

**Constraints and Consequences:
The Effects of Financial, Human and Social Capital on Forest Management**

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Among forestland owners, those designated as “limited resource” are thought to face particularly severe constraints, in terms of financial, human, and social capital. In order to evaluate the consequences of these constraints, we surveyed forestland owners in eastern NC and VA using an enriched sampling frame that ensured a sufficient number of respondents who own small acreages, have relatively low incomes and educational attainment, and are in traditionally underserved groups such as African American and Native American. In many previous surveys of non-industrial private forestland owners, these groups have been under-represented due to their low response rates. In addition, previous studies have tended to focus on the timber harvest and reforestation decisions. We also consider intermediate silvicultural practices and outputs (e.g., hunting and fuelwood), relating these to socio-demographic characteristics of the owner and the region, controlling for forest characteristics. As expected, forest acreage has a significant influence: owners of smaller properties are less likely to consult professional foresters and engage in silvicultural practices, and more inclined to view their forest as a source of emergency income. Eighty percent of landowners who have not been in contact with a forestry professional have also not implemented any silvicultural practices, as compared to 50% of those who have received input from a professional. Young (and possibly less experienced) landowners are also less likely to invest in silvicultural treatments. While education and income do not appear to operate as significant independent constraints, we do find that minority landowners engage in fewer silvicultural practices and obtain fewer intermediate benefits from their forest. While this could be due to lack of social capital in forestry (no personal contacts, history of discrimination, or other social barriers), it could also reflect systematic difference in preferences. However, we find that minority landowners do not cite different reasons for owning forestland and do not have significantly different discount rates. They are significantly more likely to feel constrained by lack of information and to be concerned about bad experiences with forestry professionals. These observations illustrate the importance of access to information, maintaining a good working relationship with landowners, and identifying the most important information to deliver to landowners who face different constraints.