

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 2001

## Silvicultural Activities

### including Annual Report on Clearcutting

Compiled from the 2001 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments.  
Data collected under the provisions of Title 12 MRSA §8885 and §8878-A

Published:  
September 26, 2002



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printed under appropriation 010-04A-5400-552

## Report Highlights

### **Timber Harvesting**

- The total area harvested in 2001 was 565,789 acres, a slight decrease from 569,470 acres in 2000.
- The total area partially harvested in 2001 was 546,157 acres, a slight decrease from 550,243 acres in 2000.

#### Clearcutting:

1. The total area clearcut increased slightly, from 13,185 acres in 2000 to 15,077 acres in 2001.  
Clearcutting still amounts to less than 3% of total harvested acres and remains well below the levels of the 1990's.
2. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres in Maine created 89% of all clearcuts (13,390 acres). No clearcuts were larger than 75 acres. The highest rate of clearcutting for an individual landowner was 0.6% of total statewide ownership.
3. The average size clearcut in 2001 was 21 acres statewide. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 24 acres. Landowners owning less than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 12 acres.
4. The dominant silvicultural reason for clearcutting, reported by the large landowners, was for areas where the retention of the residual overstory trees is not justified for further increase in value, as a source of seed, or for protection of the new stand.

#### Land Use Changes:

- Harvesting to convert land from forest management to some other primary land use decreased 25% from 6,042 acres in 2000 to 4,556 acres in 2001.
- Due to a change in state law that exempts small harvests (<5 acres) from reporting requirements, acres of land use change reported here most likely underestimate the actual number.

### **Precommercial Silvicultural Activities**

#### Herbicide Use:

- For site preparation decreased 33%, from 962 acres in 2000 to 645 acres in 2001.
- To release crop trees from competing vegetation decreased 53%, from 24,091 acres in 2000 to 11,370 acres in 2001.

#### Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):

- Precommercial Thinning of young stands with spacing saws decreased 11%, from 24,590 acres in 2000 to 21,893 acres in 2001.  
87% of this activity was done by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres.

#### Planting:

- Tree planting decreased 4%, from 11,341 acres in 2000 to 10,885 acres in 2001.  
96% of the planting was by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres. The predominant species planted were spruces.

### **Professional Assistance**

- The harvest acres supervised by licensed foresters remained consistent.  
74% of all harvest acres in 2001 had a licensed forester involved, compared to 75% of all harvests in 2000.

#### \*Footnotes:

The revised Maine Forest Service Rules - Chapter 20: Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards that took effect in October 1999 require 60 days preharvest notification and on-site review by Maine Forest Service staff for any clearcut proposed to exceed 75 acres.

## 2001 Harvesting and Land Use Changes

Commercial Harvest Information by Landowner Size and Type		Acres						
		Selection	Shelterwood			Clearcut	Land Use Change	Total Harvest
			Initial or Intermediate Entry	Final Entry	Sub-Total Shelterwood			
Ownership Type	Ownership Size							
Forest Industry Land	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	11	0	11
	101 to 1,000 acres	1,141	60	0	60	0	2	1,203
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	1,904	1,313	92	1,405	230	54	3,593
	100,000 + acres	59,256	44,731	36,694	81,425	12,075	35	152,791
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>62,301</b>	<b>46,104</b>	<b>36,786</b>	<b>82,890</b>	<b>12,316</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>157,598</b>
Institutional Investor Timberlands	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	2,622	343	0	343	20	0	2,985
	100,000 + acres	21,721	25,928	6,258	32,186	281	1	54,189
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>24,343</b>	<b>26,271</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>32,529</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57,174</b>
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	56,634	1,528	959	2,487	349	2,212	61,682
	101 to 1,000 acres	81,552	2,770	1,856	4,626	349	1,903	88,430
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	77,002	5,577	18,540	24,117	685	211	102,015
	100,000 + acres	35,074	37,545	10,658	48,203	1,034	13	84,324
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>250,262</b>	<b>47,420</b>	<b>32,013</b>	<b>79,433</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>336,451</b>
Other woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	589	25	10	35	0	62	686
	101 to 1,000 acres	1,702	83	11	94	24	35	1,855
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	3,314	457	242	699	18	28	4,059
	100,000 + acres	6,854	503	609	1,112	0	0	7,966
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>12,459</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>14,566</b>
<b>2001 Totals:</b>		<b>349,365</b>	<b>120,863</b>	<b>75,929</b>	<b>196,792</b>	<b>15,077</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>565,789</b>
<b>Percent of 2001 Harvest:</b>		<b>61.75%</b>	<b>21.36%</b>	<b>13.42%</b>	<b>34.78%</b>	<b>2.66%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>2000 Totals:</b>		<b>353,230</b>			<b>197,013</b>	<b>13,185</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>569,470</b>
<b>Percent Change from 2000 to 2001:</b>		<b>-1%</b>			<b>0%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

