Other | 2,218 | 1 | 1,385 | 3 | 3,603 | 18.1 |
| Total corporate | 48,750 | 33 | 3,202 | 8 | 51,952 | 5.5 |
| Unincorporated: | | | | | | |
| Forest industry | 4,887 | 3 | 36 | W | 4,923 | 27 |
| Farm | 35,658 | 24 | 12,589 | 30 | 48,247 | 3.1 |
| Misc. individual | 45,153 | 31 | 22,500 | 54 | 67,653 | 2.9 |
| Industrial business | 775 | 1 | 253 | 1 | 1,028 | 21.5 |
| Real estate | 3,397 | 2 | 642 | 1 | 4,039 | 10.6 |
| Nonindustrial business | 634 | W | 251 | 1 | 885 | 21.7 |
| Sport/ recreation club | 1,704 | 1 | 601 | 1 | 2,305 | 13.2 |
| Other | 5,272 | 4 | 1,347 | 3 | 6,619 | 8.2 |
| Total noncorporate | 97,481 | 67 | 38,218 | 92 | 135,699 | 2.1 |
| Total | 146,231 | 100 | 41,421 | 100 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 1 | | 3.5 | | 0.1 | |

W- Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent

Table 15. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by occupation class and intention to harvest, Southern United States, 1993

| Occupation | Future harvest | | | | | | | | Total | SE |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|------|
| | 1-10 years | Percent | Indefinite | Percent | Never | Percent | No answer | Percent | | |
| | (In owners) | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional | 150,800 | 10 | 121,300 | 9 | 126,000 | 7 | 64,400 | 29 | 462,400 | 20.5 |
| Managers | 186,400 | 13 | 135,800 | 10 | 196,400 | 10 | 500 | W | 519,100 | 19 |
| Other White collar | 124,300 | 9 | 162,600 | 12 | 142,900 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 429,900 | 23 |
| All white collar | 461,400 | 32 | 419,700 | 30 | 465,300 | 25 | 64,900 | 30 | 1,411,400 | 11.9 |
| Craftsmen | 138,400 | 9 | 96,600 | 7 | 96,200 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 331,200 | 23.4 |
| Blue collar | 133,400 | 9 | 78,000 | 6 | 208,000 | 11 | 24,700 | 11 | 444,200 | 19.3 |
| All blue collar | 271,800 | 19 | 174,600 | 13 | 304,200 | 16 | 24,700 | 11 | 775,400 | 14.8 |
| Farmers | 116,600 | 8 | 164,900 | 12 | 38,100 | 2 | 1,000 | W | 320,600 | 16.8 |
| Service workers | 37,100 | 3 | 24,100 | 2 | 198,600 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 259,700 | 31.6 |
| Homemaker | 7,600 | 1 | 25,200 | 2 | 26,500 | 1 | 700 | W | 59,900 | 23.7 |
| Retired | 397,400 | 27 | 396,800 | 28 | 504,400 | 27 | 32,800 | 15 | 1,331,400 | 9.7 |
| No answer | 62,300 | 4 | 111,500 | 8 | 278,700 | 15 | 69,100 | 31 | 521,600 | 17.6 |
| All other owners | 91,800 | 6 | 75,900 | 5 | 66,600 | 3 | 25,900 | 12 | 260,200 | 20.9 |
| Total | 1,446,000 | 100 | 1,392,800 | 100 | 1,882,400 | 100 | 219,100 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 9.7 | | 9 | | 10.4 | | 33.4 | | 5.5 | |
| | (in thousands of acres) | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional | 7,278 | 6 | 4,789 | 9 | 1,434 | 7 | 348 | 10 | 13,849 | 6.2 |
| Managers | 9,162 | 8 | 4,597 | 9 | 1,559 | 7 | 121 | 3 | 15,439 | 5.6 |
| Other white collar | 2,668 | 2 | 2,311 | 5 | 1,096 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6,075 | 8.3 |
| All white collar | 19,108 | 17 | 11,696 | 23 | 4,089 | 19 | 469 | 13 | 35,362 | 3.9 |
| Craftsmen | 1,431 | 1 | 1,427 | 3 | 698 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3,557 | 10.8 |
| Blue collar | 2,476 | 2 | 1,971 | 4 | 1,219 | 5 | 199 | 6 | 5,866 | 8.5 |
| All blue collar | 3,907 | 3 | 3,399 | 7 | 1,918 | 9 | 199 | 6 | 9,423 | 6.7 |
| Farmers | 8,643 | 8 | 6,103 | 12 | 1,201 | 5 | 157 | 4 | 16,103 | 5.8 |
| Service workers | 1,083 | 1 | 781 | 1 | 524 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2,388 | 14.9 |
| Homemaker | 1,116 | 1 | 1,442 | 3 | 799 | 4 | 115 | 3 | 3,471 | 13.5 |
| Retired | 15,739 | 14 | 15,166 | 30 | 7,691 | 35 | 798 | 23 | 39,394 | 3.7 |
| No answer | 3,192 | 3 | 3,096 | 6 | 1,646 | 7 | 870 | 25 | 8,804 | 7.2 |
| All other owners | 59,432 | 53 | 8,264 | 17 | 4,104 | 19 | 904 | 26 | 72,704 | 3.6 |
| Total | 112,222 | 100 | 49,946 | 100 | 21,971 | 100 | 3,512 | 100 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 1.8 | | 3.3 | | 5 | | 13.6 | | 0.1 | |

W-Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent

Table 16. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by age class and past harvest experience, Southern United States, 1993

| Age | Harvest experience | | | | Total | SE |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Harvested | Percent | Did not harvest | Percent | | |
| (In owners) | | | | | | |
| Under 25 | 40,900 | 2 | 11,000 | W | 51,900 | 73 |
| 25-34 | 75,300 | 3 | 164,200 | 6 | 239,500 | 25.4 |
| 35-44 | 302,300 | 13 | 471,900 | 17 | 774,200 | 16.4 |
| 45-54 | 495,300 | 22 | 749,800 | 28 | 1,245,100 | 12.7 |
| 55-64 | 413,800 | 19 | 606,900 | 22 | 1,020,700 | 12 |
| 65 or over | 675,800 | 30 | 479,800 | 18 | 1,155,600 | 9 |
| No answer | 60,800 | 3 | 132,300 | 5 | 193,100 | 33.3 |
| All other owners | 165,400 | 7 | 94,800 | 3 | 260,200 | 20.9 |
| Total | 2,229,500 | 100 | 2,710,800 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 7.2 | | 8.4 | | 5.5 | |
| (In thousands of acres) | | | | | | |
| Under 25 | 237 | W | 107 | W | 344 | 34.1 |
| 25-34 | 1,551 | 1 | 1,754 | 4 | 3,305 | 12.2 |
| 35-44 | 6,773 | 5 | 4,589 | 11 | 11,362 | 6.6 |
| 45-54 | 14,590 | 10 | 8,352 | 20 | 22,943 | 4.8 |
| 55-64 | 18,523 | 13 | 8,213 | 20 | 26,736 | 4.3 |
| 65 or over | 36,639 | 25 | 10,631 | 26 | 47,270 | 3.4 |
| No answer | 1,877 | 1 | 1,111 | 3 | 2,987 | 12.1 |
| All other owners | 66,040 | 45 | 6,664 | 16 | 72,704 | 3.6 |
| Total | 146,231 | 100 | 41,421 | 100 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 1 | | 3.5 | | 0.1 | |

W-Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent

Table 17. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by date of acquisition and form of ownership, Southern United States, 1993

| Date of acquisition | Ownership class | | | | | Total | SE |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------|
| | Forest industry | Farmer | Miscellaneous: Individual | Corporation | Other | | |
| | (In owners) | | | | | | |
| 1990-1994 | 700 | 87,400 | 443,600 | 3,600 | 16,800 | 552,100 | 17.6 |
| 1980-1989 | 1,300 | 228,200 | 1,125,400 | 34,900 | 22,900 | 1,412,700 | 11 |
| 1970-1979 | 200 | 236,600 | 729,900 | 4,200 | 66,800 | 1,037,700 | 11.9 |
| 1960-1969 | 300 | 133,600 | 445,900 | 4,500 | 6,400 | 590,700 | 14.8 |
| 1950-1959 | 300 | 141,300 | 201,400 | 1,300 | 3,900 | 348,200 | 19.5 |
| 1940-1949 | 100 | 71,700 | 156,600 | 200 | 7,000 | 235,600 | 20 |
| 1901-1939 | 200 | 52,700 | 78,800 | 400 | 16,600 | 148,700 | 28.7 |
| Prior to 1900 | W | 3,100 | 35,200 | 300 | 1,000 | 39,600 | 76.3 |
| No answer | 200 | 124,700 | 430,700 | 4,000 | 15,400 | 575,000 | 20.3 |
| Total | 3,300 | 1,079,200 | 3,647,500 | 53,300 | 156,900 | 4,940,200 | 5.5 |
| SE | 34.5 | 8.7 | 7 | 32.4 | 31.8 | 5.5 | |
| | (In thousands of acres) | | | | | | |
| 1990-1994 | 213 | 3,051 | 5,517 | 721 | 885 | 10,387 | 7.2 |
| 1980-1989 | 1,046 | 8,647 | 15,244 | 3,719 | 2,219 | 30,876 | 4.2 |
| 1970-1979 | 1,211 | 9,995 | 15,505 | 1,618 | 2,190 | 30,520 | 4.3 |
| 1960-1969 | 5,106 | 9,541 | 12,251 | 1,600 | 1,237 | 29,737 | 5.2 |
| 1950-1959 | 4,172 | 7,937 | 7,532 | 833 | 1,375 | 21,849 | 6.4 |
| 1940-1949 | 3,036 | 5,069 | 5,915 | 713 | 686 | 15,419 | 7.2 |
| 1901-1939 | 12,637 | 3,042 | 2,891 | 2,975 | 1,600 | 23,145 | 10.1 |
| Prior to 1900 | 8,411 | 943 | 672 | 1,206 | 500 | 11,732 | 17 |
| No answer | 3,432 | 3,046 | 5,376 | 1,199 | 933 | 13,985 | 9.6 |
| Total | 39,265 | 51,273 | 70,904 | 14,584 | 11,625 | 187,651 | 0.1 |
| SE | 7.8 | 3 | 2.9 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 0.1 | |

