Comments or questions?
Please contact us:

National Woodland Owner Survey
USDA Forest Service
11 Campus Blvd.
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Toll-Free Telephone: (866) 396-6967
Fax: (610) 557-4250
Internet: www.fs.fed.us/woodlandowners

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per respondent, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB#0596-0078), Washington, DC 20503.

Version: **Nebraska 4.5**

51406

National Woodland Owner Survey

National Woodland Owner Survey, USDA Forest Service

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If you would like a copy of the results of this survey, please print your name and address on the back of the return envelope.

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If there are any additional comments or concerns that you would like to share, please write them below.

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Thank you for participating in this survey!

Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Instructions

- ✓ Please provide answers for all of the woodland that you own in Nebraska.
- ✓ The owner who makes most of the decisions about your woodland should answer this questionnaire.
- ✓ If this questionnaire is received by a company or other organization, please have a person knowledgeable about the organization's woodlands in Nebraska answer this questionnaire.
- ✓ If you do not own any woodland in Nebraska, please return this questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided. Thank you!

General Questions about Your Woodland

1. **Woodland** covers 5% of Nebraska.

   Woodland includes:
   - Land at least one (1) acre in size, 120 feet wide, and has at least ten (10) well-spaced trees per acre; and
   - Land at least one (1) acre in size, where trees were removed and trees will grow again (not converted to another use, such as cropland, pasture land, or residential).

   Woodland does *not* include:
   - Christmas tree farms, orchards, or nurseries; or
   - Land that is mowed for lawn.

   a. How many acres of *land* do you own in Nebraska?

   [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] Acres of land in Nebraska

   b. How many acres of *woodland* do you own in Nebraska?

   [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] Acres of woodland in Nebraska

   c. How many unconnected parcels or tracts of woodland do you own in Nebraska?
   If you own more than 10 parcels, please estimate to the nearest 10 parcels.

   [ ][ ][ ][ ] Parcels with woodland in Nebraska

   d. How many acres of woodland do you own outside of Nebraska?

   [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] Acres of woodland outside of Nebraska

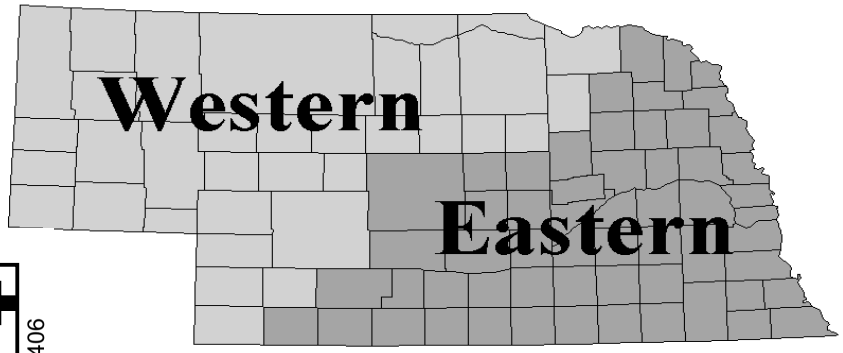
2. How many acres of woodland do you own in the following regions of Nebraska?
See map below.

Eastern including Adams, Boone, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hitchcock, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Lancaster, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and York counties.

☐☐☐☐☐☐ Acres

Western including Antelope, Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Dundy, Garden, Garfield, Grant, Hayes, Holt, Hooker, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Morrill, Perkins, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Thomas, and Wheeler counties.

☐☐☐☐☐☐ Acres



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27. 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

28. What is your sex?

☐ Male ☐ Female

29. a. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

☐ Yes, I am Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
☐ No, I am not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

b. What is your race?
Please select one or more.

☐ American Indian
☐ Asian
☐ Black or African-American
☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
☐ White

30. Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment?

☐ Yes ☐ No

b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?

☐ Yes ☐ No

General Questions About You

Finally we would like to ask a few questions about you. As with the rest of this questionnaire, all of your answers are strictly confidential.

If you are answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organization, please skip the "Questions About You" section and go to the last page of this questionnaire.

24. a. What is your main occupation (if retired, what was your main occupation)?

_____

_____

b. Are you retired?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi-retired

25. What is your age?

☐ Under 25 years
☐ 25 to 34 years
☐ 35 to 44 years
☐ 45 to 54 years
☐ 55 to 64 years
☐ 65 to 74 years
☐ 75 years or over

26. What is the highest degree or level of school that you have COMPLETED?
Check only ***ONE***. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

☐ Less than 12th grade
☐ High school graduate or GED
☐ Some college
☐ Associate or technical degree
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate degree

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3. a. How did you get your woodland in Nebraska?
Check ***ALL*** *that apply.*

☐ Bought it
☐ Inherited it
☐ Got it as a gift
☐ Other (please specify): _____

b. From whom did you get your woodland?
Check ***ALL*** *that apply.*

☐ My parents, spouse, or other family members
☐ Other individual(s)
☐ Land investor/developer
☐ A forestry company
☐ A local, state, or federal government agency
☐ Other (please specify): _____

c. In what year did you first get woodland in Nebraska?

