

Technical Report

Kennebec County Woodland Owner Survey



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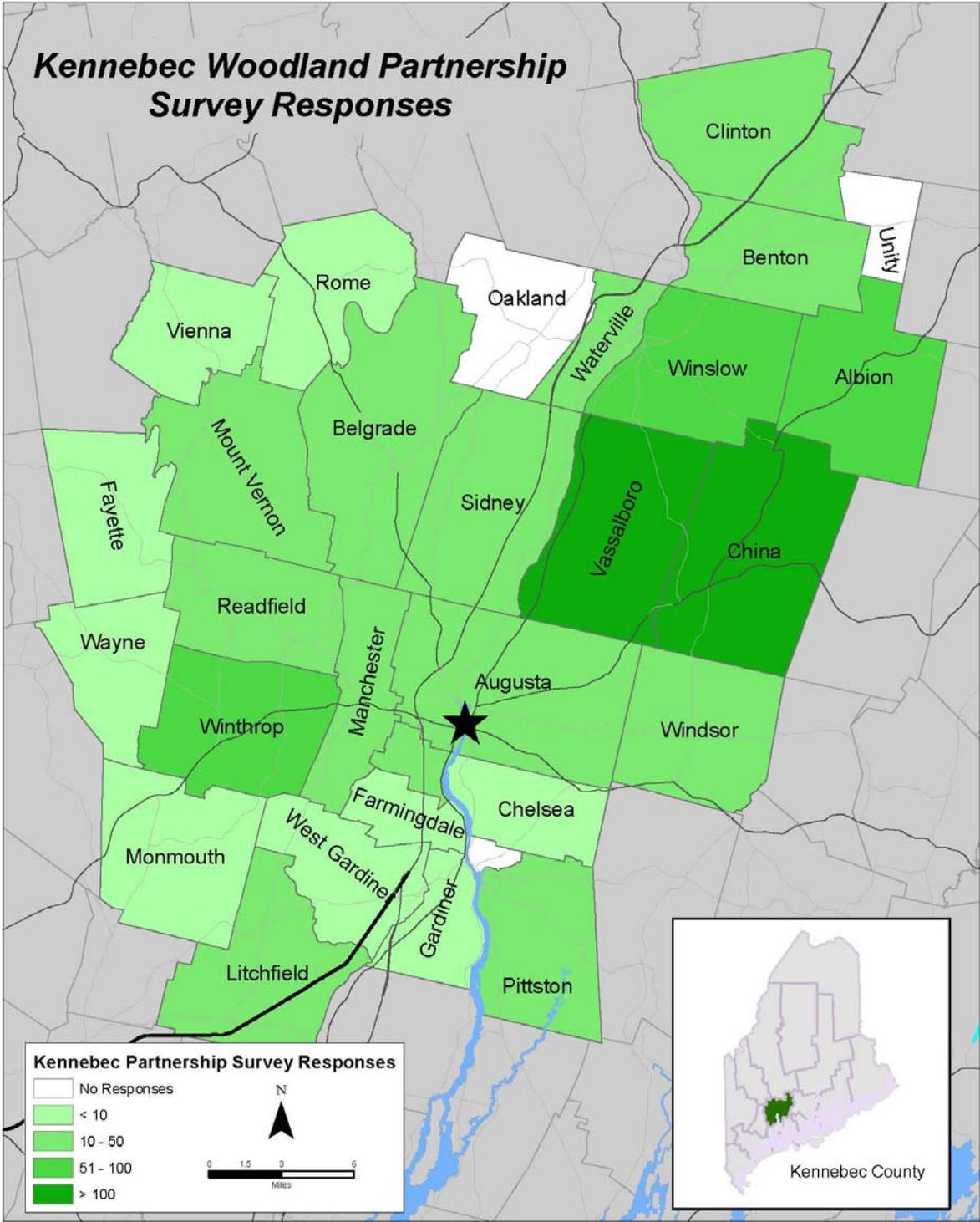


Figure 1: Response rate by town

Executive Summary

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This report summarizes findings from the Kennebec County Woodland Owner Survey, a county wide survey of family forest landowners, conducted in July, 2011. Nine hundred three questionnaires were mailed and 393 deliverable surveys were returned. The overall response rate was 45 percent. The goals of the survey were to:

1. To determine how Kennebec County woodland owners are using/managing their forest land and what information is important to them
2. To identify appropriate and effective methods to inform and assist woodland owners in using/managing their land
3. To examine the multi-dimensional nature of stewardship ethics held by family forest landowners
4. To identify the factors that influence stewardship ethics held by family forest landowners

Key Findings:

Socio-demographic attributes

The majority (66.5 percent) of woodland owners in Kennebec County own between 1-50 acres of forest land, have owned their parcel(s) for over 27 years (average), live on their woodland (74.9 percent), and are between the ages of 51-75 years old (68.3 percent). Almost 25 percent of woodland owners have no formal education past high school/GED educated and nearly 40 percent have a Bachelor's degree, some graduate school, or a graduate degree. Approximately 88 percent are either "retired" or are "working full time." Approximately 81 percent of woodland owners in our survey were male (19.4 percent were female).

Landowner decision making

When making decisions about how to use or manage woodland, almost 73 percent of respondents are making decisions with input from another (joint) owner while 23.7 percent of respondents are the sole owners of their woodland. The majority of woodland owners have never sold (89.5 percent) nor given away (89.5 percent) woodland. These findings offer insight into previous behavior of woodland owners. Finding out why woodland owners own forest land is an important factor in understanding how they are likely to manage and/or use their land. Interestingly, woodland owners cited aesthetic and/or personal reasons for owning land as their top choices. The top three reasons why Kennebec County woodland owners own forest land are: "Part of my primary home" (62.3 percent), "To enjoy beauty or scenery" (60.3 percent), and "For privacy" (60.9 percent). Only 15.5 percent of participants own land "For production of saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, or other timber products."

Green certification

Over half (59.3 percent) of participants had never heard nor read about green certification. Not surprising, about 80 percent of woodland owners are not currently green certified. However, almost 20 percent said that they would consider green certification and another 51.4 percent were not sure. This finding suggests that almost 70 percent of Kennebec County woodland owners are either undecided or interested in green certification. Organizations or groups looking to engage with woodland owners that are interested in green certification may want to direct their outreach toward these individuals or families.

Forestry Assistance Programs

Although the majority of Kennebec County woodland owners have never used forestry assistance programs, should not imply that these programs are not worthwhile nor that there is not interest in them. In fact, 35.5 percent of respondents indicated that they would consider using an assistance program and another 40.1 percent were unsure. It is important for state agencies to find out what information many of the undecided woodland owners would need in order to make an informed decision.

Learning about land

Woodland owners indicated that their three most preferred methods to learn about their land were, “Publications, books, or pamphlets” (31.4 percent), “Newsletters” (27.8 percent), and the “Internet/Web” (18.3 percent). Based on these findings, non-governmental and governmental agencies, resource professionals, and other organizations would be better able to meet the needs of Kennebec County woodland owners by using these preferred methods to communicate with them. About 74 percent of respondents do not currently have a written forest management plan but 66.5 percent of these individuals would either consider getting one or are undecided. When asked what would encourage woodland owners to acquire a management plan, 51.7 percent identified getting “a property tax reduction,” 37.2 percent suggested finding “ways to improve wildlife,” and 31.4 percent indicated getting “professional advice about how to improve my land.” These findings highlight the fact that woodland owners would be willing to consider obtaining a forest management plan so long as they were provided with some form of financial compensation or to use their land as they choose (e.g. to improve the land and/or habitat).

Future of Kennebec County woodland

Understanding how future heirs will use/manage woodland once they become the primary owner(s), has long-term implications on the structure and function of forest resources. However, only 48.2 percent of respondents have created a will or legal trust and almost 73 percent have not spoken to their heirs about their wishes for the land. In fact, the notion of estate planning is often viewed as something that woodland owners will deal with at a later date (i.e. when they get older 34.8 percent; when they become ill 31.9 percent). These findings suggest that woodland owners are less concerned about the future of their estate(s). To address this issue, resource professionals will need to increase their outreach efforts in order to make sure that Kennebec County’s forests remain forested.

Timber harvesting

Over half (51.2 percent) of participants have conducted a commercial timber harvest on their woodland and of these, 74.6 percent were “somewhat” to “very satisfied” with the outcome.

Sixty percent of these individuals said that they would be willing to conduct another commercial harvest in the future. While encouraging as these findings may be, 16.2 percent of respondents were either “somewhat” to “very unsatisfied.” If a goal of resource professionals and state agencies is to “keep forests as (working) forests” it is important that previous mistakes be addressed and potentially negligent parties be held accountable.

Stewardship

Findings indicate an overall land ethic in congruence with personal/familial needs and the needs of the biotic community (e.g. the land, plants, animals). Interestingly, few respondents indicated a responsibility to their neighbors, their community, or the broader society yet many participants (91.3 percent) “agree” or “strongly agree” that the public has a responsibility to them and their land when using it. These data offer further insight into what woodland owners value and how better to meet their needs through management and outreach efforts. For example, rather than attempt to establish local networks within the community, it might be beneficial to establish more formal, professional led organizations.

Landscape change

Findings suggest that the majority of woodland owners feel that developing their woodland would not be beneficial, would be fairly difficult to do, and relatively ill-advised by the people closest to them. About 68 percent of respondents indicated that developing their woodland in the next five years was “extremely unlikely,” yet 8.3 percent indicated that it was either “somewhat likely” or “extremely likely.” While 8.3 percent may not seem like a high percentage, further research is needed to determine how much land these individuals own, where the land is located, and why they are willing to develop their forest land.

Building trust

Results from this study are being shared with other University of Maine researchers, the Kennebec Woodland Partnership, and Kennebec County woodland owners that indicated that they would like to see the findings from this survey. It is our hope that by continuing to learn from woodland owners future partnerships will emerge and other opportunities to engage with one another will present themselves.

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Introduction

This technical report summarizes findings from the Kennebec County Woodland Owner Survey, which was administered July-August, 2011. This research was conducted in partnership with the Maine Forest Service and the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, University of Maine. The purpose of this survey was two-fold. First, few data have been collected with regard to Kennebec County woodland owner attitudes and behavior. Attitudinal information is used to assess woodland owner opinions toward various forest management-related concepts such as commercial timber harvests, conservation easements, and green certification, for example. Behavioral data provide insight into current and future land use. Second, this information will provide governmental, non-governmental, environmental, and forest industry partners with a comprehensive understanding of Kennebec County family forest landowners. Findings will be used by each group to develop more effective modes of outreach and to implement enhanced lines of communication. Furthermore, policy experts will be able to use these results to develop more effective landowner policies.

The specific research objectives were:

1. To determine how Kennebec County woodland owners are using/managing their forest land and what information is important to them
2. To identify appropriate and effective methods to inform and assist woodland owners in using/managing their land
3. To examine the multi-dimensional nature of stewardship ethics held by family forest landowners
4. To identify the factors that influence stewardship ethics held by family forest landowners

Methods

We received property tax records from all towns within Kennebec County, except Randolph and Oakland (Figure 1). With 27 of 29 towns represented, or 93% coverage, we created a master list of all non-commercial property owners with 10 - 1,000 acres of total land. Out of 2,806 possible landowners in our database that met these criteria, 903 were randomly selected. This means that we attempted to contact 6 percent of the total county population with this survey. A mailed questionnaire was created and comprised of 9 sections with a total of 38 questions. The majority of questions were either binary (yes/no), or contained statements where participants would indicate their level of agreement/disagreement, preference, or likelihood, along a 5-point Likert scale. A pre-notification letter was mailed to all respondents, informing them that a survey would be arriving in the following week, and asking for their participation. A cover letter, pre-paid envelope, and questionnaire were then mailed to prospective respondents. One week later, a reminder postcard was sent to all non-respondents and two weeks later, a second survey was administered to non-respondents. A total of 393 deliverable surveys were returned while 39 were “returned to sender” or were unable to be delivered. The overall response rate was 45 percent. Non-response bias was examined by comparing responses from demographic and landowner characteristics (e.g. age, employment situation, gender, amount of woodland owned) between first and second waves of returned surveys. No significant differences were found.

Study Findings

Your Land

The first section of the questionnaire asked woodland owners basic questions about land and land ownership. Approximately ninety-six percent of respondents owned woodland in Kennebec County and the majority owned between one and fifty acres of woodland (66.5 percent) (Figure 2). On average, woodland owners have owned their forest land for approximately 27 years and almost all (96.7 percent) have owned their land less than 50 years (Figure 3).

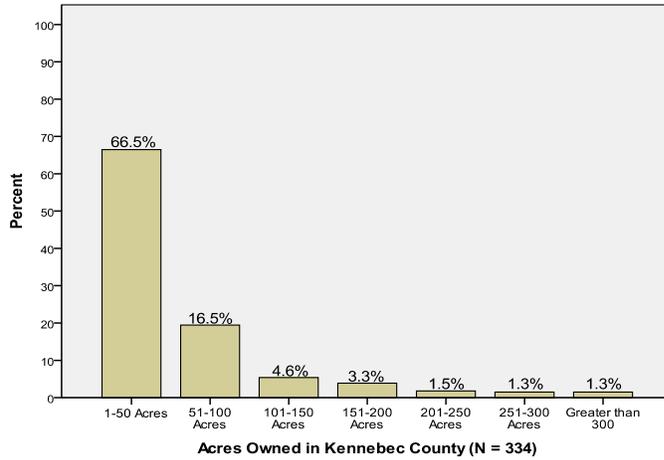


Figure 2: Acres of woodland owned in Kennebec County

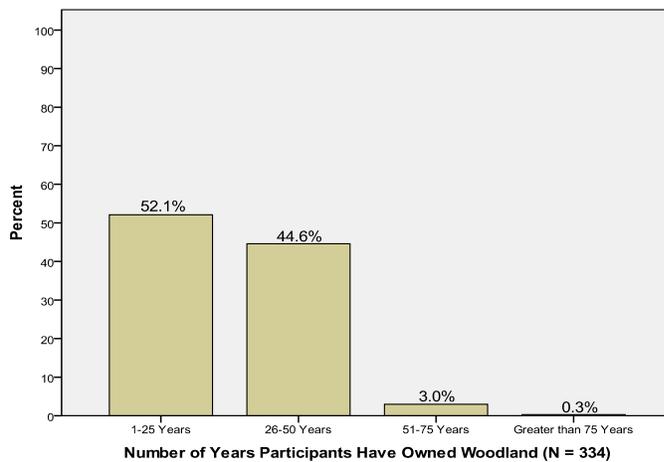


Figure 3: Number of years participants have owned woodland

In order to assess whether participants were resident or absentee owners, they were asked whether their primary residence was located on any of the woodland that they own in Kennebec County. Approximately 75 percent of respondents indicated their primary residence was on their woodland (Figure 4). Nearly 59 percent of woodland owners that do not reside on their forest land live, between one and 25 miles away (Figure 5). Another 25.4 percent live greater than 301 miles away.

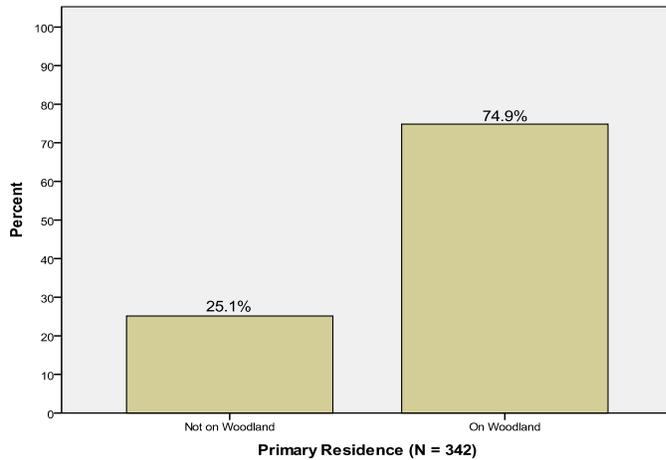


Figure 4: Primary residence on woodland

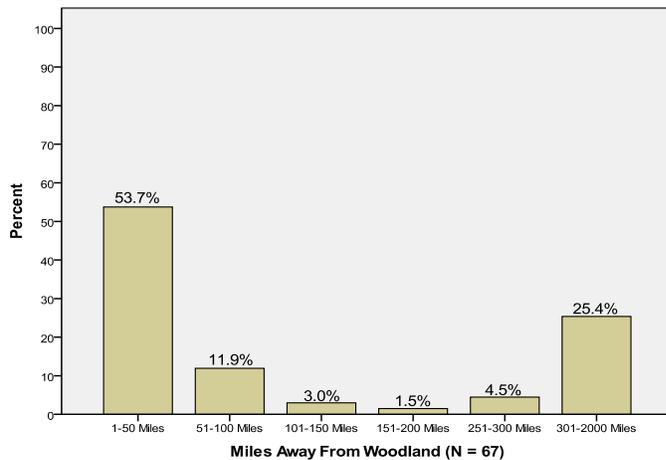


Figure 5: Primary residence distance away from woodland

In order to examine changing ownership patterns among family forest landowners in Kennebec County, participants were asked how they obtained their woodland and whether they had sold or given away woodland. Approximately 65 percent of participants obtained their land from another “private individual” (Table 1) while nearly 33 percent indicated that they had obtained their woodland from “My parents/spouse/other family member.” About 80 percent of respondents have never sold woodland since maintaining ownership (Table 2). However, of those that previously sold woodland, 13.5 percent sold it to a “private individual” (Table 2). Almost 90 percent of participants have never given away forest land (Table 3).

Table 1. How woodland was obtained

Obtained land from	N	Yes
Other private individual	341	64.5%
My parents/spouse/other family member	340	32.6%
Land investor/developer	341	1.8%
A forestry company	341	0.3%

Source: Question 5, Section 1

Table 2. If woodland has been sold, who received it

Sold woodland to whom	N	Yes
I have never sold woodland	333	80.2%
Other private individual	334	13.5%
My parents/spouse/other family member	334	2.7%
A forestry company	334	0.9%
Land investor/developer	334	0.6%

Source: Question 6, Section 1

Table 3. If woodland has been given away, who received it

Woodland given to whom	N	Yes
I have never given away woodland	334	89.5%
My parents/spouse/other family member	334	4.8%
Other private individual	334	0.6%
A forestry company	334	0.3%
Land investor/developer	333	0.0%

Source: Question 7, Section 1

The last two questions in the first section of the survey offer insight into who is responsible for making land use decisions and why they may be acting how they are. The majority of respondents indicated that two people own their woodland (72.8 percent), while another 23.7 percent identified one individual to be the sole owner (Figure 6). While reasons for why participants own land vary, the majority identified “Part of my primary home” (62.3 percent), “To enjoy beauty or scenery” (60.3 percent) and “For privacy” (60.9 percent) as “very important” reasons for owning land (Table 4). Reasons for owning land that were selected as being “very unimportant” include: “Part of my vacation home or camp” (55.5 percent), “Part of my farm or ranch” (40.3 percent), and “For cultivation/collection of non-timber forest products” (34.6 percent) (Table 4). An additional 28.7 percent identified “For production of saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, or other timber products” as “very unimportant.” Overall, the majority of Kennebec County woodland owners are involved in some form of joint ownership, live on their woodland, and value aesthetic qualities (i.e. beauty and scenery) and privacy as primary reasons why they own woodland.

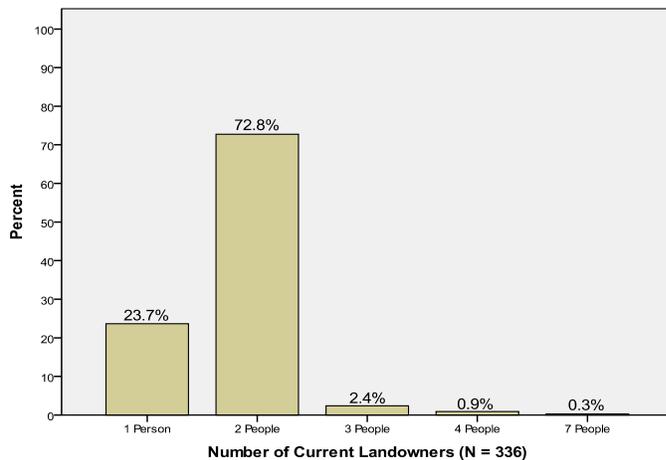


Figure 6: Number of people that own woodland

Table 4. Level of importance for various reasons for land ownership

Reason for owning woodland	N	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Part of my primary home	313	62.3%	11.2%	7.3%	5.4%	13.7%
For privacy	307	60.9%	18.2%	12.4%	1.6%	6.8%
To enjoy beauty or scenery	317	60.3%	18.3%	15.5%	3.5%	2.5%
To protect nature and biologic diversity	308	45.5%	22.1%	21.1%	7.5%	3.4%
For hunting or fishing	314	42.0%	13.7%	15.9%	7.3%	21.0%
For wildlife or fish habitat enhancement	308	39.9%	23.4%	21.4%	7.1%	8.1%
For production of firewood for my use	321	38.6%	19.6%	18.4%	10.0%	13.4%
To pass land on to my children or their heirs	310	37.4%	19.0%	21.6%	7.1%	14.8%
For recreation other than hunting or fishing	301	33.2%	20.3%	23.3%	9.6%	13.6%
For land investment	303	29.0%	21.1%	25.1%	10.6%	14.2%
Part of my farm or ranch	273	26.4%	11.4%	13.6%	8.4%	40.3%
For production of saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, or other timber products	303	15.5%	14.2%	25.1%	16.5%	28.7%
Part of my vacation home or camp	256	14.5%	7.0%	13.3%	9.8%	55.5%
For cultivation/collection of non-timber forest products (berries, maple syrup, balsam fir tips)	295	12.9%	10.2%	23.7%	18.6%	34.6%

Source: Question 9, Section 1

Green Certification

To better understand current and future land use, participants were asked whether they had ever heard or read about green certification prior to receiving this questionnaire. Over half (59.3 percent) of respondents had never heard nor read about green certification (Figure 7). Of the 40.7 percent that have heard of green certification, the majority (80.1 percent) do not have any of their land currently green certified (Figure 8). Of the respondents that had not heard nor read about green certification, 50.4 percent are unsure as to whether they would consider it, while another 19.6 percent would consider using green certification (Figure 9). This finding suggests that almost 70 percent of Kennebec County woodland owners are either undecided or interested in green certification. Organizations or groups looking to expand green certification efforts may want to direct their outreach toward these individuals or families.

