

# National Woodland Owner Survey Review

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There are about 830 million acres of forest land in the US. Most forestland are publically owned in the Western part of the US; in sharp contrast, most are privately owned in the Eastern side. The purpose for the survey (keep abreast of forestland resources); the target population (private forest land and private forest and owners), sampling frame (all US land) and sampling design (stratified SRS and stratified PPS); and survey administration process are all properly addressed.

In a 2012 Journal of Forestry research article (Private Forest Landowners: Estimating Population Parameters, 110(7): 362-370), Metcalf et al. stated the estimators used for the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) were biased.

A 2013 Journal of Forestry research article (Methods for Estimating Private Forest Ownership Statistics: Revised Methods for the USDA Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey) by Dickson and Butler addressed these concerns. The Supporting Statement OMB No. 0596-0078 exhibits the estimator revisions from the 2013 article.

Furthermore, Supporting Statement OMB No. 0596-0078 properly discusses:

1. Sampling all of the operators in the largest stratum (Large Corporate Private) which is similar to NASS's strategy.
2. How to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response that is very similar to NASS's procedures: pre-notice, initial questionnaire, reminder, second questionnaire, telephone interview, and electronic version option.