



Constraints in Managing Small Woodlands

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What are the Constraints?

Constraints

- Labor & Time
- Money: equipment, planting, harvesting, maintenance
- Knowledge: silviculture, markets (input & output), cost share, tax
- *Economies of scale*

Determined by

- Woodland size
- Woodland owner characteristics (income, race, gender, age)
- *Forest characteristics (Hardwood/Pine, Forest Health)*



Overview

- Woodland distribution in US and project study sites (Sustainable Woodlands)
 - Importance of small woodlands
 - Link with landowner characteristics
- Survey result on forest mgt issues
- Link with
 - Woodland Size
 - Landowner Characteristics
- Where do landowners seek information?

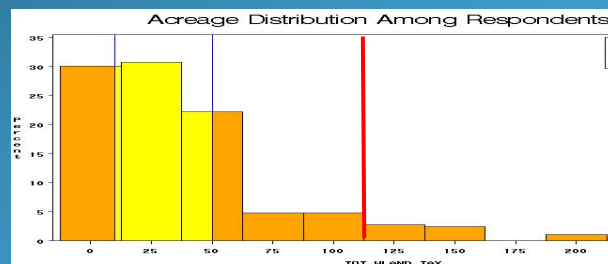
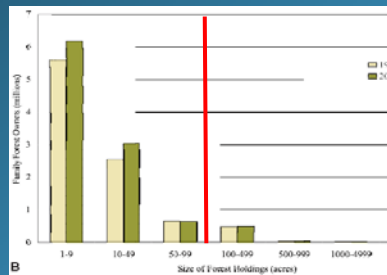


Woodland Size Distribution

National
Woodland
Owner Survey
(1993 and 2003)

Source: Butler &
Leatherberry, 2004

Sustainable
Woodlands Survey
(2004)





Woodland Size Distribution

Number of woodland owners

	<10 ac	10-49ac	50-99ac	>100ac
US South* (n≈7300)	56%	31%	7%	6%
Study Sites (n=406)	16%	50%	17%	17%

* Source: Source: Butler & Leatherberry, 2004



Woodland Size & Owner Characteristics

Age
n=225

Ave. Parcel Size*	<50 yo (n=51)	50-70yo (n=129)	>70yo (n=45)
Median (acres)	15	20	17.5
Mean (acres)	27.6	28.9	28.9

Gender
n=210

Ave. Parcel Size*	Women	Men
Median (acres)	12.5	16.8
Mean (acres)	20	31.6

*Same trend with Total Land Size



Woodland Size & Owner Characteristics

Race n=210	Ave. Parcel Size	Af. Amer (n=41)	White (n=169)
	Median (acres)	13	20
	Mean (acres)	18.5 (15.3)	31.6 (31.1)

Income n=225	Ave. Parcel Size	<\$30k (n=42)	\$30-60k (n=58)	\$>60k (n=91)	No Ans (n=34)
	Median (acres)	17.3	15	21	25
	Mean (acres)	31.4 (34.3)	21.9 (16.7)	33.3 (32.4)	28.9 (35.8)



What Are The Constraints?

Sustainable Woodlands Survey:

What is the hardest thing about taking care of your woods?

Please check (✓) one box

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <i>I don't have the time</i> | 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <i>I don't have the money</i> | 16% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <i>I don't know what to do with my woods</i> | 31% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <i>I live too far away</i> | 17% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <i>Other :</i> | 16% |
-
- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let it grow naturally (no management) • No problem/doing a good job • Land not for timber/for sale | } | No perceived problem |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family interest • Small forest size | } | Need technical assistance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire, trespass, hunters, insects, weather • Age/health • Difficult to find dependable labor | } | Need labor assistance |



Woodland Size

	<10 ac	10-49ac	50-99ac	>100ac
Time	31%	15%	17%	30%
Money	9%	18%	12%	8%
Know How	28%	36%	29%	22%
Distance	16%	21%	15%	13%
Other	16%	9%	27%	27%
TOTAL	N=32	N=132	N=41	N=37



Summary: Woodland Size

- Most woodland parcels (75%) are less than 50 acres
- Knowing what to do with woodland is the most common problem among woodland owners, regardless of woodland size.
- Landowners with Small (<10acres) and Large (>100acres) woodland holdings often feel they lack time to manage their woodland
- Age, gender, race and household income are not related with woodland size



Income Level

	<\$30k	\$30-60k	>\$60k	No Ans
Time	16%	24%	22%	15%
Money	37%	17%	8%	9%
Know How	27%	31%	35%	23%
Distance	2%	17%	25%	15%
Other	18%	10%	11%	38%
TOTAL	N=51	N=71	N=93	N=34

N=248



Age

	<50 yo	50-69yo	>70 yo
Time	19%	28%	15%
Money	22%	18%	16%
Know How	33%	26%	27%
Distance	8%	18%	20%
Other	17%	9%	22%
TOTAL	N=36	N=65	N=79

N=180



Race & Gender

	Female	Male	Af.Amer	N.Amer	White
Time	14%	23%	10%	14%	23%
Money	16%	16%	17%	10%	17%
Know How	36%	27%	38%	38%	26%
Distance	18%	28%	22%	10%	18%
Other	16%	16%	12%	29%	16%
TOTAL	N=94	N=160	N=58	N=21	N=168



Summary: Landowner Characteristics

- Knowing what to do with woodland is the most common problem among woodland owners
- Money is an issue for very low income households (<\$30,000)
- Time is a problem for many (28%) 50-69 year-old landowners; may be linked with career peak & retirement
 - Pre-retirement (50-59 yo): 31% have problem with time
 - Beginning of retirement (60-69%): 42% feel know-how is their biggest concern
- Know how is a bigger issue for women or minority landowners (Af. Amer & N. Amer) than it is for male or white landowners



Seeking Information

Information sources:

- Forestry professionals
- Printed Media: Pamphlet, Newsletters
- Non-print Media: TV, Radio, web



Seeking Information

	Contacted	Best
County Forester	130	33
Publications (newsletters, pamphlets, brochures, booklets)	134	25
County extension agent or other agency personnel	92	22
Family, friends, neighbor	163	21
Timber buyer or logger	126	14
Internet or Web	39	11
Events (fairs, meetings, workshops)	42	11
Media (tv, radio, magazines)	55	3
Total Response	310	140



Summary: Seeking Information

- At least 1/3 of respondents received info from: (i) family/friends; (ii) print publ, (iii) county forester; (iv) timber buyer/logger
- Printed publications is a preferred method of receiving information, second only to county foresters.
- Timber buyers and family/friends are common info sources, but are rarely considered to be the best way of receiving info



Conclusions

- Most woodland owners have <50 acres of woods
- Most common problem among landowners is forestry know-how. This is more acute among female and minority landowners
- County foresters/extension and print publications are the most preferred method of getting info