

Small Forest Landowner Demographics and Forest Practices Data

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Forest Practices Board Meeting
August 14, 2019



Objectives:

Provide information to the Forest Practices Board Members regarding:

1. How many small forest landowners are there and how many acres do they own?
2. Why do small forest landowners own forestland?
3. How did the Legislature and Forest Practices Board address the affects of the Forests and Fish Rules on small forest landowners?
4. Information on small forest landowner harvest activities.
5. Information on how small forest landowners are using alternate plans and alternate plan templates.





How Many Small Forest Landowners Are There in Washington?

University of Washington Rural Technology Initiative's 2007 Washington State Forestland Database.

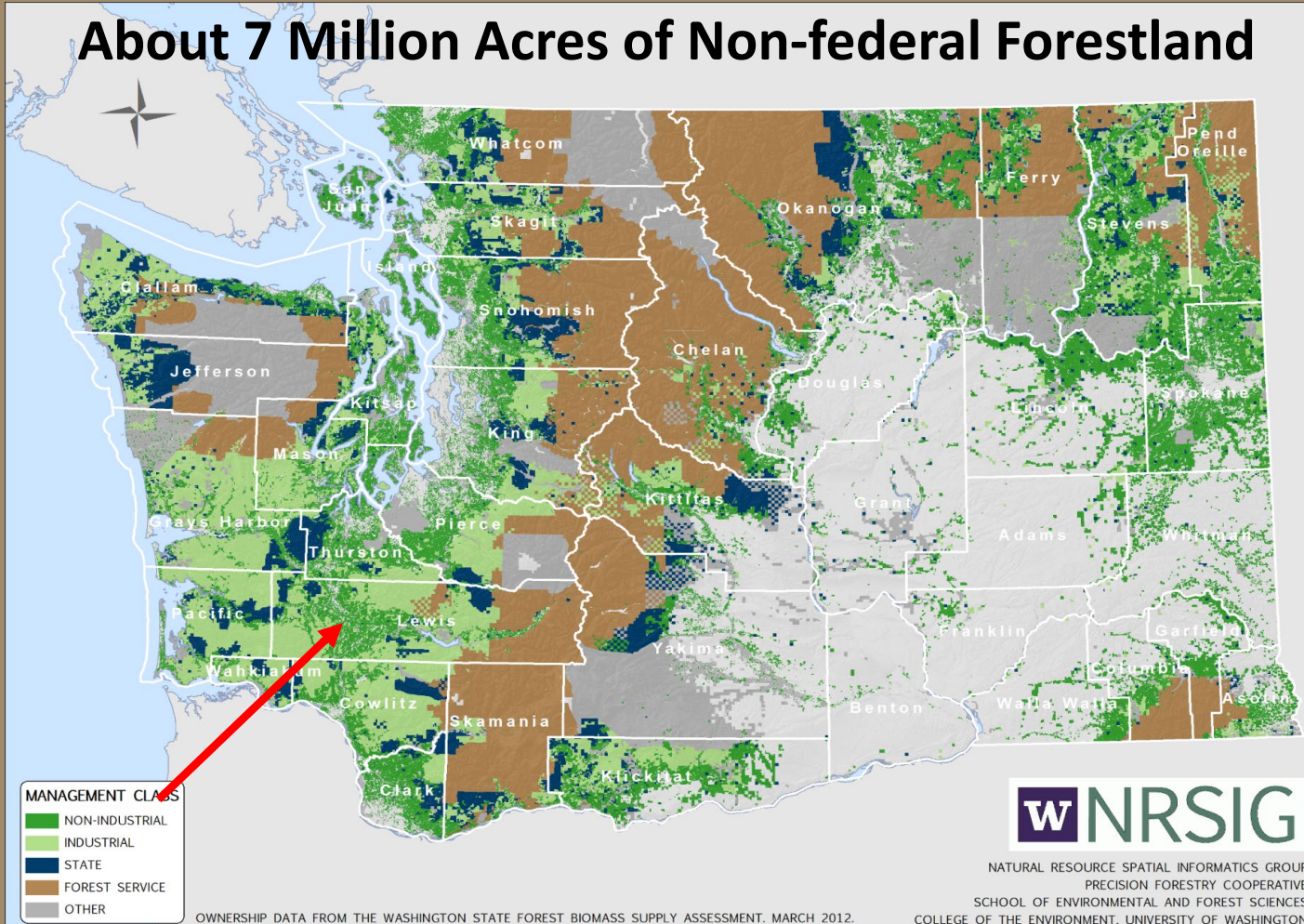
Two acres and greater of forestland

Small Forest Landowners in Western Washington	127,950 (72%)
Small Forest Landowners in Eastern Washington	50,455 (28%)
TOTAL	178,405



How Many Acres Do Small Forest Landowners Own in Washington?

About 7 Million Acres of Non-federal Forestland



**Non-industrial
small forest
landowners
own
3.2 million acres
of forestland**

**Approximately
½ of all non-
federal
forestland in the
State**

Why Do Small Forest Landowners Own Forest Land?



USDA Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey 2011-2013

Joint venture between the U.S Forest Service and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The National Woodland Owner's Survey is a statistically valid survey aimed at understanding:

- Who owns America's forests
- Why they own them
- How have they used them in the past
- How they intend to use them in the future



USDA Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey 2011-2013

Full surveys to all 50 states are completed every decade with updates to a sample of states completed every 5 years.

FIA plot data and publically available property tax data is used to determine which landowners are woodland owners owning 10 to 999 acres.

560 woodland owners were sent the survey in Washington. 352 woodland owners responded which is a response rate of 59%.

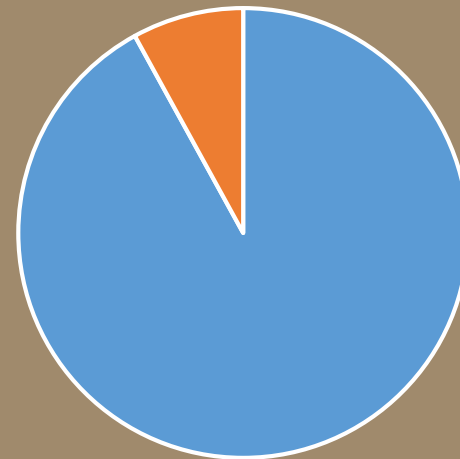


USDA Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey 2011-2013

“What is your reason for owning forestland?”

Non Timber Production:

- Privacy
- Enjoy beauty and scenery
- Protect nature and water
- Wildlife habitat
- Biological diversity



■ Non Timber Production (92%)

■ Timber Production (8%)



USDA Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey 2011-2013

A new National Woodland Owners Survey will be completed this Fall.

In this upcoming survey, Washington woodland owners will be asked additional questions relating to issues pertaining to our state.

Additional questions asked were related to:

- How familiar are you with our state programs and services?
- How familiar are you regarding Forest Practices Rules and Road Maintenance and Abandonment requirements?
- Do you provide routine maintenance on your roads?
- How would you describe the condition of your roads?
- What are the concerns facing you for your woodland?

