

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**2008**

# **Silvicultural Activities Report**

**including Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities**

Compiled from the 2008 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments.  
Data collected under the provisions of Title 12 MRSA §8885 and §8878-A

**Published:**

**October 26, 2009**



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Printed under appropriation 010-04A-5400-51

## Report Highlights

### Harvesting and Land Use Changes

- 462,892 acres were harvested in 2008, an 8% decrease from 505,878 acres in 2007.
- 447,977 acres were "partially harvested" (partial and shelterwood totals) in 2008, an 8% decrease from 487,448 acres in 2007.
- The number of harvests reported decreased from 5,675 to 5,329.

#### Clearcutting:

1. The total area clearcut decreased, from 11,065 acres in 2007 to 10,069 acres in 2008. Clearcutting amounts to less than 3% of total harvested acres.
2. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres in Maine created 94% of all clearcuts (9,508 acres).
3. Average clearcut size in 2008 was 25 acres. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 27 acres. Landowners owning less than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 11 acres. One clearcut larger than 75 acres was created in 2008.
4. The primary silvicultural reason for clearcutting reported by large landowners was 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 decreased -34% from 7,365 acres in 2007 to 4,846 acres in 2008.

### Precommercial Silvicultural Activities

#### Herbicide Use:

- For site preparation decreased -53%, from 972 acres in 2007 to 452 acres in 2008.
- To release crop trees from competing vegetation decreased 11%, from 9,786 acres in 2007 to 8,747 acres in 2008.

#### Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):

- Precommercial thinning of young stands with spacing saws increased 15%, from 7,795 acres in 2007 to 8,947 acres in 2008.  
99% of this activity was done by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres.

#### Planting:

- Tree planting decreased -15%, from 4,593 acres in 2007 to 3,884 acres in 2008.  
98% of the planting was by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres.

### Forester Involvement

- In 2008, licensed foresters supervised harvesting on 306,888 acres, compared to 362,509 acres in 2007.

66% of all harvest acres in 2008 had a licensed forester involved; the same as 2007.

Licensed Forester supervision occurred on 22% (557 out of 2,581 harvests) of the harvests on small woodlots (<= 100 acres) in 2008. This is a slight decrease from 24% in 2007 (680 out of 2,840 harvests).

## 2008 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	109	10	70	80	0	0	189
	101 to 1,000 acres	191	46	0	46	0	0	237
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	6,739	2,449	842	3,291	35	64	10,129
	100,000 + acres	16,323	22,119	21,265	43,384	3,791	0	63,498
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>23,362</b>	<b>24,624</b>	<b>22,177</b>	<b>46,801</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>74,053</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	755	600	290	890	0	0	1,645
	100,000 + acres	27,819	31,959	51,961	83,920	2,391	57	114,187
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>28,574</b>	<b>32,559</b>	<b>52,251</b>	<b>84,810</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>115,832</b>
<b>Non-Industrial Land</b>	1 to 100 acres	47,199	2,238	1,823	4,061	162	2,279	53,701
	101 to 1,000 acres	66,858	3,834	3,506	7,340	231	898	75,327
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	37,046	4,697	19,947	24,644	68	791	62,549
	100,000 + acres	15,925	22,947	16,483	39,430	3,326	232	58,913
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>167,028</b>	<b>33,716</b>	<b>41,759</b>	<b>75,475</b>	<b>3,787</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>250,490</b>
<b>Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)</b>	1 to 100 acres	142	0	60	60	0	45	247
	101 to 1,000 acres	2,879	633	452	1,085	12	154	4,130
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	2,839	985	547	1,532	53	323	4,747
	100,000 + acres	11,308	1,111	971	2,082	0	3	13,393
	<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>17,168</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>4,759</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>22,517</b>
<b>2008 Totals:</b>		<b>236,132</b>	<b>93,628</b>	<b>118,217</b>	<b>211,845</b>	<b>10,069</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>462,892</b>
<b>Percent of 2008 Harvest:</b>		<b>51.01%</b>	<b>20.23%</b>	<b>25.54%</b>	<b>45.77%</b>	<b>2.18%</b>	<b>1.05%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>2007 Totals:</b>		<b>251,233</b>	<b>104,259</b>	<b>131,956</b>	<b>236,215</b>	<b>11,065</b>	<b>7,365</b>	<b>505,878</b>
<b>Percent Change from 2007 to 2008:</b>		<b>-6%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-8%</b>

