



# Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine



**Tom Doak, Executive Director**

# SWOAM

- Established in 1975 - 501(c)(3) *non-profit*
- 3,000 members
- 500,000 acres
- 39 states
- 3.5 fulltime staff
- Work statewide
- 10 chapters
- Thousands of hours of volunteer time/year

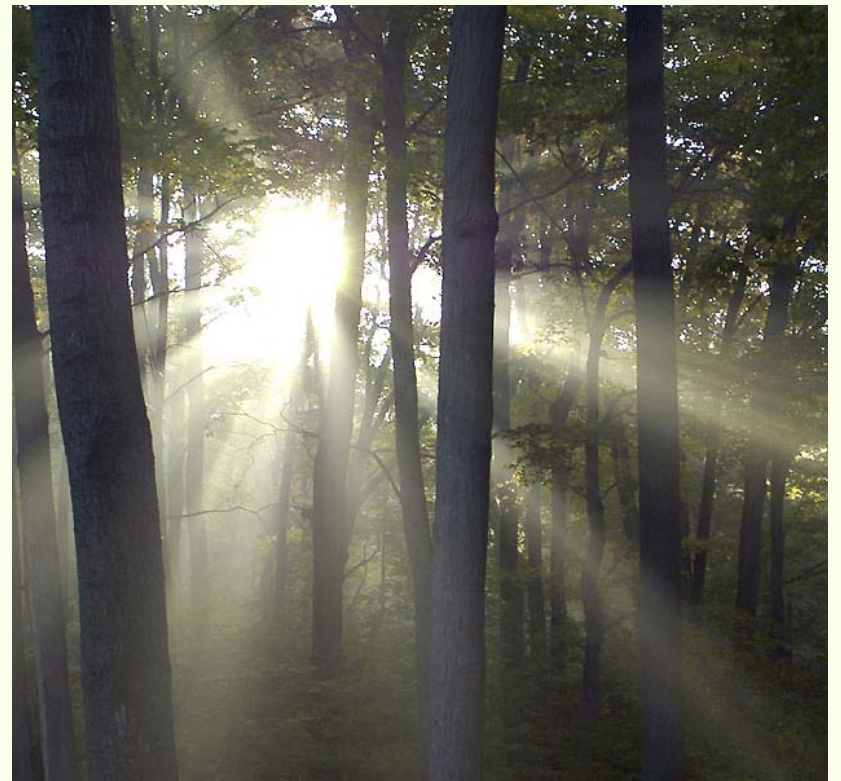


- **Mission:** To Promote Sound Forest Management and Strengthen Long-term Woodland Stewardship



# SWOAM

- Information and education
  - Monthly 16-page newsletter
  - SWOAM Foresters
- Ten regional chapters
  - 50+ meetings a year
- Advocacy
- Land Trust
- Forest Certification



# SWOAM Land Trust

- **Established 1990**
  - Demonstrate working forest
  - Forestry and environmental education
  - Protect Maine's forest heritage
  - **2,233 acres in Fee (16)**
  - **2,233 acres in Conservation Easements (5)**

