# NWOS Telephone Survey Guide

OMB # 0596-0078

Expiration date: to be updated

**INTERVIEWER INTRODUCTION**

Interviewer text:

Hello, this is <NAME> calling on behalf of the <STATE> Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. We are conducting the National Woodland Owner Survey for the U.S. Forest Service and you were selected to participate. Several weeks ago you were mailed a copy of this survey. We have not received it and were hoping to collect the data by telephone today. Your cooperation is extremely important to the accuracy of the survey and your individual report will be kept confidential (under Title 7 of the U.S. Code and CIPSEA (Public Law 107-347)). Response is voluntary.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0596-0078. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the U.S.D.A. Forest Service email address [SM.FS.InfoCollect@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.InfoCollect@usda.gov) and include the OMB Control Number in the subject line.

**The rest of the interview time is allotted to going through the survey and recording landowner’s answers. These interviews will a subset of the National Woodland Owner Survey Short Form (below), with the interviewer reading the questions and the landowner responding. Interviews will not go beyond the allotted time (15 minutes).**

1. How many total acres of land do you currently own in <STATE>? \_\_\_\_\_\_acres
2. Wooded land covers XX% of the <REGION>. Wooded land includes:

* Timberland, forests, and woodlands
* Land at least 1 acre in size, 120 feet wide, and has at least 10% forest cover ✓ Land at least 1 acre in size, where trees were harvested and will grow again Wooded land does *not* include:
* Christmas tree farms, orchards, or nurseries
* Land that is mowed for lawn

How many acres of wooded land do you currently own in <STATE>? \_\_\_\_\_\_acres

1. Which category below best describes your ownership?

Select only one.

* Individual
* Joint, with husband or wife
* Joint, such as with other family members or friends
* Family partnership or family LLC or LLP
* Family trust or estate
* Corporation or business (for-profit)
* Corporation or business (non-profit)
* Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How many people are a part of this ownership, including you? \_\_\_\_owners
2. Do you currently own more than one separate, unconnected property with wooded land in STATE? \_\_Yes \_\_No
3. Is your home (primary residence) on or within a mile of any of your wooded land in STATE?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Not Applicable

1. Do you have a vacation home or cabin on or within a mile of any of your wooded land in STATE? \_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Not Applicable
2. Do you own any land within a mile of any of your wooded land in STATE that is farmed or ranched? For the purpose of this survey, a farm or ranch is a place where, in most years, $1,000 or more is earned from the sale of crops (other than forest products) or animals.

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Not Applicable

1. How important are the following as reasons for why you currently own your wooded land in [STATE]?  *If you own one property, check one box for each item.*

*If you own more than one property in [STATE], consider them all and check one or more boxes for each item.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very Important | Impor  tant | Moderately Important | Of little importance | Not Important | Not Applicable |
| To enjoy beauty or scenery |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To protect nature or biological diversity |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To protect water resources |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To protect or improve wildlife habitat |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For land investment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For privacy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To raise my family |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To pass land on to my children or other heirs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For cultural/spiritual reasons |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For firewood |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For timber products, such as logs or pulpwood |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For nontimber forest products, such as berries or maple syrup |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For grazing/shade animals |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For hunting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For recreation, other than hunting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Please specify): |  | |  |  |  |  |

1. a. How did you get your wooded land in [STATE]? *Check all that apply.*

\_\_Purchased

\_\_Inherited

\_\_Received as gift

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. IN what year did you, personally, first take ownership of your wooded land in [STATE]?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Year

1. Have you ever sold or given away any of your wooded land in [STATE]? \_\_Yes \_\_No
2. Who makes the management decisions, such as whether or not to harvest trees, for your wooded land in [STATE]?

*Check all that apply.*

\_\_Me

\_\_My husband or wife

\_\_My children

\_\_My parents

\_\_Another family member

\_\_My business partner

\_\_My land manager or forester

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. A management or stewardship plan may be written in order to help the landowner meet their goals for their wooded land.
   1. How familiar are you with these types of plans?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. Do you have a written management or stewardship plan for any of your wooded land in <STATE>? \_\_Yes \_\_ No \_\_Don’t know

*If yes, please answer c.*

*If no or don’t know, skip to question 14.*

* 1. Have you taken actions to implement it?

\_\_Yes \_\_ No \_\_ Don't know

1. Have trees ever been cut or removed from any of the wooded land that you own in <STATE> since you have owned it?

\_\_Yes \_\_No

*If yes, please answer a, b and c.*

*If no, skip to question 15.*

* 1. What types of products were harvested? *Check all that apply.*

\_\_Firewood, for sale

\_\_Firewood, for personal use

\_\_Logs, for sale

\_\_Logs, for personal use

\_\_Wood chips or pulpwood, for sale

\_\_Wood chips or pulpwood, for personal use

\_\_Other

(please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of the following have occurred on your wooded land in <STATE> **in the past 5 years**? *Check all that apply.*

\_\_Cut and/or removed trees for sale

\_\_Cut and/or removed trees for own use

\_\_Planted trees

\_\_Collected nontimber forest products, such as berries or ginseng

\_\_Reduced fire hazard

\_\_Controlled burn/prescribed fire

\_\_Eliminated or reduced invasive plants

\_\_Eliminated or reduced unwanted insects or diseases

\_\_Road construction or maintenance

\_\_Trail construction or maintenance

\_\_Improved wildlife habitat

\_\_Livestock grazing

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16. Which of the following will likely occur on your wooded land in <STATE> **in the next 5 years**?

