

# Iowa Forest Reserve Program Study: Aggregate Results Task 1

## 1. *How many total acres of woodland do you own in Iowa?*

- Of the 983 participants who answered, “How many total acres of woodland do you own in Iowa?” 87.5 percent or 860 respondents reported owning between 1 and 100 total acres of woodland in Iowa. 11.6 percent or 114 respondents own between 101 and 400 acres in Iowa, while the remaining 0.9 percent own more than 400 acres.

## 2. *How long ago did you acquire your first Iowa woodland parcel?*

- Over half, 51.2 percent, of 997 respondents acquired their first Iowa woodland parcel between 16 and 30 years ago, with 17.5 percent having obtained at least one parcel of woodland more than 30 years ago.



## 3. *Where do you live in relationship to the majority of your Iowa woodland?*

- Of the 950 respondents who reside within Iowa, 85.6 percent (836) live within 25 miles of their woodland. The remaining 114 participants, who live within Iowa, are located more than 25 miles away from their Iowa woodland.
- Twenty-seven or 2.8 percent of the total respondents do not live within Iowa. Twenty-three did not specify any location.

4. *How important are each of the following reasons as to why you own woodland in Iowa?*

- Overall, participants primarily own woodland in Iowa to Enjoy the Beauty and Scenery of Woodlands, To Protect Nature and Biologic Diversity, and for Wildlife Habitat. On the whole, respondents indicate they do not typically own Iowa woodland to use as A Part of Their Vacation Home or For Future Development.

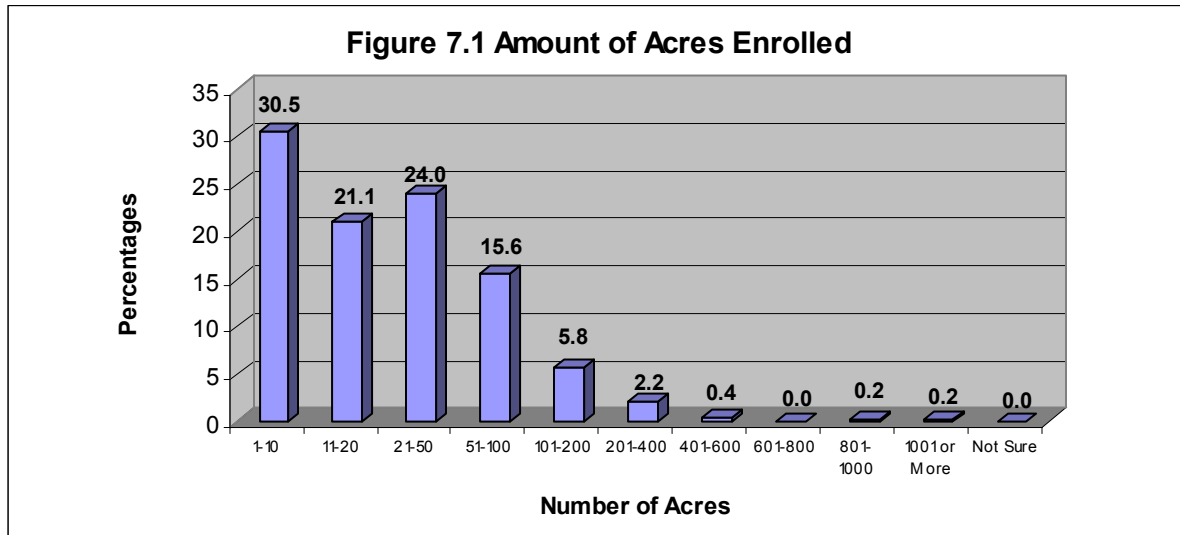


5. *Do you allow others (other than your immediate family) to use any of your woodland for recreational purposes? If yes, do you collect a fee for the use of your woodland?*

- Approximately 70 percent (695), of the 984 landowners who responded to this question, allow others to utilize their woodland for recreational purposes.
  - 2.2 percent of those who allow the use of their woodland charge a fee, while the remaining 97.8 percent allow others to use the land free of charge.
  - Of the 289 landowners who do not allow others to utilize their woodland for recreational purposes, 73.2 percent do not allow the use of their woodland by others even if the people were willing to pay a fee for the privilege.
  - Roughly eight percent of landowners would be somewhat likely to collect a fee for the use of their land.

6. *How many acres of the woodland you own are enrolled in the Iowa Forest Reserve Program?*

- Of the 1000 respondents, 91.2 percent indicated owning between 1 and 100 enrolled acres. Eight percent own between 101 and 400 enrolled acres, while the remaining 0.8 percent have more than 401 enrolled acres.



7. *Do you reside in the county where you own the majority of your Forest Reserve Acres?*

- Approximately three-fourths of respondents (77.7 percent) live in the county where the majority of their Forest Reserve Acres are located. The remaining one-fourth (22.3 percent) live in another county.

8. *How are the parcels you have enrolled in the Iowa Forest Reserve Program owned? Do all other owners claim Iowa as their primary residence?*

- Of the 974 respondents who answered the above question, 71.5 percent (696) have sole ownership of their Forest Reserve acres. The remaining 28.5 percent (278) indicated partial ownership of their Forest Reserve acres.
  - Of the 278 respondents who indicated joint ownership of Iowa Forest Reserve acres, 268 answered, “Do all other owners claim Iowa as their primary residence.”
  - Of the 268, 85.4 percent or 229 respondents claim Iowa as their primary residence, with the remaining 14.6 percent unable to claim Iowa as their primary residence.

9. *Do you have a written forest management plan for the land you have enrolled in the Forest Reserve Program?*

- 77.5 percent of the 962 respondents do not have a written forest management plan for the land that is enrolled in the Forest Reserve Program. Only 216 participants or 22.5 percent reported some type of management plan.