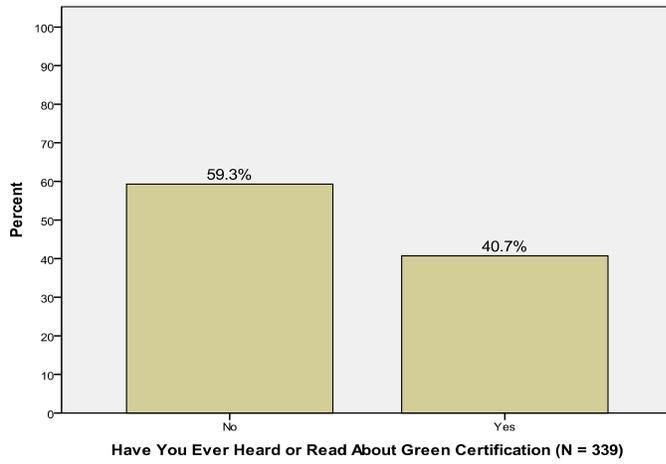


Figure 7: Woodland owners that have/have not heard of green certification

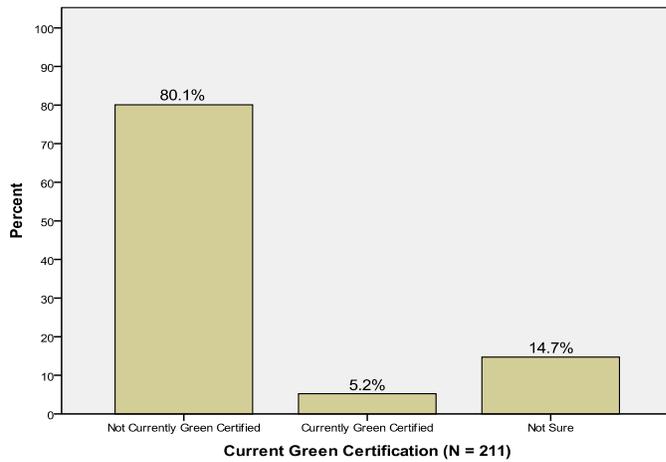


Figure 8: Woodland owners currently green certified

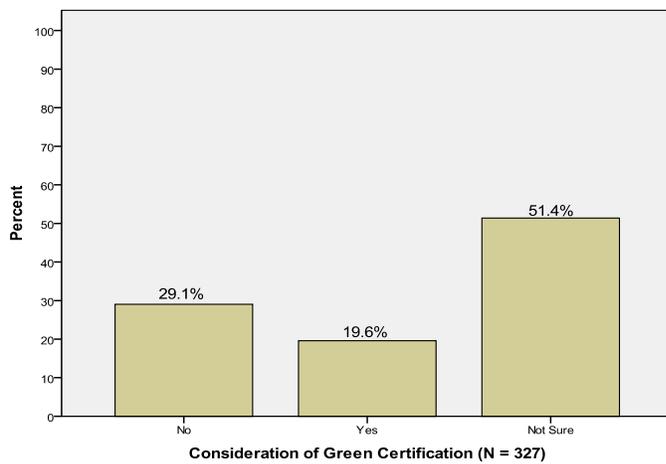


Figure 9: Woodland owners that would/would not consider green certification

Forestry Assistance Programs

Similar to green certification programs, forestry assistance programs are also voluntary. Several forestry assistance programs are available to landowners and provide them with financial assistance which allows them to meet certain forest management goals. However, almost 85 percent of participants have never used forestry assistance programs to help manage their land (Figure 10). When participants were asked whether they would consider using such programs, 35.5 percent said “yes” and an additional 40.1 percent were “not sure” (Figure 11).

Policy makers and state agencies responsible for the administration and implementation of forestry assistance programs should not be deterred by the fairly high number of woodland owners that have never used such programs. Rather, they may choose instead to direct their efforts toward the 35.5 percent of individuals that would consider using these programs or the 40.1 percent that are undecided. Further research is needed to identify what factors would influence these woodland owners to use forestry assistance programs.

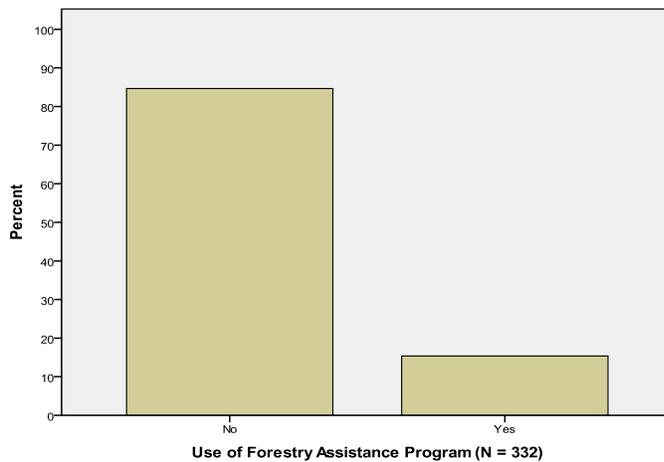


Figure 10: Whether woodland owners have used forestry assistance programs

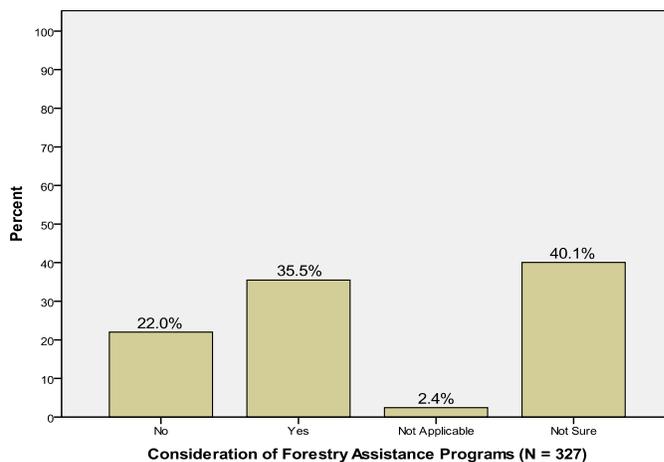


Figure 11: Whether woodland owners would/would not consider using forestry assistance programs

Learning About Your Land

In order to better serve woodland owners it is important to know how they perceive their own knowledge and understanding of forest management as well as which format(s) and source(s) of information they prefer. Approximately 44 percent of respondents either “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” that they know who to contact to get information about their woodland (Table 5). Similarly, over one-third (33.5 percent) of participants “strongly agree” or “agree” they possess all of the knowledge needed to make decisions about their woodland (Table 5). With regard to the ways in which participants prefer to learn about their land, the top three “most preferred” or “preferred” methods include: “Publications, books, or pamphlets” (61.1 percent), “Newsletters” (52.9 percent), and the “Internet/Web” (39.0 percent) (Table 6). The three “least preferred” or “not preferred” methods include: “Radio programs” (41.5 percent), “Conferences, workshops or video” (34.0 percent), and “Visiting or field trips to woodlands” (30.1 percent) (Table 6). These data suggest that woodland owners prefer to learn about their land by reading written information rather than through experiential or “hands on” approaches.

Interestingly, almost 40 percent of respondents are either “not sure” or “somewhat-strongly disagree” that they have all of the knowledge that they need when making land use decisions. Similarly, about one-third of participants are “not sure” or “somewhat-strongly disagree” that they know who to contact to get information regarding their woodland (Table 6). When coupled with findings regarding woodland owners preferred method(s) for learning about their woodland, agencies/organizations may want to re-consider how they are reaching these individuals. One way to accomplish this, is to increase the number of written (i.e. publications, books, pamphlets, newsletters) and electronic (internet/web) resources.

Table 5. Knowledge of forest management decision making and where to obtain information

Level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	N	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not Sure
I know who to contact to get information about my woodland	311	26.4%	18.0%	20.6%	4.5%	8.0%	21.8%
I have all of the knowledge that I need to make decisions about my woodland	313	16.9%	16.6%	27.8%	9.9%	12.8%	16.1%

Source: Question 12, Section 4

Table 6. Way(s) in which woodland owners prefer/do not prefer to learn about their land

Preferred method to learn about woodland	N	Most Preferred	Neither Preferred nor not Preferred	Least Preferred	Not Sure		
Publications, books, or pamphlets	296	31.4%	29.7%	23.0%	1.4%	8.8%	5.7%
Newsletters	299	27.8%	25.1%	26.8%	3.7%	11.7%	5.0%
Internet/Web	290	18.3%	20.7%	27.9%	4.1%	21.8%	7.9%
Visiting or field trips to woodlands	289	17.3%	18.7%	24.2%	8.3%	21.8%	9.7%
Magazines	294	17.0%	22.4%	32.7%	5.4%	16.0%	6.5%
Newspapers	289	13.5%	14.5%	38.1%	6.9%	20.4%	6.6%
Movie for home viewing	290	12.8%	19.3%	31.0%	9.3%	20.7%	6.9%
Television	290	11.0%	16.9%	36.9%	6.9%	19.7%	8.6%
Conferences, workshops or video conferences	286	7.0%	17.1%	30.8%	8.0%	29.0%	8.0%
Radio programs	287	3.8%	10.8%	32.8%	10.8%	30.7%	11.1%

Source: Question 13, Section 4

When asked to list the most important thing(s) that participants would like to learn about in making decisions regarding their woodland, statements were grouped into the following 12 themes: forest management/health, information about existing forestry/wildlife programs, information about trustworthy professionals, financial information, invasive insects/plants and/or diseases, wildlife/wildlife habitat, taxes, laws and land use, privacy, estate planning, development, and land use (Appendix B).

Approximately 25 percent of respondents have a written forest management plan for their woodland, while 73.4 percent do not (Figure 12). Of the nearly 25 percent of individuals that have written forest management plans, almost 40 percent were created over ten years ago (Figure 13). When these individuals were asked if having a forest management plan helped them to better meet their personal goals for their woodland, 45.4 percent “strongly agree” or “agree” that it had (Table 7). A sizeable number of respondents (38.4 percent) were neutral on the question (Table 7).

Of the 73.4 percent of respondents that do not have a management plan (Figure 12), 26.8 percent would consider getting one and an additional 39.7 percent are “Not sure” (Figure 14). When asked what would encourage woodland owners to acquire a written forest management plan, 51.7 percent identified “getting a property tax reduction,” 37.2 percent suggested “finding ways to improve wildlife,” and 31.4 percent indicated “getting professional advice about how to improve my land” (Table 8). “Receiving a recommendation from family or friends” was the least encouraging option amongst respondents (5.6 percent) (Table 8).

Findings suggest that almost 75 percent of woodland owners in Kennebec County do not have forest management plans but more than half (66.5 percent) of these individuals would consider getting one or are undecided. If, for example, a goal of the Maine Forest Service was to increase the number of written forest management plans they may want to target outreach to the undecided individuals and to promote the Tree Growth “current use” property tax program or advertise ways that forest management plans can help improve wildlife habitat.

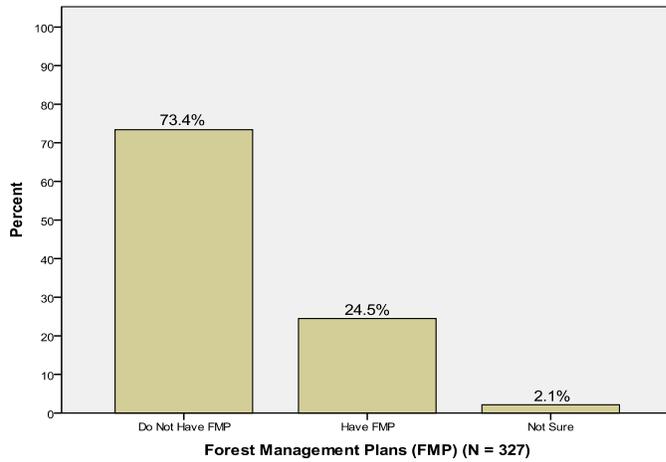


Figure 12: Woodland owners that currently have forest management plans

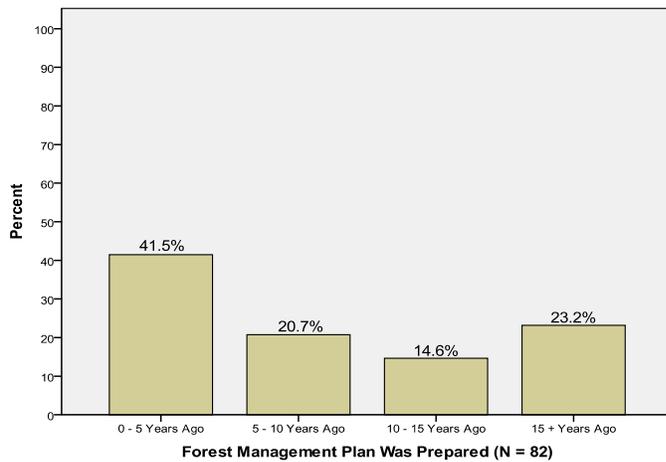


Figure 13: Number of years ago forest management plan was created

Table 7. Management plans and accomplishment of woodland owner goal(s)

Level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not Sure
I have been able to better meet my personal goals for my woodland because of my written forest management plan	14.0%	31.4%	38.4%	5.8%	7.0%	3.5%

Source: Question 12, Section 4

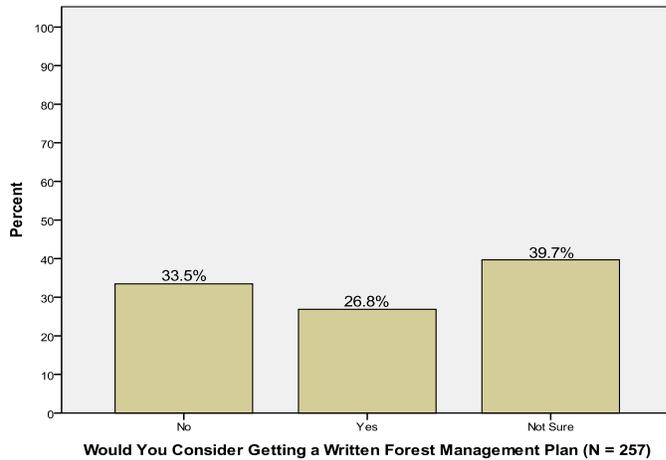


Figure 14: Consideration of written forest management plan

Table 8. What would encourage you to get a written forest management plan

Things that would encourage woodland owner to get a written forest management plan	N	Yes
To get a property tax reduction	288	51.7%
To find ways to improve wildlife habitat	288	37.2%
To get professional advice about how to improve my land	287	31.4%
To get information that will help reduce future income taxes	288	29.9%
To get a financial incentive or reimbursement for the plan cost	288	28.5%
To get an estimate of the value of my timber	288	24.7%
To meet a desire to learn more about my land	288	18.8%
To help with setting and achieving goals for my land	288	18.8%
To become green certified	288	12.8%
A recommendation from another woodland owner	288	8.0%
A recommendation from family or friends	288	5.6%

Source: Question 15d, Section 4

The last question within this section asked woodland owners which source (i.e. who) they prefer/do not prefer to get information from regarding their forest land. When the response categories “most preferred” or “preferred” are combined, the top three sources identified were, “Maine Forest Service (67.6 percent), “Forester or other natural resource professional” (67.3 percent), and “Cooperative Extension professional” (45.5 percent) (Table 9). The three least preferred sources were “Neighbors” (49.3 percent), “Logging contractor” (43.2 percent), and “Family members” (39.6 percent) (Table 9).

It is clear from these findings that woodland owners trust the information that the Maine Forest Service, university, or other forestry professionals provide versus personal contacts (e.g. friends, family, neighbors) or logging contractors, for example. Based on these data, agencies/organizations may want to consider who is best suited to conduct outreach when attempting to contact or build a relationship with Kennebec County woodland owners.

Table 9. Preferred source for woodland owners to receive information about their land

Source	N	Most Preferred	Neither Preferred nor not Preferred	Least Preferred	Not Sure		
Forester or other natural resource professional	293	42.7%	24.6%	19.8%	3.4%	6.1%	3.4%
Maine Forest Service	293	33.1%	34.5%	20.8%	4.1%	5.1%	2.4%
Cooperative Extension professional	281	14.9%	30.6%	27.8%	5.0%	14.6%	7.1%
Other landowners	279	13.6%	22.9%	36.6%	6.1%	15.8%	5.0%
Environmental/Conservation organizations	283	12.0%	22.3%	31.8%	6.7%	21.2%	6.0%
Private consultants (e.g. wildlife biologist)	289	11.8%	24.9%	31.5%	9.7%	17.0%	5.2%
Federal agency (e.g. Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District)	280	9.3%	21.4%	29.6%	8.6%	25.7%	5.4%
Logging contractor	282	7.1%	16.3%	27.7%	9.2%	34.0%	5.7%
Family members	275	6.5%	16.4%	32.4%	9.1%	30.5%	5.1%
Employee of a non-profit organizations	281	5.3%	10.3%	42.3%	13.2%	20.6%	8.2%
Talking with Friends	279	4.7%	20.1%	38.0%	9.3%	20.8%	7.2%
Other state employee	278	3.2%	5.8%	41.4%	12.9%	25.5%	11.2%
Neighbors	274	2.9%	12.0%	28.1%	12.8%	36.5%	7.7%

Source: Question 16, section 4

Future Options for Your Land

Understanding how future heirs will use/manage woodland once they become the primary owner(s), has long-term implications on the structure and function of forest resources. Topics that address this concept include: owner preference for future land use, steps taken to address intergenerational transfer, estate taxes, legal written documents, and conservation easements. Nearly 57 percent of respondents supported the notion that they would like their future heirs to “Keep the land the same as I have” rather than using “the land however they wish” (43.8 percent) (Figure 15). When asked what actions participants have taken to share their wishes for their land after they pass, 72.3 percent have not spoken to their heirs about this topic and 98.8 percent have not written to their heirs about their wishes nor set up a conservation easement on their woodland (Table 10). However, 48.2 percent of respondents have already created a will, giving their land to their heirs (Table 10).

Although it is encouraging that almost half of participants have already created a will that gives their woodland to heirs, 26.2 percent have done “None of the above.” The implications of not addressing intergenerational land transfer are paramount and involve the potential loss of thousands of acres of forest land.

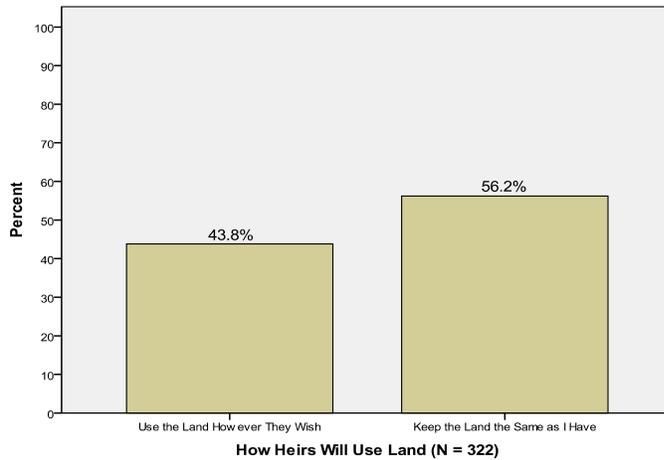


Figure 15: Woodland owner preference for future heir's land use

Table 10. Actions taken to share their wishes with future heirs

Actions taken to share wishes for land use with heirs	N	Yes
Created a will that gives my land to my heirs	332	48.2%
Spoken to my heirs about my wishes for my land	332	27.7%
None of the above	332	26.2%
Created a living trust that gives my land to my heirs	331	7.3%
Created a written forest management or stewardship plan	332	4.2%
Started to gift or give portions of my land to my heirs while I'm still living	330	3.6%
Created an estate plan that gives my land to my heirs	332	3.0%
Written to my heirs about my wishes for my land	332	1.2%
Set up a conservation easement on my land	332	1.2%

Source: Question 18, section 5

Based on participants' current legal arrangements, approximately 65 percent of all respondents indicated that the average number of people that will eventually inherit woodland in Kennebec County is 2.21, or 2 people (Figure 16). Another 30.3 percent of woodland owners indicated that between three and four people will inherit their land (Figure 16). Approximately 17 percent of respondents are "not sure" as to how many people will inherit their woodland(s). Participants were also asked how likely/unlikely they felt their future heirs would behave once they inherited the woodland. About 43 percent felt that it were either "likely" or "very likely" their heirs would "Harvest timber," while 42.0 percent would "Preserve for nature" (Table 11). Another 33.8 percent of respondents thought that it were either "likely" or "very likely" that their future heirs would "Do nothing." (Figure 11). Nearly half (50.6 percent) of participants felt that it were "very unlikely" their heirs would "Subdivide" the property while another 30.8 percent suggested that it were "very unlikely" their heirs would "Get a conservation easement" (Table 11).

The fact that half of respondents felt that future heirs would not subdivide their woodland should not be interpreted as a guarantee that this will not occur. Almost 99 percent of woodland owners

have not formally written up their wishes in the form of a will or legal written document nor have they established a conservation easement on their woodland. If land trusts, conservation organizations, or forest industry stakeholders are interested in conserving forest land or keeping forest land in production, it is important that they further investigate concepts of estate planning and intergenerational land transfer in more detail.

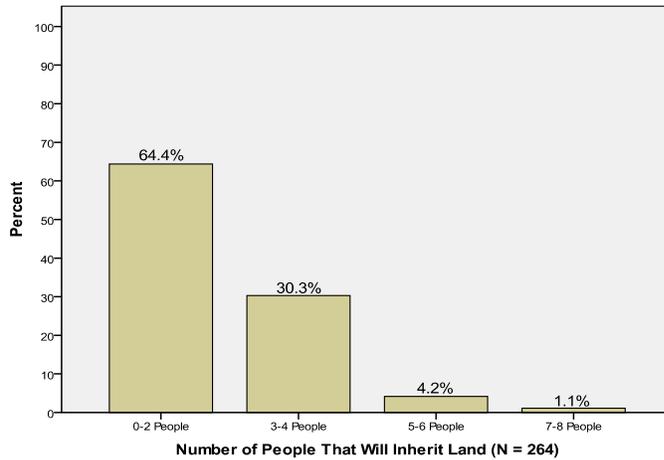


Figure 16: Number of people that will inherit woodland

Table 11. Likelihood of future heirs actions

Likelihood that heirs will take the following actions	N	Very Likely	Neither Likely nor Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Not Sure		
Do nothing	269	23.4%	10.4%	25.7%	1.5%	24.2%	14.9%
Harvest timber	270	22.2%	20.4%	23.7%	3.3%	16.3%	14.1%
Preserve for nature	274	20.8%	21.2%	23.4%	5.5%	13.1%	16.1%
Enhance wildlife habitat	273	20.1%	20.5%	27.8%	6.2%	11.7%	13.6%
Seek advice from a forester	267	15.4%	15.0%	28.5%	4.9%	18.4%	18.0%
Build a house	268	13.1%	17.2%	23.5%	3.7%	25.7%	16.8%
Subdivide	263	4.6%	4.6%	18.3%	6.1%	50.6%	16.0%
Get a conservation easement	253	3.6%	5.1%	27.3%	8.7%	30.8%	24.5%

Source: Question 20, section 5

Participants were also asked how concerned they are about estate taxes. The highest percentage of respondents indicated they were “extremely concerned” about estate taxes (24.2 percent), another 22.6 percent were only “somewhat concerned” and 17.3 percent were “not at all concerned” (Figure 17).