*Check all that apply*

\_\_Cut and/or remove trees for sale

\_\_Cut and/or remove trees for own use

\_\_Plant trees

\_\_Collect nontimber forest products, such as berries and ginseng

\_\_Reduce fire hazard

\_\_Controlled burn/prescribed fire

\_\_Eliminate or reduce invasive plants

\_\_Eliminate or reduce unwanted insects or diseases

\_\_Road construction or maintenance

\_\_Trail construction or maintenance

\_\_Improve wildlife habitat

\_\_Livestock grazing

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. To encourage good woodland management, groups have created green certification programs to recognize landowners who comply with the groups’ standards. Examples include Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). a. How familiar are you with green certification?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. Is any of your wooded land in <STATE> currently green certified?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Don’t know

1. Some state and local governments have programs that defer, reduce, or eliminate property taxes for wooded land. In <STATE>, there are the Tree Growth Tax Law and Open Space Tax Law programs. a. How familiar are you with these programs?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. Is any of your wooded land in <STATE> currently enrolled in one of these programs or a similar one?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Don’t know

1. Development rights for land can be sold or voluntarily given away. This is usually in the form of a conservation easement.
   1. How familiar are you with this concept?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. Have development rights been sold or voluntarily given away on any of your wooded land in <STATE> by either you or a previous owner?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Don’t know

* 1. If No or Don’t know, how likely are you to do so in the next 5 years?

Extremely Extremely Not

Likely Likely Undecided Unlikely Unlikely Applicable

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

1. Cost-share programs provide landowners with money to help them establish or otherwise manage their wooded land. Examples include the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and various state funded programs. a. How familiar are you with this cost-share programs?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. In the past 5 years, have you used a cost-share program to help you establish or manage your wooded land in <STATE>?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Don’t know

1. Have you leased your wooded land in [STATE] (other than for logging)?

\_\_Yes \_\_No

*If yes, please answer a and b.*

*If no, skip to question 22.*

* 1. What leasing activities did they use it for?

*Check all that apply.*

\_\_Logging

\_\_Hunting

\_\_Recreation (other than hunting)

\_\_To graze/pasture livestock

\_\_Solar/wind

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change, public programs and private markets have been created that pay owners of wooded land for capturing or sequestering carbon. a. How familiar are you with this cost-share programs?

Extremely Moderately Somewhat Slightly Not at all

Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

* 1. Is any of your wooded land in <STATE> currently enrolled in one of these carbon capture programs or markets?

\_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Don’t know

1. a. Who, with your permission, has hunted, hiked, or otherwise recreated on your wooded land in [STATE] in the past 5 years? *Check all that apply.*

\_\_Me and/or my husband or wife

\_\_My children

\_\_Other family members

\_\_Friends

\_\_Neighbors

\_\_The general public for free

\_\_The general public for a fee

\_\_The general public as part of an access program

\_\_Other(please specify)

24.b. How did you/they recreate if at all?

*Check all that apply.*

\_\_Hunting

\_\_Fishing

\_\_Hiking/walking

\_\_Bicycling

\_\_Nature viewing

\_\_Birding

\_\_Camping

\_\_Horseback riding

\_\_Skiing or snowshoeing

\_\_Off-road vehicles, such as ATVs or snowmobiles

\_\_Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What activity, if any, is posted to restrict access and/or use by the general public on any of your wooded land in [STATE]?

\_\_Trespassing

\_\_Hunting

\_\_Motorized vehicles

\_\_Other (please specify)

1. Please indicate your level of concern about each of the following topics for your wooded land in

<STATE>.

*If you own one property, check one box for each item.*

*If you own more than one property in [STATE], consider them all and check one or more boxes for each item.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Great concern | Concern | Moderate concern | Of little concern | No  concern | Not Applicable |
| Air pollution |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Climate change |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Damage from animals |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development of nearby lands |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drought or lack of water |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Damage or noise from off-road vehicles |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Government regulation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High property taxes |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Invasive plants |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Keeping land intact for future generations |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Misuse of forested land, such as vandalism or dumping |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trespassing or poaching |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unwanted insects or diseases |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water pollution |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wildfire |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wind or ice storms |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weak timber markets |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. How likely is it that you will sell or give away any of your wooded land in [STATE] in the next 5 years?

Extremely Extremely Not

Likely Likely Undecided Unlikely Unlikely Applicable \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the future of your wooded land. *Check one box for each item.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor  disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| I want my wooded land to stay wooded |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would sell my land if I was offered a reasonable price |  |  |  |  |  |

Please answer for the owner who makes most of the decisions for this property.

1. What is your age:

\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your gender?

\_\_Male

\_\_Female

1. What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

\_\_Less than 12th grade

\_\_High school/GED

\_\_Some college

\_\_Associate degree

\_\_Bachelor’s degree

\_\_Advanced degree

1. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

\_\_Yes

\_\_No

1. What is your race? *Select one or more.*

\_\_American Indian or Alaska Native

\_\_Asian

\_\_Black or African-America

\_\_Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

\_\_White

1. What is your household’s annual income?

\_\_Less than $25,000

\_\_$25,000 to $49,999

\_\_$50,000 to $99,999

\_\_$100,000 to $199,999

\_\_$200,000 or more

1. On average, what percentage of your household’s annual income comes from the wooded land that you own?

\_\_\_\_\_percent