Presentation to the Climate Council Natural and Working Lands Subcommittee on 30% Conservation Goal

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An assessment of accomplishments and gaps in Maine Land Conservation

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Public Access, Habitat, and Natural Resources

A review of land conservation in Maine, guided by the goals of the 1997 Report of the Land Acquisition Priorities Committee.

An assessment of accomplishments and gaps in Maine Land Conservation

- Certain lands managed by state agencies other than the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, Federal Agencies, as well as private conservation organizations are managed consistently with BPL Ecological Reserves. In these areas timber harvesting and other resource extraction is prohibited. These are coded in Maine's conserved lands GIS layer as either GAP status 1 or GAP status 2. Collectively, these lands will be subsequently referred to as 'reserve management lands'

- Reserve management lands have doubled since 1997 to a total of 950,000 acres or 4.8% of the state.

- No statewide targets for reserve management lands have been set. The Wildlands and Woodlands report of the Harvard Forest has set a target of 10% of New England as 'wildlands', comparable to reserve management. The Convention on Biological Diversity set a global target of 17% conservation for biodiversity by 2020.

An assessment of accomplishments and gaps in Maine Land Conservation

- Emerging results from a new study on Ecological Reserves managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands and The Nature Conservancy indicates that Ecological Reserves both store and sequester significant amounts of Carbon (Puhlick and Weiskittel 2021):
    - On average, Ecological Reserves store 30% more above ground carbon than Maine's managed forests on a per-acre basis.
    - Ecological Reserves are carbon sinks and are capturing, on average, at least as much carbon as managed forests on a per-acre/per year basis
- Conservation of Ecological Reserves remains a priority.
    - Ecological Reserves are recognized for carbon sequestration potential and contributions to the resilience of Maine forests. Conservation of Ecological Reserves is a key recommendation of the Natural and Working Lands group of the Maine Climate Council.
    - Many forest types are under-represented in reserve type management among Maine's ecoregions.

Maine Climate Council Science and Technical Subcommittee Draft Highlights Document

- Carbon sequestration could be greatly increased by managing forests using a 'triad' approach consisting of harvesting to create uneven age continuous cover intensive plantations, and permanent set-asides. While Maine's forests are a large net sink, the state's forests will not be able to maintain this sequestration rate in the future without significant changes to how the forest is both actively and passively managed. Maine forests can potentially increase carbon sequestration by 20% or more without reducing timber harvest through changes in forest management practices implemented across the landscape