For those individuals and/or families that have a legal written document, 63.3 percent felt that they did not need to update their wishes about who will inherit their land “because the current heirs are accurate” (Figure 18). Of those respondents that do not currently have a legal written

document, 34.8 percent either “strongly agree” or “agree” with the statement, “I will get a will when I am older” (Table 12). Approximately 32 percent of participants “strongly agree” or “agree” that they “will get a will if I get sick”, while another 18.3 percent indicated that “I don’t want to think about getting a will” (Table 12). The majority of participants (70.5 percent) “strongly disagree” with the statement, “I don’t want a will”, while another 68.9 percent “strongly disagree” that “There is disagreement in my family about who will inherit my land” (Table).

It is clear from these data that over one-third of respondents plan on dealing with the concept of estate planning at a later date (i.e. when they get older, when they become ill). This procrastination may be caused by a variety of factors. One factor may be due to the fact that woodland owners do not enjoy or are not comfortable discussing their own death. Further research is needed to investigate the way(s) that resource professionals may be able to better address woodland owner needs and concerns about estate planning.

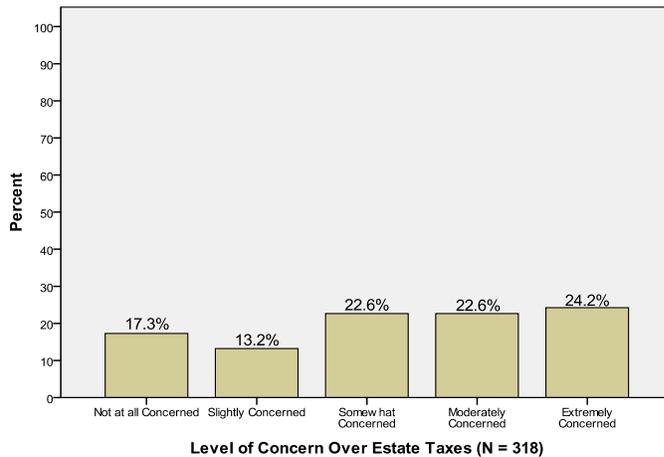


Figure 17: Concern over estate taxes

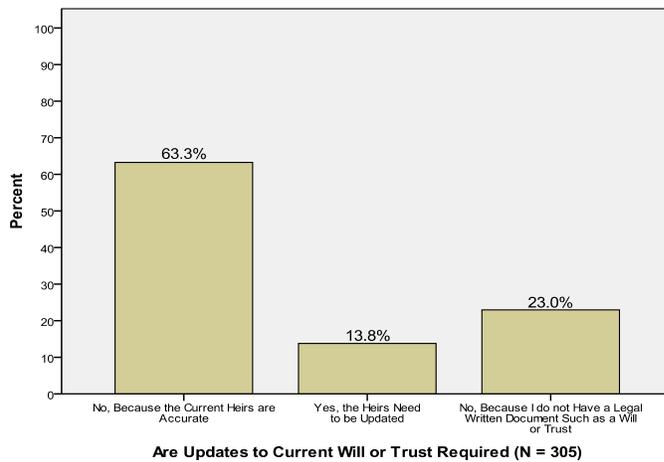


Figure 18: Whether wills need to be updated to reflect woodland owner wishes

Table 12. Owners without wills level of agreement/disagreement with various statements

Level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements about wills	N	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
I will get a will if I get sick	91	19.8%	12.1%	24.2%	5.5%	31.9%	6.6%
I will get a will when I am older	92	15.2%	19.6%	23.9%	4.3%	31.5%	5.4%
I don't want to think about getting a will	93	14.0%	4.3%	25.8%	7.5%	44.1%	4.3%
I don't have the money to pay for a will	93	12.9%	4.3%	26.9%	6.5%	44.1%	4.3%
I am not sure who I want to inherit my land	95	11.6%	9.5%	15.8%	8.4%	46.3%	8.4%
How to get a will is confusing to me	90	10.0%	5.6%	23.3%	5.6%	52.2%	3.3%
I don't know where to get a will	89	5.6%	5.6%	19.1%	4.5%	61.8%	3.4%
There is disagreement in my family about who will inherit my land	90	3.3%	2.2%	10.0%	6.7%	68.9%	8.9%
I don't have the time to get a will	91	2.2%	11.0%	38.5%	4.4%	39.6%	4.4%
I don't want a will	95	2.1%	0.0%	14.7%	5.3%	70.5%	7.4%
I don't have enough assets to need a will	93	1.1%	4.3%	17.2%	4.3%	64.5%	8.6%

Source: Question 23, section 5

Almost 92 percent of woodland owners do not currently have a conservation easement on any forest land that they own (Figure 19). Of the 91.5 percent that do not have a conservation easement, 17.9 percent would consider getting a conservation easement and 32.9 percent are “not sure” (Figure 20).

These data suggest that almost 51 percent of woodland owners would either consider or are unsure whether they would consider getting a conservation easement. While it may be useful for conservation organizations and land trusts to target the 17.9 percent of woodland owners that have already indicated that they would consider getting a conservation easement, approximately 33 percent of respondents are unsure. The 32.9 percent of woodland owners represent a large sub-group that may be willing to consider such a land use option. Given previous findings from this report, conservation organizations may be able to reach these individuals by using a preferred method of communication (e.g. newsletters), which is delivered by a preferred source (e.g. forestry professional), for example. Although further information is needed regarding the type(s) of information these woodland owners require, these data highlight an opportunity for various groups/organizations interested in conservation easements.

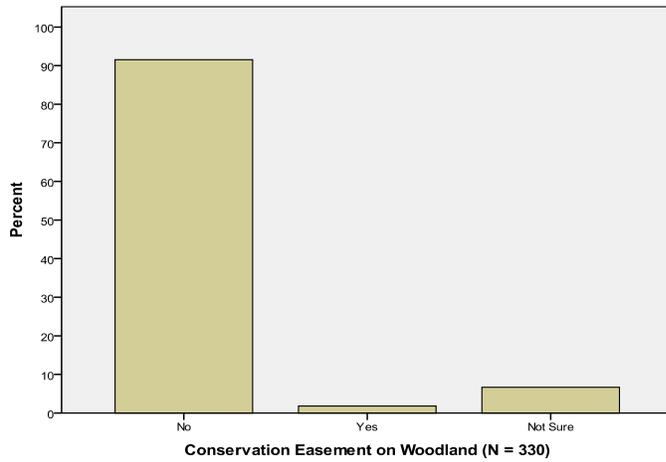


Figure 19: Woodland owners with/without forest land in conservation easement

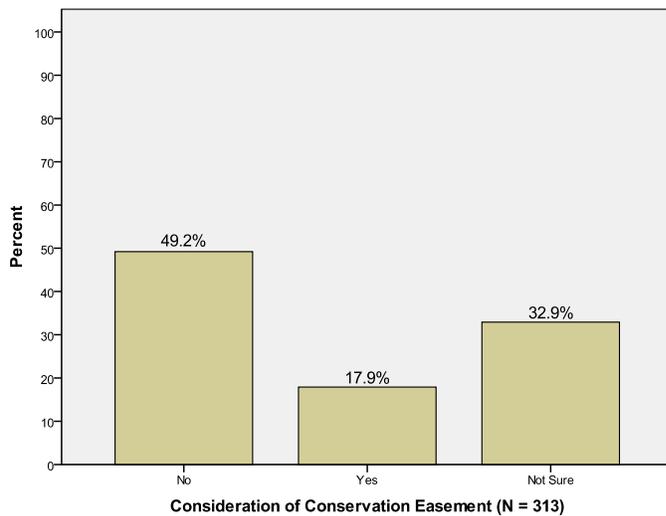


Figure 20: Consideration of getting conservation easement

Timber Harvesting on Your Land

Over half (51.2 percent) of respondents have commercially harvested trees since owning their woodland (Figure 21) and 75.4 percent of these individuals/families were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the harvest (Figure 22). Furthermore, 60.0 percent answered “yes” when asked if they would conduct another harvest in the future (Figure 23). An additional 22.4 percent responded “not sure” to the same question (Figure 23).

Of the 48.2 percent of respondents that have never conducted a commercial harvest on their woodland (Figure 21), 38.2 percent would consider conducting a commercial harvest (Figure 24).

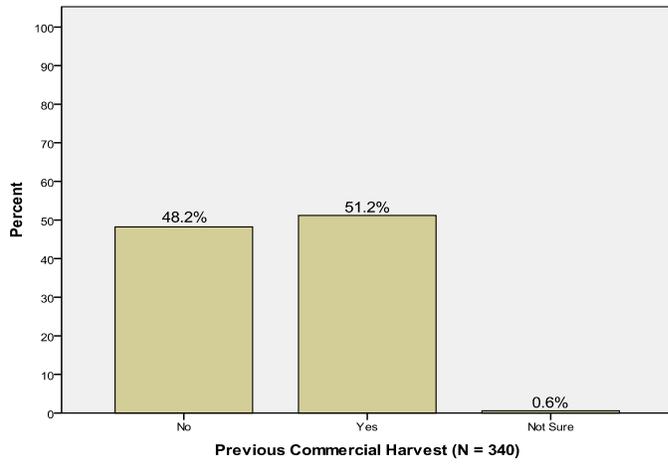


Figure 21: Woodland owners that have previously conducted commercial timber harvest

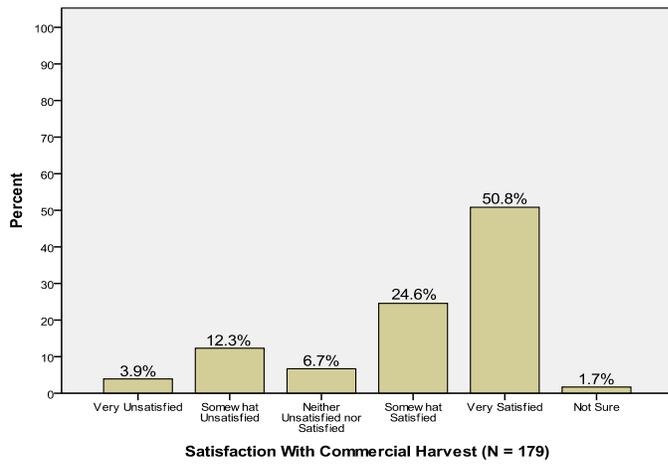


Figure 22: Level of woodland owner satisfaction after commercial timber harvest

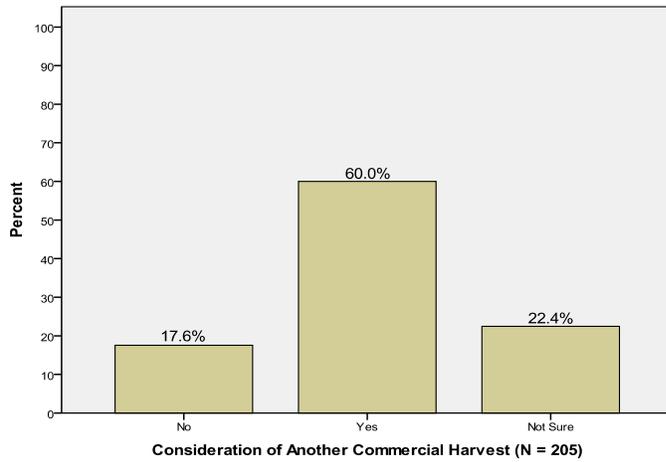


Figure 23: Whether woodland owners would consider conducting another commercial harvest

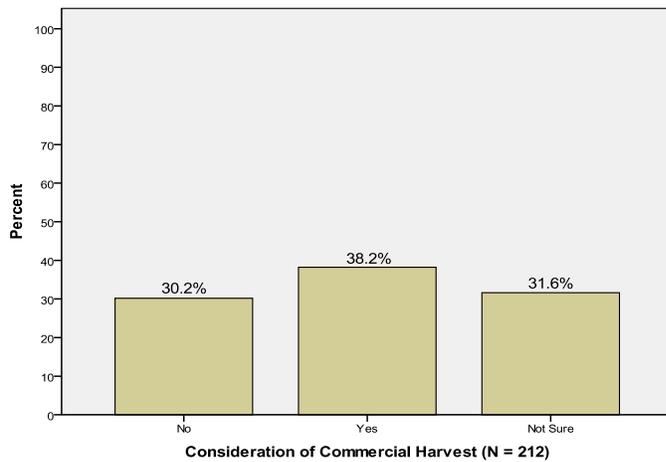


Figure 24: If you have never conducted a commercial harvest, would you consider it

These results indicate that over half of respondents have conducted a commercial timber harvest and the majority were satisfied with the outcome. While these data are encouraging to forest industry and resource professionals that encourage timber harvesting activities, more research is needed to determine what constitutes “satisfaction” for these woodland owners. It is also important to note that over 16 percent were either “somewhat unsatisfied” or “very unsatisfied” with the outcome and over 17 percent would not consider another commercial harvest in the future. In order to better understand why these woodland owners had such negative experiences, future research and outreach efforts may want to explore the similarities and/or differences that these individuals may have experienced.

Stewardship

Within this section the notion of stewardship, caring for land, is examined. To assess the opinions of woodland owners regarding stewardship, participants were asked whether they felt a responsibility to several entities when using their land. Participants indicated that they either “strongly agree” or “agree” that they have a responsibility to consider their own needs (90.6 percent) as well as attributes of the biotic community such as “Plants” (65.4 percent), “Animals” (79.6 percent), and “The land” (75.7 percent) (Table 13). Other than “Future generations”, most of the higher order social categories received relatively low ratings on this scale. For example, 39.6 percent of participants feel a responsibility to their “Neighbors”, 29.5 percent feel a responsibility to “Society”, and 24.7 percent indicated a responsibility to their “Community members” (Table 13).

Table 13. Level of agreement/disagreement with having a responsibility to various entities

Responsibility to the following when using woodland	N	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
My needs	319	79.0%	11.6%	6.0%	0.3%	0.6%	2.5%
Animals	324	49.4%	30.2%	13.6%	1.9%	2.8%	2.2%
The land (e.g. soil, water resources)	313	48.2%	27.5%	16.9%	2.2%	2.6%	2.6%
Future generations	316	44.0%	28.2%	19.6%	1.9%	3.5%	2.8%
Family members	321	38.9%	29.9%	19.0%	2.8%	6.9%	2.5%
Plants	312	36.2%	29.2%	22.8%	4.5%	4.5%	2.9%
Neighbors	308	12.3%	27.3%	32.8%	7.5%	17.5%	2.6%
Society	305	9.5%	20.0%	35.4%	11.5%	19.3%	4.3%
Community members	308	6.5%	18.2%	38.0%	12.7%	21.1%	3.6%

Source: Question 27, section 7

Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement/disagreement with various statements indicative of factors that comprise their stewardship ethic. Similar to responses from the previous question, woodland owners either “strongly agree” or “agree” with many of the statements involving actions that benefit the biotic community, themselves, the land, or wildlife. About 89 percent of respondents, for example, “strongly agree” or “agree” with the statement, “Animals have a value in and of themselves” (Table 14). Additionally, 91.7 percent of respondents indicated that they either “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement “Activities that may damage water resources should be avoided” (Table 14).

Statements involving concepts of community and access involve a reciprocal relationship. Approximately thirty percent of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” with the statement, “I do not feel obligated to use my woodland in ways that benefit my community” (Table 14). Another 54.8 percent of participants “strongly disagree” with the statement, “I have a duty to grant access to my woodland” (Table 15). However, 91.3 percent “strongly agree” or “agree” that “Members of society have a responsibility to not damage or harm my woodland” (Table 13).

Table 14. Statements related to woodland owner stewardship ethics

Level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	N	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Activities that may damage water resources should be avoided	325	74.2%	17.5%	6.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Members of society have a responsibility to not damage or harm my woodland	323	74.0%	17.3%	6.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%
Animals have a value in and of themselves	312	67.9%	20.8%	9.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%
Keeping my woodland intact is a good thing to do	323	62.5%	25.4%	10.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Good use of my woodland includes cutting firewood	326	60.7%	22.7%	14.1%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Plants have a value in and of themselves	312	55.4%	28.2%	11.2%	1.3%	1.9%	1.9%
I have the right to use my woodland however I choose	322	52.5%	21.1%	17.4%	3.1%	5.3%	0.6%
Moral consideration should be extended to plants and animals	320	39.7%	24.4%	25.0%	3.4%	6.6%	0.9%
The actions I take on my woodland tend to benefit living (e.g. plants/animals) and non-living (soil, water resources) things more than humans	318	38.7%	24.8%	26.1%	3.5%	5.7%	1.3%
If I knew that my actions on my woodland would negatively affect my neighbors, I would be less likely to act in this way	316	34.8%	30.4%	25.6%	2.2%	5.7%	1.3%
I do not feel obligated to use my woodland in ways that benefit my community	309	17.5%	12.3%	42.1%	10.0%	15.5%	2.6%
Increased development around my woodland is changing the way I manage my land	314	11.1%	10.2%	36.6%	10.8%	28.7%	2.5%
My management of my woodland is influenced by my neighbors management of their woodland(s)	315	7.0%	10.2%	37.8%	9.5%	33.3%	2.2%

Source: Question 28, section 7

Table 15. Additional statements related to woodland owner stewardship ethics

Level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements	N	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not sure
When using my woodland I try not to cause soil erosion	315	69.8%	22.5%	6.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%
I try not to act in ways that will harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	317	69.7%	25.2%	2.8%	1.3%	0.9%	0.0%
The actions I take on my woodland tend to benefit other living things (e.g. plants, animals) more than humans	307	41.0%	19.5%	30.3%	3.9%	3.3%	2.0%
Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature	305	13.1%	11.1%	30.5%	6.9%	37.7%	0.7%
I would be less likely to develop my woodland if my community did not want me to	309	12.0%	10.4%	39.2%	10.4%	25.6%	2.6%
Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs	308	8.1%	10.4%	31.8%	12.3%	34.7%	2.6%
I have a duty to grant access to my woodland	310	7.1%	7.7%	19.4%	9.0%	54.8%	1.9%
Non-living parts of my woodland (e.g. soil, water resources) do not have value in and of themselves	310	2.9%	3.2%	12.3%	8.4%	71.6%	1.6%

Source: Question 29, section 7

Findings within the stewardship section of this survey indicate an overall land ethic in tune with personal/familial needs and the needs of the biotic community (e.g. the land, plants, animals). Interestingly, few respondents indicated a responsibility to their neighbors, their community, or the broader society. These data have far reaching implications for effective methods of outreach. For example, talking with friends and neighbors are not considered trusted sources of information exchange. This might suggest that peer-to-peer networks based solely around woodland owners may be less effective modes of communication and outreach. This does not imply that landowner associations and partnerships would not be effective, just that such associations should involve resource professionals and/or Maine Forest Service employees to strengthen the message and maintain the relationship.

Landscape Change

In order to assess how likely woodland owners are to develop their parcel(s), question number 30 examined three components of behavioral intentions (i.e. attitudes, behavioral controls, and subjective norms).

Two 5-point Likert scales were used to assess woodland owner attitudes toward developing their forest land (i.e. extremely good – extremely bad; extremely pleasant – extremely unpleasant). Overall, participants indicated that developing their woodland would be either “bad” or “extremely bad” (45.7 percent) and either “unpleasant” or “extremely unpleasant” (85.8 percent) (Table 16). It is important to note that over one-third of respondents (34.1 percent) felt that developing their land would be “neither good nor bad” and 30.9 percent felt that it would be “neither pleasant nor unpleasant” as well.

Table 16. Woodland owner attitudes toward developing their woodland

	N	Extremely Good		Neither Good nor Bad		Extremely Bad	Not Sure
For me, developing my woodland would be	317	7.6%	4.4%	34.1%	10.4%	35.3%	8.2%
		Extremely Pleasant		Neither Pleasant nor Unpleasant		Extremely Unpleasant	
For me, developing my woodland would be	317	6.0%	5.7%	30.9%	7.6%	42.9%	6.9%

Source: Question 30, section 8

To gauge the level of control that respondents have over whether or not their land is developed (i.e. behavioral control), questions were asked about their ability to develop and how easy/difficult with which developing it would be. Approximately 29 percent of participants rated their ability to develop their woodland as “extremely low” yet 18.2 percent felt their ability to develop somewhere between “extremely high” and “high” (Table 17). Similarly, 29.7 percent feel as though developing their woodland would be “extremely difficult” and only 10.7 percent felt it would be “extremely easy” to “easy” (Table 17).

Table 17. Woodland owner perception of control over developing their woodland

	N	Extremely High		Neither High nor Low		Extremely Low	Not Sure
My ability to develop my woodland is	317	9.1%	9.1%	39.7%	6.3%	28.7%	6.9%
		Extremely Easy		Neither Easy nor Difficult		Extremely Difficult	
For me, developing my woodland would be	310	4.2%	6.5%	37.7%	11.3%	29.7%	10.6%

Source: Question 30, section 8

To examine the influence that other individuals may have on their intention to develop their woodland (i.e. subjective norms), participants were asked to rate whether the following statement was true/false: “The people closest to me think that I should develop my woodland.” About half (47.6 percent) of respondents felt this statement was “extremely false” (Table 18). Asked a different way, (i.e. “If I were to develop my woodland, most people who are important to me would”) 18.3 percent of participants “approve” or “somewhat approve” with the statement (Table 18). Almost 39 percent of respondents “neither approve nor “disapprove” with the same statement (Table 18).

Table 18. Influence of other people on woodland owners behavior

	N	Completely True		Neither True nor False		Extremely False	Not Sure
The people closest to me think that I should develop my woodland	317	0.9%	4.1%	30.3%	5.0%	47.6%	12.0%
		Approve		Neither Approve nor Dissapprove		Disapprove	
If I were to develop my woodland, most people who are important to me would	316	10.4%	7.9%	38.3%	5.1%	27.2%	10.4%

Source: Question 30, section 8

Overall, findings suggest that the majority of woodland owners feel that developing their woodland would not be beneficial and fairly difficult to do. While the majority of woodland owners indicated that the people closest to them do not think that they should develop their parcel(s), 18.3 percent stated that if they were to develop, the people closest to them would either “approve” or “somewhat approve.” While findings may imply a relatively low desire to develop woodland it is important to note that over one-third of respondents held neutral attitudes, behavioral controls, and subjective norms with regard to development.

