Private landowners rate forest certification

Most not sure third-party certification needed on ‘sustainability’ of

In this study, 981 NIPF owners in Louisiana were surveyed using mail surveys. Over 50 percent of respondents are 65 years or older and earn over $75,000 annually, while 77 percent are married and 63 percent have a college degree or advanced degree. Average ownership for all respondents is 760 acres. Over 50 percent of respondents own less than 20 acres while only 15 percent own 100 acres or more. On average, respondents acquired 112 acres over the past 10 years and sold an average of 33 acres over the same time period. This equals a total acquisition of 103,994 acres and 29,157 acres sold by respondents. Eighty-six percent of respondents have harvested timber from their land with 80 percent stating that the harvest was to produce wood products for sale.

Nearly thirty respondents (21 percent) said they plan to harvest timber in the near future, over the next ten years. 10.6 percent of respondents said they plan to harvest timber for their own use. 46 percent said they will harvest timber for sale. 83.7 percent of respondents said they plan timber for wood products for sale. 85.5 percent of respondents that have harvested timber...
A second alternative is to develop guidelines and tools for those that wish to participate in the third-party certification process.

Implications

Non-industrial private forest land (NIPF) owners comprise a significant part of forest ownership in the United States. Studies have shown that NIPF goals and objectives for their forestland are diverse. In the context of forest certification, initiatives to accommodate the unique ownership characteristics of NIPFs would help in the development of viable alternative strategies to certification among owners and landowners.

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