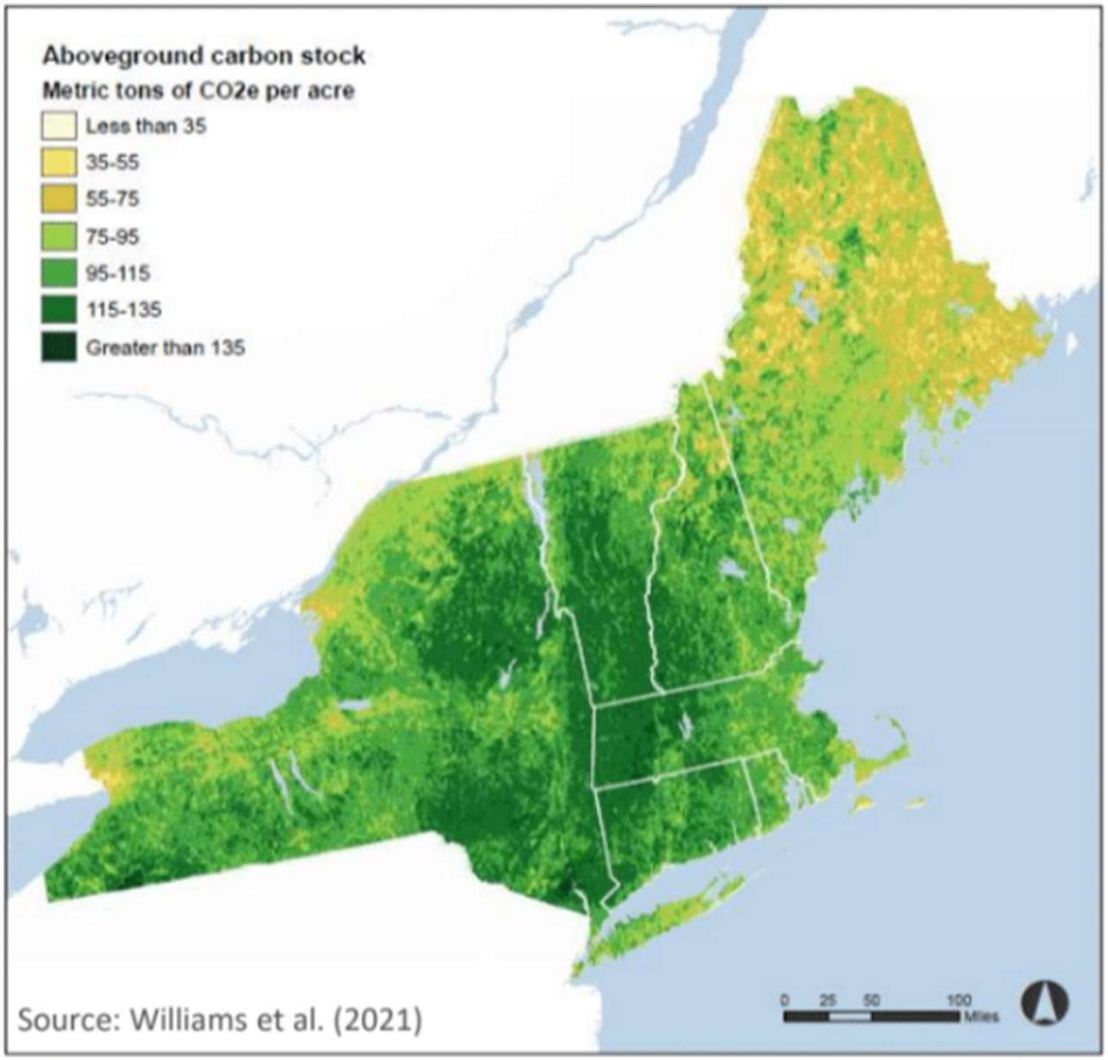


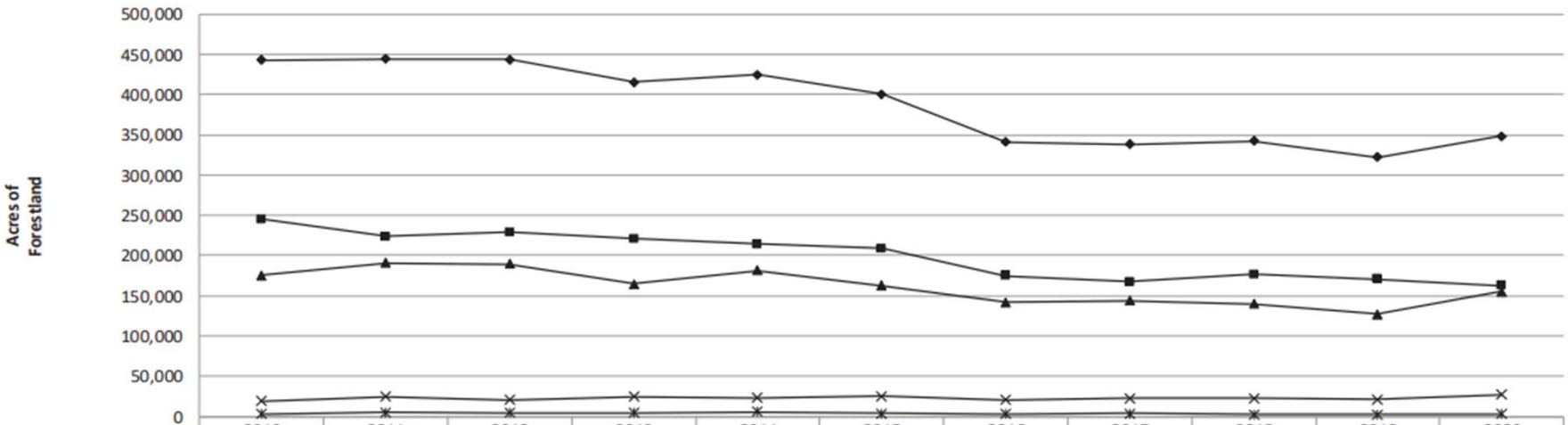
FIGURE 3. Above ground carbon stocks, expressed in metric tons of CO_2e per acre, smoothed from the original dataset with focal statistics that average over a 1 km x 1 km block. The highest value in the original, 30 m resolution map is 210 metric tons of CO_2e

- “In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.”