10. *Is the Iowa Forest Reserve Program tax exemption a major factor in your decision to keep your acres in woodland? On a scale of one to six how important is the tax exemption to you?*

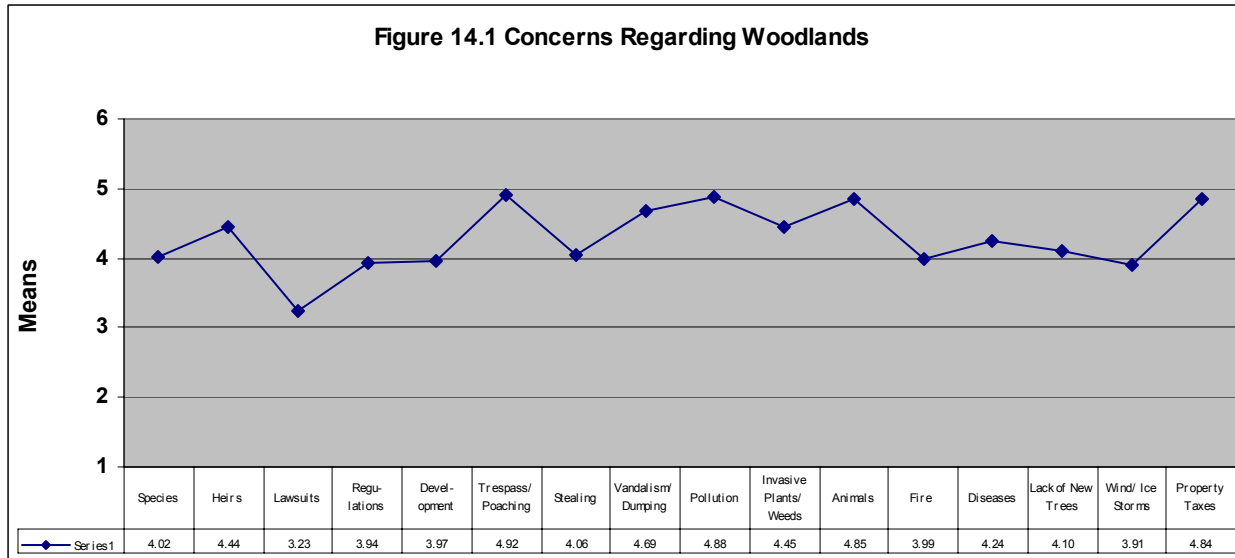
- 730 of 979 participants stated the tax exemption has some affect on their personal decision to keep their acres in woodland, with 37.9 percent indicating the tax exemption is a major factor while 36.7 percent state the tax has had little affect on their decision.
- The remaining 25.4 percent or 249 respondents indicate the tax exemption has no affect on their decision to keep the acres as woodland.
- On a scale of 1 to 6, with 6 indicating a significant factor, participants rated the tax exemption as a neutral factor overall with a mean score of 3.4 when determining whether or not to continue to own Forest Reserve acres.

11. *In your opinion, how important is it that wooded land in Iowa be maintained and cared for?*

- 968 of 974 respondents feel it is either very important or somewhat important that woodland in Iowa be maintained and cared for. More specifically, 90.6 percent feel it is very important, 8.6 percent feel it is somewhat important, conversely only 0.6 percent of respondents feel it is not at all important to maintain and care for woodland.

12. *Please indicate your concern for each of the following issues in regard to your Iowa woodland.*

- Overall, participants are somewhat concerned about all factors given to them with almost all mean scores falling above an average rating of 3.5. However, the most concern was expressed in the areas of Trespassing/Poaching, Vandalism/Dumping, Pollution, Invasive Plants/Weeds, Animals, and Property Taxes. On the whole, respondents are the least concerned about Lawsuits relative to their Iowa woodland.



13. *During the past five years, which of the following activities have you completed to help maintain or improve your woodland? Over the next five years, which of the following activities do you plan to complete in order to maintain or improve your woodland?*

- The two most common types of maintenance activities include Planting Trees and Timber Stand Improvement/Thinning Projects, which were completed by 50.9 percent and 47.2 percent respectively. Riparian Buffer Strips were installed least frequently with a completion rate of only 13.4 percent.
- Approximately 55 percent of respondents plan to complete Timber Stand Improvement/Thinning projects in the next 5 years and 46 percent have plans to plant trees to improve their woodland. A small percentage, approximately 4 percent, predicts the installation of Riparian Buffer Strips during the short term.

14. *What sources have you used (would you use) to gather information regarding the care of your woodland?*

Source	No. of respondents who use this source
DNR Forester	594
Books/Publications	505
ISU Extension Office	383
Soil and Water Conservation District	367
Friends/Neighbors	352
County Conservation Board	310
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	306
DNR-Wildlife Biologist	252
Internet	234
Logger/Timber Buyer	191
Private Consulting Forester	144
None	77
Resource Conservation and Development	74
Other	36

15. *Please indicate all organizations to which you belong.*

Organization	No. of respondents
Farm Bureau	303
None	266
Pheasants Forever	188
Other	138
Ducks Unlimited	131
Iowa Woodland Owners Association	110
National Wild Turkey Federation	90
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	73
Certified Tree Farm	70
The Nature Conservancy	68
Audubon Society	48
Izaak Walton League	43
Sierra Club	35
Native Plant Society	8

16. *Please indicate your gender and age group.*

- Of the 965 respondents who answered this question, 87.6 percent were male and 12.4 percent were female.
- 980 respondents designated an age group, of those, 77.3 percent are between the ages of 46 and 75. On each end of the spectrum, 13.6 percent are under the age of 45 and 9.1 percent are above the age of 76.