The 2000 totals in this report may not match those published in the May 25, 2001 report due to receipt of additional data or corrections

## 2001 Precommercial Activities and Professional Assistance

Ownership Type	Ownership Size	Precommercial Activities by Landowner Size and Type				Number of Reported Harvests	Licensed Professional Forester Use by Landowner Size and Type	
		Acres					Number of Harvests	Total Acres
		Herbicide Use		TSI	Tree Planting			
Site Prep	Release							
Forest Industry Land	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	6	3	640
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	10	18	0	18	37	32	2,861
	100,000 + acres	370	10,360	18,026	9,047	303	281	138,618
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>10,378</b>	<b>18,026</b>	<b>9,065</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>142,119</b>
Institutional Investor Timberlands	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	0	26	23	2,425
	100,000 + acres	0	0	0	0	62	56	49,542
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>51,967</b>
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	20	10	1,364	49	2,659	807	20,440
	101 to 1,000 acres	6	10	1,519	266	1,729	719	37,527
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	224	0	42	89	444	317	79,097
	100,000 + acres	15	822	783	1,414	191	171	74,958
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>3,708</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>5,023</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>212,022</b>
Other woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	20	5	134
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	50	7	0	36	32	1,817
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	100	150	2	40	36	3,953
	100,000 + acres	0	0	2	0	30	30	7,966
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>13,870</b>
<b>2001 Totals:</b>		<b>645</b>	<b>11,370</b>	<b>21,893</b>	<b>10,885</b>	<b>5,584</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>419,977</b>
<b>2000 Totals:</b>		<b>962</b>	<b>24,091</b>	<b>24,590</b>	<b>11,341</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>427,622</b>
<b>Change from 2000 to 2001:</b>		<b>-33%</b>	<b>-53%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

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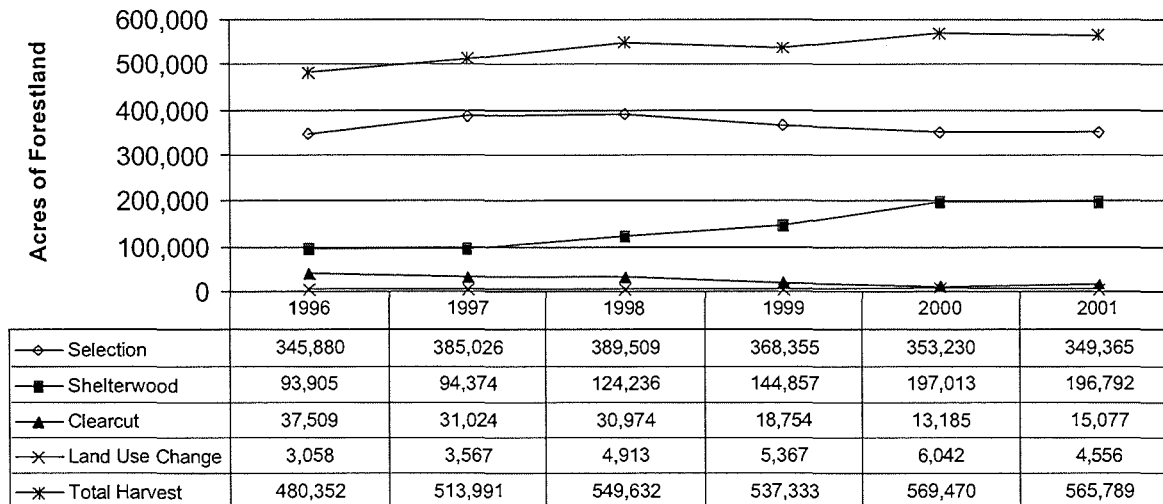
**Definitions:**

**Ownership Type**  
**Forest Industry Land:** Woodlands owned by a forest products industry; usually most of the wood harvested is used by that industry.  
**Institutional Investor Timberlands:** Woodlands owned by organizations that hold assets as fiduciaries for the benefit of others.  
**Non-Industrial Land:** Woodlands privately owned but NOT by a forest industry. These include private individuals and other non-forest product industries.  
**Other woodlands:** Woodlands owned by other entities not listed above -- including local, state, federal, or tribal governments.

