



# Places in Family Forestry: Macon and Escambia, Alabama

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# Outlines

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- Introduction
- Objectives
- Data Collection
- Results
- Conclusions



# Introduction: Research on family forestry

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- Social and economic characteristics
  - Diverse in characteristics, ownership objectives, amount and type of forest, ~20% farmers
- Attitudes and values
  - Different from general public
- Forest management practices
  - Vary in knowledge & use of professional forestry techniques, many with limited management
- Use of assistance
  - Limited; access problems for minority landowners



# Introduction: Place in family forestry

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- Most research and programs have tended to focus on individuals, such as race, gender, income etc.
- But family forestry come as much from places as from landowner characteristics.
- Even landowner characteristics come from the places

E.g., the Black belt, the Piedmonts, the Coasts.

# Introduction:

## Place in family forestry

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**Place can be considered to have four dimensions:**

- **Biophysical: the physical setting and environments**
- **Psychological: place attachment,**
- **socio-cultural: the social community and their culture, and**
- **Political, economic**

**Together shape the development of land use and other economic activities, as well as demography and other social patterns.**



# Introduction: place in family forestry

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Forestry is more place-determined than in other sectors since it is land intensive , long term, and not movable.

- The history of the place,
- The environment of the place

Family forestry is not just mixed ownership with production and consumption, but also consists of various social dimensions such as marriage, gender, race, social network, legacy.

Family forestry is dynamic and continuously changing, but is also of path dependence from the history of the places.



# Objectives

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- This study is to use two counties (Macon and Escambia in Alabama) to show place in family forestry



# Data Collection

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- Random samples 500 owners of forest land in Macon and Escambia drawn from a list of forest owners.
- Questionnaires and follow-ups were mailed to these people in accordance with Dillman's (2000) method for mail surveys.
- The delivered questionnaires are 418 for Macon and 392 for Escambia, respectively.



# Data Collection

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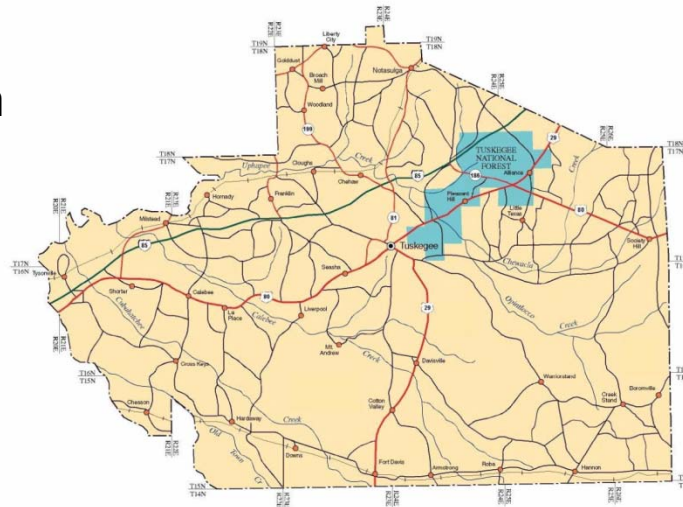
- The survey consists of 35 questions focusing on ownership objectives, forestland attributes, management activities, assistant programs, and land owners' characteristics.
- The response rates are 30% for Macon and 28% for Escambia correspondingly.

# Macon County, AL

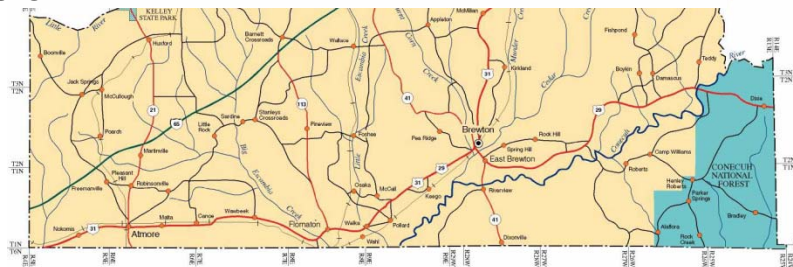
# Escambia County, AL



Macon



Escambia





# Macon County, AL

## Escambia County, AL

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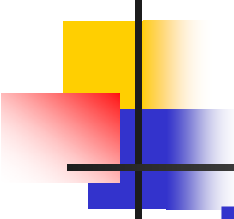
- Macon and Escambia counties have very different histories.
- Macon county lies in the rich soils of the Black Belt and in the 1800s was dominated by plantation agriculture and slavery. In the late 1800s, sharecropping replaced the plantation system, and Blacks continued in a subsidiary role in agriculture and found it very difficult to obtain land of their own. Today Farming has declined.
- Escambia county, on the other hand, has a history in forestry—with timber products being the lifeline and chief exports--and forest products—with sawmills, paper mills, and utility poles being the chief industries throughout the 20th Century. A number of Creek Indians hid in the swamps of southwest Alabama after most Native Americans were moved to Oklahoma in the “Trail of Tears,” and later Creeks returned and eventually the Poarch Creek Reservation was established, the only federally recognized Indian reservation in Alabama. Escambia county today is a major agricultural and forestry producer.