Attitudes toward a given behavior, such as development for example, can be further broken down by woodland owner beliefs regarding the likelihood and desirability of outcomes related to the behavior. To examine this concept, woodland owner attitudes toward three potential outcomes (e.g. harm to wildlife, providing for myself/family, and increased soil erosion), two 5-point Likert scales were used. Based on previous responses regarding the importance of, and interest in, protecting wildlife, these questions found a similar viewpoint. Almost 49 percent of respondents indicated that harming wildlife due to developing their woodland would be “extremely undesirable” (Table 19) and about the same percentage of respondents felt as if this outcome is “extremely likely” (Table 20). Another statement asked respondents about increasing soil erosion caused by developing their woodland. While 46.3 percent of participants found this outcome to be “extremely undesirable” (Table 19), about 19 percent indicated that this was “extremely unlikely” (Table).

These findings highlight the often different associations that woodland owners hold in regard to outcomes caused by a given behavior. Although almost half of respondents felt that soil erosion would be undesirable, almost 20 percent do not feel like this outcome is very likely.

To assess the behavioral intentions of woodland owners, they were asked how likely/unlikely it is that they would develop their property in the next 5 years. About 68 percent of respondents indicated that this was “extremely unlikely” yet 8.3 percent indicated that it was either “somewhat likely” or “extremely likely” (Table 20).

Although only 8.3 percent of participants identified a likelihood of developing their woodland, it is important to know where this woodland is located and how many acres are involved. Future surveys can be used to examine these phenomena.

Table 19. How desirable are outcomes associated with development

	N	Extremely Desirable	Neither Desirable nor Undesirable	Extremely Undesirable	Not Sure		
Developing my woodland would harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	300	6.7%	2.3%	21.0%	11.0%	48.3%	10.7%
Developing my woodland would allow me to provide for myself/my family	301	11.6%	14.0%	38.9%	6.6%	16.6%	12.3%
Developing my woodland would cause soil erosion	296	2.7%	3.4%	21.3%	7.4%	46.3%	18.9%

Source: Question 30, section 8

Table 20. Likelihood of outcomes due to development

	N	Extremely Likely	Neither Likely nor Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely	Not Sure		
Developing my woodland would harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	311	48.9%	13.8%	17.4%	5.5%	10.0%	4.5%
Developing my woodland would allow me to provide for myself/my family	308	14.9%	15.9%	35.1%	6.2%	22.4%	5.5%
Developing my woodland would cause soil erosion	302	26.2%	13.9%	25.5%	3.3%	18.5%	12.6%
For me, developing my woodland in the next 5 years would be	310	3.5%	4.8%	16.8%	4.8%	67.4%	2.6%

Source: Question 30, section 8

Questions About You

Socio-demographic characteristics were identified by asking questions about: age, level of highest formal education, current employment situation, and gender.

The average age of participants was 60.5 years old and 68.2 percent of respondents are between the age of 51 and 75 (Figure 25). Nearly 25 percent of all respondents have no formal education beyond a high school degree or GED, and 16.0 percent have either “Some college” or “Technical/Community college” (Figure 26). Together, 39.8 percent of respondents have a “Bachelor’s degree”, attended “Some graduate school”, or completed a “Graduate degree” (Figure 26).

Overall, the majority of participants are either “Working full-time” (46.3 percent) or are “Retired” (41.6 percent) (Figure 27). Respondents were also able to write in “Other” employment options (5.0 percent). Of these individuals, three suggested that they are working part time while another three stated that they were self employed.

Approximately 81percent of respondents were male while 19.4 percent were female (Figure 28). Woodland owners were also asked if they would be willing to participate in another survey in the next 6-9 months and if they would like a copy of the results from this survey. Almost 68 percent of respondents said that they would be willing to participate in another survey (Figure 29) and

74.1 percent of woodland owners are interested in receiving the results of this survey (Figure 30).

When asked what the most important issues, challenges, or concerns they face as woodland owners, statements fell into one of 8 major categories including such topics as: damage and access, development, laws, regulations, and property rights, taxes, invasive insects/plants, wildlife/habitat, education/information, and the government/"big brother" (Appendix C). To further understand what topic(s) may be important to woodland owners, participants were encouraged to write in additional comments. Statements varied considerably but topics that emerged frequently, included: general information about landowner characteristics, property taxes and costs associated with management, invasive species, subdivision, complaints about the government, poor practitioners/professionals, wildlife/habitat, and issues dealing with recreationists and trespassers (Appendix D).

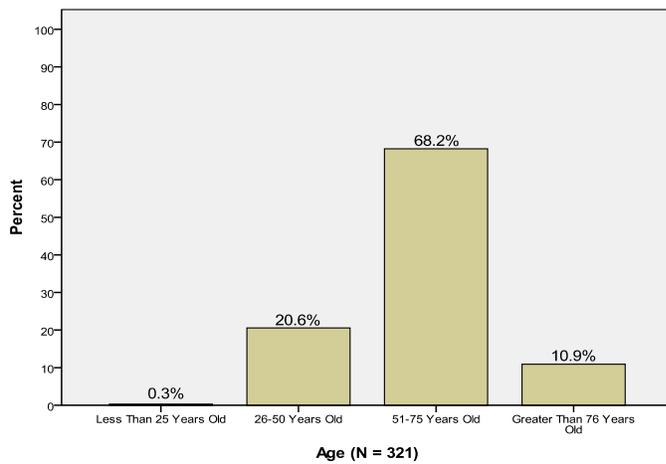


Figure 25: Age of respondents

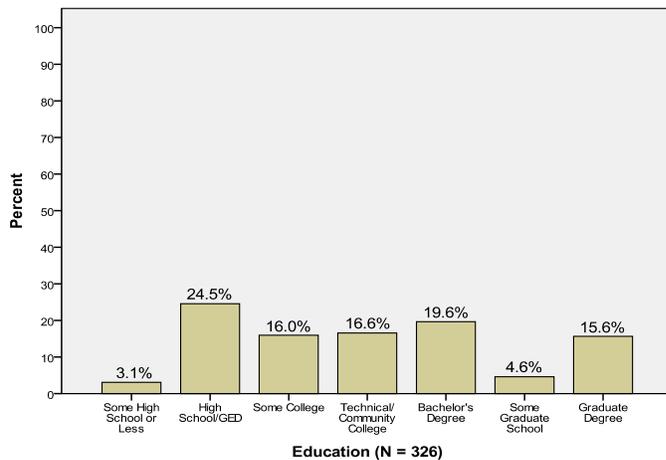


Figure 26: Highest level of formal education

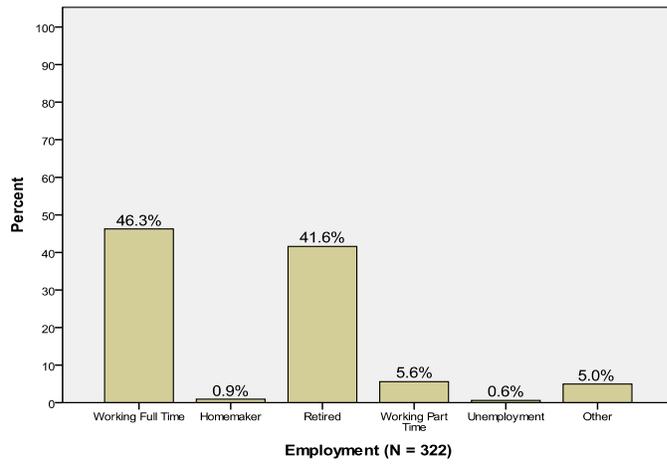


Figure 27: Current employment situation

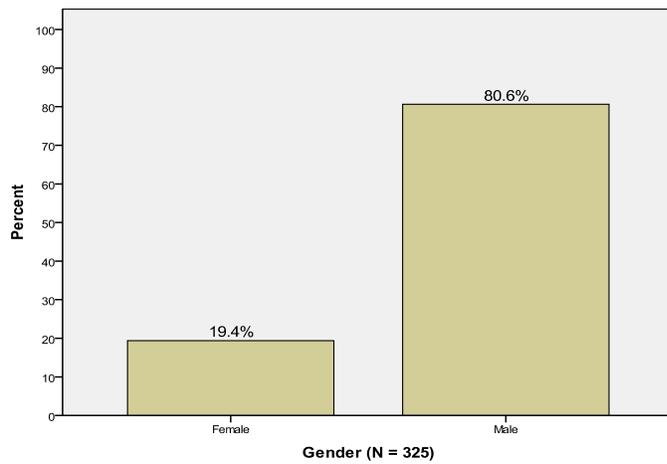


Figure 28: Gender

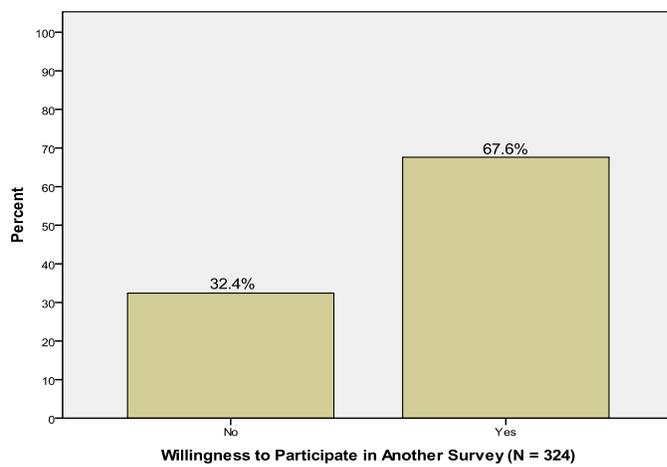


Figure 29: Willingness to participate in another survey in next 6-9 months

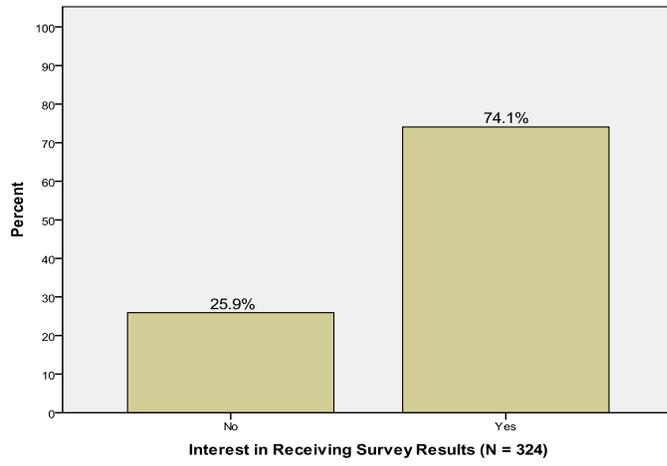


Figure 30: Interest in receiving a copy of results from this survey

Summary

- Previous land use decisions rarely involve giving away or selling land (89.5 percent have never given away woodland and 80.2 percent have never sold woodland).
- The top three reasons why woodland owners own forest land in Kennebec County include: (1) Part of my primary home, (2) To enjoy beauty or scenery, and (3) Privacy. When compared with NWOS data across Maine, “Part of my primary home” is left off of the NWOS and “To protect nature and biologic diversity” is left off of the Kennebec County list (it ranks third on the NWOS).
- Approximately 85 percent of participants have never used a forestry assistance program but 35.5 percent would consider it and another 40.1 percent are undecided. This finding suggests that there is plenty of room for improvement with regard to enrolling woodland owners in these programs. The interest in such programs exists but the information is not reaching Kennebec County woodland owners.
- The top three most preferred methods to learn about woodlands are: “Publications, books, or pamphlets” (31.4 percent), “Newsletters” (27.8 percent), and the “Internet/Web” (18.3 percent). These data are useful for all Kennebec Woodland Partners as they highlight the most useful way(s) to contact/reach woodland owners. Furthermore, the third most preferred method identified (i.e. Internet/Web) runs counter to what most resource professionals think of when envisioning how to target woodland owners.
- Almost 75 percent of respondents do not have a written forest management plan but approximately 27 percent of these individuals would consider getting one and an additional 40 percent are “not sure.” For agencies/organizations interested in increasing the overall number of written management plans, they may want to target the 40 percent of woodland owners that are undecided.
- Of the nearly 27 percent of woodland owners that would consider getting a written forest management plan, over 50 percent would consider getting one if they were able to get a property tax reduction and over 37 percent would consider it if they were able to improve wildlife habitat. This finding, coupled with a general interest in wildlife/wildlife habitat (e.g. findings from all open ended questions and stewardship section), provides resource professionals and policy makers with additional insight into what woodland owners value.
- Two trusted sources that woodland owners prefer to receive information from are (1) “Maine Forest Service,” (2) “Forester or other natural resource professional,” and (3) “Cooperative Extension professional.” Understanding who woodland owners trust when receiving information is vital information for all Kennebec Woodland Partners interested in engaging with woodland owners.
- “Neighbors” were identified as the least preferred source to obtain information from (37.5 percent). These findings suggest that outreach efforts utilizing local, peer-to-peer networks may be less effective unless other, more trusted sources are also part of the network (e.g. Maine Forest Service).

- About 43 percent of respondents indicated they would like their heirs to use their land however they choose and over 43 percent indicated that it was “likely” to “very likely” that their heirs would “Harvest timber (43.2 percent), “Enhance wildlife habitat” (41.2 percent), and “Preserve for nature” (42.0 percent). The three actions identified above span a wide array of activities and have implications for various Kennebec Woodland Partners.
- Over 46 percent of participants were moderately to extremely concerned about estate taxes yet only 23.0 percent have created a will or legal written document. Approximately 35 percent of woodland owners “agree” to “strongly agree” with the statement, “I will get a will when I am older.”
- Over half (51.2 percent) of woodland owners have conducted a commercial harvest. While the majority of woodland owners were satisfied with the harvest, approximately 16 percent of these individuals were “somewhat unsatisfied” to “very unsatisfied.” More information is needed to better understand what constitutes “satisfaction” and why almost 20 percent of these individuals were unsatisfied with the commercial harvest.
- The majority of respondents felt a responsibility to consider their own needs (90.6 percent) and the needs of both plant (65.4 percent) and animal species (79.6 percent) when using/managing their woodland. This suggests that woodland owners do not necessarily consider higher order social structures as part of their own definitions of stewardship. This notion is further supported by the fact that only 29.8 percent of respondents “strongly agree” to “agree” with the statement: “I do not feel obligated to use my woodland in ways that benefit my community.”
- Approximately 42 percent of participants “strongly agree” that their actions benefit plants and animals more than humans.
- Overall, respondents expressed an unfavorable attitude toward developing their woodland and almost 68 percent indicated that developing their woodland in the next five years is “extremely unlikely.”
- Interestingly, 8.3 percent of participants said that developing their woodland in the next five years would be “extremely likely” to “likely.” This is higher than the 3.0 percent of Kennebec County NWOS respondents that plan to sell their land for subdivisions in the next five years.

Kennebec County Woodland Owner Survey



PLEASE READ FIRST:

The person in your family most familiar with your land should complete this survey. This is an effort by the University of Maine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, Maine Forest Service, and the Kennebec Woodland Partnership to understand the issues and values important to the landowners of Kennebec County.

Thank you!

Your Land

1) Do you own land in Kennebec County?

95.8% Yes

4.2% No --> IF NO, PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY IN THE POSTAGE-PAID RETURN ENVELOPE.

2) Of all of the land that you own in Kennebec County, how much is wooded? 58.42(average) ACRES, median = 35.0, range (1-500)

If you own MORE THAN 1 ACRE of woods, please continue.

If you own LESS THAN 1 ACRE of woods, please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope

For the remainder of this survey we will use the term WOODLAND to describe your land

3) About how long have you owned woodland in Kennebec County? 27.28 (average) YEARS, median = 25.0, range = 60.50 (1.50 - 62.0)

4) Is your primary residence located on any woodland that you own in Kennebec County?

74.9% Yes 25.1% No

--> IF NO, HOW MANY MILES AWAY FROM IT DO YOU LIVE? 93.41 (average) MILES

5) From whom did you get your woodland? (Please check ALL that apply)

Yes 32.6% My parents/spouse/other family member

Yes 64.5% Other private individual(s)

Yes 0.3% A forestry company

Yes 1.8% Land investor/developer

Yes 6.2% Other (Please specify): _____

6) If you have ever sold woodland in Kennebec County, who purchased it? (Please check ALL that apply)

Yes 80.2% I have never sold woodland

Yes 2.7% My parents/spouse/other family member

Yes 13.5% Other private individual(s)

Yes 0.9% A forestry company

Yes 0.6% Land investor/developer

Yes 1.2% Other (Please specify): _____

7) If you have ever given away woodland in Kennebec County, who received it? (Please check ALL that apply)

Yes 89.5% I have never given away woodland

Yes 4.8% My parents/spouse/other family member

Yes 0.6% Other individual(s)

Yes 0.3% A forestry company

Yes 0.0% Land investor/developer

Yes 1.5% Other (Please specify): _____

8) Including yourself, how many people own your woodland? (For example, if you and your spouse own it, enter 2; if you and two brothers own it, enter 3)
 1.81 (or two) (average) PEOPLE, median = 2, range = 6 (between 1-7)

9) People own land for many reasons. How important are each of the following reasons for why you own land in Kennebec County? (Please check only ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Very important				Very unimportant
To enjoy beauty or scenery	60.3%	18.3%	15.5%	3.5%	2.5%
To protect nature and biologic diversity	45.5%	22.1%	21.1%	7.5%	3.9%
For land investment	29.0%	21.1%	25.1%	10.6%	14.2%
Part of my primary home	62.3%	11.2%	7.3%	5.4%	13.7%
Part of my vacation home or camp	14.5%	7.0%	13.3%	9.8%	55.5%
Part of my farm or ranch	26.4%	11.4%	13.6%	8.4%	40.3%
For privacy	60.9%	18.2%	12.4%	1.6%	6.8%
To pass land on to my children or their heirs	37.4%	19.0%	21.6%	7.1%	14.8%
For cultivation/collection of non-timber forest products (berries, maple syrup, balsam fir tips)	12.9%	10.2%	23.7%	18.6%	34.6%
For production of firewood for my use	38.6%	19.6%	18.4%	10.0%	13.4%
For production of saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, or other timber products	15.5%	14.2%	25.1%	16.5%	28.7%
For hunting or fishing	42.0%	13.7%	15.9%	7.3%	21.0%
For recreation other than hunting or fishing	33.2%	20.3%	23.3%	9.6%	13.6%
For wildlife or fish habitat enhancement	39.9%	23.4%	21.4%	7.1%	8.1%
Other (please specify):	42.1%	5.3%	10.5%	5.3%	36.8%

Green Certification

To encourage good land management, groups have created green certification programs to certify landowners that comply with a group's standards. Examples include American Tree Farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, SmartWood and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

10) Have you ever heard or read about green certification before? (Please check only ONE)

40.7% Yes

59.3% No

10a) If yes, is any of your woodland currently green certified? (Please check only ONE)

5.2% Yes

80.1% No

14.7% Not sure

10b) If your woodland is not certified, would you consider green certification? (Please check only ONE)

19.6% Yes

29.1% No

51.4% Not sure

Assistance Programs

Forestry assistance programs provide landowners with money to help plant trees or manage their land. Examples include the WoodsWISE, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

11) Have you ever used a forestry assistance program to help you with your woodland in Kennebec County?

15.4% Yes
84.6% No

11a) Would you consider using a forestry assistance program? (Please check only ONE)

35.5% Yes
22.0% No
40.1% Not sure
2.4% Not applicable

Learning About Your Land

12) Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements. (Please check only ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
I know who to contact to get information about my woodland	26.4%	18.0%	20.6%	21.8%
I have all of the knowledge that I need to make decisions about my woodland	16.9%	16.6%	27.8%	16.1%

13) Please indicate which way you prefer or do not prefer to learn about your land. (Please check only ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Most preferred	Neither preferred nor not preferred	Least preferred	Not sure
Publications, books, or pamphlets	31.4%	29.7%	23.0%	5.7%
Newsletters	27.8%	25.1%	26.8%	5.0%
Magazines	17.0%	22.4%	32.7%	6.5%
Newspapers	13.5%	14.5%	38.1%	6.6%
Internet/Web	18.3%	20.7%	27.9%	7.9%
Conferences, workshops or video conferences	7.0%	17.1%	30.8%	8.0%
Movie for home viewing	12.8%	19.3%	31.0%	6.9%
Television	11.0%	16.9%	36.9%	8.6%
Radio programs	3.8%	10.8%	32.8%	11.1%
Visiting or field trips to woodlands	17.3%	18.7%	24.2%	9.7%
Other (Please specify):	16.7%	4.2%	33.3%	30.6%

- 14) Please list the most important thing(s) that you would like to learn more about for making decisions regarding your woodland.

See Appendices

A written forest management plan is a written document that describes the history and current condition of woodland, and includes recommendations for activities to manage the land in order to meet the landowner's stated goals and objectives.

