Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction Survey - 2014

Maine’s Healthy Forests Program
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Maine Forest Service
Maine’s Healthy Forests Program

Goal
- identify strategies to increase active forest management on family woodlands
- improve wood availability, wildlife habitat, forest health, recreational opportunities, water quality, aesthetics, etc.
- increase landowner enjoyment and support jobs and the state's economy.
Southern Megaregion

- Capital Area FIA Unit: Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo Counties
- Casco Bay FIA Unit: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and York Counties
Southern Megaregion - Stand size class, acres, and percentage

- Sawtimber, 1,197,062, 52%
- Poletimber, 837,986, 37%
- Seedling/Sapling, 249,141, 11%
- Non Stocked, 6,312, 0%
Southern Megaregion, net growth to removals percentage for 1995, 2006, and 2013 inventory years

All Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sawtimber</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>195%</td>
<td>258%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing Stock</td>
<td>146%</td>
<td>175%</td>
<td>227%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Intensity (2010 – 2012)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Megaregion:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2% of timberland acres were annually harvested</td>
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<tr>
<td>40.3 green tons per harvested acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23% Sawtimber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43% Pulpwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>34% Biomass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rest of the state:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5% of timberland acres were annually harvested</td>
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<tr>
<td>32.1 green tons per harvested acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>25% Sawtimber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56% Pulpwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>19% Biomass</td>
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</table>
Who are Maine’s family woodland owners?
Size of Family Woodland Holdings with 10+ forested acres
Maine, 2013

Source: NWOS Draft, Butler et al, unpublished
Family Woodland Ownership Objectives
Maine, 2013

- Protect Resources
- Part of primary/secondary homesite
- Family Legacy
- Forest Products (logs, pulp, firewood)
- Aesthetics
- Privacy
- Other Recreation
- Land Investment
- Hunting and Fishing
- Nontimber Forest Products

Percentage of the aggregate family woodland acreage in the responses

Source: NWOS draft, Butler et al, unpublished
Healthy Forests Program Status

- Began with stakeholder meetings in 2012
- Action Plan developed
- On the ground delivery of priority action items including programming, training, and messaging
- Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction survey is part of this effort
Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction Survey

- 2100 mailed in July 2014; Some come in electronically. Approx. response rate = +/-38%
- 820 responses a/o early December 2014
Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction Survey IS:

- a feedback mechanism from a notable portion of our customers. It provides insights and some possible direction for further data-gathering and outreach efforts.
The Survey is NOT---

- a statistically supported study.
- We are still analyzing data - while encouraging, too early to make definitive pronouncements.
How it works:

- Totally voluntary and confidential.
- Only offered to landowners with \(\leq 1000\) acre statewide ownership who file a FON as a supplement to confidential landowner report of timber harvest.
- “Heads-up” letters sent with FON reply info; includes link to on-line version of Survey.
- Each year after Confidential Landowner Reports have been collected, a paper copy is mailed to those who indicate their harvest is complete.
Q2: Your overall satisfaction with the harvest:

- Very satisfied: 69.5% (556)
- Somewhat satisfied: 20.75% (166)
- Not sure: 1.63% (13)
- Somewhat unsatisfied: 3.62% (29)
- Very unsatisfied: 4.5% (36)

Answered: 800  Skipped: 25
Q3: How close was the final result to your expectations?

- Better than expected: 27.99% (225)
- About what I expected: 57.71% (464)
- Worse than expected: 7.59% (61)
- Not sure what I expected: 6.72% (54)

Answered: 804   Skipped: 21
Q5: What were your goals for the harvest (please check all that apply):

Answered: 801    Skipped: 24
Q6: Did the harvest meet your goals?

Answered: 794    Skipped: 31
Q11: How satisfied are you with the way your woods look after the harvest?