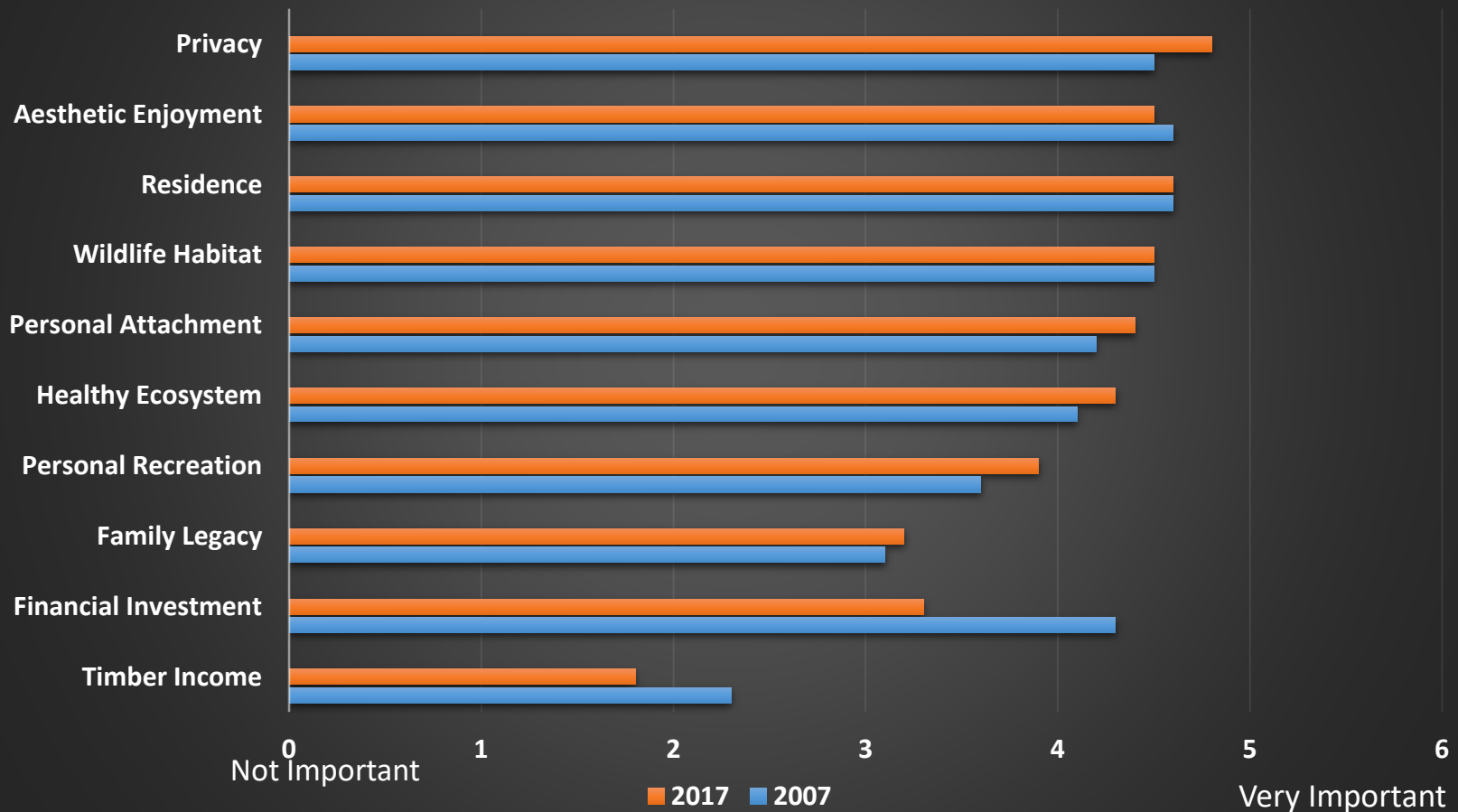


WSU Extension Survey

- In 2007 and in 2017, WSU Extension Forestry staff conducted a random sample of landowners in Skagit, Snohomish, and King counties.
- Mailed a survey to approximately 1,500 forest landowners .
- Staff asked specific questions about landowners needs, values, and interests and asked them to rank each from not important to very important.
- In 2007, 498 landowners responded (33% response rate) and in 2017, 690 landowners responded (46% response rate).



WSU Extension Forestry Survey Landowner Values and Interests



How did the Legislature and Forest Practices Board address the affects of the Forests and Fish Rules on small forest landowners?

RCW 76.13 Stewardship of Nonindustrial Forest and Woodlands

The legislature finds that increasing regulatory requirements continue to diminish the economic viability of small forest landowners.

How did the Legislature address this?

RCW 76.13.100 Small Forest Landowner Office

The legislature established a **small forest landowner office** that is a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies.

An **advisory committee** was established to assist the small forest landowner office in developing policy and recommending rules to the Forest Practices Board.



Forests and Fish Rules

Benefits to All Landowners:

Taxes

- Excise Tax
- B & O Tax
- Alternate Plans

Additional Benefits to Small Forest Landowners:

Legislative Capital Funded Programs:

Forestry Riparian Easement Program

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

Additional Harvest Opportunities:

Long-Term Applications

Alternate Plan Templates

20-Acre Exempt Rule



20-acre Exempt Rule

RCW 76.13.130 Riparian management zones for exempt 20-acre parcels

On parcels of 20 contiguous acres or less, landowners with a total parcel ownership of less than 80 acres of forestland shall not be required to leave the riparian buffers adjacent to streams under Forest Practices Rules.

Old Rules plus 15%



How Many Small Forest Landowners Are Eligible To Use the 20-Acre Exempt Rule?

2007 Washington State Forestland Database

Landholding Size Class (Acres)	Total Number of Small Forest Landowners in western Washington	Total Number of Small Forest Landowners in eastern Washington	Total Statewide Number of Small Forest Landowners
2-20	101,811	22,829	124,640 (70%)
21-100	20,641	19,547	40,188 (23%)
101-1000	5,423	6,998	12,421 (7%)
1001-5000	75	983	1,058 (0.5%)
5001+	0	98	98 (0.05%)
Total	127,950	50,455	178,405

Not eligible for FREP or alternate plan templates



Small Forest Landowner Forest Practices Applications (2009-2016)

