NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNER SURVEY (NWOS)

LARGE LANDOWNERS

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• Early surveys of the nation’s private landowners began shortly after WWII
  • Initial studies began in New England and the Lake States, then spread across the country
• The first National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) was conducted in late 70’s and was tied in to Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) field plots
• A follow up survey was performed in 1994
• The 1994 NWOS ushered in a series of continuing surveys.
• Current NWOS survey collection is based on FIA inventory cycles. A complete set of data is obtained every 5-10 years.
• The implementation of the NWOS is ongoing and continually being developed / modified
The NWOS focused on non-industrial private owners, primarily family forest owners.

- **Non-industrial private forest owners** — Families and individuals who own forest land and corporations and other private groups that own forest land, but do not own and operate a primary wood-processing facility. This group is a subset of private forest owners.

- **Family forest owners** — Families, individuals, trusts, estates, family partnerships, and other unincorporated groups of individuals that own forest land. This group is a subset of non-industrial private forest owners.
NWOS LARGE LANDOWNER

- Targets the following landowners
  - Timberland Investment Organization (TIMO)
  - Public Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)
  - Private Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)
  - Large Private Landowner
  - Traditional Forest Industry
  - Corporate
NWOS EXPANSION

- NWOS is expanding to 4 sub-programs/surveys
  - NWOS Family forests – The “traditional” NWOS program
  - NWOS Large Landowner “Industrial” – The topic of this presentation
  - NWOS Urban
  - NWOS Islands
NWOS LARGE LANDOWNER OBJECTIVES

- Identify where does this landowner own lands?
- What are the economic drivers for this landowner?
- What types of harvesting and silvicultural practices does this landowner perform?
- Does this owner perform any community outreach or extension?
- Does this owner produce certified timber products?
- Do TIMOS act differently than REITS?
- Do companies behave differently based on size (acres)?
- How does this landowner class impact regional and national economies and forests?
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RESULTS FROM 1ST PRE-TEST

• Leased lands
• How do we handle companies that get a great deal of timber from Federal land
• GMOs
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- Acquired additional large landowner dataset
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• Culled out all tribal and lease owner entries
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  • 125,000-<300,000 acres
  • 300,000 acres+
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• We decided to concentrate on the two smallest categories because the two tests we had performed were from the largest group
CURRENT STATUS

• Subdivided the two classes by three regions, north east, south east and west
• I randomly pulled 4 names out of each bin and sent them emails
• Two more volunteers
• Looking for 2-3 more, so follow up calls next week.
QUESTIONS

How would you describe yourself? Liar, damn liar, or statistician?

FIA Analyst

FIA Users

And So It Begins.