

YOUR WOODLAND

A Resource Guide for Kennebec County Landowners



This resource guide was produced by the Kennebec Woodland Partnership














Maine Forest Service • Kennebec Land Trust • Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine • Forest Society of Maine • Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District • The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands • Maine Forest Products Council • Maine CDC Drinking Water Program • Sebasticook Regional Land Trust • Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources • Center for Research on Sustainable Forests • Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee • Maine Project Learning Tree



AS A WOODLAND OWNER, you value your forestland for many reasons. Recreation, privacy, solitude, timber harvesting, wildlife habitat, protection of soil and water quality, or any combination of these interests may be the driving force behind a decision to own land. The choices you make about your woodland based on your management priorities will shape the future of your forest.

This resource guide introduces you to the basic steps of woodland stewardship. Taken as a whole, these Stewardship Steps are intended to help in your decision-making about your woodland. You don't need to read this guide cover to cover to make use of it. Start with your interests and find answers to the questions that are most important to you. For more information about each step, visit our website at:

www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands

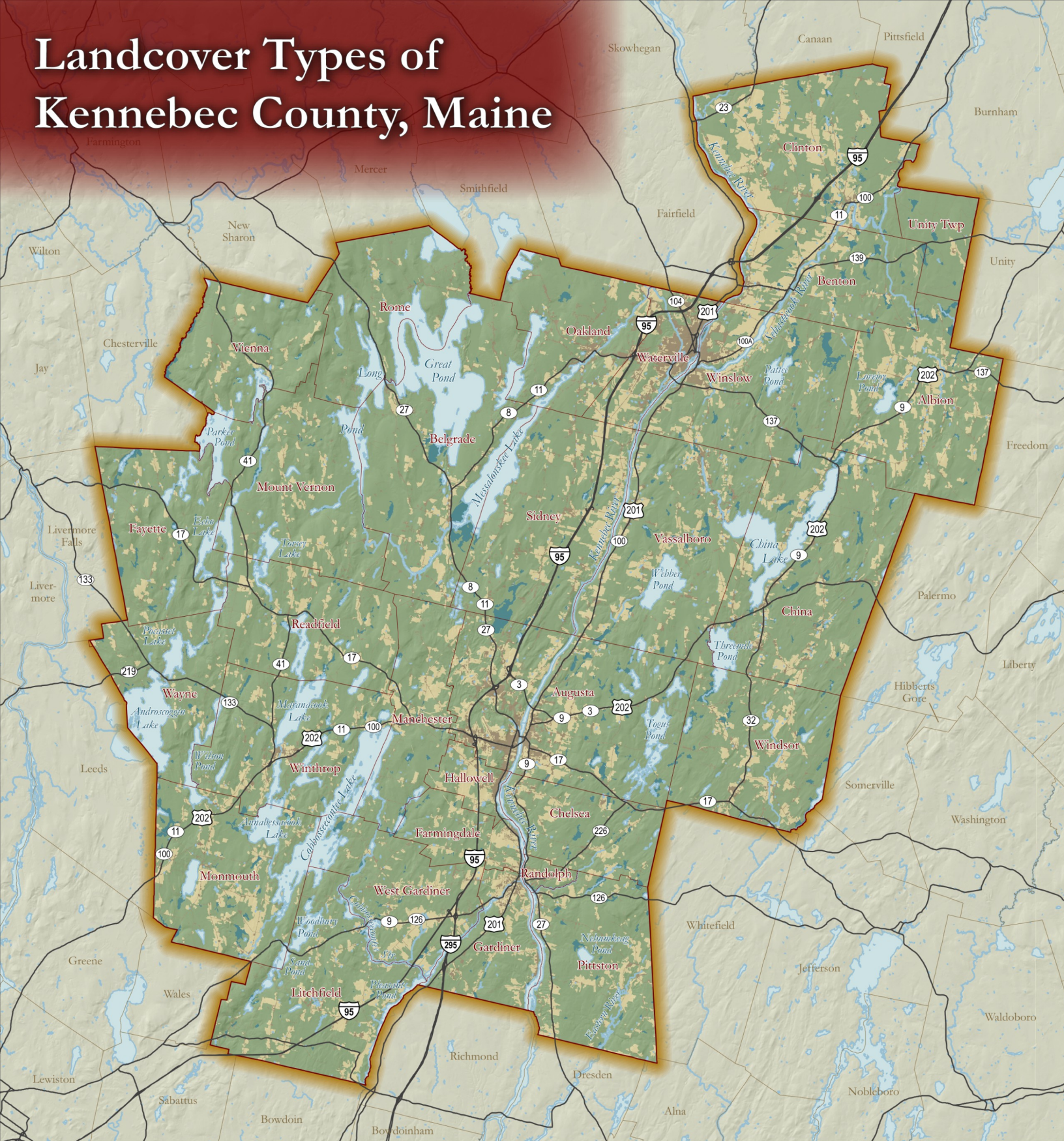
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About the Kennebec Woodland Partnership

Founded in 2009, the Kennebec Woodland Partnership is a regional conservation initiative focused on the sustainability of Kennebec County's woodlands and on a landscape-level approach to conservation. The Partners (page 15) recognize that our local economy, wood products markets, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, water quality, and quality of life are directly connected to the long-term stewardship of our forests and farmlands and the watersheds they protect.