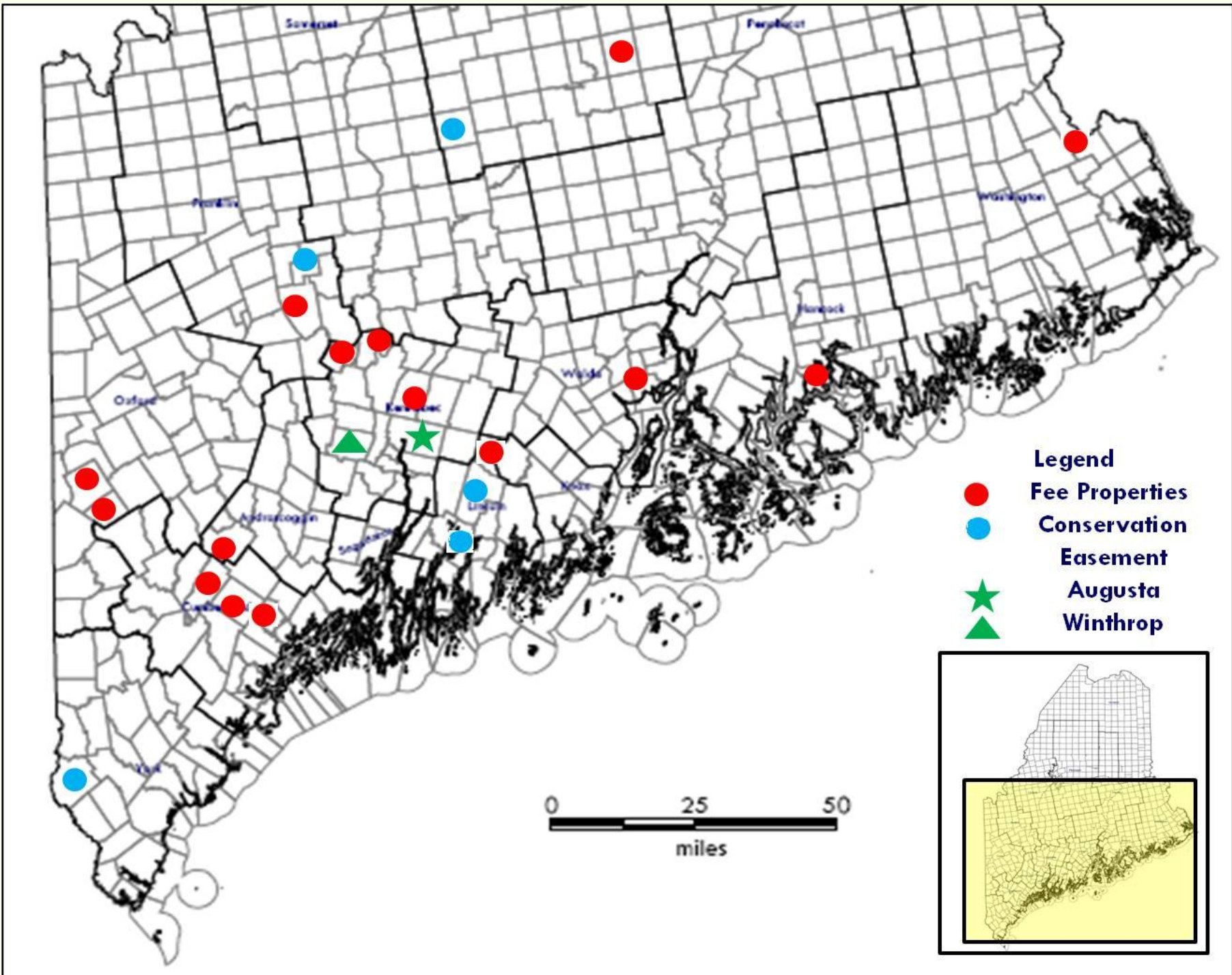


Ladd Forest, Vienna

# Our Land Trust

- SWOAM Land Trust

Different from most other land trusts  
because we only accept land where forest  
management is allowed



# SWOAM Land Trust

- **Our lands are 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified as being managed sustainably to a national standard**
- **This standard recognizes the importance of considering the full range of values the property provides**
  - **clean air and water**
  - **soil protection**
  - **wildlife and biodiversity**
  - **forest aesthetics**
  - **special natural and historic sites**
  - **timber harvest and operations**
- **We voluntarily pay property tax**