Year	Total Number of FPAs	Total Number of Small Forest Landowner FPAs	Percent of FPAs being Small Forest Landowners	Total Number of Small Forest Landowner 20-Acre Exempt FPA's	Total Number of Small Forest Landowner Long-Term Applications
2009	2,569	681	27%	42	20
2010	3,039	1,207	40%	63	19
2011	3,961	1,731	44%	97	24
2012	4,048	1,794	44%	84	31
2013	5,098	2,251	44%	104	27
2014	5,065	2,526	50%	135	26
2015	3,973	1,868	47%	72	21
2016	4,043	1,923	48%	63	15
Grand Total	31,796	13,981	44%	660 (~5%)	183 (~1%)



Forest Practices Applications Containing Type S or F Waters

2009 - 2016

	Total Number of Forest Practices Applications	FPA's Containing Type S or F Waters
Large Landowner Forest Practices Applications	17,815	10,926 (61%)
Small Forest Landowners Forest Practices Applications	13,981	5,311 (38%)
TOTAL	31,796	16,237 (51%)



Harvest Acres

2009 - 2016

Year	Total acres harvested	Total Acres Harvested (Western WA)	Total Acres Harvested by Small Forest Landowners (Western WA)	Total Acres Harvested (Eastern WA)	Total Acres Harvested by Small Forest Landowners (Eastern WA)
2009	157,825	94,996	11,789	62,829	16,223
2010	173,078	110,740	10,760	62,338	22,305
2011	161,760	97,940	20,559	63,820	28,607
2012	200,990	123,295	28,946	77,695	31,021
2013	210,999	137,395	22,275	73,604	33,309
2014	182,953	105,890	17,621	77,063	44,912
2015	171,393	93,090	12,912	78,303	43,460
2016	174,298	103,942	16,435	70,356	33,302
Grand Total	1,433,296	867,288	141,297 (16%)	566,008	253,139 (45%)

Overall, approximately 28% of total harvest acres statewide are small forest landowners



Total Number of SFL Alternate Plans and Templates in Western WA

Type of Alternate Plan	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total Plans
Fixed Width Buffer Template	2	22	50	70	110	44	298 (56%)
Overstocked Stand Template	5	11	13	16	19	25	89 (17%)
Hardwood Conversion	13	9	19	12	20	3	76 (14%)
RMZ Harvest	5	14	9	16	10	16	70 (13%)
Total	25	56	91	114	159	88	533 (6%)*

*Based on the data from this time period (2010-2015), there were 9,211 SFL FPAs in western WA and roughly 6% were alternate plans or templates



In Summary

The USDA Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey and the WSU Extension Survey both show that small woodland forest owners in Washington have primary management objectives other than timber production.



In Summary

- **The majority of small forest landowners (70%) own between 2 and 20 acres and are eligible for the 20-acre Exempt Rule.**
- **In addition, a large number of small forest landowners in the 21-100 acre range may also be eligible for the 20-acre Exempt Rule.**



From 2009-2016 Forest Practices Application data:

44% of the total FPAs were submitted by small forest landowners covering 28% of statewide total harvest acres.

Of these FPA's:

- 5% applied the 20-acre Exempt Rule.**
- 1% used a Long-Term Application.**

Of the SFL FPAs submitted, 38% were SFL FPAs that contained Type S or F waters.



From 2010-2015 Western WA SFL Alternate Plan Review data:

- **Approximately 6% of SFL FPAs were alternate plans or alternate plan templates.**
- **When small forest landowners use alternate plans, the majority (73%) apply alternate plan templates.**



Forestry Riparian Easement Program FY17-19 Accomplishments



This Biennium:

- 34 conservation easements were purchased.
- A total of 231 acres were covered within these easements.



What has the Forestry Riparian Easement Program Accomplished?



To Date:

- 401 conservation easements were purchased
- A total of 6,099 acres were covered within these easements
- FREP has spent \$32.3 million to purchase conservation easements.
- 136 eligible landowners are on the waiting list encompassing roughly 2,000 acres of riparian areas.
- Need \$7.7 million to purchase all on the waiting list.



Family Forest Fish Passage Program FY17-19 Accomplishments



This Biennium:

- FFFPP eliminated 29 fish passage barriers.
- 60 miles of habitat were opened up.



What Has the Family Forest Fish Passage Program Accomplished?



To Date:

- FFFPP eliminated 397 fish passage barriers, opening 934 miles of habitat.
- FFFPP has spent \$41 million to fix fish barriers.
- 1,086 landowners on the waiting list.
- Need \$100 million to correct all barriers on the list.



Questions?



