

# 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

3. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many people are a part of this ownership, including you? \_\_\_ owners
4. Do you currently own more than one separate, unconnected property with wooded land in STATE? \_\_Yes \_\_No
5. Is your home (primary residence) on or within a mile of any of your wooded land in STATE?  
 \_\_Yes \_\_No \_\_Not Applicable
6. 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
7. 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
8. 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	Important	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):						

9. 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

11. Have you ever sold or given away any of your wooded land in [STATE]?  Yes  No

12. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

13. A management or stewardship plan may be written in order to help the landowner meet their goals for their wooded land.

a. How familiar are you with these types of plans?

Extremely Familiar	Moderately Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Slightly Familiar	Not at all Familiar
—	—	—	—	—

b. 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.*

c. Have you taken actions to implement it?

Yes  No  Don't know

14. 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.*

a. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

15. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

17. 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

—                      —                      —                      —                      —

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

Yes     No     Don't know

18. 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  
—
—
—
—
—
- b. Is any of your wooded land in <STATE> currently enrolled in one of these programs or a similar one?  
 \_\_Yes    \_\_No    \_\_Don't know
19. Development rights for land can be sold or voluntarily given away. This is usually in the form of a conservation easement.
- a. How familiar are you with this concept?  
 Extremely    Moderately    Somewhat    Slightly    Not at all  
 Familiar    Familiar    Familiar    Familiar    Familiar  
 —    —    —    —    —
- b. 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
- c. If No or Don't know, how likely are you to do so in the next 5 years?  
 Extremely    Likely    Undecided    Unlikely    Extremely    Not  
 Likely    Likely    Undecided    Unlikely    Unlikely    Applicable  
 —    —    —    —    —    —
20. 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  
 —    —    —    —    —
- b. 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
21. 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.*
- a. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

22. 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

—                      —                      —                      —                      —

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

Yes       No       Don't know

23. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

24. 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)

24. 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	Noconcern	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						

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

Extremely Likely Undecided Unlikely Extremely Not  
 Applicable — — — —

26. 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.

27. What is your age:

\_\_\_\_\_

28. What is your gender?

Male

Female

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

Less than 12<sup>th</sup> grade

High school/GED

Some college

Associate degree

Bachelor's degree

Advanced degree

30. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes

No

31. 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

32. 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

33. On average, what percentage of your household's annual income comes from the wooded land that you own?  
\_\_\_\_\_percent