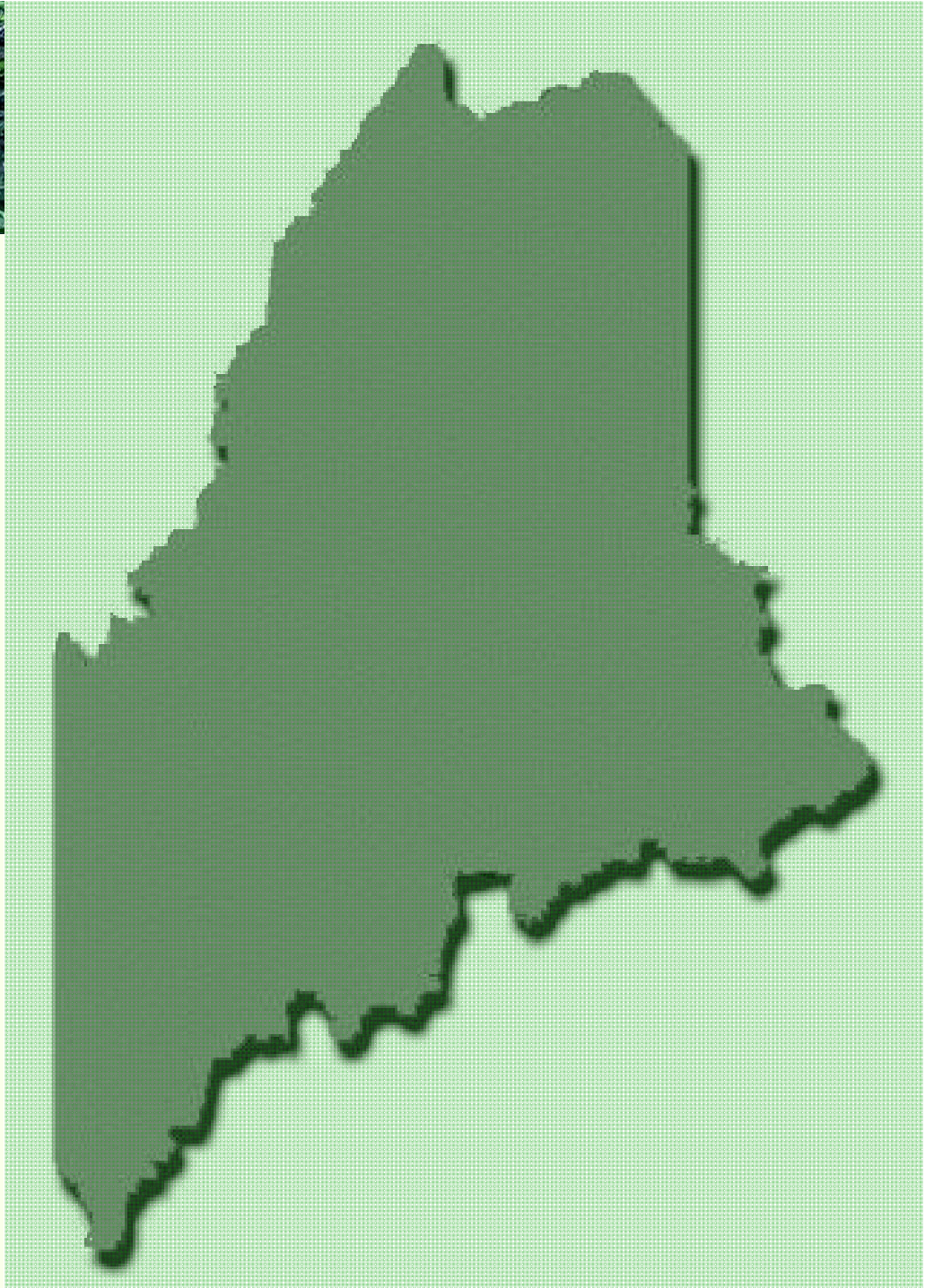


# Maine

**89.7% forested**

**Myth:** Large landowners own almost all the woodland in Maine

**Fact:** Small non-industrial owners hold nearly 40% of the forestland in Maine





# Age Structure of Small Woodland Owners in Maine

Age	Acres (%)	
	USFS	SWOAM
<35	2	1
35-44	6	9
45-54	26	24
55-64	25	28
65+	41	38



# Why Are Small Woodland Ownerships Important?

**If you hike, bike, fish, hunt, cross-country ski, snowshoe, or snowmobile chances are, particularly in southern Maine, you are doing it on land owned by small woodland owners.**