# Gender, Age and Race: Macon and Escambia (Whole population)

	Macon		Escambia	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	11075	45.9	19475	50.7
Female	13030	54.1	18965	49.3
Total	24105	100	38440	100
<b>Age</b>				
Under 20 years	7518	31.2	10414	27.1
20-64 years	13220	54.9	22788	59.3
65 Years and above	3367	14	5236	13.6
<b>Race</b>				
White	3365	14	24754	64.4
Black and African American	20403	84.6	11837	30.8
American Indian & Alaska Native	39	0.2	1157	3
Asian	91	0.4	94	0.2
Other	207	13.4	598	1.6
<b>Poverty rate</b>		28.3%		20.1%
Household medium income	\$23,378		\$29,330	

# Macon and Escambia

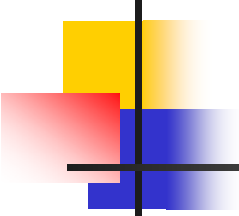
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- Both Counties are good representative of Black Belt counties in southern Alabama in socioeconomic conditions and forest resources.
  - Two counties are endowed with rich forest resources where forest coverage is very high by 73% and 77%, respectively .
  - The two counties are among the poorest in the state and nation, even though forestry is a viable option for economic development in the region

# Income of Forest Landowners:

Income	Macon	%	Escambia	%
Less than \$25,000	6	6.19	14	15.38
\$25,000-\$49,000	17	17.53	26	28.57
\$50,000-\$99,000	42	43.3	29	31.87
\$100,000 and above	32	32.98	22	24.18
# of observation	97		91	
Average	1181118.56		909439.56	
(S.D.)	109054.31		93152.8	
F	3.48			
(P-value)	0.0637			


<b>Household medium income</b>	<b>\$23,378</b>		<b>\$29,330</b>	
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# Race of Forest Landowners:



<u>Category</u>	<u>Macon</u>		<u>Escambia</u>	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
American Indian	1	0.8	5	3.8
Asian	1	0.8	0	0.0
Black	32	25.6	8	6.1
White	90	72.0	115	87.8
Other	1	0.8	3	2.3
Total	125	100	134	100

# Forestland and Ownership:



	Macon	Escambia
All land area (1000 acres)	392.8	608.6
forestland (1000 acres)/ land (percent of total land)	288.8 (74%)	472 (78%)
Ownership structure		
National forest (1000 acres) (% of total forestland)	9.7 (3.4%)	27.1 (5.7%)
State owned forest (% of total forestland)	0 (0.0%)	11.4 (2.4%)
County and Municipal (% of total forestland)	0 (0.0%)	5.7 (1.2%)
Forest Industry (% of total forestland)	23.8 (8.2%)	273.8 (58.0%)
Farmers and ranchers (% of total forestland)	65.3 (22.6%)	45.6 (9.7%)
Private individual (% of total forestland)	190.1 (65.8%)	108.4 (23.0%)

Data sources: USDA Forest Service 1990



## Forestland holding-size characteristics: Macon and Escambia

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<b>Holding size (acres)</b>	<b>Macon (%)</b>	<b>Escambia (%)</b>
1--9	10.35	0.3
10--49	40.56	70.3
50--99	20.22	15.6
100--249	16.52	8
250--499	6.11	2.3
500--999	3.86	1.4
1000+	2.36	2.1

# How did they get the forestland?

	<b>Macon</b>		<b>Escambia</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Bought</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>54.17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39.81</b>
<b>Inherited</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38.89</b>
<b>Got it as gift</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Bought and Inherited</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14.81</b>
<b>Bought and Got it as gift</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.93</b>
<b>Bought, inherited, and got it as gift</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.85</b>
<b># of observation</b>	<b>120</b>		<b>108</b>	



# Forestland Owner Objectives

ownership objective	Macon			Escambia		
	very important	Neutral	Not important	very important	Neutral	Not important
<b>Enjoy beauty</b>	85	28	4	63	28	13
<b>Protect nature</b>	74	29	12	61	36	6
<b>Non-timber products</b>	16	39	56	19	34	47
<b>Investment</b>	78	27	12	70	25	11
<b>Part of home</b>	64	22	29	47	24	31
<b>Privacy</b>	65	32	21	46	24	30
<b>Pass land to children</b>	92	19	7	83	14	11
<b>Timber</b>	71	30	16	74	27	6
<b>Hunting</b>	78	24	16	60	29	19
<b>Recreation</b>	41	38	35	24	40	36
<b>Fire wood</b>	20	38	58	15	36	48
<b>Other</b>	1	8	14	2	8	16



# Conclusions

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- Forestland owners have significantly higher income;
- Proportionally the white are more likely the landowners;
- Differences in forest landowners by race are evident in both counties;
- More owners in Macon purchased their land than in Escambia;
- The holding size on average in Macon is much smaller than in Escambia;