- 15) Do you have a written forest management plan for any of the woodland that you own in Kennebec County? (Please check only ONE)

24.5% Yes
73.4% No --> *IF NO or NOT SURE, GO TO QUESTION 15c*
2.1% Not sure

- 15a) If yes, how many years ago was your plan prepared? (Please check only ONE)

41.5% 0-5 years ago
20.7% 5-10 years ago
14.6% 10-15 years ago
23.2% 15+ years ago

- 15b) If yes, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "I have been able to better meet my personal goals for my woodland because of my written forest management plan." (Please check only ONE)

14.0% Strongly agree 31.4% Agree 38.4% Neither agree nor disagree 5.8% Disagree 7.0% Strongly disagree 3.5% Not sure

- 15c) If no, would you consider getting a written forest management plan? (Please check only ONE)

26.8% Yes
33.5% No
39.7% Not sure

- 15d) If no or not sure, what would encourage you to get a written forest management plan? (Please check ALL that apply)

Yes 51.7% To get a PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION
Yes 12.8% To become GREEN CERTIFIED
Yes 28.5% To get a FINANCIAL INCENTIVE OR REIMBURSEMENT for the plan cost
Yes 31.4% To get professional ADVICE about how to improve my land
Yes 18.8% To help with SETTING AND ACHIEVING GOALS for my land
Yes 18.8% To meet a desire to LEARN more about my land
Yes 24.7% To get an ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE of my timber
Yes 37.2% To find ways to IMPROVE wildlife habitat
Yes 29.9% To get information that will help REDUCE future INCOME TAXES
Yes 5.6% A RECOMMENDATION from family or friends
Yes 8.0% A RECOMMENDATION from another woodland owner
Yes 6.4% Other (Please specify): _____

16) Please indicate which source you prefer or do not prefer to get information from about your woodland (Please check only ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Most preferred		Neither preferred nor not preferred		Least preferred	Not sure
Other landowners	13.6%	22.4%	36.6%	6.1%	15.8%	5.0%
Maine Forest Service	33.1%	34.5%	20.8%	4.1%	5.1%	2.4%
Forester or other natural resource professional	42.7%	24.6%	19.8%	3.4%	6.1%	3.4%
Environmental/conservation organizations	12.0%	22.3%	31.8%	6.7%	21.2%	6.0%
Logging contractor	7.1%	16.3%	27.7%	9.2%	34.0%	5.7%
Cooperative Extension professional	14.9%	30.6%	27.8%	5.0%	14.6%	7.1%
Family members	6.5%	16.4%	32.4%	9.1%	30.5%	5.1%
Private consultant (e.g. wildlife biologist)	11.8%	24.9%	31.5%	9.7%	17.0%	5.2%
Neighbors	2.9%	12.0%	28.1%	12.8%	36.5%	7.7%
Federal agency (e.g. Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District)	9.3%	21.4%	29.6%	8.6%	25.7%	5.4%
Talking with friends	4.7%	20.1%	38.0%	9.3%	20.8%	7.2%
Employee of a non-profit organization	5.3%	10.3%	42.3%	13.2%	20.6%	8.2%
Other state employee	3.2%	5.8%	41.4%	12.9%	25.5%	11.2%
Other (Please specify):	4.9%	1.6%	34.4%	0.0%	24.6%	34.4%

Future Options for Your Land

17) Which statement best describes how you would like your heir(s) to use your land after you pass? (Please choose only ONE)

56.2% Keep the land the same as I have

43.8% Use the land however they wish

18) What actions have you taken to share your wishes for your land after you pass with your heir(s), if any? (Please check ALL that apply)

Yes 48.2% Created a WILL that gives my land to my heirs

Yes 7.3% Created a LIVING TRUST that gives my land to my heirs

Yes 3.0% Created an ESTATE PLAN that gives my land to my heirs

Yes 27.7% SPOKEN to my heirs about my wishes for my land

Yes 1.2% WRITTEN to my heirs about my wishes for my land

Yes 1.2% Set up a CONSERVATION EASEMENT on my land

Yes 4.2% Created a WRITTEN FOREST MANAGEMENT OR STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Yes 3.6% Started to GIFT or GIVE portions of my land to my heirs while I'm still living

Yes 26.2% NONE of the above

Yes 4.2% OTHER (please specify): _____

19) Based on your current legal arrangements, how many people will inherit your land? (Please indicate the number of people below)

2.24 (or two) (average) PEOPLE 17.4% Not sure

20) Please indicate how likely or unlikely you feel that your heirs will take the following actions with your land? (Please check ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Very likely		Neither likely nor unlikely		Very unlikely	Not sure
Do nothing	23.4%	10.4%	25.7%	1.5%	24.2%	14.9%
Subdivide	4.6%	4.6%	18.3%	6.1%	50.6%	16.0%
Harvest timber	22.2%	20.4%	23.7%	3.3%	16.3%	14.1%
Seek advice from a forester	15.4%	15.0%	28.5%	4.9%	18.4%	18.0%
Get a conservation easement	3.6%	5.1%	27.3%	8.7%	30.8%	24.5%
Build a house	13.1%	17.2%	23.5%	3.7%	25.7%	16.8%
Enhance wildlife habitat	20.1%	20.5%	27.8%	6.2%	11.7%	13.6%
Preserve for nature	20.8%	21.2%	23.4%	5.5%	13.1%	16.1%
Other (Please specify):	32.0%	2.7%	14.7%	1.3%	8.0%	41.3%

21) How concerned are you about estate taxes?

- 24.2% Extremely concerned
- 22.6% Moderately concerned
- 22.6% Somewhat concerned
- 13.2% Slightly concerned
- 17.3% Not at all concerned

22) If you HAVE a legal written document, such as a will or trust, do you need to update your wishes about who will inherit your land?

- 13.8% Yes, the heirs need to be updated
- 63.3% No, because the current heirs are accurate
- 23.0% No, because I do not have a legal written document such as a will or trust

23) If you do NOT have a legal written document, such as a will or trust, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements about wills. (Please check ONE box for EACH of the following items)

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A LEGAL WRITTEN DOCUMENT, GO TO QUESTION 24

	Strongly agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Strongly disagree	Not sure
I don't want a will	2.1%	0.0%	14.7%	5.3%	70.5%	7.4%
I don't have enough assets to need a will	1.1%	4.3%	17.2%	4.3%	64.5%	8.6%
How to get a will is confusing to me	10.0%	5.6%	23.3%	5.6%	52.2%	3.3%
I don't know where to get a will	5.6%	5.6%	19.1%	4.5%	61.8%	3.4%
I don't want to think about getting a will	14.0%	4.3%	25.8%	7.5%	44.1%	4.3%
I don't have the money to pay for a will	12.9%	4.3%	26.9%	6.5%	44.1%	5.4%
I don't have the time to get a will	2.2%	11.0%	38.5%	4.4%	39.6%	4.4%
I will get a will when I am older	15.2%	19.6%	23.9%	4.3%	31.5%	5.4%
I will get a will if I get sick	19.8%	12.1%	24.2%	5.5%	31.9%	6.6%
I am not sure who I want to inherit my land	11.6%	9.5%	15.8%	8.4%	46.3%	8.4%
There is disagreement in my family about who will inherit my land	3.3%	2.2%	10.0%	6.7%	68.9%	8.9%
Other (Please specify):	30.8%	7.7%	23.0%	0.0%	15.4%	23.1%

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or government entity that restricts development, for the purpose of protecting natural resources. Conservation easements allow a landowner to continue to own the land, sell it or pass it on to heirs, but limit certain rights associated with the land. Conservation easements are usually permanent and may qualify land for property tax reductions

- 24) Is there a conservation easement on any of the woodland that you own in Kennebec County?
(Please check only ONE)
91.5% Yes --> *IF YES, GO TO QUESTION 25*
1.8% No
6.7% Not sure

- 24a) If no, would you consider getting a conservation easement? (Please check only ONE)
17.9% Yes
49.2% No
32.6% Not sure

Timber Harvesting on Your Land

A commercial timber harvest is one in which trees are cut and sold to be used for commercial timber products including: saw logs, biomass chips, pulpwood, firewood NOT for one's own use.

- 25) Since you have owned your woodland, have trees ever been commercially harvested?
51.2% Yes
48.2% No --> *IF NO or NOT SURE, GO TO QUESTION 26*
0.6% Not sure

- 25a) Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the harvest. (Please check only ONE)
- | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 50.8% Very satisfied | 24.6% Somewhat satisfied | 6.7% Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied | 12.3% Somewhat unsatisfied | 3.9% Very unsatisfied | 1.7% Not sure |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|

- 25b) Would you consider another harvest in the future (Please check only ONE)
60.0% Yes
17.6% No
22.4% Maybe

- 26) If trees have never been commercially harvested, would you ever consider commercially harvesting or removing trees from your land? (Please check only ONE)
38.2% Yes
30.2% No
31.6% Maybe

Stewardship

27) Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement that you have a responsibility to consider each of the following in your actions on your woodland. (Please check ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure		
My needs	79.0%	11.6%	6.0%	0.3%	0.6%	2.5%
Neighbors	12.3%	27.3%	32.8%	7.5%	17.5%	2.6%
Community members	6.5%	18.2%	38.0%	12.7%	21.1%	3.6%
Family members	38.9%	29.9%	19.0%	2.8%	6.9%	2.5%
Future generations	44.0%	28.2%	19.6%	1.9%	3.5%	2.8%
Society	9.5%	20.0%	35.4%	11.5%	19.3%	4.3%
Plants	36.2%	29.2%	22.8%	4.5%	4.5%	2.9%
Animals	49.4%	30.2%	13.6%	1.9%	2.8%	2.2%
The land (e.g. soil, water resources)	48.2%	27.5%	16.9%	2.2%	2.6%	2.6%
Other (Please specify):	7.5%	2.5%	35.0%	2.5%	10.0%	42.5%

28) Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements. (Please check ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure		
Good use of my woodland includes cutting firewood	60.7%	22.7%	14.1%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Plants have a value in and of themselves	55.4%	28.2%	11.2%	1.3%	1.9%	1.9%
I do not feel obligated to use my woodland in ways that benefit my community	17.5%	12.3%	42.1%	10.0%	15.5%	2.6%
The actions I take on my woodland tend to benefit living (e.g. plants/animals) and non-living (soil, water resources) things more than humans	38.7%	24.8%	26.1%	3.5%	5.7%	1.3%
Keeping my woodland intact is a good thing to do	62.5%	25.4%	10.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Animals have a value in and of themselves	67.9%	20.8%	9.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%
If I knew that my actions on my woodland would negatively affect my neighbors, I would be less likely to act in this way	34.8%	30.4%	25.6%	2.2%	5.7%	1.3%
I have the right to use my woodland however I choose	52.5%	21.1%	17.4%	3.1%	5.3%	0.6%
Activities that may damage water resources should be avoided	74.2%	17.5%	6.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%
My management of my woodland is influenced by my neighbors management of their woodland(s)	7.0%	10.2%	37.8%	9.5%	33.3%	2.2%
Increased development around my woodland is changing the way I manage my land	11.1%	10.2%	36.6%	10.8%	28.7%	2.5%
Moral consideration should be extended to plants and animals	39.7%	24.4%	25.0%	3.4%	6.6%	0.9%
Members of society have a responsibility to not damage or harm my woodland	74.0%	17.3%	6.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%

29) Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.
(Please check ONE box for EACH of the following items)

	Strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature	13.1%	11.1%	30.5%	0.7%
When using my woodland I try not to cause soil erosion	69.8%	22.5%	6.0%	0.0%
Non-living parts of my woodland (e.g. soil, water resources) DO NOT have value in and of themselves	2.9%	3.2%	12.3%	1.6%
I have a duty to grant access to my woodland	7.1%	7.7%	19.4%	1.9%
Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs	8.1%	10.4%	31.8%	2.6%
I try not to act in ways that will harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	69.7%	25.2%	2.8%	0.0%
I would be less likely to develop my woodland if my community did not want me to	12.0%	10.4%	39.2%	2.6%
The actions I take on my woodland tend to benefit OTHER living things (e.g. plants, animals) more than humans	41.0%	19.5%	30.3%	2.0%

Landscape Change

30) We would like to know your opinions on developing your woodland in the next 5 years. Please read each of the following statements carefully, as the response options change, and check the box that best completes the following statements.

For me, developing my woodland would be	Extremely good	Extremely bad	Neither good nor bad	Not sure
	7.6%	4.4%	34.1%	8.2%
My ability to develop my woodland is	Extremely high	Extremely low	Neither high nor low	Not sure
	9.1%	9.1%	39.7%	6.9%
For me, developing my woodland would be	Extremely pleasant	Extremely unpleasant	Neither pleasant nor unpleasant	Not sure
	6.0%	5.7%	30.9%	6.9%
For me, developing my woodland would be	Extremely easy	Extremely difficult	Neither easy nor difficult	Not sure
	4.2%	6.5%	37.7%	10.6%
The people closest to me think that I should develop my woodland	Completely true	Completely false	Neither true nor false	Not sure
	0.9%	4.1%	30.3%	12.0%
If I were to develop my woodland, most people who are important to me would	Approve	Disapprove	Neither approve nor disapprove	Not sure
	10.4%	7.9%	38.3%	10.4%

	Extremely desirable	Neither desirable nor undesirable	Extremely undesirable	Not sure		
Developing my woodland would harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	6.7%	2.3%	21.0%	11.0%	48.3%	10.7%
Developing my woodland would allow me to provide for myself/my family	11.6%	14.0%	38.9%	6.6%	16.6%	12.3%
Developing my woodland would cause soil erosion	2.7%	3.4%	21.3%	7.4%	46.3%	18.9%

	Extremely likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Extremely unlikely	Not sure		
Developing my woodland would harm wildlife/wildlife habitat	48.9%	13.8%	17.4%	5.5%	10.0%	4.5%
Developing my woodland would allow me to provide for myself/my family	14.9%	15.9%	35.1%	6.2%	22.4%	5.5%
Developing my woodland would cause soil erosion	26.2%	13.9%	25.5%	3.3%	18.5%	12.6%
For me, developing my woodland in the next 5 years would be	3.5%	4.8%	16.8%	4.8%	67.4%	2.6%

Questions about You

31) What is your age? 60.53(average) YEARS, median = 60, range 73 (min 25, max 98)

32) What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

- 3.1% Some high school or less
- 24.5% High school/GED
- 16.0% Some college
- 16.6% Technical/Community college
- 19.6% Bachelor's degree
- 4.6% Some graduate school
- 15.6% Graduate degree

33) What is your employment situation?

- 46.3% Working full-time
- 0.9% Homemaker
- 41.6% Retired
- 5.6% Working part-time
- 0.6% Unemployed
- 0.0% Student
- 5.0% Other (please specify): _____

34) What is your gender?

- 80.6% Male
- 19.4% Female

35) Would you be willing to participate in another survey in the next 6-9 months?

- 67.6% Yes
- 32.4% No

36) Would you like a summary of the survey's results mailed to you?

- 74.1% Yes
- 25.9% No

37) What do you see as the most important issue(s), challenge(s), or concern(s) related to your woodland in Kennebec County? (Please write in the space provided)

See Appendices

38) Is there anything you would like to add to help us better understand the issues and challenges of being a woodland owner in Kennebec County or are there any topics covered in this survey that you would like to get more information on? (Please write in the space provided).

See Appendices

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

Please return the completed survey in the postage paid, self-addressed envelope provided. If you want more information about this survey, please contact Mike Quartuch, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine, 5755 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469, (207) 581-2839

Appendix B. Open Ended Responses: Most Important Things

Please list the most important thing(s) that you would like to learn about for making decisions about your woodland.
"BEST PRACTICES" MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES.
1) HOW TO ELIMINATE BLOW DOWNS 2) HOW TO PREVENT PULPWOOD TREE ROT (IN THE CENTER OF THE TREE).
1. TREE FARM CERTIFICATION 2. ESTATE PLANNING.
A CONCISE BOOK ON ALL WOODLAND LAWS OF MAINE, RATINGS FOR HARVESTERS AND FORESTERS.
A GENERAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR HOME OWNERS WHO BASICALLY ENJOY HAVING LAND AND HOW MINIMAL PRACTICES CAN ENHANCE. ALSO ANY FUNDS AVAILABLE.
ACCESS LAWS. LAND OWNER RIGHTS. TIMBER MARKET INFORMATION.
ALLOW ME TO CUT AND USE MY LAND AS I NEED WHEN I NEED.
ANIMAL AND BIRD HABITAT. SELECTIVE CUTTING A MUST.
ANY HARVESTING OF THE WOODLOT IS UNLIKELY UNTIL GOOD ACCESS IS PROVIDED, SO INFORMATION/INCENTIVES/FINANCIAL AID ON ROAD BUILDING IS DESIRED.
ANY INSECT OR DISEASE THREATS TO ANY OF THE SPECIES OF TREES.
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, HISTORY.
AVAILABLE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST WITH PLANNING, CONSERVATION, AND FUNDS. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT MANAGED BUT DO NOT KNOW WHO TO CALL.
BALANCED PRESENTATIONS AND FINANCIAL, ECOLOGICAL, INVESTMENT ETC. MOST OF THE PROBLEMS FOR OWNING MANAGING WOODLAND COME FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES E.G. BLANKET LEGISLATION WITH LITTLE INPUT/FEEDBACK FROM INDIVIDUAL OWNERS.
BEING ABLE TO USE IT WHILE MAINTAINING WILDLIFE HABITAT.
BEST WAYS TO PROTECT IT.
CONTACT PERSON WHO IS KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT #11 (forestry assistance programs).
CONTROLLED BURNS.
CREATING A POND FOR WILDLIFE – MONEY AVAILABLE FOR CREATING SOME OPEN SPACE AND OR WIDE TRAILS FOR WILDLIFE FOOD.
CURRENT VALUE, FUTURE PLANS FOR ABUTTING PROPERTIES.
CUTTING NEAR WATER.
DEER MANAGEMENT, WOODLAND MANAGEMENT, TREE PLANTING.
DISEASE AND/OR PESTS.
DRAINAGE. TRAILS. EROSION.
ENCOURAGING/FACILITATING NATURAL HARDWOOD GROWTH AS IT WAS HARVESTED IN PAST.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HABITAT PROGRAMS.
FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND HOW TO MAINTAIN THE LAND AND STILL PROFIT.
FIREWOOD PRODUCTION/MANAGEMENT.

FOOD PLOTS, WHIP, EQIP.
FOREST PRESERVATION. FISH PRESERVATION.
FORESTRY ASSISTANCE FROM FORESTRY DEPARTMENT.
FORESTRY MARKETING REPORTS.
FORESTRY PLAN AND AVAILABLE FORESTERS TO MAKE A PLAN.
FUTURE WOOD MARKETS, TAX BENEFITS FOR MANAGING LAND, NEW TREE PLANTING FUNDS.
GOOD HARVESTING PRACTICES TO KEEP ANIMAL HABITAT.
HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE.
HARVESTING FIREWOOD TO PROMOTE BETTER GROWTH.
HARVESTING OLD TIMBER FOR NEW GROWTH.
HARVESTING TREES.
HEALTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT- PROBLEM PREVENTION. PROMOTION OF HARD WOOD GROWTH.
HELP WITH LOGGING CONTRACTS, I.E. CURRENT PRICE SPECIES, ETC.
HOW TAXATION OF WOODLANDS ARE DETERMINED. DOES EACH TOWN SET RATES? IS THE STATE INVOLVED?
HOW THE WOODLOT OWNER GETS PAID, VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE TICKETS AND WHAT THEY MEAN.
HOW TO ABLE TO RECEIVE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD OUR WOODLAND!
HOW TO ACHIEVE HELP THROUGH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
HOW TO ATTRACT A LOGGER WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE HIGH VALUE TIMBER.
HOW TO CREATE BETTER HABITAT FOR WHITETAIL DEER AND MANAGE WOODLAND TO PRODUCE QUALITY MATURE TREES.
HOW TO DETERMINE WHEN IT IS TIME TO DO TREE MAINTENANCE (THINNING).
HOW TO FIND A LOGGING CONTRACTOR WHO IS HONEST, PROFESSIONAL, AND TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH FOR ME TO FEEL CONFIDENT IN ALLOWING HIM TO CUT MY WOODLOT.
HOW TO HARVEST AND MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL WOOD.
HOW TO INCREASE ITS VALUE WITHOUT SPENDING MUCH TIME OR MONEY.
HOW TO KEEP DEER ON MY LAND.
HOW TO KEEP OUT DIRT BIKES AND 4 WHEELERS. THEY HAVE DESTROYED PATHWAY.
HOW TO LOG IN WETLANDS. MAXIMIZING LONG TERM FOREST HEALTH AND PROFITABILITY.
HOW TO MAKE IT MOST SUSTAINABLE.
HOW TO OPTIMIZE WILDLIFE CONDITIONS ESPECIALLY DEER AND TURKEY.
HOW TO PRESERVE THE LAND.
HOW TO REDUCE TAXES.
HOW TO SUSTAIN HEALTHY WOODLAND.
I CONSULT WITH FRIENDS WHO ARE FORESTERS AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS FOR MANAGEMENT AND HARVESTING ADVICE. THIS IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT.

I DO NOT CONSIDER MY PROPERTY TO BE A "WOODLAND".
I FEEL WE MANAGE IT WELL.
I HAVE BEEN VERY PRO ACTIVE WITH MY WOODLOT. ITS BEEN IN TREE GROWTH FOR 30 YEARS AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.
I HAVE STARTED DOING MAPLE SYRUP AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND...SO WOULD LIKE INFO ON IMPROVING SUGARBUSH AND USE OF OTHER PROPERTY.
I PURCHASED THIS LAND FOR DEER HUNTING.
I WAS TOLD ALL MY LAND BOUNDERIES HAD TO BE VLEAR VIEW FROM POST TO POST. HAVE BEEN CLEARING BOUNDARIES BUT IS HARD TO GET WOOD OUT WITHOUT MAKING ROADS.
I WOULD LIKE TO BREAK EVEN ON MY PROPERTY TAXES.
I WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE.
IF I SHOULD PUT MY LAND IN A TREE FARM PROGRAM?
I'M ALL SET. I AM A LICENSED FORESTER AND KNOW WHAT I WANT AND WHAT TO DO.
I'M JUST LEAVING IT ALONE. I DON'T NEED INFORMATION.
IMPROVING HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE.
IMPROVING ROADWAY.
INSECT DETECTION AND CONTROL. INVASIVE SPECIES. HARVEST DECISION MAKING STRATEGIES.
JUST HOW TO MANAGE WOODLAND TO SELECT CUT FOR OWN WOOD BURNING USE.
KNOWLEDGE MORE HARD-WOOD TREE GROWTH AND BROOK AND STREAM CROSSINGS.
LAND USE REGULATIONS. TAX STRUCTURE FOR WOODLANDS.
LOG PRICING.
LOOKING FOR "GREEN" USE OF LAND THAT WILL NOT INCREASE MY NET TAXES (I.E. IMPROVEMENTS) THAT WOULD MAKE THE LAND PRODUCTIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY.
MAINTAINING FIRE WOOD SUPPLY. IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT.
MAINTENANCE. KNOWING BOUNDARIES.
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE HIGH QUALITY SAW LONG PINE STANDS. 2) TECHNIQUES TO SITE, BUILD, AND MAINTAIN TOTE ROADS AND TRAILS. 3) KEEPING UP TO DATE ON TREE/VEGETATION DISEASES AND PESTS AND ASSOCIATED BMPS TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.
MANAGEMENT.
MANAGING FOREST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
MARKETING HARDWOOD LOGS, WETLANDS.
MARKETING OPTIONS. VALUES OF VARIOUS WOOD TYPES.
MARKETS FOR WOOD PRODUCTS.
MATURE TREES THAT SHOULD BE HARVESTED. DISEASES.
MAXIMIZE WILDLIFE HABITAT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.
MOST VALUABLE WOOD TO GROW IN MY AREA. PRUNING. THINNING. DISEASE.