# What are the Challenges Facing Small Woodland Owners

- Costs
- Public Use
- Alternative Uses
- Uncertainty of Future Wood Markets
- Access to Assistance





# What are the Future Trends in Forestry?

- Continued Division of Land
- New Markets (not just wood)
- Continued consolidation of processing facilities
- Fewer loggers
- Relatively stable volumes of paper and lumber production





# Tips For Owning Woodland Long-Term

- Keep Good Records
- Know Your Land
- Establish A Cost Basis For Your Property
- Understand Maine's Landowners Liability Laws
- Develop An Estate Plan
- Learn About Today And Future Markets
- Work With Professionals
- Stay Connected (SWOAM, etc.)
- Consider Current Use Taxation Programs



**Small Woodland Owners  
Association of Maine**

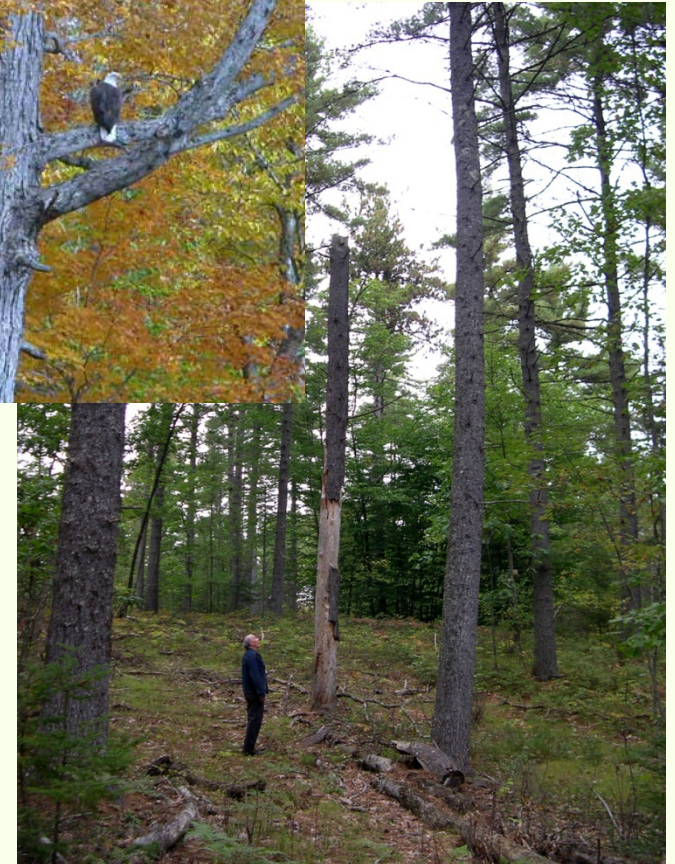
**[www.SWOAM.org](http://www.SWOAM.org)**

**1- 877- 467- 9626**



# Importance of Small Woodlands

- **Owner Enjoyment**
  - Wildlife viewing or management
  - Place of retreat/privacy
  - Recreation
  - Family legacy
  - Nature protection
  - Timber production (8th-10th in importance)





# Importance of Small Woodlands

- **Income potential**

- Timber
- Non-timber
- Land





# Issues Around Public Access

- Allowing public use is rarely, if ever, a benefit to a Landowner
- The dissatisfaction of landowners (misuse) & of users (posted land) is the direct result of ineffective or non-existent efforts to deal with public use problems
- Landowner liability – good & bad
- It is Not Too Late

