

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2017

Silvicultural Activities Report

including Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2017 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments.
Data collected under the provisions of 12 MRS §8885

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Report Highlights

Harvesting and Land Use Change

- 335,624 acres were harvested in 2017, a decrease of 2% from 341,318 acres in 2016.
- 309,159 acres were partially harvested (partial and shelterwood totals) in 2017, a 2% decrease from 316,890 acres in 2016.
- The number of harvests reported decreased from 4,665 to 4,275.

Clearcutting:

1. The total area clearcut increased 8% from 20,971 acres in 2016 to 22,722 acres in 2017. Clearcutting amounted to 6.8% of total harvested acres.
2. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres in Maine created 94% of all clearcut acreage (21,235 acres).
3. Average clearcut size in 2017 was 29 acres. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 36 acres. Landowners owning less than 100,000 acres had an average clearcut size of 14 acres. 24 clearcuts larger than 75 acres were created in 2017.
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 increased 8% from 3,457 acres in 2016 to 3,743 acres in 2017.

Precommercial Silvicultural Activities

Herbicide Use:

- Site preparation decreased -59%, from 2,247 acres in 2016 to 932 acres in 2017.
- To release crop trees from competing vegetation decreased -13%, from 13,464 acres in 2016 to 11,769 acres in 2017.

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):

- Precommercial thinning of young stands with spacing saws increased 136%, from 3,724 acres in 2016 to 8,791 acres in 2017.
83% of the acreage was done by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres (7,297 acres).

Planting:

- Tree planting increased 11%, from 6,677 acres in 2016 to 7,430 acres in 2017.
98% of the planting acreage was by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres (7,314 acres).

Forester Involvement

- In 2017, licensed foresters supervised harvesting on 260,584 acres, compared to 258,506 acres in 2016.
78% of all harvest acres in 2017 had a licensed forester involved; an increase from 2016 (76% involvement).
Licensed Forester supervision occurred on 32% (620 out of 1,968 harvests) of the harvests on non-industrial family forests (<= 100 acres) in 2017. This is the same percentage as in 2016 (721 out of 2,240 harvests).

2017 Harvesting Activities

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			
OwnershipType	Ownership Size							
Forest Industry Woodlands	1 to 100 acres	22	60	0	60	0	13	95
	101 to 1,000 acres	23	0	0	0	0	0	23
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	5,686	329	94	423	46	100	6,255
	100,000 + acres	11,264	15,009	18,885	33,894	7,593	0	52,751
	SubTotal	16,995	15,398	18,979	34,377	7,639	113	59,124
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	816	362	1,788	2,150	32	0	2,998
	100,000 + acres	16,626	6,027	24,579	30,606	5,807	0	53,039
	SubTotal	17,442	6,389	26,367	32,756	5,839	0	56,037
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	36,371	2,431	3,866	6,297	346	1,297	44,311
	101 to 1,000 acres	45,026	3,838	4,965	8,803	335	1,333	55,497
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	22,822	5,867	6,910	12,777	698	647	36,944
	100,000 + acres	15,208	17,497	26,651	44,148	7,791	6	67,153
	SubTotal	119,427	29,633	42,392	72,025	9,170	3,283	203,905
Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	391	4	0	4	10	56	461
	101 to 1,000 acres	1,258	74	0	74	10	73	1,415
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	1,670	916	417	1,333	10	52	3,065
	100,000 + acres	8,502	2,026	879	2,905	44	166	11,617
	SubTotal	11,821	3,020	1,296	4,316	74	347	16,558
2017 Totals:		165,685	54,440	89,034	143,474	22,722	3,743	335,624
Percent of 2017 Harvest		49.37%	16.22%	26.53%	42.75%	6.77%	1.12%	100.00%
2016 Totals:		175,057	47,645	94,188	141,833	20,971	3,457	341,318
Percent Change from 2016 to 2017:		-5%	14%	-5%	1%	8%	8%	-2%

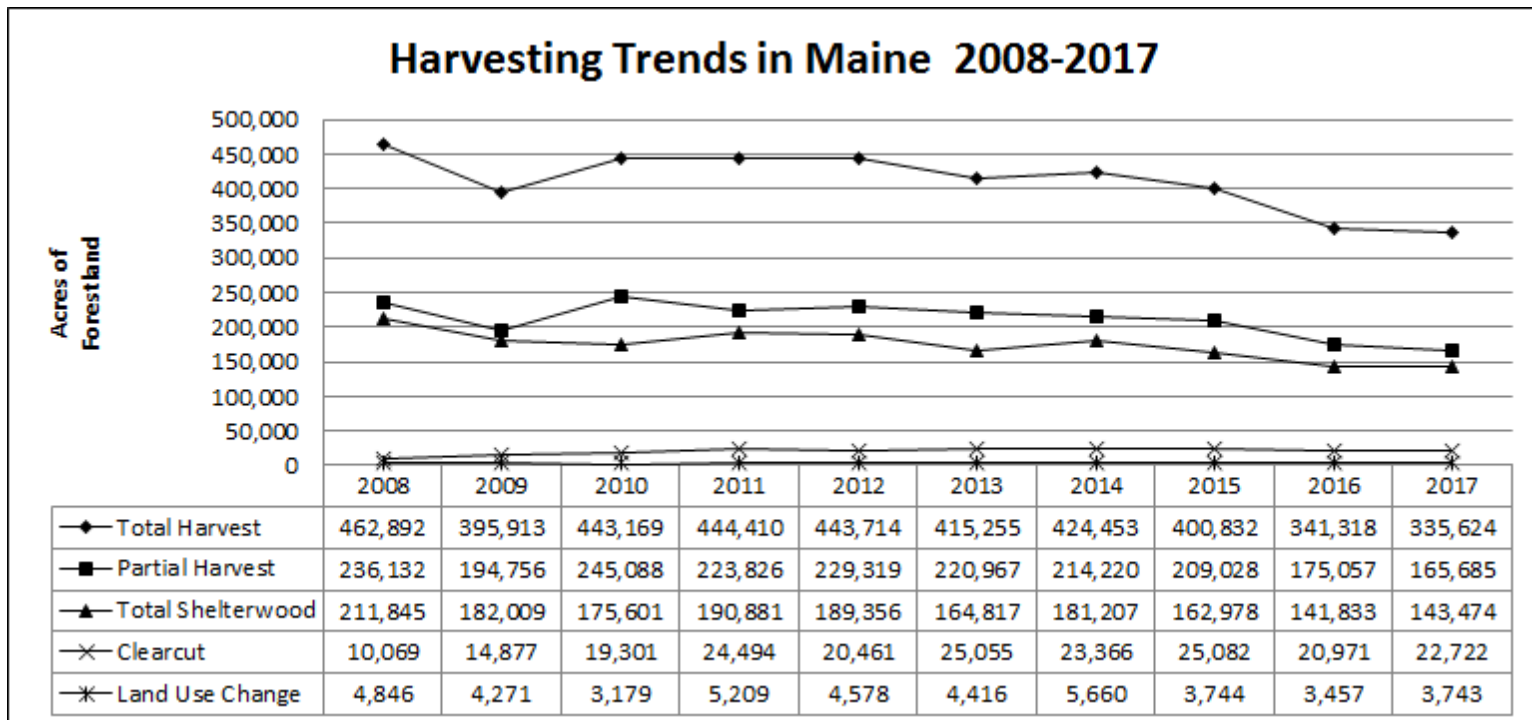
2017 Precommercial Activities and Professional Assistance

Ownership Type	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		TSI	Tree Planting			
Site Prep	Release							
Forest Industry Woodlands	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	4	3	75
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	1	1	23
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	0	35	18	1,311
	100,000 + acres	0	10,428	7,035	4,530	110	89	52,538
	Subtotal	0	10,428	7,035	4,530	150	111	53,947
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	10	10	2,998
	100,000 + acres	426	307	250	93	129	128	51,627
	Subtotal	426	307	250	93	139	138	54,625
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	0	81	158	50	1,968	620	17,408
	101 to 1,000 acres	29	50	572	24	1,247	503	28,599
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	4	764	22	367	252	26,294
	100,000 + acres	477	773	0	2,691	270	248	64,596
	Subtotal	506	908	1,494	2,787	3,852	1,623	136,897
Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	19	9	297
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	20	33	25	1,266
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	20	0	0	24	21	3,013
	100,000 + acres	0	106	12	0	58	55	10,539
	Subtotal	0	126	12	20	134	110	15,115
2017 Totals:		932	11,769	8,791	7,430	4,275	1,982	260,584
2016 Totals:		2,247	13,464	3,724	6,677	4,665	2,172	258,506
Change from 2016 to 2017:		-59%	-13%	136%	11%	-8%	-9%	1%

335,624	<i>Statewide Total Harvest acres from previous page</i>
341,318	

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



2017 Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2017 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments. Data collected under the provisions of the Forest Resources Assessment Program, 12 MRS § 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	Acres						TSI	Planted	Clearcut		
	TSI	Planted			1	2	3	4	Sub Total	Avg. Size			Sub Total	Avg. Size	Clearcut
Androscoggin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	53	11	53
Aroostook	5,291	4,451	0	0	7,037	23	223	0	7,283	34	20	20	213	11	7,496
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	9	37
Franklin	0	47	11	2,140	2,409	225	908	0	3,542	49	66	0	62	9	3,604
Hancock	0	0	0	0	182	0	0	0	182	30	44	0	231	14	413
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	402	0	12	6	12
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	30	8	30
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Oxford	649	79	8	1,512	1,315	716	796	0	2,827	38	30	42	99	16	2,926
Penobscot	576	93	0	0	724	0	0	0	724	48	37	36	20	5	744
Piscataquis	531	465	0	0	452	44	424	379	1,299	22	21	5	15	15	1,314
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	7
Somerset	0	2,179	4	441	3,662	0	258	1,236	5,156	22	49	6	529	35	5,685
Waldo	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	36	12	0	7	35	9	71
Washington	250	0	1	101	186	0	0	0	186	37	750	0	76	13	262
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	68	11	68
State Total:	7,297	7,314	24	4,194	16,003	1,008	2,609	1,615	21,235	36	1,494	116	1,487	14	22,722

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.

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