

PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICES: LINKING ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE, MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, AND FORESTLAND CHARACTERISTICS IN A SPATIAL ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine non-industrial private forestland owner objectives, their ecological correlations, and their relationships to specific management activities, namely harvesting, timber stand improvements, and tree planting. Data were obtained through a mail survey of private landowners enrolled in the Classified Forest Program (Indiana's voluntary stewardship program) in the Blue River—Knobs Escarpment Forest Legacy Area in southern Indiana. The survey resulted in a 72% response rate or 408 useable surveys. Generalized land characteristics were obtained from the 5-year reinspection reports collected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resource's district foresters for the 637 tracts owned by these individuals. In a preliminary investigation of the relationships between forestland characteristics and landowner characteristics, we used factor analysis to segment the surveyed population into objective typologies according to their activities and motivations. These results were then regressed on the forestland characteristics of their owned tracts. GIS was used to determine proximity to water and urban areas and to generate maps of ownership objectives and management activities. The results presented in this study may act as stepping-stones to developing a landscape ecology model for private land management.

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