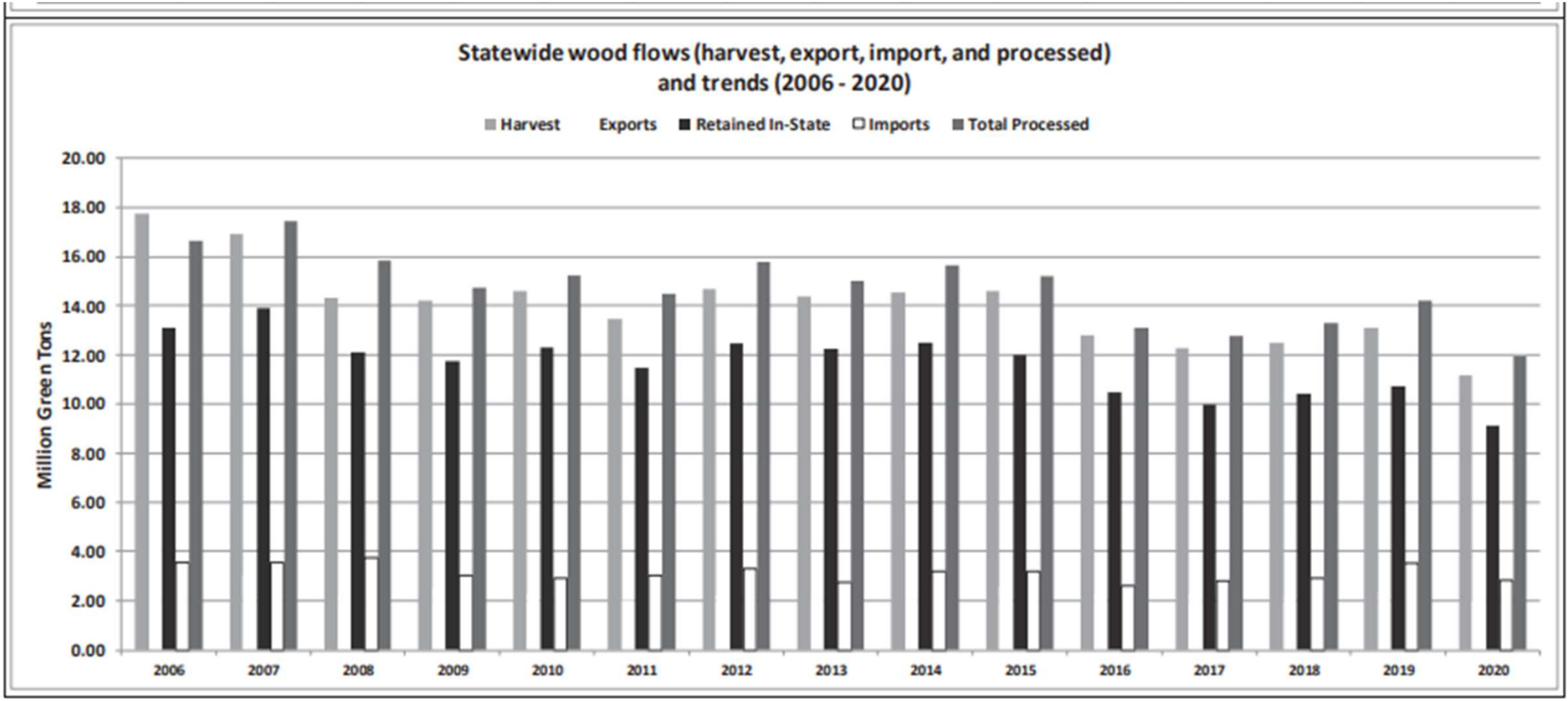
- United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Thank you

Harvesting Trends in Maine 2010-2020



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Harvest	443,169	444,410	443,714	415,255	424,453	400,832	341,318	338,088	342,462	322,399	348,706
Partial Harvest	245,088	223,826	229,319	220,967	214,220	209,028	175,057	167,543	176,593	171,091	162,440
Total Shelterwood	175,601	190,881	189,356	164,817	181,207	162,978	141,833	144,012	140,062	127,014	155,645
Clearcut	19,301	24,494	20,461	25,055	23,366	25,082	20,971	22,741	23,033	21,449	27,434
Land Use Change	3,179	5,209	4,578	4,416	5,660	3,744	3,457	3,791	2,774	2,845	3,187


Statewide wood flows (harvest, export, import, and processed)
and trends (2006 - 2020)
Harvest
Exports
Retained In-State
Imports
Total Processed
Million Green Tons
20.00
18.00
16.00
14.00
12.00
10.00
8.00
6.00
4.00
2.00
0.00
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020