MY WOODLAND IS DOING QUITE WELL, IT IS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND MUCH TLC.
NEVER THOUGHT OF OUR "WOODLAND" AS SOMETHING TO MANAGE BORDERS OR HAY FIELDS OF SMALL FARM WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY WORKING. NEIGHBORING FARM CUTS THE HAY AND WOODED AREA TAKES CARE OF ITSELF.
NOT SURE WE HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
NOTHING AT THIS TIME EXCEPT POSSIBLE SELLING UP FOR PRESERVATION ONE DAY.
NOTHING AT THIS TIME.
NOTHING.
OBTAINING ACCESS FROM FAR AWAY NEIGHBORING LAND OWNER TO PROVIDE AND ALLOW ENTRY TO MY PROPERTY WITH BIG MACHINERY.
ONCE WANTED CHRISTMAS TREE FARM BUT STATE TALKED ME OUT OF IT.
OPTIMAL SIZE OF SELECTIVE CUTTING AREAS. HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE TO NATURAL RESEEDING TAKE PLACE. APPROX. TIME FOR NEW TIMBER TO MATURE (HARD AND SOFT).
OUR WOODLOT IS SMALL AND "UNUSED" FOR THE MOST PART. WE DON'T REALLY HAVE AN AGENDA TO CHANGE ANYTHING BUT WE ARE OPEN TO LEARNING IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE "SHOULD" KNOW. OUR DISPOSABLE TIME IS EXTREMELY LIMITED, SO THIS IS NOT A PRIORITY RIGHT NOW.
PLANT TREES.
PROPER HARVEST FOR FUTURE GROWTH.
PROPER MANAGEMENT. SUSTAINABILITY. WILDLIFE.
PROPER THINNING. HOW TO DETERMINE WHICH TREES TO "KEEP". HOW TO RECOGNIZE SIGNES OF "LOCAL" OR "INVASIVE" INSECT PRESENCE.
PROTECTING LAND EROSION FROM DEVELOPMENT OF LAND THAT SURROUNDS MY PROPERTY. LAND OWNERS RIGHTS.
PUTTING IN A POND. MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR WALKING AND HUNTING. ETC.
RENEWABLE RESOURCE.
REPLANTING TREES FOR WOOD HEAT-SELECTIVE CUTTING.
ROADS/TRAILS/STREAM CROSSINGS, HABITAT MGMT, SOILS/CAVES.
RULES AND REGULATIONS.
SELECT CUTTING.
SELECTIVE CUTTING.
SOIL, WATER QUALITY.
STAND IMPROVEMENT, SUSTAINABLE HARVESTRY.
STRATEGICALLY CUT.
SUSTAINABLE WOODLAND PRACTICES.
TAX BREAKS, WILDLIFE HABITAT MARKETING.
TAX IMPLICATIONS.
THE CORRECT WAY TO MANAGE WOOD LOT.
THERE ISN'T REALLY ANY DECISIONS TO MAKE UNLESS WE PLAN TO SELL SOME ACRES BUT IS

NOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PROBABLY JUST FIND OUT LAND VALUE.
THINNING FOR THE HEALTH OF THE FOREST. HARVESTING FOR THE HEALTH OF THE FOREST FIREWOOD FOR MY OWN USE.
THREATS LIKE HEMLOCK LOOPER.
TICK REMOVAL. FENCING.
TIMBER GROWTH RATE.
TO GET THE MOST IN THE SHORTEST TIME.
TO KEEP THE FOREST HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE AND HELP WILDLIFE.
TRAIL MAKING AND MAINTENANCE. ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE.
TRUSTWORTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN TO SUCCEED STAYED GOALS.
TYPES OF TREES ON MY PROPERTY. WHAT CAN BE HARVESTED WHEN AND BY WHOM. HOW TO KEEP IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. HOW TO REDUCE TAX ON FINANCIAL BURDEN.
TYPES OF TREES, TYPE OF INVASIVE PLANTS AND HOW TO ENHANCE WILD LIFE GROWTH.
UNDER GROWTH MANAGEMENT.
VARYING PULP/LOG VALUES AND MANAGEMENT BASED UPON SPECIES \$ RETURN.
WE HAVE DONE GOOD MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE YEARS AND REALLY HAVE NO NEED OF FURTHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME, ONLY IF REGULATIONS CHANGE REGARDING WHAT I CAN DO ON MY WOODLOT.
WELL EDUCATED ON CURRENT LAND.
WHAT AM I ALLOWED TO DO NOW THAT IT IS IN TREE GROWTH. WHAT DOES IT COST TO TAKE IT OUT? HOW CAN I GET TREES TO PLANT (FREE).
WHAT ARE OTHER ADJOINING PROPERTIES DOING WITH THEIR WOODLOTS? WHAT ARE MY TOWNS PLANS FOR GROWTH?
WHAT IS ALLOWED - CUTTING WOOD, PLANTING TREES.
WHAT IS CONSIDERED A HEALTHY WOODLAND – THAT IS TIMELY CUTTING OR LET IT BE?
WHAT LITTLE WOODLAND WE OWN; DON'T HAVE A PROSPECTIVE PLAN AS OF YET. WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO RAISE LIVESTOCK, SUSTAINABLE FOOD OR MAYBE JUST SURVEY OUT TO MY FOUR CHILDREN (HOUSE/CAMP LOTS).
WHAT TO DO WITH MY LAND WHEN I DIE...1) LAND TRUST? 2) CONSERVATION EASMENT? 3) DONATE?
WHEN AND BEST WAYS TO HARVEST SMALL LOTS. WHAT TO PLANT. BEST WAYS TO MAINTAIN SUGARBUSH.
WHEN AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE HARVESTED IN ORDER FOR MOST EFFECTIVE GROWTH.
WHEN TO CUT SOME LOGS.
WHEN TO CUT THE TREES
WHEN TO CUT TIMBER VERSUS LET IT GROW.
WHEN TO GET SEEDLINGS FOR PLANTING AT A REASONABLE PRICE.
WHEN TO HARVEST THE WOOD.
WHERE TO GET SAPLINGS TO REPLACE CUT FIREWOOD.

WHO DO I CONTACT REGARDING SELECTIVE CUTTING OF WOOD FOR PERSONAL USE?
WHY THE STATE OF MAINE THINKS THEY HAVE CONTROL OVER PRIVATE LAND THAT PEOPLE PAY TAXES TO OWN! WHOSE LAND IS IT?
WILD LIFE HABITAT.
WILD LIFE HABITAT. NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS.
WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT.
WILDLIFE HABITAT.
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.
WOOD HARVESTING FOR FIREWOOD.
WOOD HARVESTING WITHOUT DISTURBING NATURAL SURROUNDINGS. MAINTAINING WOODLOT.
WOOD PRICES FOR PULPWOOD.
WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING ABOUT ANYTHING YOU MAY OFFER, ESPECIALLY PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS, SELECTIVE CUTTING, REPLANTING, ETC.
ZONING LAWS.

Appendix C. Open Ended Responses: Most Important Issues

What do you see as the most important issue(s), challenge(s), or concern(s) related to our woodland in Kennebec County?
"EXPANSION."
#1 TAXES, EVERY YEAR THEY GO UP. EITHER THE TOWN OR STATE RAISES THE VALUE OF THE LAND EVERY YEAR. LAND WILL BE TAXED RIGHT OUT OF FAMILIES BECAUSE THE CHILDREN WHO INHERIT IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PAY THE TAXES. THAT WAS THE MAIN REASON I JUST SOLD OFF SOME WOODLAND. #2 GETTING SOMEONE YOU TRUST TO CUT THE WOOD OFF.
*TRESPASSING/ACCESS AUTHORIZATION (FEW, IF ANY, QUESTIONS HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ISSUE) *PRESERVATION WHILE MAINTAINING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR MY CHILDREN. *SUSTAINABILITY/ BEST PRACTICES USAGE.
1) DEVELOPMENT FOR HOUSES TO LARGE 6-10 ACRE LOTS WOULD BE FINE BUT NOT 1-2. 2) I DON'T PLAN TO DEVELOP BUT IF I DID THE PROCESS IS NOT WORKING OR USER FRIENDLY.
1) PROPERTY TAXES 2) RESPECT FROM PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEY CAN RECREATE ON MY LAND AS LAND AS THEY PLEASE 3) EXCESSIVE- CRAZY ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS 4) TREE DISEASES, WHAT THEY ARE, WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT?, EXAMPLE: MY BEECH TREES HAVE DIED.
1) TAXES 2) OUTSIDERS TELLING ME WHAT I CAN + CAN'T DO ON MY 70+/- ACRES.
1) WE HAD TRIED TO PRESERVE OUR FARM&/WOODLAND BUT THE PROCESS IS SLOW, PAINFULL, & NOT REALISTIC FOR THOSE OF US NOT WEALTHY ENOUGH TO GIVE OUR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AWAY FOR A PITTANCE. 2) WE HAVE STOPPED COMMERCIAL HARVESTING BECAUSE AFTER YOU EVALUATE THE COSTS IN TIME TO MANAGE THE HARVET, FOLLOW ALL THE REPORTING RULES ETC. THE PROFIT IS NOT EXISTENT FOR THE LANDOWNER.
1. INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT 2. STUMPAGE PRICES 3. CONTINUED FUNDING FOR MANAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE. MORE FUNDING WOULD BE BETTER. 4. MITIGATE TREE GROWTH TAX LAW PENALTY.
1. TRASH TV, MATTRESSES, ETC DUMPED ON PROPERTY. 2. HUNTING WITH OUT PERMISSION, USUALLY PEOPLE FROM MASS. 3. THERE ARE CERTAIN PLANTS THAT ARE NOT GOOD FOR THE FOREST. I HAVE SOME OF THEM BUT I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO GET RID OF THEM?? THIS PLANT IS HARMFUL TO TREES.
A CHANGE IN THE TAX SITUATION. THE TOWN HAS ADVISED ME THAT THEY ARE REASSESSING LAND IN WHICH RIVERS AND STREAMS GO THROUGH AS "SHORE" PROPERTY.
A SECTION OF MY WOODS HAS THE PIPELINE RUNNING THROUGH IT AND THE PUBLIC BELIEVES IT'S OPEN FOR USE, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE ON MY WOODLOT. I OWN IT FOR MY OWN USE SO I DON'T HAVE DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC. I WOULD LIKE TO SET FOOD PLOTS AND MANAGE FOR WILDLIFE AS WELL AS THE FOREST. I ALSO GUIDE ON MY PROPERTY. I FEEL THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
ANIMAL POPULATION AND GROWTH.

AS A WOODLAND OWNER I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGES IN THE RULES CONCERNING HARVESTING OF TIMBER. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ANYONE HARVESTING SHOULD HAVE TO FILE FOR A PERMIT AND NOTIFY ALL ABUTTING LANDWNERS SO BOUNDARY DISPUTES COLD BE AVOIDED. I KNOW THAT TIMBER TRESPASS IS COMMON.
AS FARM AND FOREST LAND IS CHANGED TO PROVIDE LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, YOU ARE CRITICAL FOR LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOV'T TO PROVIDE AND PROMOTE...[ILLEGIBLE]
ASH BORER. KNOWING WHEN TO HARVEST TO BENEFIT THE LAND.
ASH BORER/BEETLE. INVASIVE VINE THAT CHOKES THE ASH TREES. IT HAS TAKEN OVER THE PASTURE AND CLIMBS ALL THE TREES.
ATV TRESSPASS.
ATVS AND SNOWMOBILES CAUSE THE GREATEST DAMAGE AND CONCERN. A VOTER BASE THAT WOULD ELECT SUCH A POOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER AS GOVERNOR LEPAGE IS A MAJOR WORRY. POACHING AND ACCESS TO HUNT WITHOUT PERMISSION IS REDUCING BIODIVERSITY IN MY WOODS.
AUGUSTA IS TAKING ANOTHER \$250 EASMENT OF MY PROPERTY AND TELLING ME TO CONTINUE TO PAY TAXES BUT I CAN'T USE MY OWN PROPERTY!
BEAVER DAMED UP THE STREAM YEARS AGO AND THUS MUCH OF OUR LAND WE COULD ENJOY IS WETLAND—THIS IN TURN HAS LED TO RIDICULOUS CONTROLS ON ABILITIES TO BUILD ONTO OUR HOUSE ETC. WE ARE AMPLE DISTANCE AWAY AND WOULD NOT RISK ANY WILDLIFE.
BEING ABLE TO BUILD A HOUSE ON THE WOODLAND BECAUSE IT IS NEAR A RIVER. PLUS HOW TO KEEP IT AS NATURAL AS POSSIBLE.
BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE KEEPING IT IN A FORESTRY PROGRAM DUE TO COST OF PROGRAM.
BEING ABLE TO DO WHAT I WANT WITH MY LAND. 250' ON EACH SIDE OF A BROOK IS UNUSABLE AND I STILL HAVE TO PAY TAXES.
BEING OVER TAXED AND NOT KNOWING IF YOUR HEIRS COULD AFFORD FUTURE TAXES.
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
CONCERN OVER EXPANDING SUBDIVISIONS. ILLEGAL TRESPASS ON THE LAND SINCE I AM AN ABSENTEE OWNER.
CONCERN: FARMLAND/FARMS/LARGE AMOUNT OF LAND ARE BEING BROKEN UP AND SOLD OFF. PEOPLE CAN NO LONGER MAINTAIN OR AFFORD IT. MORE PROFIT TO SELL AS SMALLER LOTS. PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD TO PURCHASE LARGE AMOUNTS OF LAND AND KEEP IT TOGETHER AS IT COSTS TOO MUCH TO BUY. WOODLANDS ARE DISAPPEARING AS PEOPLE CLEAR LAND TO BUILD. CONCERNED FOR ANIMALS, WILDLIFE, HABITATS. ANIMALS ARE BEING "PUSHED OUT"! OUR "COUNTRY" LAND IS DISAPPEARING.

<p>CONCERNED ABOUT NUMEROUS ISSUES ESPECIALLY, ASIAN LONG HORNED BEETLES AND HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID AND HOW FAR THEY HAVE PROGRESSED IN MAINE. I HAVE A 90% DEATH RATE OF FIRS, SPRUCE, POPLAR AND ESPECIALY DISTURBING IS THE MORTALLITY RATE OF BEECH TREES. HAVE ANY STUDIES BEEN DONE CONCERNING THE ICE STORM OF 1998 AND THE LONG TERM AFFECTS. OF MUCH CONCERN IS CMP TAKING LAND FORCEFULLY FROM THOSE HAVING LAND BORDERING THE POWER LINES. WHY DON'T WE PUT LINES UNDERGROUND, EVERYWHERE. ATV'S DAMAGE SO MUCH YOUNG GROWTH. WILD TURKEYS ARE SO OVERPOPULATED THEY DESTROY YOUNT PLANT AND TREE GROWTH AND DEER FEED THAT IT'S RIDICULOUS.</p>
<p>CONCERNS: NO REAL PROBLEMS TODAY. WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE AND POSSIBLE RULES TELLING US WHAT WE CAN'T DO WITH OUR LAND.</p>
<p>CONTINUED RESIDENTIAL GROWTH AROUND ME. TOWN PUSHING HARD FOR YEAR-ROUND OPEN ACCESS FOR WALKING TRAILS. SO MANY INSECT/GLOBAL WARMING THREATS.</p>
<p>CONTINUING ISSUES OF TREE BLOW-DOWNS. CONCERNS OF BRUSH.</p>
<p>CONVERSION OF RURAL LAND (FIELDS AND WOODLAND) IS TAKING PLACE ALL AROUND ME. TWO HOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT ON LAND NEXT DOOR. SIX-EIGHT HOUSES ON THE STREET NEARBY. MORE SUBDIVISION WILL OCCUR. PROPERTY TAXES INCREASE AS LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT BECOMES MORE VALUABLE. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG WE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP OUR LAND AS IT IS.</p>
<p>CUT WOODLAND FOR PROFIT WITHOUT HARMING WILDLIFE. DO NOT CUT OR DAMAGE DEER YARDS!</p>
<p>DAMAGE DONE TO OUR PROPERTY BY OTHERS WHO USE THE LAND - HUNTERS, ATVS. THEY LEAVE DEBRIS, CAUSE RUTS, USE AND IMPACT OUR LAND IN A WAY WE DO NOT.</p>
<p>DEPLETION OF VALUE FOR RESALE DUE TO MANDATE FROM DEP BECAUSE OF DISCOVERY OF NESTING FOWL IN BOG AREAS.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT - TREE & PLANT DISEASE.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT DUE TO PROXIMITY TO AUGUSTA.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT IS ALWAYS AN ISSUE MY PROPERTY IS LONG AND NARROW AND NOT FAR FROM A SMALL TOWN. I USE IT PRIMARILY TO HUNT AND SECONDLY FOR A SOURCE OF FIREWOOD FOR MYSELF. THE PROPERTY NEXT TO MINE WAS RECENTLY CUT AND I WORRY THE NEXT STEP WILL BE SELLING OR DEVELOPED.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT OF SURROUNDING WOODLANDS AND FARMLANDS.</p>
<p>DOING WHAT I CAN TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE...WHICH WILL NOT TIE UP THE USE OF MY LAND OR INCREASE FUTURE TAX...SUCH AS WITH TREE GROWTH.</p>
<p>DUMPING GARBAGE AND 4WD VEHICLES TEARING UP MY ROADS AND FIELDS.</p>
<p>ECONOMICS- IF I PUT A PLAN INTO PLAY TO MANAGE MY WOODLOT WHAT INCENTIVE IS THERE TO DO WHAT I BELIEVE NEED TO HAPPEN AS TO WHAT I CAN AFFORD.</p>
<p>EDUCATING LOCAL PLANNING BOARD ON EROSION ISSUES.</p>

EVER CHANGING STATE MANDATES. LOSS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT BORDERING MY WOODLANDS. DEVELOPMENT.
FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS TO FAIRLY WORK ON THE LAND. TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO IS QUALIFIED TO DO THE WORK AND GIVE CORRECT ADVICE.
FOR THE TIME BEING I DO NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM ISSUES AND NEITHER CONCERNS FOR DOING ANYTHING TO THE WOODLAND EXCEPT CUT AN OCCASSIONAL DEAD TREE - THIS LAND IS ALSO USED FOR HUNTING PURPOSES.
FUTURE PLACE FOR HOME, GARDEN, FIREWOOD, RETIREMENT, FAMILY GATHERINGS, VACATIONS.
GETTING ALL THE RIGHT INFORMATION AT THE SAME TIME SO YOU CAN PLAN YOUR WOODLAND TO DEVELOP A FIVE YEAR PLAN.
GOOD WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AND WILDLIFE. I AM THE STEWARD OF MY LAND
GOVERNMENT CONTROL.
GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS BECOMING STRICTER ON MY PROPERTY.
HAVING MY CONSERVATION OFFICER MAINTAIN THE WOOD LOT TO BE TH E MOST PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AS POSSIBLE. THE PLAN IS TO HAVE THE LOT SELECTIVELY CUT AND TREES TRIMMED FROM WINTER DAMAGE OF PREVIOUS YEARS. TO HAVE A LOGGING ROAD PUT IN, AND RECLAIMING THE SMALL POND ON THE PROPERTY. I WILL BE WORKING WITH MARK BROWN OF VASSALBORO TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS THAT I HAVE FOR THE LAND.
HAVING SOME BUREAUCRAT TELL ME WHAT I CAN/CANNOT DO WITH IT.
HAVING TO GET A PERMIT EACH YEAR FROM THE TOWN TO CUT MY OWN FIREWOOD (IF MORE THAN 10 CORDS).
HIGH REAL ESTATE TAXES. RUDE HUNTERS.
HIGH TAXES, NO SERVICES.
HIGH TAXES.
HIGH TAXES. MORE REGULATIONS.
HOPE TAXES FOR FORESTLAND DO NOT PUSH THE SUBDIVIDING OF SUCH LAND AND HOPEFULLY THE MILLS THAT RELY ON FOREST PRODUCTS REMAIN VIABLE TO SUPPORT FOREST LANDS.
HOW TO HARVEST RESPONSIBLY TO ENSURE THE LEAST IMPACT TO THE WOODLANDS AND FUTURE GROWTH AFTER HARVESTING.
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.
I AM WORKING ON A PROGRAM THAT WILL ADD MY WOODLAND TO THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST...
I CUT ONLY ENOUGH WOOD TO HEAT MY HOME IN THE WINTER - I DO NOT LET PEOPLE HUNT ON MY LAND.

I DON'T HAVE BIG PLANS TO DEVELOP AT THIS TIME. BUT, AS I AGE AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY NEED ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT INCOME, THE SALE OF MY WOODLAND IS VERY POSSIBLE. I HOPE DEVELOPMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS DON'T BECOME TOO STRICK AND "SCARE OFF" A POTENTIAL BUYER.
I DON'T LIKE BEING TOLD WHAT I CAN AND CAN NOT DO WITH MY LAND. I LIKE TO KEEP IT CLEANED AND FREE OF UNDER BRUSH AND BLOW DOWNS. I DO NOT LIKE CLEAR CUTTING AND FEEL THIS IS NOT THE WAY WE SHOULD USE THE LAND. I DO BELIEVE WE MUST TAKE OUT THE MOST MATURE TREES TO ALLOW GROWTH.
I DON'T WANT ANYMORE REGULATIONS OR TAXES ON WOODLAND (PRIVATE LAND).
I HOPE THE FOREST DEPARTMENT CAN KEEP THE FOREST FROM GETTING INFESTED. THE CIO TY PROBLEM IS EXTREMELY BAD. THE DEER AND SMALL GAME RABBITS, ETC. DON'T STAND MUCH OF A CHANCE AS IS!!!
I LET THE LOCAL SNOWMOBILE CLUB CROSS PROPERTY AND CREATE TRAILS, AND ALSO DO NOT POST LAND TO HUNTERS, BUT I DO PUT UP NO ATV SIGNS ON TRAILS AND DO NOT ALLOW ATV'S, AS FIELDS ARE STILL HAVING HAY HARVESTED AND ATV'S WOULD USE DURING GROWING SEASON AND ARE MORE DESTRUCTIVE IN WOODS IN SPRING AND SUMMER.
I LIVE IN LINCOLN COUNTY AND DO NOT HAVE A GOOD GRASP OF KENNEBEC COUNTY'S ISSUES.
I NEED TO EDUCATE MYSELF ABOUT THE CARE AND NEEDS OF MY WOODLAND.
I SEE CREEPING SOCIALISM SOON I BELIEVE ALL LAND OWNERS WILL BE LOSERS OF THEIR ASSETS.
I WANT THE WOODLANDS PRESERVED. NOT SURE HOW THESE PRESERVATION GROUPS WORK.
I WAS TOLD BEING IN A TREE GROWTH THAT I HAD TO CUT A % OF WOOD EACH YEAR, EVEN IF I HAD TO SELL IT. I KEEP MY LOT CLEAN OF BLOWDOWNS, TREES THAT ARE IN POOR CONDITION, AND CUT ONLY A FEW TREES THAT WILL ALLOW SUN LIGHT TO HELP OTHER GROWTH TO DEVELOP SMALLER TREES. CUTTING BOUNDARY LINES HAVE BEEN A LARGE JOB TO DO, AND A LOT OF TREES THAT I WOULD HAVE LIKE TO KEEP GROWING.
I WOULD LIKE TO MANAGE MY WOODLAND TO PROMOTE THE RETURN OF WHITETAIL DEER. THE STATE DENIES THE INTRODUCTION OF TURKEYS HAS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE WHITETAIL DEER POPULATION. SINCE THE TURKEYS WE[RE] INTRODUCED THE DEER POPULATION HAS STEADILY DECLINED AND THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE HARVESTING OF COYOTES. WINTERS ARE NOT ANY WORSE THAN THEY USED TO BE. I HARDLY EVER SEE A DEER IN A FIELD ANYMORE.
IF I NEED MY LAND FOR INCOME IN THE FUTURE, MAY HAVE TO SELL TO LIVE. HOPE MY KIDS DO GET THE LAND BUT HOW STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE RUN LOOKS BAD FOR MY LAND AND ME.
IF LURC HAS IMPACT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. THERE SHOULD BE NO TAX ON THAT PORTION.
IMPACT FROM OTHER OUTSIDE INFLUENCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL.
IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, PREVENT SOIL EROSION, REPLANT TREES.