W- Fewer than 50 owners or less than 0.5 percent

Table 18. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by distance from tracts, Southern United States, 1993

| Distance | Tracts | | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 1 tract | More than one tract | | |
| | | Nearest tract | Farthest tract | |
| | | (In owners) | | |
| Less than 1 mile | 2,570,800 | 843,000 | 262,700 | |
| 2-5 miles | 151,800 | 67,900 | 131,200 | |
| 6-15 miles | 150,700 | 84,800 | 157,600 | |
| 16-25 miles | 98,000 | 21,800 | 78,000 | |
| 26-50 miles | 51,800 | 40,700 | 98,400 | |
| 51-100 miles | 45,700 | 31,000 | 107,700 | |
| More than 100 miles | 270,300 | 53,600 | 318,900 | |
| No answer | 424,800 | 33,500 | 21,700 | |
| Total | 3,763,900 | 1,176,300 | 1,176,300 | 4,949,200 |
| | | (In thousands of acres) | | |
| Less than 1 mile | 30,832 | 58,239 | 11,684 | |
| 2-5 miles | 3,625 | 17,973 | 10,814 | |
| 6-15 miles | 4,457 | 17,575 | 14,248 | |
| 16-25 miles | 3,257 | 5,377 | 9,506 | |
| 26-50 miles | 3,900 | 5,904 | 12,438 | |
| 51-100 miles | 2,893 | 4,398 | 17,926 | |
| More than 100 miles | 7,166 | 6,159 | 39,209 | |
| No answer | 4,521 | 11,374 | 11,174 | |
| Total | 60,652 | 126,999 | 126,999 | 187,651 |

Table 19. Estimated number of ownership units and acres of forest land, by primary and secondary reason for owning forest land, Southern United States, 1993

| Reason | Primary reason | | Secondary reason | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| | (In owners) | | | |
| Land investment | 613,700 | 13 | 298,400 | 6 |
| Recreation | 254,300 | 5 | 307,200 | 6 |
| Timber production | 219,300 | 4 | 164,400 | 3 |
| Farm and domestic use | 374,900 | 8 | 368,700 | 7 |
| Esthetic enjoyment | 558,500 | 11 | 638,600 | 13 |
| Part of farm | 456,100 | 9 | 285,400 | 6 |
| Part of residence | 1,401,000 | 28 | 594,900 | 12 |
| Estate | 722,600 | 15 | 699,200 | 14 |
| Other | 146,900 | 3 | 27,500 | 1 |
| No secondary reason given | - | - | 1,363,000 | 28 |
| No answer | 192,900 | 4 | 192,900 | 4 |
| Total | 4,940,200 | 100 | 4,940,200 | 100 |
| | (In thousands of acres) | | | |
| Land investment | 25,417 | 14 | 22,391 | 12 |
| Recreation | 12,406 | 7 | 20,401 | 11 |
| Timber production | 66,025 | 35 | 20,976 | 11 |
| Farm and domestic use | 11,769 | 6 | 8,991 | 5 |
| Esthetic enjoyment | 11,604 | 6 | 11,940 | 6 |
| Part of farm | 15,888 | 9 | 6,986 | 4 |
| Part of residence | 14,869 | 8 | 8,184 | 4 |
| Estate | 17,515 | 9 | 20,112 | 11 |
| Other | 9,610 | 5 | 2,583 | 1 |
| No secondary reason given | - | - | 62,541 | 33 |
| No answer | 2,547 | 1 | 2,547 | 1 |
| Total | 187,651 | 100 | 187,651 | 100 |