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2013 Silvicultural Activities Report

Maine Forest Service

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Forest Policy and Management Division

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2013 Silvicultural Activities Report

including Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2013 Landowner Reports and other survey instruments.
Data collected under the provisions of Title 12 MRS §8885 and §8878-A

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Report Highlights

Harvesting and Land Use Changes

- 414,797 acres were harvested in 2013, a decrease from 443,790 acres in 2012.
- 385,389 acres were "partially harvested" (partial and shelterwood totals) in 2013, an 8% decrease from 418,751 acres in 2012.
- The number of harvests reported decreased from 5,998 to 5,705.

Clearcutting:

1. The total area clearcut increased, from 20,461 acres in 2012 to 25,037 acres in 2013. Clearcutting amounted to 6% of total harvested acres.
2. Landowners owning more than 100,000 acres in Maine created 93% of all clearcut acreage (23,292 acres).
3. Average clearcut size in 2013 was 23 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. 28 clearcuts larger than 75 acres were created in 2013.
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 5% from 4,578 acres in 2012 to 4,371 acres in 2013.

Precommercial Silvicultural Activities

Herbicide Use:

- For site preparation a decrease of 17%, from 1,105 acres in 2012 to 913 acres in 2013.
- To release crop trees from competing vegetation decreased 86%, from 9,507 acres in 2012 to 1,367 acres in 2013.

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):

- Precommercial thinning of young stands with spacing saws increased 53%, from 8,802 acres in 2012 to 13,474 acres in 2013. 95% of the acreage was done by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres (12,856 acres).

Planting:

- Tree planting decreased 12%, from 7,417 acres in 2012 to 6,552 acres in 2013. 98% of the planting acreage was by landowners owning more than 100,000 acres (6,439 acres).

Forester Involvement

- In 2013, licensed foresters supervised harvesting on 297,340 acres, compared to 329,893 acres in 2012. 72% of all harvest acres in 2013 had a licensed forester involved; a slight decrease from 2012 (74%). Licensed Forester supervision occurred on 28% (696 out of 2,470 harvests) of the harvests on family forests (<= 100 acres in all ownership types) in 2013. This is similar to 2012 (752 out of 2,675 harvests).

2013 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			
Ownership Type	Ownership Size							
Forest Industry Woodlands	1 to 100 acres	80	0	0	0	0	0	80
	101 to 1,000 acres	20	0	319	319	0	0	339
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	1,084	119	459	578	76	0	1,738
	100,000 + acres	11,695	5,980	10,090	16,070	5,845	0	33,610
	SubTotal	12,879	6,099	10,868	16,967	5,921	0	35,767
Investor Timberlands	1 to 100 acres	25	0	0	0	0	0	25
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	515	423	721	1,144	9	0	1,668
	100,000 + acres	14,891	16,945	17,960	34,905	7,387	197	57,380
	SubTotal	15,431	17,368	18,681	36,049	7,396	197	59,073
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	39,416	2,588	3,242	5,830	768	1,167	47,181
	101 to 1,000 acres	68,838	7,263	8,006	15,269	494	2,222	86,823
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	30,224	4,452	11,564	16,016	221	662	47,123
	100,000 + acres	36,763	27,996	42,994	70,990	9,952	24	117,729
	SubTotal	175,241	42,299	65,806	108,105	11,435	4,075	298,856
Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	152	0	0	0	0	36	188
	101 to 1,000 acres	1,656	150	106	256	19	22	1,953
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	2,082	300	587	887	158	30	3,157
	100,000 + acres	13,152	968	1,564	2,532	108	11	15,803
	SubTotal	17,042	1,418	2,257	3,675	285	99	21,101
2013 Totals:		220,593	67,184	97,612	164,796	25,037	4,371	414,797
Percent of 2013 Harvest:		53.18%	16.20%	23.53%	39.73%	6.04%	1.05%	100.00%
2012 Totals:		229,394	84,758	104,599	189,357	20,461	4,578	443,790
Percent Change from 2012 to 2013:		-4%	-21%	-7%	-13%	22%	-5%	-7%

2013 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	3	1	15
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	3	2	339
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	0	22	18	1,558
	100,000 + acres	0	0	4,333	5,151	57	51	29,782
	Subtotal	0	0	4,333	5,151	85	72	31,694
Investor Timberlands	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	1	1	25
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	0	0	7	7	1,668
	100,000 + acres	77	533	2,012	104	136	130	54,900
	Subtotal	77	533	2,012	104	144	138	56,593
Non-Industrial Land	1 to 100 acres	22	25	245	29	2,460	692	16,252
	101 to 1,000 acres	26	26	203	84	2,074	670	33,802
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	50	50	145	0	413	248	32,671
	100,000 + acres	738	733	6,465	1,184	366	337	106,063
	Subtotal	836	834	7,058	1,297	5,313	1,947	188,788
Other Woodlands (Govt, etc.)	1 to 100 acres	0	0	0	0	6	2	15
	101 to 1,000 acres	0	0	0	0	48	38	1,720
	1,001 to 100,000 acres	0	0	25	0	35	31	2,869
	100,000 + acres	0	0	46	0	74	69	15,661
	Subtotal	0	0	71	0	163	140	20,265
2013 Totals:		913	1,367	13,474	6,552	5,705	2,297	297,340
2012 Totals:		1,105	9,507	8,802	7,417	5,998	2,468	329,894
Change from 2012 to 2013:		-17%	-86%	53%	-12%	-5%	-7%	-10%

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.

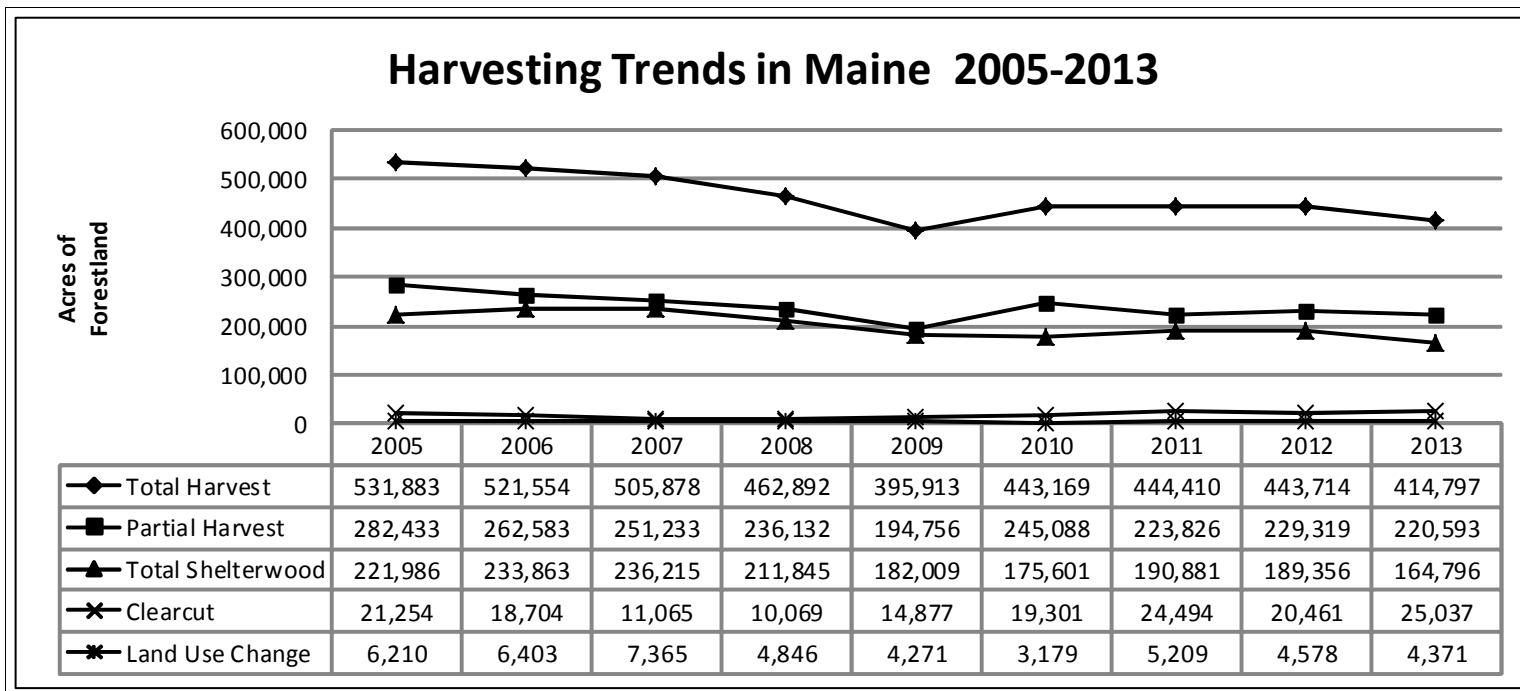
Types of Harvests

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.



2013 Annual Report on Clearcutting and Precommercial Activities

Compiled from the 2013 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							TSI	Planted	Clearcut		Acres	
	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	0	0	0	0	0		
Aroostook	8,229	4,295	19	2,101	6,264	0	216	0	6,480	32	24	9	263	15	6,743		
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	1	50	10	50		
Franklin	214	160	4	726	1,593	22	1,539	0	3,154	24	40	1	105	15	3,259		
Hancock	0	0	0	0	72	0	0	0	72	36	70	0	78	11	150		
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	37	12	37		
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	56	11	56		
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	45	15	45		
Oxford	123	0	4	738	2,915	205	602	0	3,722	21	56	17	97	9	3,819		
Penobscot	146	960	0	0	1,256	11	0	8	1,275	32	119	13	225	13	1,500		
Piscataquis	2,309	799	0	0	1,798	102	203	0	2,103	28	13	7	89	15	2,192		
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	8	8	8		
Somerset	1,795	225	1	214	5,297	310	107	362	6,076	19	39	35	288	12	6,364		
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	24	96	12	96		
Washington	40	0	0	0	194	0	216	0	410	17	114	0	174	12	584		
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	1	134	11	134		
State Total:	12,856	6,439	28	3,779	19,389	650	2,883	370	23,292	36	618	113	1,745	14	25,037		

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

2013 Clearcut as percent of statewide ownership

<u>ownership</u>	<u># of Landowners</u>	<u>Clearcut Acres</u>
0% - 0.001%	12	5,376
0.001%-0.25%	2	1,650
0.26%-0.75%	7	16,266
0.76%-1.00%	0	0

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