INCREASED DEVELOPMENT ALL AROUND MY WOODLOT. EVER INCREASING TAXES. LOSING FARMLAND AND FIELDS TO DEVELOPMENT.
INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES MAKE KEEPING THE LAND NATURAL VERY HARD. SOME OF MY LAND IS ON LARGE BODIES OF WATER AND THE TAXES REFLECT THIS. I HAVE ABOUT 3,200 FEET OF LAKE FRONTAGE THAT IMPACT MY ABILITY TO NOT DEVELOP THIS PROPERTY IN THE FUTURE.
INSECT DAMAGE COMING TO HEMLOCK, ASH ETC.
INVASION BY PUBLIC- 4 WHEELERS, PEDESTRIANS.
INVASIVE SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS- INSECTS TOO.
IT IS DIFFICULT TO MANAGE WOODLANDS WITH THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WHEN COSTS OF LAND MANAGEMENT EXCEEDS RETURNS WHEN MANAGING FOR THE BEST LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES.
IT IS VERY DISTURBING WHEN WOODCUTTERS GO INTO THE WOODS, CUT AND LEAVE A MESS, THEY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CHIP THE LIMBS AND FILL IN THE DEEP RUTS THEY MAKE. THIS HAPPENED HERE IN ALBION AND THEY TORE UP A BEAUTIFUL CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL AND LEFT A MESS! ALSO UP IN CARRABASSETT VALLEY WHERE THE INDIANS OWNED LAND, THE LAND WILL NEVER BE THE SAME (NEAR REDINGTON POND).
IT MAKES VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHAT WE DO BECAUSE MOST LAND IN SOUTHERN MAINE IS GOING TO BE DEVELOPED AT SOME POINT. I WAS A PROFESSIONAL WOODSMAN FOR 43 YEARS. I WORKED WITH MANY FORESTERS (GOOD AND BAD) AND BELIEVED IN "SELECTIVE CUTTING" AND WAS CONSIDERED TO BE GOOD AT WHAT I DID. MANY OF MY OLD LOTS HAVE BEEN "CHIPPED" SINCE, SO WHAT GOOD DID IT DO TO DO A "GOOD JOB" THE FIRST TIME? AS I SAID I WAS A "WOODSMAN" FOR 43 YEARS. BUT BECAUSE I REFUSED TO "BOW DOWN" TO I.P.CO. AND TAKE A \$500 COARSE AND A WASTE(?) OF MY TIME I WAS "BLACK BALLED" FROM THEIR LIST OF GOOD WOODSMAN AND THEIR FORESTERS DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME. WHERE IS I.P. NOW, THEY "SCREWED" UP MAINE AND LEFT. WHERE WAS THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE WHEN THIS WAS ALL GOING ON? THERE IS AN OLD SAYING: "WHEN THE FOREST IS ALL GONE WE WILL THEN DO GOOD FORESTRY." WOOD IN MAINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOO PLENTYFUL SO PEOPLE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED!! MOST WOODLAND OWNERS WANT GOOD FORESTRY DONE AS LONG AS THEY GET ALL THE MONEY THEY CAN! AS FAR AS THE "GREEN" CERTIFICATION THE ONLY ONE MAKING MONEY FROM THIS IS THE WHOLESALERS OF FOREST PRODUCTS AT THE EXPENSE OF LANDOWNERS AND WOODSMEN. PLEASE FORGIVE MY ATTITUDE - BUT I FEEL VERY STRONG ABOUT FORESTRY IN MAINE AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT I AM SEEING. WE ARE CREATING A "BIOMASS" FOREST AND THE FORESTERS KNOW IT!!
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A FORESTER WALK OUR WOODLAND AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS (BASED ON OUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR WOODLAND), WITHOUT BEING LOCKED INTO A MANAGEMENT PLAN AS A CONDITION OF THE FORESTER'S VISIT.
KEEP GOVERNMENT OUT.
KEEP LAND WILD AND SCENIC. TO KEEP IT FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN TO ENJOY.

KEEPING HILLSIDE EROSION FROM SILTING THE LAKE.
KEEPING IT NATURAL.
KEEPING MY FAMILIES FARM/WOODLAND PROPERLY MANAGED WITHOUT DISTURBING IT'S NATURAL PROGRESSION.
KEEPING ORGANIZATION FROM FORCING THERE THOUGHTS RULES, AND REGULATIONS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO RUN THINGS THAT THEY HAVE NO BUSINESS STINCKING THERE NOSE INTO BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR EVERYONE.
KEEPING TAXES LOWER AND NOT HAVING TAX INCREASES SHOULD DEVELOPMENT OCCUR.
KEEPING UP WITH THE TAXES.
LEAVE OWNERS ALONE.
LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO REDUCE OVERSIGHT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO INCREASE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GUISE OF JOB CREATION OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
LIMITED DEVELOPMENT.
LOGGERS THAT DON'T USE COMMON SENSE.
LOGGING CONTRACTORS STRIPPING ABUTTING LAND.
MAINTAINING IT AS "VIRGIN FOREST" IN FACE OF RISING PROPERTY TAXES. PRESERVING IT FOR & BY FUTURE GENERATIONS.
MAINTAINING IT AS WOODLAND.
MAINTAINING NEW GROWTH TREES. THE SPRUCE AND POPLAR TREE ARE DYING. THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY LARGE TREES.
MAKING MY WOODLAND COVER THE COST OF HAVING IT SO DEVELOPMENT IS NOT NEEDED TO HOLD ON TO THE LAND.
MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE PLANTS AND PESTS (PINE BORER, ETC).
MANAGING IT PROPERLY WHILE HAVING NO TIME TO DEVOTE.
MANAGING THE WOODLAND BY SELECTIVE HARVESTING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PROPERTY AND BETTER GROWTH. HOWEVER, EXCESSIVE PAPERWORK IS STRONGLY RESENTED.
MANAGING THE WOODS PROPERLY TO PROMOTE THE BEST GROWTH AND HEALTH OF YOUNGER TREES AND WILDLIFE.
MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS CONCERNING FOREST MANAGEMENT OPTIONS. REFERENCES AS TO LOGGING AND FORESTERS WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING (WHO ARE FAIR AND HONEST TIMBER HARVESTERS).
MOST EFFECTIVE USE.
MUNICIPAL AND STATE ZONING ORDINANCES THAT APPEAR TO BE SHOTGUN APPROACHES RATHER THAN BEING SPECIFIC TO PARTICULAR PROPERTY CONDITIONS.
MY CONCERNS ARE THESE HAPHAZARD DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE POPPING UP (I LIVE IN VASSALBORO). THERE COULD BE MORE RESTRICTIONS ON SELLING SMALL PARCELS OF LAND AS WELL. PERHAPS THIS FALLS UNDER LOCAL ZONING LAWS. I LIKE THAT WE NOW HAVE MORE WALKING, NATURE TRAILS FOR THE PUBLIC TO ENJOY. WHEN THE PUBLIC ENJOYS NATURE, THEY WILL RESPECT IT MORE.

MY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE TO DO THE CORRECT MANAGEMENT.
MY PROPERTY WAS A LONG-AGO PASTURE- NOW OVER GROWN WITH A MIX OF HARD&SOFT WOOD ALONG THE SHORE OF CHINA LAKE-- THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING ALL OF MY PROPERTY WITHIN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS IS VERY HIGH.
MY WOODLOT AT THIS POINT IS TO PROVIDE HEAT AND ENJOYMENT TO ME AND MY FAMILY. I BELIEVE I AM DOING WHAT I CAN TO ALLOW NATURE TO LIVE COMFORTABLY ON MY PROPERTY. BUT DUE TO NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO OR BEING ABLE TO AFFORD TO DO IT, I CAN NOT ENHANCE WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH I INFLUENCE OR OWN AT THIS TIME.
NO ISSUE OR CONCERNS - JUST USE MY LAND FOR HUNTING. LAND IS IN "TREE GROWTH."
NO MAJOR ISSUES.
NOT FAMILIAR WITH WOODLANDS ISSUES.
NOT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT WOOD LOTS.
ONE WORD – TAXES.
OPEN REGULATION BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. LEAVE US ALONE AND LET US GO. STAY OUT OF OUR LIVES. WE ARE BEING STRANGLERED. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND OTHER LEFT WING SOCIALIST PROGRAMS ARE A FRAUD AND WILL DO GREAT DAMAGE TO THE STATE OF MAINE. FREE UP THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LEAVE US ALONE.
OTHER PEOPLE DEVELOPING CLOSE TO MY PROPERTY.
OTHER PEOPLE HAVING ACCESS TO THE LAND WITHOUT PERMISSION. THINKING THAT ALL LAND IS COMMUNAL BUT NOT TAKING CARE OF IT. ILLEGAL HUNTING. ILLEGAL DUMPING.
OTHER PEOPLE USING PROPERTY W/O PERMISSION IS A CONCERN. WE JUST WANT TO USE OUR PROPERTY W/O INTERFERENCE FROM ANY ONE ELSE.
OUR WOODLAND...WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO BE DEVELOPED. ACCESS TO OUR WOODLAND IS AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH OUR DRIVEWAY AND FRONT YARD. WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO HARVEST WOOD DURING OUR LIFETIME.
OVERALL: FRAGMENTATION OF THE FORESTED AREAS AND LOSS OF HABITAT FOR MANY SPECIES. SPECIFIC TO THIS WOODLOT: SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING IS DESIRED, BUT ACCESS TO THIS TIMBER WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE. IT MAY NEVER BE WORTH BUILDING THE ROAD/ACCESS TO ALLOW A HARVEST OF THIS WOODLOT.
PAYING PROPERTY TAXES, CLEANING UP LITTER.
PAYING TAXES ON LAND I VIEW AS WORTHLESS. DRIVING GAME WITH ATV'S OR SNOWMOBILES.
PAYING TAXES, KEEPING ATVS OFF MY LAND.
PEOPLE & DUMPING GARBAGE ON IT. THE USE OF 4 WHEELERS AND THE DAMAGE THAT MIGHT RESULT.
PEOPLE HUNTING WITHOUT PERMISSION. TAXES.
PEOPLE USING IT WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.
PEOPLE WANT TO BUY IT FOR HOUSE LOTS.

PESTS, DISEASE, DEER OVERPOPULATION POSSIBLE – TURKEY OVERPOPULATION – COYOTES HAVE KILLED DEER 30 FEET FROM OUR HOUSE.
PRESERVING NATURE FOR WHAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE. ALLOWING A FEW POLITICIANS TO ENABLE BUSINESS...ACCESS TO OUR LIVES.
PRESSURE TO DEVELOP TO HIGHEST AND BEST USE, SPRAWL.
PRICE OR VALUE.
PROPERTY TAXES I FEEL ARE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL AND IF NOT CONTROLLED IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR LANDOWNERS IN THE FUTURE TO HOLD ON TO PROPERTY. I FEEL THAT ITS IMPORTANT TO KEEP WOODLANDS WORKING FOREST FOR PRODUCTION OF PULPWOOD AND LOGS FOR THE FUTURE AND ALSO KEEP THEM FOR RECREATION ALSO I THINK THIS IS POSSIBLE BUT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED ON THIS. A LOT BELIEVE CUTTING WOOD IS BAD BUT DONE PROPERLY MAKES VERY BEAUTIFUL FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.
PROPERTY TAXES STAYING LOW.
PUTTING IN A ROAD SO WE CAN DEVELOP IT, WITHOUT HURTING THE LAND.
REAL ESTATE MARKET IS VERY LOW.
REGULATION/PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT.
REGULATIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LOG SMALL WOODLOTS IN WET LAND AREAS COST EFFECTIVELY. REGULATIONS DO NOT ACCURATELY ADDRESS EROSION POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES, BUT ASSUME WORSE CASE CONSEQUENCES.
RISING TAXES. THE PROPERTY IS OPEN TO SPORTSMEN. HUNTING, FISHING, SNOMOBILING. DUMPING OF TRASH AND LIABILITY ARE CONCERNS.
SO MUCH WOODLAND IS BEING TORN DOWN FOR HOUSING. IT'S SAD TO SEE, AS I SAW ON MY ROAD THIS YEAR, TWO ACRES OF TREES TORN DOWN FOR LAWN AROUND ONE HOUSE. BESIDES HAVING TO LISTEN TO THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT DISMANTLE THE WOODS ALL SUMMER, IT STRIKES ME AS A WASTE OF RESOURCES AND BEAUTY.
STATE AND TOWN APPROVAL OF REMOVING DEAD OR HAZARDOUS TREES-BRUSH-ETC.
STATE AND TOWN ZONING ACTIVIST GROUP (I.E: GREENERS). I AM CONCERNED OF THE VIEW OF ACTIVISTS- WE WHO OWN, AND PAY TAXES, MANAGE OUR PROPERTY FOR GENERATIONS ARE BEING PUT IN POSITIONS THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING.
SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT TO AVOID CONTINUING TO PAY ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES. FOR WOODLAND/UNDEVELOPED LAND, THERE IS AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO SELL OR DEVELOP...TO AVOID PAYING TAXES ON LAND THAT IS NOT PRODUCING ANY VALUE. E.G. I PAY ANNUAL TAX, I DO NOT USE THE LAND, IT PROVIDES NO INCOME NOR INCREASE IN VALUE. THEREFORE THERE IS INCENTIVE TO SELL FOR DEVELOPMENT.
SUBDIVISION IN THE AREA.
SUITABLE MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS. QUALIFIED AND CARING LOGGERS. INSECT AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. FIRE PROTECTION. UNAUTHORIZED USE AND DESTRUCTION (I.E. DUMPING, MOTOR VEHICLE USE, ETC.).

TAX ISSUES AS RELATED TO PASSING LAND ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION.
TAXES - MY WIFE AND I ARE BOTH WORKING PROFESSIONALS. A CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS WOULD LIKELY FORCE A SALE OF PROPERTY FOR DEVELOPMENT.
TAXES AND BEING ABLE TO DO WITH MY LAND AS I WOULD LIKE, WITHIN REASON.
TAXES AND MARKETS FOR WOOD PRODUCTS.
TAXES MAY FORCE SMALL WOODLOT OWNERS TO SELL THEIR LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT.
TAXES, MARKETS FOR SAWLOGS, PULP, FIREWOOD. INCENTIVES TO KEEP MY FOREST INTACT TO REMOVE CO2 FROM THE ATMOSPHERE AND PRODUCE O2.
TAXES, OVER DEVELOPING LAKE, IMPROVE SMALL WOODLOTS
TAXES, REGULATION.
TAXES.
TAXES.
TAXES. DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION. PAPERWORK.
THAT GOVERNMENT KEEPS EXTENDING WATER LINES FROM WATER EDGES.
THAT MY DAUGHTER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN "THE FARM" IN ITS CURRENT STATE.
THAT THE ECONOMY WILL PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT, AS I WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A MINOR SUBDIVISION AND/OR SELL LOTS (ON 50% TO 70% OF MY WOODLAND).
THAT THE NE FORESTRY FOUNDATION WERE TO SELL THEIR LAND (600 + ACRES) TO A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL (ONE SIDE ABUTS MY LAND).
THAT TREES NEED TO BE THINNED OUT, AND CLEARED OF DAMAGED OR DEAD.
THE COST OF OWNING LAND, EVEN IN TREE GROTH IS EXPENSIVE. MY CHALLENGE WIL BE THE ABILITY TO KEEP THE PROPERTY INACT FOR MY CHILDREN.
THE COST OF TAXES IS GREATLY IMPACTING OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A LIVING ON OUR LAND. THERE NEEDS TO BE A WAY, AN INEXPENSIVE WAY FOR...TO BE DEVELOPED THAT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE TAX BURDEN. PLANS THAT WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT TAKE TOO MANY YEARS TO RETURN THE INITIAL PAYOUT.
THE GOVNMEN TYRANNY.
THE GREATEST CHALLENGES ARE POLITICS AND FINANCES (TAXES). DECISIONS ARE FREQUENTLY MADE THAT WILL IMPACT WOODLAND OWNERS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS (SMALL VS. LARGE; WITH OR WITHOUT FOREST WETLANDS ETC.). MORE CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL VOICE NEED TO BE ALLOWED.
THE HIGH RATE OF TAXES LEAVIED ON TREE GROWTH PROPERTY. IT SEEMS AS IF THE STATE CONSIDERS IT A SLUSH FUND TO BE USED FOR MORE REVENUE. WE HAVE LAND MOSTLY COVERED BY SWAMP SO IT'S NOT EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE.
THE IMPACT UPON MY LAND BY DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AROUND ME. HAVING FINANCIAL INTEREST (TAX BREAKS) FOR MAINTAINING MY WOODLAND.
THE LAND AROUND OURS IS PRIME FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE NUMBER ONE CONCERN I HAVE WITH BEING A WOODLAND OWNER IN KENNEBEC COUNTY (OR MAINE) IS THE UNFAIR RATE THAT UNDEVELOPED LANDS ARE TAXED. EVEN WITH TREE GROWTH TAX RATES THERE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT REDUCTION IN RATES. BY MAINTAINING GREEN SPACE (WOODLANDS AND FIELDS) WE ARE PROVIDING FUTURE FOREST PRODUCTS, FARM PRODUCTS (SILEAGE), MAINTAINING WILDLIFE (GAME & NON-GAME) HABITAT, AND MAINTAINING THE CHARACTER/QUALITY OF RURAL MAINE.
THE SEBASTICOOK RIVER. BUILD A NEW DAM IN WINSLOW.
THE TAX ON LAND IS NUTS!
THE TOWN OF VASSALBORO JUST INCREASED ITSELF - BACK FROM THE LAKE FROM 100 FT TO 200 FT. HOW CAN I BE SURE THEY WON'T INCREASE THIS AGAIN? ALSO HOW CAN I FIND GRAVEL DEPOSITS ON MY PROPERTY FOR MY OWN USE?
THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO ACCESS THIS LAND AND UNAUTHORIZED ATV USERS ARE CAUSING SOIL EROSION. I DO ALLOW SNOWMOBILES HOWEVER. SEVERAL ABUTTING LAND OWNERS MAKE HARVESTING DIFFICULT.
THIS LAND WAS FARMLAND FOR GENERATIONS. I AM THE THIRD FAMILY MEMBER TO OWN IT. I FEEL PROPERTY TAXES WILL EVENTUALLY FORCE THE SALE AND WITH THAT COMES DEVELOPMENT/ <u>BIG PROBLEM</u> IN MAINE.
TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES AS BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM THREAT. CLIMATE CHANGE AS A LONG TERM THREAT. TREE PESTS AND DISEASES (LIKE WOOLY ADELGID) AS LONG-TERM THREATS.
TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF MY WOODLAND.
TO KEEP OUR WOODLAND, TAX REUCTION/ABATEMENT OR WAVER IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE DO NOT TAKE WOOD AND NO OTHER SOURCES TO...RIGHT NOW WE LAY OUR \$ TO KEEP IT (I.E. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL, VERNAL POOL PROTECTION, ROAD MAINTENANCE COSTS, CULVERTS -ETC.).
TO KEEP THE LAND AND ANIMALS THE WAY GOD INTENDED IT TO BE! TO LET MY CHILDREN AND NEIGHBORS ENJOY IT.
TOO MUCH DEVELOPMENT. ALSO NEIGHBORS CLEARCUTTING THEIR LAND CHANGED TO COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL USES LIKE GOLF.
TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT TELL YOU HOW TO MANAGE YOUR WOOD LOTS.
TOO MUCH TOWN RULE, LOCAL LAWS ETC. HARVEST PERMITS.
TOWNS ZONING PERMITS. WATER RUNOFF PLANS.
TRAILS THAT ARE POORLY MARKED IN SUMMER.
TRESPASSING.
TRYING TO FIND A BUYER FOR IT.
URBAN SPRAWL.
VALUE OF LAND.
WANT TO SELL.

WE ARE IN A WATERSHED AREA. WE HAVE LOGGED OUR LAND FOR OUR WEEDS. WE LEAVE THE FOREST BETTER THAN WE 1ST CAME TO IT. THERE ARE MANY TRAILS FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE TO USE. A LOT OF DIVERSE WILDLIFE. CHALLENGE - PEOPLE GROWING MARIJUANA PLANTS ON THE PROPERTY...HUNTING WITHOUT PERMISSION. WE ARE A SMALL WOODLOT OWNER IN OUR NECK OF THE WOODS.

WE HAVE OWNED OUR WOODLAND APPROX. 15 ACRES SINCE 1983. JUST PREVIOUS TO THAT IT WAS "SELECTIVELY" HARVESTED. OUR WOODED AREA RIMS OUR LAND, TOTAL OF 29 ACRES A NEIGHBOR HAYS THE REST PLUS OUR HOUSE AND GARDEN OCCUPY SOME. WE HAVE NOT HARVESTED ANY WOOD. AT OUR AGE DON'T INTEND TO, JUST ENJOY AS IS. AS THEY SAY IT IS WHAT IT IS.

WE NEED MORE CONTIGUOUS HABITAT TO BRING BACK BEARS, MOOSE, COUGAR AND WOLVES.

WE RECENTLY HAD A BEAVER POND AREA RECLASSIFIED WATERFOWL RESOURCE PROTECTION FROM A CLASSIFICATION OF LIMITED RESIDENTIAL. THE DISTANCE FROM HIGH WATER MARKS WERE CHANGED FROM 75 FEET TO 250 FEET. WE CONSIDER THIS AN INVASION UNNECESSARY AS WE HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PROPERTY AND PAY OUR TAXES.

WHAT CONCERNS ME MOST IS WHEN I DIE MY CHILDREN WILL INHERIT MY PROPERTY. I JUST THEY WILL KEEP THE PROPERTY AS IS. I DO HAVE MY WOODS IN TREE GROWTH. AT THE PRESENT TIME MY FIELD AT PRESENT I HAVE A FARMER WHO CUTS THE HAY PAST 15 YEARS. THE WOODLOT (8 ACRES 12 FIELD).

YOU CANNOT DO WHAT YOU WANT ON YOUR LAND BECAUSE OF ALL THE BULLSHIT YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH TO DO ANYTHING. I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RIGHT TO DO WHAT I WANT WITHOUT GETTING PERMISSION. I PAY TAXES ON MY LAND BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY SAY. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE FINAL SAY. TOTAL BULLSHIT.

