

NIPF Landowner Characteristics and Use of Forestry Services in Four  
Southern States: Results from a 2002-2003 Mail Survey

In an article published in the Southern Journal of Applied Forestry we reported the results of a study involving forest landowners in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee who were engaged in focus groups and surveyed to determine barriers to participation in forestry programs.

A total of 1,689 surveys were returned for a rate of return of 30.7%. Landowner served status was determined by their responses concerning use of a professional forester (37%), information previously received pertaining to forestry (40%), membership in a forestry-related organization (11%), and attendance at forestry-related educational programs (14%). Based on an index compiled from these responses, 75% of forest landowners were deemed as underserved. Landowners stated the main reason they had not taken advantage of these programs or services was because they were unaware of them. This indicated a need for a more comprehensive outreach effort targeting landowners. Results revealed that forestry professionals can potentially increase landowner awareness of educational programs by mailing newsletters, pamphlets/brochures, or letters to all forest landowners within a reasonable distance of the program. Overall, respondents reported wildlife management, insects/diseases, and marketing timber as topics of paramount interest for future educational programs.

For questions about this research contact myself or Dr. Stephen C. Grado at the Department of Forestry, Box 9681, Mississippi State, MS 39762. The complete article citation is:

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