

**BRETT J. BUTLER**

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[www.familyforestresearchcenter.org/](http://www.familyforestresearchcenter.org/)

**Degrees:**

2005 Ph.D. Oregon State University, Forest Science  
1995 B.S. University of Connecticut, Natural Resource Management and Engineering

**UMass Employment:**

2006 Adjunct Professor

**RESEARCH**

Areas of specialization: Private land ownership, survey methods

Dr. Butler's current research focuses on survey methods for collecting information from private forest land ownerships, analyzing trends in private forest land ownerships and the land they own, and studying the factors that influence decisions made by private landowners. To this end, he leads the U.S. Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey, co-leads the Family Forest Research Center, and co-leads the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative.

**Current student research projects**

Assessing the Efficacy of Conservation Assistance Programs for Family Forest Landowners in Vermont, Margaret Harrington

Camera Traps as a Tool to Increase Public Participation in Biodiversity Monitoring, Hollie Sutherland

Economic Contributions of Land Conserved by the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, Helena Murray

**Grants received (since 2012):**

2013-2018, PI, National Woodland Owner Survey, U.S. Forest Service, \$1,200,000

2016-2018, PI, Forest Ownership Dynamics, U.S. Forest Service, \$150,000

2017-2018, PI, Forest Legacy Program Assessment, U.S. Forest Service, \$50,000

2018, PI, Assessment of Forest Landowner Assistance Programs, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and American Forest Foundation

2015-2018, co-PI, Intergenerational Transfer of Family Forestland, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, \$1,000,000

2017-2018, co-PI, Assessing the Potential for Climate Change and Forest Insects to Drive Land-use Regime Shifts, National Science Foundation, \$750,000

2013-2018, co-PI, Sustaining Family Forests Initiative, U.S. Forest Service, \$4,200,000

**Book chapters (since 2012):**

2018, Family forest owners rule! Forest conservation enters a new era. In: Lands worth saving: The Weeks Act of 1911, the National Forests, and the enduring value of public investment.

**Refereed Journal Articles (since 2012, from a total of 25):**

2013. How are America's private forests changing? An integrated assessment of forest management, housing pressure, and urban development in alternate emissions scenarios. *Land Use Policy*.

2014. Effectiveness of landowner assistance activities: An examination of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program. *Journal of Forestry*.

2014. Family forest owners and federal taxes. *Forest Policy and Economics* 38:219–226.

2014. Five anthropogenic factors that will radically alter forest conditions and management needs in the northern United States. *Forest Science*.

2016. Family Forest Owners' Perceptions of Landowner Assistance Programs in the USA: A Qualitative Exploration of Program Impacts on Behavior. *Small-scale Forestry*.

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2016. Family Forest Ownerships of the United States, 2013: Findings from the USDA Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey. *Journal of Forestry*.
2017. Ecosystem Service Supply and Capacity on U.S. Family Forestlands. *Forests*.
2017. Family forest owner characteristics shaped by life cycle, cohort, and period effects. *Small-scale Forestry*.
2017. Methods for Increasing Cooperation Rates for Surveys of Family Forest Owners. *Small-scale Forestry*.
2017. Social and Biophysical Variation in Regional Timber Harvest Regimes. *Ecological Applications*.
2017. The Role of Gender in Management Behaviors on Family Forest Lands in the United States. *Journal of Forestry*.
2018. What influences whether family forest owners participate in outreach campaigns? *Journal of Extension*.

## **TEACHING**

### **UMass Teaching**

ECO 697SV, Survey Design, Implementation, and Analysis  
ECO 691A, Current Research in Natural Resources Conservation

## **SERVICE**

### **UMass highlights**

Co-director, Family Forest Research Center, 2006 - present

### **Non-UMass highlights**

Director, U.S. Forest Service National Woodland Owner Survey  
Co-director, Sustaining Family Forests Initiative  
Editor in Chief, *Small-scale Forestry Journal*  
Chair, Society of American Foresters, Private Forestry Working Group