Appendix D. Open Ended Responses: Additional Comments

Is there anything you would like to add to help us better understand the issues and challenges of being a woodland owner in Kennebec County or are there any topics covered in this survey that you would like to get more information on?
\$350.00 PER MONTH TAXATION IS NOT SUSTAINABLE INTO MY 70'S-80'S. I WOULD HAVE TO SELL.
30 IS DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO BECAUSE THE QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS AND RESPONSE ANSWERS WERE DESIGNED POORLY. THIS PART OF THE SURVEY COULD BE REDESIGNED.
ABOUT 50% (+/-20 ACRES) ARE WETLANDS (BEAVER POND), (20+/- ACRES) ARE WOODED.
ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES FOR SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS TO MANAGE THEIR LOTS. GREEN CERTIFICATION. RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY INVASIVE SPECIES AND INSECTS.
ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT, LIKE GRASSES, BUSHES, ETC.
AND ALONG WITH HARVESTING, THERE IS A LOT OF INACCURATE REPORTING ON WHERE THE WOOD COMES FROM WHEN IT IS SOLD TO BUYERS.
ANY TOPICS DEALING WITH MAPLE PRODUCTION.
AS A SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES YOU SHOULD HAVE STUDENTS WHO NEED FIELD WORK-- SEND THEM OUR WAY- PERHAPS THEY COULD DEVELOP A WOODLAND PLAN FOR A SENIOR PROJECT.
AS THE STATE AND OR COUNTY "GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT."
BETTER INFORMED ON WOODLAND OWNERSHIP IN REGARDS TO LIABILITY OF PUBLIC USING PROPERTY.
BIGGEST ISSUE RIGHT NOW IS THE ECONOMY. KEEPING A JOB AND BEING ABLE TO PAY THE CONSTANTLY ESCALATING PROPERTY TAXES.
CHOSEN OPTION TO SUBDIVISION.
CIP LOGGER & CERTIFIED MASTER LOGGER NOT COMPLYING WITH CERTIFICATIONS.
COMPUTERIZED WEB BASED RESOURCES INCLUDING TUTORIALS FAQ'S AND THE LIKE.
CONTACTS OF THOSE WHO CAN ADVISE GOOD FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.
D.E.P. RESTRICTIONS.
DUE TO THE TERRAIN, MY LAND WOULD MOST LIKELY TAKE ONLY ONE MORE HOUSE LOT. A LOT OF IT IS EITHER WETLAND OR ROCKY AND STEEP HILLS.
EVERY 10 YEARS I HAVE TO HAVE MY LOT LOOKED OVER BY A TREE GROWTH RANGER OR INSPECTOR TO TELL ME WHAT KIND OF JOB I HAVE BEEN DOING. IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MORE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE WHO DO THIS WORK. I CUT WOOD FOR MY OWN USE, AND IT IS NOT WORTH THE LABOR IT TAKES TO CUT MORE TO SELL, THAN I USE. SOMEDAY THE WORK OF KEEPING THIS HILLTOP IN TREE GROWTH WILL NOT BE WORTH WHAT THE PENALTY WILL BE TO SELL OFF TO DELEVOPER. I HAVE MY TREES AND ENJOY DOING THE WORK IN THE WOODS TO A LIMIT.
FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND HOW TO PROFIT FROM YOUR WOODLAND IS NOT READILY OR EASILY AVAILABLE.

<p>GET THE FOREST SERVICE ON THE BALL WITH MY RELATIVE'S TIMBER THEFT CASE. HIS LAND STRADDLES THE KENNEBEC/WALDO COUNTY LINE. HE IS IN HIS 80'S AND WILL PROBABLY BE DEAD BEFORE ANY RESULTS ARE SEEN IN HIS CASE. WHAT INCENTIVE TO OWN OR KEEP WOODLAND IF THE STATE WON'T PROSECUTE LAWBREAKERS WHEN IT IS AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE? I SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR A STATE RECORD PEAR TREE 5 MONTHS AGO AND HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE TO THAT EITHER.</p>
<p>GETTING PEOPLE NOT TO TRESSPASS AND ENDANGERING WILDLIFE AND PEOPLES POSSESSIONS. HARVESTING.</p>
<p>HELP TO GET THINGS DONE OR KNOWLEDGE OF HOW IS ALWAYS GOOD.</p>
<p>HIGH TAXES, NO SERVICES.</p>
<p>HOPE YOU AND THE STATE GOT YOUR ACT TOGETHER TO HELP THE TAX PAYER.</p>
<p>HOW TO GET REDUCED TAXES AND MAINTENANCE COSTS (CULVERTS, ROAD COSTS). INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL.</p>
<p>HOW TO OBTAIN FREE ASSISTANCE FROM A FORESTER ON HOW TO BETTER MANAGE THE LAND FOR WILDLIFE AND CONTINUE TO HARVEST FIREWOOD TO HEAT MY HOME.</p>
<p>I AM AS A LANDOWNER AREN'T VERY HAPPY WITH A LOT OF ATV'S AND SPORTSMAN THAT DON'T RESPECT LANDOWNERS WISHES WHEN THEY ARE GIVING PERMISSION TO USE THERE LAND. I THINK IN MY AREA (KENNEBEC COUNTY) THERE WILL BE A LOT MORE PEOPLE POSTING LAND. THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO REALIZE THE PROBLEM BEFORE IT BECOMES EVEN HARDER TO FIND HUNTING AND FISHING AREAS. I ALSO BELIEVE ATV'S SHOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE STATE TO CARRY INSURANCE ON MACHINES.</p>
<p>I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I AM SAVING MONEY FOR AND WHAT IT WILL COST TO TAKE IT OUT OF WOODLAND.</p>
<p>I FEEL GAME WARDENS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO QUESTION ATV OPERATORS ON ONES LAND TO FIND WRITTEN PERMISSION.</p>
<p>I FEEL LAND IS TAX VALUED ON ITS MARKET VALUE. IF I NEVER SELL ANY FOR HOUSE LOTS WHY AM I PAYING TAXES ON MONEY I'LL NEVER SEE.</p>
<p>I FEEL TOWNS SHOULD ALL BE OBLIGED TO ABIDE BY STATE GUIDELINES NOT THEIR OWN EXAGGERATED ONES.</p>
<p>I HAVE A LOT OF DAMAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS FROM PORCUPINE. AS I STATED BEFORE, THE CIO TY PROBLEM. WHAT IS THE STATE DOING ABOUT THAT??</p>
<p>I HAVE HAD SEVERAL POOR EXPERIENCES WITH THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE. THEY SEEM TO BE VERY AGGRESSIVE AND ORIENTED TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL FOREST PRODUCT PRODUCTION. I PLAN TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE.</p>
<p>I HAVE PUT FOOD PLOTS AND A ROAD IN ON MY PROPERTY BOTH COST ME TO DO WITH NO REAL RETURN OTHER THAN GETTING FIREWOOD AND HOPEFULLY BETTER HUNTING. TAXES ARE ALWAYS AN ISSUE AND MAKE IT HARD FOR PEOPLE TO HOLD ONTO SECTIONS OF LAND.</p>
<p>I HOPE MY ANSWERS HELP YOU IN SOME WAY-- AGAIN, MY PROPERTY IS SMALL AND PRIVATE. I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.</p>

I LIKE TO SELECTIVE CUT MY WOOD LOT...IT!! I ALSO LIKE TO MAINTAIN MY WOODS ROADS FOR FOREST FIRE...I OWN ABOUT 38 ACRES OF LAND...
I NEED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT IS. I MAY HAVE ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS DIFFERENTLY. I HAVE HAD FORESTERS IN THE PAST HELP ME WITH SOME DECISIONS REGARDING CARE.
I PURCHASED MY WOODLOT TO MANAGE IT FOR WILDLIFE AND KEEP IT UNDEVELOPED AND AVAILABLE FOR HUNTING. MOST OF IT HAS BEEN ZONED NATURAL RESOURCE - WITH MY APPROVAL. PROPERTY TAXES FORCED ME TO SELL SOME OF IT FOR A HOUSE LOT AND HARVEST SOMETIMES - AND CONTINUE TO PRESSURE ME - BECAUSE THE LAND PROVIDES NO INCOME. IN OTHER WORDS, PROPERTY TAXES ARE PREVENTING ME FROM MANAGING THE WOODLOT THE WAY I WOULD LIKE.
I WAS NOT PAID FOR MY WOODLOT HARVEST AND HAD TO REPORT IT TO THE FOREST RANGER'S OFFICE. THEY CONTACTED THE WOODSMAN AND HE HAS STARTED TO PAY ME, BUT STILL OWES ABOUT \$800. SO, FINDING REPUTABLE HARVESTER'S IS A BIG CONCERN!
I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ABOUT FUNDS TO IMPROVE MY WOODLOT AS WELL AS MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS.
I WOULD CONSIDER BUILDING A SINGLE FAMILY HOME AT SOME POINT, BUT WANT TO PRESERVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON GOOD WOODLAND PRACTICES.
I WOULD LIKE MY WOODLAND TO OFFSET CLIMATE CHANGE. IT WOULD HELP IF MY TAXES WOULD REFLECT THE CARBON I REMOVE FROM THE AIR AND STORED IT FOR CENTURES. YOU MUST RETHINK WAYS TO USE WOOD IN OUR SOCIETY. WE NEED LESS PLASTIC IN OUR LIVES AND MORE WOOD. HAS ANYONE AT UME HEARD OF THE INTERNET?
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE DONE ABOUT HUNTERS. THEY ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM I HAVE. THEY ARE RUDE AND DO NOT RESPECT LANDOWNERS. I HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH HUNTERS FOR 30 YEARS.
I'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND A WRITTEN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.
I'D LIKE TO OBTAIN RESOURCES TO BETTER EDUCATE ME RE: MAINTENANCE WITH NO COST TO ME.
IDENTIFYING HAZARDOUS TREES (I.E. MAY FALL OVER). ANY INFO ON HOW TO PROPERLY MANAGE WOODLANDS. INVASIVE DISEASES/BUGS/PARASITES.
IF YOU OR ANY OTHER REPUTABLE ENTITY OFFERED US A PROPOSAL WE WOULD CONSIDER IT.
IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY OF WHAT GOOD MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT DOES FOR THEM.
IN THIS SURVEY, UNDER LANDSCAPE CHANGES THE CHOICE OF THE WORD DEVELOP SHOULD BE QUANTIFIED.
INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF YOUR SURVEY.
IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE (FORESTER TYPE) GIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO

MANAGEMENT OF MY PROPERTY.
KEEPING REGULATIONS AT A MINIMUM. GIVE TAX BREAKS FOR WOODLAND OWNERS SO AS NOT TO FORCE THEM TO SELL TO INVESTORS THAT WANT TO SUBDIVIDE AND MAKE SUBDIVISIONS. IT IS HARD TO KEEP OUR LAND AS IT SEEMS TOWNS AND STATE AND ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO MAKE RULES TO MAKE IT TOUGHER FOR LOW INCOME WOODLAND OWNERS TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE W/OUT SELLING.
LACK OF LANDOWNER RESPECT FROM THE PUBLIC - ATV'S - HUNTERS - ECT. MOST ARE OK - BUT A FEW RUIN IT FOR EVERYONE. LANDOWNERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FINANCE THE PUBLICS RECREATION THROUGH HIGH PROPERTY TAXES.
LAND OWNERSHIP IS A RIGHT IN THE U.S.A. IN LIKE MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, WE NEED TO PRESERVE THAT! I MANAGE MY OWN LAND AND I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THAT. I HOPE TAX DOLLARS AREN'T PAYING FOR THIS.
LAND PLACED IN TREE GROWTH.
LAND WAS PURCHASED ORIGINALLY TO USE AS A WOOD LOT FOR CONSUMPTION OF OWN FIREWOOD AND HOME AND PERSONAL HUNTING USE.
LUCKILY, SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE OR PARTICULAR PLAN FOR OUR WOODLAND, THE LAND, PRETTY MUCH TAKES CARE OF ITSELF. THE PROPERTY WAS CUT ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO BY THE PREVIOUS OWNER AND THE NEW GROWTH IS THICK AND MIGHT BENEFIT FROM SOME THINNING TO PRODUCE A HEALTHIER FOREST. SOME EXPERT ADVICE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
MANY LAND OWNERS HAVE SEPARATE PARCELS, THAT HAVE UNIQUE QUALITIES. THE SURVEY DID NOT ALLOW ME TO SPEAK CLEARLY AS MY LOTS ARE LIKELY TO SEE A VARIED FUTURE.
MORE INFO ON FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. MORE INFO ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. MORE INFO ON CULTIVATION/COLLECTION OF NON TIMBER PRODUCTS AND HOW TO MARKET THEM. EXAMPLE: BALSAMIC FIR TIPS
MORE INFO REGARDING TAX BREAKS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THOSE, I.E., RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF THE LAND INCLUDING PASSING ON THE LAND TO MY HEIRS.
MOST OF MY WOODLAND HAS NEVER SEEN A SKIDDER. IT HAS NO BIG RUTS AS I SEE IN MANY PLACES. WOODLAND SHOULD BE CUT WITH MORE RESPECT. DEEP RUTS IN MUD, STUMPS CUT HIGH. I HAVE SEEN FORESTS IN GERMANY NOT LIKE OURS.
MY BIGGEST CONCERN/CHALLENGE IS THE TAXES!
MY CONCERN IS THAT I HATE SEEING POSTED LAND. I WILL NEVER POST MY PROPERTY AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE POSTED SIGNS GO AWAY.
MY MOTHER HAS GIVEN ME HER LAND WHICH I HAVE BUILT ON. I'M USING THE LAND TO SELECTIVE HARVEST FOR FIREWOOD AND I HAVE A SMALL SAWMILL TO MILL OUT LUMBER FOR PERSONEL USE. M OLDEST DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND MAY BUILD OUT HERE IN THE FUTURE. I WILL LEAVE THE LAND TO MY FAMILY HOPEFULLY TO USE FOR HOUSE SITS AND FIREWOOD. THANK YOU.

MY OPINION IS THE OFFERED TAX REDUCTION BENEFITS FOR FORMALLY CONSERVING WOODLOTS DOES NOT OFFER ENOUGH MONETARILY TO JOIN.
MY PROPERTY VALUE DEGRADED BY THE REMOVAL OF THE WINSLOW DAM. WATER RECREATION NO LONGER POSSIBLE.
N/A ON TOPICS. THAT WE ALL WORRY THE IMPROPER USE AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY THOSE THAT TRESPASS.
OUR WOODLAND IS MOSTLY VERY WET OR VERY LEDGY, SMALL BUT STEEP HILLS, VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCESS.
OVER REGULATION.
PEOPLE COMING ONTO YOUR LAND WITHOUT PERMISSION WITH THEIR FOUR WHEELERS, MAKING RUTS IN THE HAY FIELDS AND NOT GETTING PERMISSION TO CROSS THE LAND.
PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY NEW LAWS GOVERNING OUT OF STATE LAND OWNERS.
SOME OF THE QUESTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER PHRASED BUT THEIR PROVIDE AN INSIGHT (TO ME) AS TO THE POLITICAL BENT OF THE AUTHOR-AUTHORS. I.E. COMMUNITY BENEFIT. SHARING WITHOUT MENTION OF COMPENSATION ETC.
SOMEHOW GET THE GENERAL POPULATION TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TREES OF THE WORLD ARE OUR LUNGS OF THE PLANET. A RESOURCE THAT MUST BE MANAGED IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
SUGAR BUSH INFORMATION. I STARTING SUGAR HOUSE.
TAXATION ISSUES AND EVALUATION OF PROPERTY ARE MAKING LANDOWNERS RETHINK THEIR OWNERSHIPS.
TAXES POWERLINES.
TAXES.
THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ACCESSABLE DATABASE OF CERTIFIED LOGGERS AND THE TYPE OF HARVESTING METHODS THEY EMPLOY. ALSO, ANY KNOWN COMPLAINTS.
THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO KEEP THEIR NOSES AND REGULATIONS TO THEMSELVES. I AM VERY CAPABLE OF MAKING MY OWN "COMMON SENSE" DECISIONS. MY ISSUE IS THE GOVERNMENT EPA, DOE, COMMERCE, GREENS, AND TREE HUGGERS BUTTING INTO MY BUSINESS AND USURPING MY PROPERTY RIGHTS: DOC!
THE GREAT SIDNEY BOG (WHAT IS IN IT FLORA, FAUNA).
THE LEVEL OF LOGGING IN MAINE IS DISGRACEFUL. PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BURN WOOD FOR WINTER HEAT. THEY SHOULD INSULATE THEIR HOMES.
THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF MY WOODLAND IS TO PROVIDE A PRIVACY BUFFER AROUND OUR HOME, AND TO CREATE A FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR WILDLIFE.
THE QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO LANDCAPE CHANGE (#30) CAN BE INTERPRETED 2 WAYS. I DON'T THINK THE CONCEPT YOU ARE TRYING TO QUESTION IS CLEAR. MY FIRST THOUGHTS ABOUT DEVELOPING MY WOODLAND MADE ME THINK OF HOW TO ENHANCE THE WOODLAND BY SELECTIVE CUTTING, STAND IMPROVEMENT, FOOD PLOTS, ETC. YOU MAY WANT TO REPHRASE THE QUESTIONS.

THE REPORT OF THE FLOW OF THE WEST BRANCH OF THE SHEEPSCOT RIVER AND A REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATLANTIC SALMON HATCH AND NUMBERS OF FISH MAKING IT ALL THE WAY TO THE HEADWATERS.
THE STATE NEEDS TO KICK IN MORE RE TREE GROWTH TAXES IF THEY DON'T WANT ME OUT THERE CUTTING AND RAPING MORE JUST TO KEEP UP WITH THE TAXES.
THE VALUE OF RURAL LAND IS GREATLY ENHANCED BY SURROUNDING RURAL LAND.
THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH LAND AT OUR LOCATION, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THAT LAND...FIGURING OUT HOW TO USE THE LAND RESPONSIBLY IS ONE OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS...THERE IS MUCH WE CAN DO...WE'RE JUST NOT SURE WHAT WE WANT TO DO WITH THE LAND.
THIS QUESTIONAIRE IS TOO DETAILED. I HAVE IGNORED PREVIOUS REQUESTS DUE TO THIS REASON. WE USE 1 CORD OF WOOD ANNUALLY TO HEAT OUR LOG CABIN. MOST OF WHICH IS COLLECTED POST STORMS. OUR WOODED LAND IS FOR OUR PERSONAL USE AND ENJOYMENT.
TIMBER TRESPASS!
TO INFORM PEOPLE OF ACCESS TO FREE ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE LAND MANAGEMENT.
TOO FAR AWAY TO USE/MANAGE.
UNFORTUNATELY I DO NOT OWN LAND THAT HAS ENOUGH WOOD ON IT TO MANAGE. I WILL KEEP THIS LAND THE WAY IT IS AS LONG AS I LIVE IN MY CURRENT LOCATION. IT IS BACK LAND WITH NOT FRONTAGE, SO IF FEEL IT WILL NOT BE DEVELOPED. I LOVE THE WOODS AND WISH I OWNED MORE.
UNTIL LOGGERS ARE LICENSED, POLICED, AND DISCIPLINED BY THE STATE OF MAINE, THERE WILL BE A MULITITUDE OF SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS, WHO WOULD LIKE TO CAREFULLY LOG THEIR WOODLOTS, BUT DO NOT FINANCIALLY HAVE TO LOG THEIR WOODLOTS, WHO WILL LEAVE THEIR WOODLOTS UNCUT. THERE ARE GOOD TRUSTWORTHY LOGGERS AND BAD UNSCRUPULOUS LOGGERS, BUT NO EASY, SIMPLE WAY TO GIFT AND SELECT THE GOOD FROM THE BAD.
WAS APPROCHED BY STATE OF MAINE TO HARVEST OUR WHITE OAK BUT REFUSED THEIR REQUEST. ICE STORM DID A LOT OF DAMAGE BUT CLEANED UP THE DAMAGED TREES.
WE BOUGHT THE ACREAGE BECAUSE IT WAS LAND LOCKED AND WET. IT CANNOT BE DEVELOPED OR SEPARATED OFF FROM OUR HOUSE PARCEL.
WE TRY TO LET PEOPLE USE OUR LAND FOR HUNTING BUT PEOPLE DON'T ASK PERMISSION AND HUNT TO CLOSE TO THE HOUSE, EVEN WITH POSTING.
WHAT HARD WOODS GROW QUICKEST AND HOW TO PROPERLY PLANT THEM.
WHAT IS "GREEN CERTIFIED" MORE INFO RE "CONSERVATION EASEMENT."
WITH THE ECONOMY WE ARE LIVING IN PEOPLE ARE RESORTING TO OVERCUTTING AND THEFT OF WOOD. THERE SHOULD BE TAX BREAKS TO THOSE THAT AGREE NOT TO DEVELOP THEIR LAND AND ONLY CUT TREE'S VERY SELECTIVELY. I APPRECIATE THIS SURVEY AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL GET GOOD COOPERATION. SINCERELY.

<p>WOODLAND OWNER'S (SOME OF US) HAVE A HARD TIME WITH OUR LAND BEING REGULATED WITH THE GROUP OR A WHOLE INSTEAD OF INDIVIDUALLY. MY USE FOR MY LAND MAY NOT FIT THE USE OF OTHERS, BUT IT WORKS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY WITHOUT DAMAGING THE LAND. EXAMPLE; A HARDWOD CUTTING TO LET YOUR FIR GROW WILL WORK FOR ME TO PRODUCE BALSAM TIPS. LAND USE REGULATIONS GROUP ME WITH OTHER LANDOWNERS IN THIS AREA, AND DON'T ALLOW ME TO DO SO WITH SOME AREA.</p>
<p>WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ACTUAL COST OF FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.</p>
<p>WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON HARVESTING TO HELP PRESERVE THE WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND TREES.</p>
<p>WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE MORE WOODLAND BUT VALUES DRIVEN BY DEVELOPMENT AND LACK OF PROFITABILITY ARE MAJOR CHALLENGES.</p>
<p>WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE RESULTS OF YOUR SURVEY. GOOD LUCK!</p>
<p>YES IT TAKES A LOT OF WORK TO KEEP A WOODLOT IN SHAPE AND KEEPING PEOPLE FROM DUMPING GARBAGE ON IT!</p>
<p>ZONING. PEOPLE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT LAND IS FREE FOR THE TAKING. I HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD AND I HAVE GIVEN UP A LOT TO BUY MY LAND. NOW THE TOWNS ARE PASSING REGULATIONS THAT MAKE MY LAND ALMOST WORTHLESS. I CAN NOT BUILD ON IT OR CUT WOOD.</p>