Family Forest Owners of the USA Life Cycle and Cohort Effects

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Forest Ownership Patterns

Global Forest Ownership (Percent Private)



Global Forest Ownership (Total Area)



Source: FAO FRA 2010

Forest Ownership in the USA



Forest Ownership in the USA



Family Forests of the USA

Ownerships with 4+ ha (10+ ac)

- Area: 109 million ha
- Ownerships: 4.0
 million
- Average holding size: 27.2 ha
- Primary reasons for owning: beauty, wildlife, privacy, and nature
- Average age: 62.6 yrs



Life Cycle, Cohort, and Periodicity Effects

Life Cycle, Cohort, and Periodicity Effects

- Life cycle: how people behave in different stages of their life
- Cohort: results of circumstances when people are young and forming their values
- Periodicity: major events that influence all cohorts

Generational Cohorts in the USA

Generation	Born
Greatest	Before 1928
Silent	1928 – 1945
Baby Boomers	1946 – 1964
Generation X	1965 – 1980
Millennial	1981 – present

Generational Cohorts in the USA

General Population

Family Forest Owners



U.S. Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey

Objectives



Help answer:

- Who owns America's forest?
- Why do they own it?
- How have they used it in the past?
- How do they intend to use it in the future?

NWOS Methods

- Part of FIA
- Probability proportional to size sample design
- Self-administered, mailbased paper questionnaire with online option and telephone follow-up
- Most recent data collection: 2011-2013



Analysis Methods

Random forests

- Non-parametric, recursive partitioning
- Relative importance values
- Bivariate relationships



Random Forests Results

Random Forests Relative Importance Values



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Classification Tree



Recreation by Owner Greatest-Silent Baby Boomer Generation X 100 25 50 75 0 Percentage

Transfer Land in Next 5 Years



Wants Cost-sharing



Median Size of Holdings (ha)



Conclusions

- Cohort
 - Assistance
 - Education
 - Size of holdings (?)
 - Assistance
 - Objectives (?)

- Life Cycle
 - Recreation
 - Land transfer
 - Objectives (?)
- Periodicity

 Insufficient data

Comments or Questions?

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