# Forest Certification

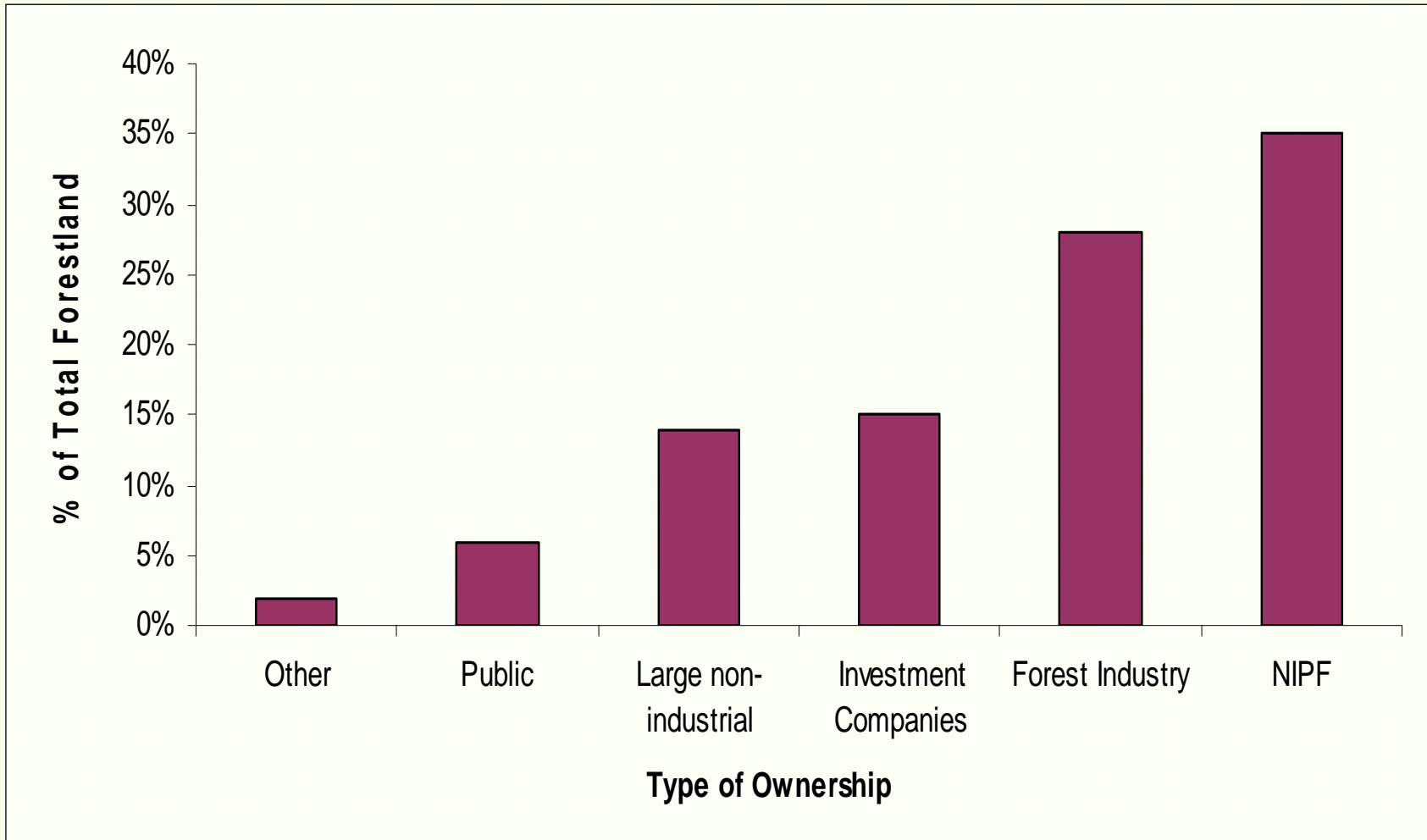
- We have the largest pool of 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified family forests
- A mechanism for outreach to small landowners
- Modernized standard (2004 Tree Farm Standard)

## WHY?

- Verification of sustainable forestry
- Global economy
- Market advantage
- Keep land in productive forestry