☐☐☐☐ Year ☐ I don't remember

4. a. How many times have you sold or given away woodland in Nebraska?
Check only ***ONE***.

☐ Never ➡ **If never,** go to question 5.
☐ Once (1 time)
☐ 2 to 5 times
☐ 6 or more times

b. Who got the woodland that you sold or gave away?
Check ***ALL*** *that apply.*

☐ My children or other family members
☐ Other individual(s)
☐ Land investor/developer
☐ A forestry company
☐ A local, state, or federal government agency
☐ Other (please specify): _____

c. Have you sold or given away woodland in Nebraska in the **last 5 years**?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. There are many different types of ownerships that hold woodland. How would you describe the type of ownership in which your Nebraska woodland is held?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ Individual or joint ownership
☐ Family partnership or corporation
☐ Business partnership
☐ A corporation that produces forest products
☐ A corporation that does not produce forest products
☐ Forest management company (manage for private clients)
☐ Timber investment management org. (institutional clients)
☐ Nonprofit organization
☐ Club or association
☐ Trust or estate
☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. 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.

Do you own a farm or ranch that is within one (1) mile of any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?

☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 7.

If yes, how many acres do you farm or ranch?

☐☐☐☐☐☐ acres

7. a. Is your home (primary residence) within one (1) mile of any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

b. Do you have a vacation home or cabin within one (1) mile of any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Your Reasons for Owning Woodland

8. What is the main reason that you own woodland in Nebraska?
Please write your answer below.

_____

_____

22. There are many things that can affect the health of woodlands. Below are issues that are affecting the health of some woodlands.

Please indicate your level of concern by *marking **ONE** box for **EACH** issue.*

	Great Concern 1	2	3	4	5	6	No Concern 7
Air and water pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undesirable plants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Domestic animals, such as cattle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wild animals, such as deer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fire	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Insects or plant diseases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of new trees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wind or ice storms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

_____

The Future of Your Woodland

23. What are your plans for your woodland in Nebraska in the next five (5) years?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ Leave it as is - no activity
☐ Minimum activity to maintain woodland
☐ Harvest firewood
☐ Harvest sawlogs or pulpwood
☐ Collect non-timber forest products
☐ Sell some or all of my woodland
☐ Give some or all of my woodland to my children or other heirs
☐ Divide all or part of my woodland and sell the subdivisions
☐ Buy more woodland
☐ Convert some or all of my woodland to another use
☐ Convert another land use to woodland
☐ No plans at this time
☐ I don't know
☐ Other (please specify): _____

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Concerns and Issues

21. Sometimes people are not able to use their woodland as they want. Below are some issues that are affecting some people's ability to use and enjoy their woodland.

Please indicate your level of concern by *marking **ONE** box for **EACH** issue.*

	Great Concern 1	2	3	4	5	6	No Concern 7
Dealing with an endangered species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
High property taxes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Keeping land intact for my children or other heirs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lawsuits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulations that restrict harvests	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Development of nearby lands	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Damage or noise from motorized vehicles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trespassing or poaching	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People stealing my trees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Misuse of woodland, such as vandalism or dumping	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. People own woodland for many reasons. How important are the following as reasons for why you own woodland in Nebraska? *Mark **ONE** box for **EACH** item.*

	Very Important 1	2	3	4	5	6	Not Important 7
To enjoy beauty or scenery	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To protect nature and biologic diversity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For land investment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part of my home or vacation home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part of my farm or ranch	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For privacy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To pass land on to my children or other heirs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For cultivation/collection of non-timber forest products	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For production of firewood or biofuel (energy)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For production of sawlogs, pulp-wood or other timber products	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For hunting or fishing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For recreation, other than hunting or fishing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Uses of Your Woodland

10. Have you ever leased or collected money (other than from logging) for allowing people to use the woodland that you own in Nebraska?

☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 11.

➡ **If yes**, please answer questions **a** *and* **b**.

a. What did they use it for?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*
☐ Hunting
☐ Recreation (other than hunting)
☐ To graze/pasture livestock
☐ Timber production
☐ To cultivate/collect non-timber forest products
☐ Other (please specify): _____

b. Have you leased or collected money for allowing people to use the woodland that you own in Nebraska in the **last 5 years**?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember

11. **Conservation easements** are legally binding agreements (sometimes the result of a payment to the owner) that restrict land from being used for certain, designated purposes, such as development.

Is there a **conservation easement** on any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?

☐ Yes ➡ **If yes,** what types of activities are restricted?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*
☐ Conversion of woodland to another land use
☐ Splitting of woodland into smaller land holdings
☐ Harvesting of trees
☐ Other (please specify): _____

☐ No ➡ **If no,** do you plan to get a conservation easement?
*Check only **ONE**.*
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Maybe ☐ Don't know

20. There are many different ways to learn about managing woodlands - what to do and how to do it.

How useful would the following ways of learning about managing your woodlands be for you?

*Mark **ONE** box for **EACH** item.*

	Very Useful 1	2	3	4	5	6	Not Useful 7	Don't Know
Publications, books, or pamphlets	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Newsletters, magazines, or newspapers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internet/Web	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Conferences, workshops, or video conferences	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Video tapes for home viewing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Television or radio programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visiting other woodlands or field trips	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Talking with a forester or other natural resource professional	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Talking with other woodland owners	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Talking with a logging contractor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Membership in a land owner organization	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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17. Do you have a written management or stewardship plan for any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember

18. In the last 5 years, have any of the following activities occurred on any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*
☐ Prepared land for new trees - "site prep"
☐ Planted trees
☐ Reduced fire hazard
☐ Applied herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers
☐ Built or performed maintenance on roads or trails
☐ Wildlife habitat/fisheries improvement projects
☐ Posted land to restrict public access
☐ Recreation or hunting by me, my family, or friends
☐ Recreation or hunting by the general public with my permission
☐ None of the above

Sources of Information

19. In the last 5 years, have you received advice or information about the woodland that you own in Nebraska?
☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 20.
↳ **If yes**, who did you get advice or information from?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*
☐ Nebraska Forest Service forester
☐ Extension forester or other university employee
☐ Other state employee
☐ Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District or Farm Service Agency employee
☐ Private consultant, such as a forester or wildlife biologist
☐ A forester from a company that produces forest products
☐ Logging contractor
☐ Employee of a non-profit group
☐ Other forest landowner, neighbor, or friend
☐ I don't remember who
☐ Other (please specify): _____

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12. To encourage good woodland management, groups have created **green certification** programs to recognize woodland owners that comply with a group's standards. Examples include Tree Farm, Green Tag, SmartWood, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
Have you ever heard or read about **green certification** before?
☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 13.
↳ If yes, is any of your woodland in Nebraska currently green certified?
☐ Yes ➡ **If yes,** go to question 13.
☐ No ➡ **If no,** are you planning to get any of your woodland in Nebraska green certified?
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Maybe ☐ Don't know

13. **Cost-share programs** provide landowners with money to help plant trees or manage their woodland. Examples include the Conservation Reserve Program, Stewardship Incentive Program, and Forestry Incentives Program.
Have you ever used a state or federal sponsored cost-share program to help you manage your woodland in Nebraska?
☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 14.
↳ **If yes,** have you used a cost-share program to help you manage your woodland in Nebraska in the **last 5 years**?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember
↳ **If yes,** please list the program(s)? _____
_____

Management of Your Woodland

14. Who makes most of the decisions, such as whether or not to harvest trees, for your woodland in Nebraska?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*
☐ Me and/or my spouse
☐ My children, parents, or other relatives
☐ My business partner (including associations and clubs)
☐ My land manager or forester
☐ My logging contractor
☐ Other (please specify): _____

15. Have trees ever been harvested or removed from any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska since you have owned it?

☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 16.

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

a. What types of products were harvested?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ Veneer logs
☐ Sawlogs
☐ Pulpwood
☐ Firewood ➡ _____ Cords per year
☐ Post or poles

☐ Other (please specify): _____

b. Why were trees harvested or removed?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ To achieve objectives in my management plan
☐ Trees were mature
☐ To clear land for conversion to another use
☐ Needed the money
☐ Needed wood for own use
☐ Price was right
☐ To improve hunting opportunities
☐ To improve scenic and recreational opportunities
☐ To remove trees damaged by a natural catastrophe
☐ To improve quality of remaining trees

☐ Other (please specify): _____

_____

c. During the most recent harvest, did a professional forester help plan, mark, or contract the harvest?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember

d. Have trees been harvested or removed in the **last 5 years?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember

16. **Non-timber forest products** are products other than logs, pulpwood, firewood, posts, or poles that are collected from woodlands.

Non-timber forest products include:

Edibles such as berries, fiddleheads, and maple syrup

Medicinal and dietary supplements such as Ginseng, St. John's wort, and willow bark

Decorative, floral, or craft products such as boughs, birch bark, and landscaping transplants

Items of cultural or religious importance such as sweetgrass, woodland sage, and sauna switches

Have non-timber forest products been collected from any of the woodland that you own in Nebraska since you have owned it?

☐ Yes ☐ No ➡ **If no,** go to question 17.

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

a. What types of products were collected?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ Edibles
☐ Medicinal and dietary supplements
☐ Decorative, floral, or craft products
☐ Items of cultural or religious importance

☐ Other (please specify): _____

b. Why were these products collected?
*Check **ALL** that apply.*

☐ For sale
☐ For personal use or gifts

c. Have any of these products been collected in the **last 5 years?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't remember