**Types of Harvests**  
**Selection:** Harvest method where trees are removed individually or in small (<5 acre) patches.  
**Shelterwood:** Harvest method of mature trees from a forest site in two or more stages. The first stage removes only a portion of the trees to allow establishment of regeneration before the remaining trees are removed in subsequent harvest.  
**Clearcut:** Harvest method on a site greater than 5 acres that results in a residual basal area of acceptable growing stock trees >4.5" DBH of less than 30 square feet per acre, unless after harvesting the site has a well-distributed stand of acceptable growing stock 3 feet tall for softwood and 5 feet for hardwoods (Overstory Removal). Refer to the latest copy of the Maine Forest Practices Act, Maine Forest Service Rules Chapter 20 for additional information.

**Change of Land Use:** Harvest conducted to convert forestland to another land use such as houselots, farm pastures, etc.

**Harvesting Trends in Maine 1996-2001**



## 2001 Annual Report on Clearcutting

Compiled from the 2001 Landowner Reports and survey instruments. Data collected under the provisions of the Forest Resources Assessment Program, 12 MRSA § 8878-A

County	Large Landowners (own >100,000 acres)										All Other Landowners				All Landowners	
	Precommercial Activities		Clearcuts > 75 acres in size		Purpose for Clearcut (see explanation below)						Acres					
	Acres		#	Acres	Acres						TSI	Planted	Clearcut			Acres Clearcut
	TSI	Planted			1	2	3	4	Sub Total	Avg. Size			Sub Total	Avg. Size		
Androscoggin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	2	46	15	46	
Aroostook	11,406	4,091	0	0	4,154	0	1,272	0	5,426	20	361	149	335	15	5,761	
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	2	0	0	0	
Franklin	989	447	0	0	1,071	0	259	0	1,330	28	231	2	22	7	1,352	
Hancock	1,126	708	0	0	424	0	0	0	424	53	149	9	91	15	515	
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	9	64	16	64	
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	192	11	0	0	0	
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137	2	5	5	5	
Oxford	428	678	0	0	1,817	0	129	0	1,946	28	482	77	95	10	2,041	
Penobscot	1,857	1,238	0	0	1,586	0	241	0	1,827	31	251	75	436	17	2,263	
Piscataquis	1,196	731	0	0	442	0	70	11	523	25	157	13	60	15	583	
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	
Somerset	685	1,884	0	0	887	0	588	0	1,475	24	311	44	366	17	1,841	
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	27	64	8	64	
Washington	1,124	684	0	0	304	0	135	0	439	29	94	3	70	9	509	
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332	0	32	11	32	
<b>State Total:</b>	<b>18,811</b>	<b>10,461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,685</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13,390</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15,076</b>	

### Purposes for creating clearcut:

1. Removal of poor quality, intolerant, under stocked, short lived or mature overstories where the retention of the residual overstory trees is not justified for further increase in value, as a source of seed, or for protection of the new stand.
2. Ecologically appropriate improvement or creation of wildlife habitat.
3. Removal of stands that, if partially harvested according to accepted silvicultural practice, are at high risk for windthrow due to factors such as soils, rooting depth, crown ratio or stem quality.
4. Harvesting of an existing plantation or other forest stand established by or previously treated with precommercial silvicultural activities.

### Frequency Distribution of Clearcutting

for Large Landowners who own more than 100,000 acres

2001 Clearcut as  
percent of statewide  
ownership

# of Landowners

Clearcut Acres

0% - 0.001%	18	438
0.001%-0.25%	5	1,713
0.26%-0.75%	3	11,239
0.76%-1.00%	0	0

## Maine Forest Service District Foresters

The Maine Forest Service has 10 District Foresters who provide technical assistance and educational services to landowners, loggers, schools and educational institutions, municipalities and other stakeholders. Field Foresters conduct educational workshops, field demonstrations, media presentations, and can provide limited one-on-one contact with individual landowners.

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