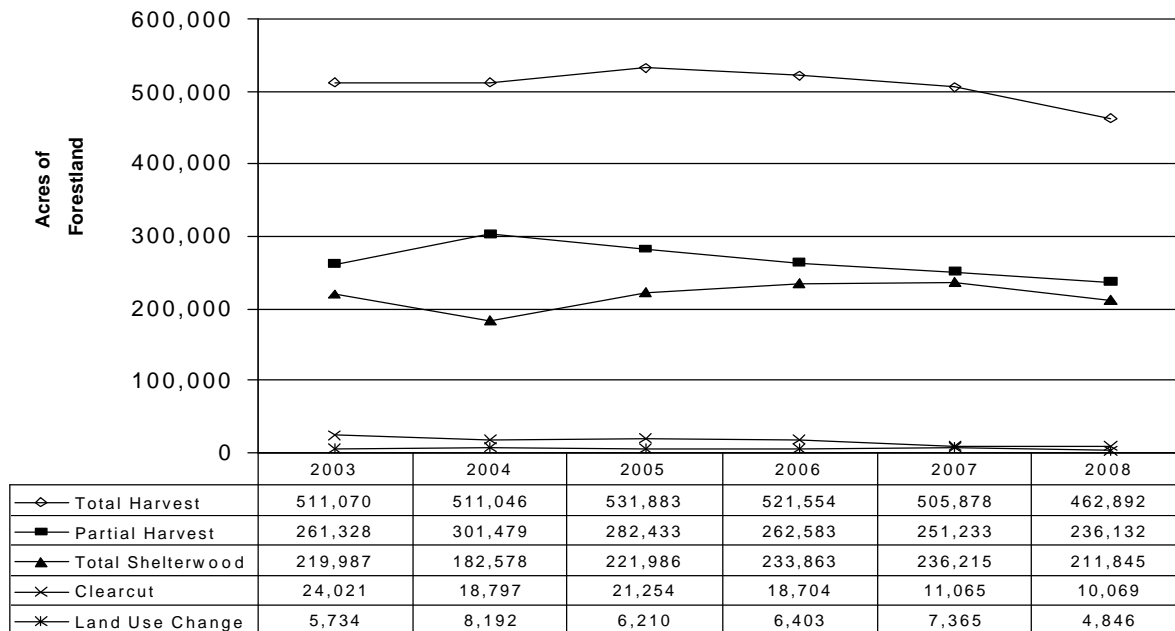
## 2008 Precommercial Activities and Professional Assistance

OwnershipType	Ownership Size	Precommercial Activities by Landowner Size and Type				Number of Reported Harvests	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	4	0	0
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	6	1	100
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	28	44	32	5,316
	100,000 + acres	0	6,725	3,465	2,480	131	120	41,057
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,725</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>46,473</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	0	0	0	0	6	5	945
	100,000 + acres	300	1,874	1,167	610	244	229	104,332
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>105,277</b>
<b>Non-Industrial Land</b>	1 to 100 acres	25	0	95	46	2,559	550	12,854
	101 to 1,000 acres	8	8	27	16	1,565	513	26,497
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	119	140	0	0	415	242	46,826
	100,000 + acres	0	0	4,183	699	181	155	51,335
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>4,305</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>4,720</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>137,512</b>
<b>Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)</b>	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	18	7	125
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	34	20	1,505
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	10	5	46	31	4,372
	100,000 + acres	0	0	0	0	76	65	11,624
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>17,626</b>
<b>2008 Totals:</b>		<b>452</b>	<b>8,747</b>	<b>8,947</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>1,970</b>	<b>306,888</b>
<b>2007 Totals:</b>		<b>972</b>	<b>9,786</b>	<b>7,795</b>	<b>4,593</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>362,509</b>
<b>Change from 2007 to 2008:</b>		<b>-53%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-15%</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 2003-2008**



# 2008 Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2008 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  Acres Clearcut
	Precommercial Activities		Clearcuts > 75 acres in size		Purpose for Clearcut (see explanation below)						Acres				
	Acres		#	Acres	Acres						TSI	Planted	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	1	0	15	8	15
Aroostook	3,607	2,805	1	125	4,369	0	335	0	4,704	30	65	0	76	15	4,780
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	50	0	0	0	0	537	0	537	38	0	0	8	8	545
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	60	30	16	0	40	10	100
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	14	43
Oxford	0	0	0	0	70	0	468	0	538	19	0	0	14	7	552
Penobscot	0	60	0	0	151	49	144	0	344	18	25	57	12	12	356
Piscataquis	1,721	61	0	0	153	0	1,046	0	1,199	28	0	0	110	18	1,309
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	3,125	813	0	0	1,710	12	169	114	2,005	24	25	33	129	12	2,134
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6
Washington	362	0	0	0	0	0	121	0	121	15	0	0	108	8	229
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
<b>State Total:</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6,453</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10,069</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**

**2008 Clearcut as percent of statewide ownership**

**# of Landowners**

**Clearcut Acres**

<b>0% - 0.001%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,820</b>
<b>0.001%-0.25%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,515</b>
<b>0.26%-0.75%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,173</b>
<b>0.76%-1.00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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