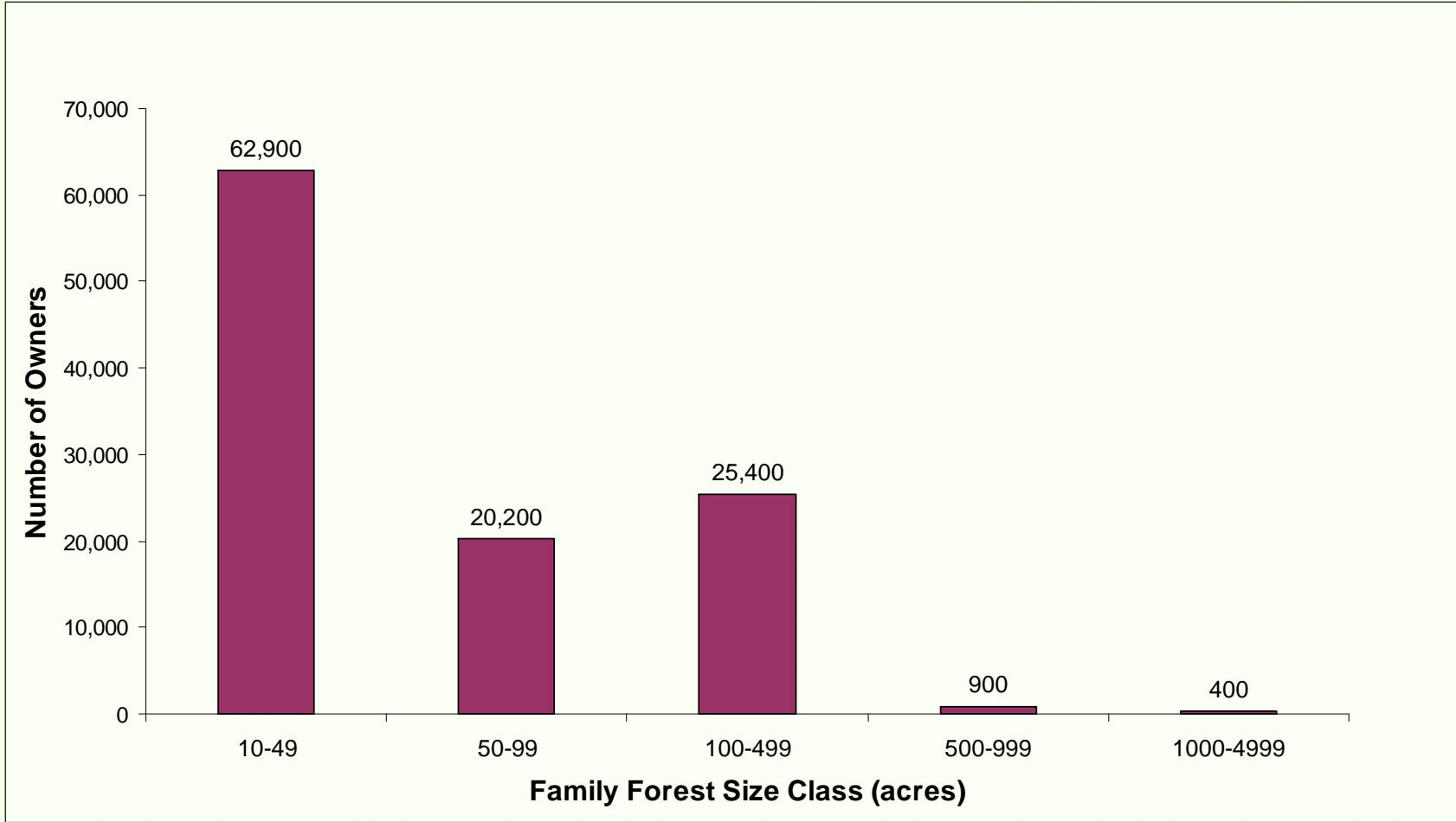


# Maine Forestland Ownership



Data source: Maine Forest Service

# Maine Acreage Size Classes



Data Source: Birch 1994