- Very Satisfied: 60%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 26%
- Somewhat Unsatisfied: 4%
- Very Unsatisfied: 5%
- Not Sure: 5%

Answered: 792   Skipped: 33
Q18: How satisfied are you with the financial outcome of the harvest:

- Very Satisfied: 81%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 14%
- Not sure: 1%
- Somewhat unsatisfied: 2%
- Very Unsatisfied: 2%

Answered: 768  Skipped: 57
Q25: What was the overall reaction to the harvest from neighbors and/or community members:

- Positive
- Negative
- Mixed
- Not sure

Answered: 734  Skipped: 91
Q26: Were neighboring landowners and/or other community members notified before the harvest began?

Responses

- Yes: 56%
- No: 21%
- Not Sure: 23%

Answered: 762  Skipped: 63
Q31: How well did the logger understand your objectives and respect your vision for your woodlands?

Answered: 752   Skipped: 75
Q32: Did you have a written timber sale agreement or logging contract?

Sample Timber Sale Contract

Note: This document is for educational use only. The sample timber sale contract (below) can be a starting point for your own contract, but we encourage you to consult an attorney for help in designing a timber sale contract that meets your specific needs.

This Contract is entered into by and between __________________________ (Seller), and __________________________ (Purchaser). This agreement is made and entered into between the parties below hereinafter called the SELLER and the PURCHASER.

The SELLER solely owns the timber rights to this land and has no concurrent sales agreement on the parcel described below.

SECTION I

The SELLER agrees to sell and the PURCHASER agrees to buy, under the terms and conditions hereinafter stated, all the timber marked or designated by the SELLER on certain lands held by the SELLER and described as follows:

______ acres in Section __ Township __________ Range _______
In __________ County, State of __________

Timber to be harvested is marked or designated as follows: [Describe cutting blocks and how timber is marked].

SECTION II

The PURCHASER and SELLER hereby agree to the following payment schedule: [Insert Option A or B]

Answered: 737    Skipped: 88
Q33: Who prepared the written agreement?

Answered: 547  Skipped: 278
Q34: How satisfied were you with the written agreement?

Answered: 561    Skipped: 264

% Responses

- Very satisfied: 80%
- Somewhat satisfied: 14%
- Not sure: 3%
- Somewhat unsatisfied: 2%
- Very unsatisfied: 1%

Answered: 561    Skipped: 264
Q36: Would you work with this logger again?

Answered: 751  Skipped: 76
Q37: Would you recommend this logger to other woodland owners?

- **Yes**: 746
- **No**: 81
- **Not Sure**: 0

**Answered:** 746  **Skipped:** 81
Q39: Was a licensed forester involved in the harvest?

44% Yes
56% No

Answered: 709  Skipped: 116
Q44: Would you work with this forester again?

% Responses

- Yes: 87%
- No: 6%
- Not sure: 7%

Answered: 426    Skipped: 399
Q48: Will you consider another harvest in the future, when the conditions are right?

% Responses

- yes: 81%
- no: 11%
- not sure: 7%
- not applicable: 1%

Answered: 765    Skipped: 60
General comments

O High degree of professionalism and skill
O Good communication—explanation of process and adherence to plans and contracts- “they did what they said they would do”
O Financial results as good or better than expected
General comments, continued

- Good aesthetics: clean, neat, tidy;
  “ugly” trees are gone, woods look better than before
- Variation- knowledge that woods will recover and look better—”already growing back”
- Good questions for landowners to consider before they cut
 Unsatisfied landowners

Only 64 “somewhat” or “very” unsatisfied; of these—

11% (7/64) said goals were met
79% (42/59) had TSA; only 57% satisfied with TSA
45% (26/57) had forester involved.
54% (33/60) unsatisfied with financial outcomes
Themes from unsatisfied landowners

- Communications: poor both between and with logger, sub-contractors, and forester (when involved)
- Loss of access, and cost to regain (repairs to driveway, re-clearing woods trails)
- Mess and waste; landowners may understand this very differently from loggers & foresters
- Some financial disappointment, but more important: “should have cleaned up the job.”
Questions?

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Budworm report now available for public comment: