

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

# 2007

## Silvicultural Activities Report

### including Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2007 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments.  
Data collected under the provisions of Title 12 MRSA §8885 and §8878-A

Published:  
September 11, 2008



Department of Conservation  
Maine Forest Service  
Forest Policy and Management Division  
#22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-2791 OR 1-800-367-0223(instate)  
[www.maineforestservice.gov](http://www.maineforestservice.gov); [www.bewoodswise.org](http://www.bewoodswise.org)  
*We help you make informed decisions about Maine's forests.*  
This publication is available online at:[www.maineforestservice.gov](http://www.maineforestservice.gov)

Printed under appropriation 010-04A-5400-552

## Report Highlights

### Harvesting and Land Use Changes

- 505,175 acres were harvested in 2007, a 4% decrease from 527,895 acres in 2006.
- 485,871 acres were "partially harvested" (partial and shelterwood totals) in 2007, a 3% decrease from 502,515 acres in 2006.
- The number of harvests reported increased slightly from 5,622 to 5,634 harvests.

#### Clearcutting:

1. The total area clearcut decreased, from 18,853 acres in 2006 to 12,054 acres in 2007. Clearcutting amounts to less than 3% of total harvested acres.
2. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres in Maine created 88% of all clearcuts (10,611 acres).
3. Average clearcut size in 2007 was 21 acres. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 22 acres. Landowners owning less than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 14 acres. One clearcut larger than 75 acres was created in 2007.
4. The primary silvicultural reason for clearcutting reported by large landowners were the 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.

#### Land Use Changes:

- Harvesting to convert land from forest management to some other land use increased 11% from 6,527 acres in 2006 to 7,250 acres in 2007.

### Precommercial Silvicultural Activities

#### Herbicide Use:

- For site preparation increased 585%, from 142 acres in 2006 to 972 acres in 2007.
- To release crop trees from competing vegetation decreased 16%, from 11,683 acres in 2006 to 9,786 acres in 2007.

#### Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):

- Precommercial thinning of young stands with spacing saws decreased 21%, from 9,813 acres in 2006 to 7,792 acres in 2007.  
81% of this activity was done by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres.

#### Planting:

- Tree planting increased 11%, from 4,121 acres in 2006 to 4,594 acres in 2007.  
91% of the planting was by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres.

### Forester Involvement

- In 2007, licensed foresters supervised harvesting on 364,931 acres, compared to 370,158 acres in 2006.

72% of all harvest acres in 2007 had a licensed forester involved; the same as 2006.

Licensed Forester supervision occurred on 24% (675 out of 2,816 harvests) of the harvests on small woodlots ( $\leq 100$  acres) in 2007. This is a slight increase from 23% in 2006 (619 out of 2,679 harvests).

## 2007 Harvesting and Land Use Changes

Commercial Harvest Information by Landowner Size and Type		Acres						
		Partial Harvests	Shelterwood			Clearcut	Land Use Change	Total Harvest
			Initial or Intermediate Entry	Final Entry	Total Shelterwood			
<b>Forest Industry Woodlands</b>	1 to 100 acres	88	0	0	0	0	0	88
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	2,453	2,051	893	2,944	506	38	5,941
	100,000 + acres	29,597	17,586	23,034	40,620	4,079	0	74,296
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>32,138</b>	<b>19,637</b>	<b>23,927</b>	<b>43,564</b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>80,325</b>
<b>Investor Timberlands</b>	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	10,944	1,393	635	2,028	31	0	13,003
	100,000 + acres	20,363	46,904	61,927	108,831	2,639	0	131,833
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>31,307</b>	<b>48,297</b>	<b>62,562</b>	<b>110,859</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,836</b>
<b>Non-Industrial Land</b>	1 to 100 acres	49,883	2,598	3,076	5,674	299	3,024	58,880
	101 to 1,000 acres	61,749	6,163	6,375	12,538	451	2,038	76,776
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	40,133	5,068	16,408	21,476	144	1,207	62,960
	100,000 + acres	21,571	21,141	18,436	39,577	3,761	6	64,915
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>173,336</b>	<b>34,970</b>	<b>44,295</b>	<b>79,265</b>	<b>4,655</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>263,531</b>
<b>Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)</b>	1 to 100 acres	201	0	0	0	0	82	283
	101 to 1,000 acres	938	95	63	158	5	12	1,113
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	1,927	940	431	1,371	7	838	4,143
	100,000 + acres	10,072	221	514	735	132	5	10,944
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>13,138</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>16,483</b>
<b>2007 Totals:</b>		<b>249,919</b>	<b>104,160</b>	<b>131,792</b>	<b>235,952</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>505,175</b>
<b>Percent of 2007 Harvest:</b>		<b>49.47%</b>	<b>20.62%</b>	<b>26.09%</b>	<b>46.71%</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	<b>1.44%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>2006 Totals:</b>		<b>266,406</b>	<b>117,735</b>	<b>118,374</b>	<b>236,109</b>	<b>18,853</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>527,895</b>
<b>Percent Change from 2006 to 2007:</b>		<b>-6%</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-4%</b>

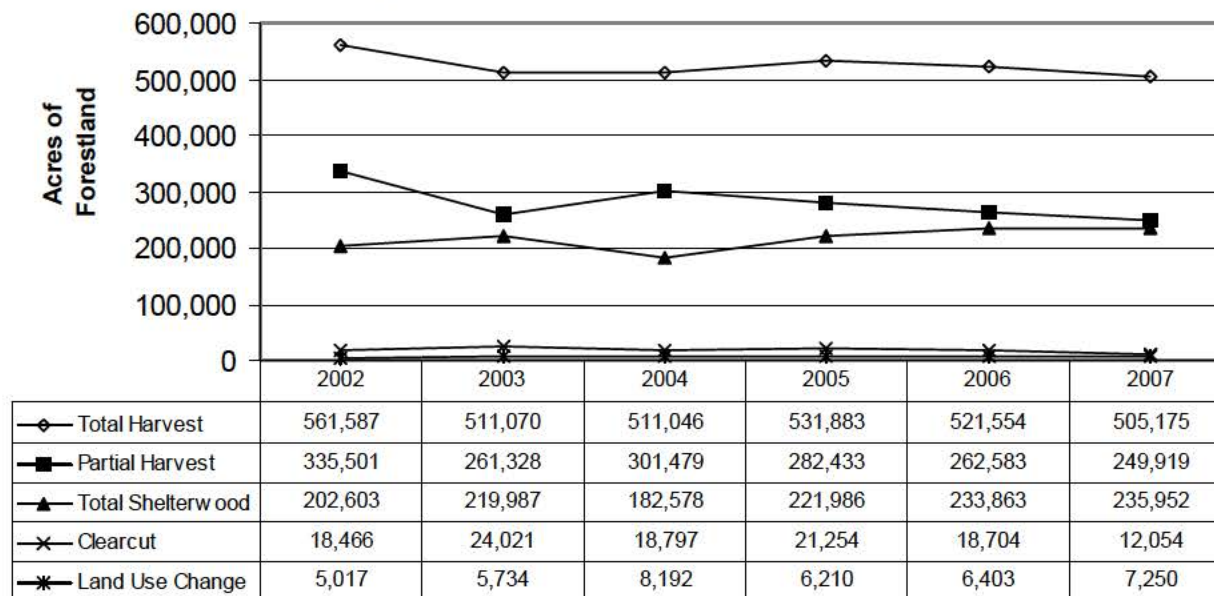
## 2007 Precommercial Activities and Professional Assistance

Ownership Type	Ownership Size	Precommercial Activities by Landowner Size and Type				Number of Reported	Licensed Forester Involvement by Landowner Size and Type	
		Acres					Number of Harvests	Total Acres
		Herbicide Use Site Prep	Release	TSI	Tree Planting			
<b>Forest Industry Woodlands</b>	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	3	1	60
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	0	50	40	4,549
	100,000 + acres	0	5,789	4,162	2,226	172	161	51,402
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,789</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>56,011</b>
<b>Investor Timberlands</b>	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	300	825	0	92	19	19	13,003
	100,000 + acres	80	2,146	303	1,550	257	239	121,478
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>134,481</b>
<b>Non-Industrial Land</b>	1 to 100 acres	2	27	228	28	2,797	669	17,369
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	9	665	162	1,616	550	28,501
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	500	100	601	136	391	254	51,015
	100,000 + acres	90	890	1,833	399	186	169	61,694
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>158,579</b>
<b>Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)</b>	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	16	5	79
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	31	21	1,067
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	1	40	36	4,056
	100,000 + acres	0	0	0	0	56	53	10,659
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>15,861</b>
<b>2007 Totals:</b>		<b>972</b>	<b>9,786</b>	<b>7,792</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>5,634</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>364,932</b>
<b>2006 Totals:</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>11,683</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>5,622</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>370,157</b>
<b>Change from 2006 to 2007:</b>		<b>585%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

**Definitions:**

- Ownership Type**
- Forest Industry Land:** Woodlands owned by a forest products industry; usually most of the wood harvested is used by that industry.
  - Investor Timberlands** Woodlands owned by organizations, including Timberland Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) that hold timberland 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**
- Partial Harvest:** Harvest where trees are removed individually or in small (<5 acre) patches.
  - Shelterwood:** Harvest 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 on a site larger 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 Service Rules Chapter 20 for additional information. It can be found on the Maine Forest Service website at [http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/rules\\_regs/index.htm](http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/rules_regs/index.htm)
  - Change of Land Use:** Harvest conducted to convert forestland to another land use such as house lots, farm pastures, etc.

**Harvesting Trends in Maine 2002-2007**



# 2007 Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2007 Landowner Reports and other 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
	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	20	0	8	8	8	
Aroostook	2,695	3,052	0	0	4,260	0	0	0	4,260	23	131	22	100	13	4,360	
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	10	19	
Franklin	95	0	1	229	226	0	401	0	627	39	8	0	517	21	1,144	
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0	90	80	0	170	19	105	1	145	16	315	
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	145	26	9	26	
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	5	
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	0	30	10	30	
Oxford	420	0	0	0	29	0	170	0	199	13	430	25	75	11	274	
Penobscot	239	281	0	0	374	0	0	0	374	25	100	75	63	13	437	
Piscataquis	603	435	0	0	159	0	391	48	598	23	20	0	98	12	696	
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	
Somerset	1,970	406	0	0	3,728	0	572	0	4,300	20	93	98	162	12	4,462	
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	1	36	7	36	
Washington	276	0	0	0	0	42	29	0	83	16	210	45	136	23	219	
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6	10	5	10	
<b>State Total:</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>8,776</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10,611</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12,054</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

2007 Clearcut as percent of statewide ownership

<u>ownership</u>	<u># of Landowners</u>	<u>Clearcut Acres</u>
<b>0% - 0.001%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>0.001%-0.25%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,957</b>
<b>0.26%-0.75%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,964</b>
<b>0.76%-1.00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>