Kennebec Woodland Partners work together to present forest education programs for landowners, communities, schoolchildren, and natural resource professionals. Our goal is to promote forest stewardship by providing landowners with tools and strategies that will help them make informed decisions about their woodlands for the benefit of both present and future generations.

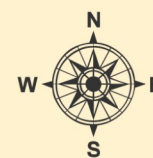
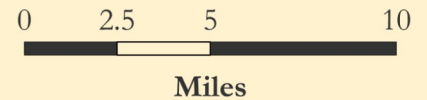
Landcover Types of Kennebec County, Maine



Landcover Types (2004)

- Forest Land - 70%
- Agricultural/Open Land - 13%
- Developed Land - 6%
- Open Water - 9%
- Wetlands - 2%

Data source: Maine Office of GIS



Map design:
CCGIS
www.community-gis.org



pattern of forest to farm to forest, most of today's developed acres will not return to forest in the foreseeable future.

Our Woodlands Today

Across the region and the state, the majority of Maine's woodland owners are people just like you. Overall, Maine is approximately 89% forested; 32% of these lands are owned by small, non-industrial owners. In Kennebec County, 65% of woodland properties are smaller than one hundred acres.

Maine's forests will continue to change over time due to natural disturbances, climate change, invasive species, fluctuating wood product markets, oil prices, and landowner attitudes and decisions.

A Forest History

Today, a climb to any high point in Kennebec County is likely to offer scenic vistas of a countryside that is about two-thirds forested. Although Kennebec County's 374,000 acres of woodland convey a sense of permanence, a century ago the region's landscape was dominated by farmland.

In 1880, Kennebec County was defined by agricultural land uses, with over 60% of the landcover in fields and pastures. As agriculture declined in the early 1900s, abandoned fields reverted to early successional woodlands of white pine and gray and white birch.

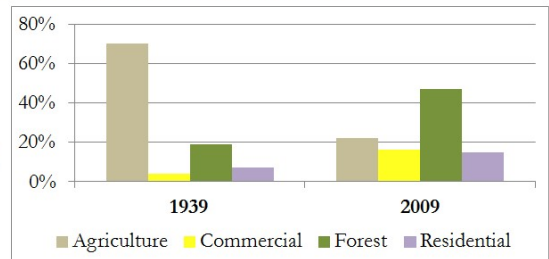
By the 1930s, forests covered 44% of the county, a figure nearly matched by agricultural uses at 39%. The aerial photographs to the right, showing the same area in 1939 and 2009, demonstrate dramatic change in the landscape over time.

The percentage of forested land in Kennebec County is now declining again as woodlands are converted for residential and commercial uses. Unlike the previous succession

Changes in land use in a sample area over 70 years, 1939-2009

Farm fields reverted to forests.

Forests and farms were developed for residential and commercial uses.



A Vision for Kennebec County's Forested Landscape

Kennebec County's woodlands define the ecological, economic, and cultural character of the region. Forestlands protect wildlife habitat and soil and water quality, provide recreational opportunities for hikers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts, and support a regional economy based on wood products, summer camps, and tourism.

Kennebec County is connected to the global economy and the global ecosystem. As populations grow, increasing demand for wood products such as lumber, paper, heating and cooking fuel, and power generation will continue to put pressure on forest resources worldwide.

Much of the wood consumed in Kennebec County is imported, some from overseas. Long-distance transportation requires significant energy expenditure and has related environmental impacts. Wood products originating in areas of high ecological value raise questions about long-term sustainability, while our local forest resources have the

potential to meet many of our wood products needs.

With these factors in mind, Amanda Lavigueur, Colby College student and Kennebec Land Trust Intern, and Ken Laustsen, Maine Forest Service Biometrician, are studying the following questions:

- What are our wood resources in Kennebec County?
- How much wood do we currently grow, harvest, and consume?
- How much of Kennebec County's wood harvest is processed in the county, and how much is exported to other regions?
- Can we sustainably harvest enough wood from Kennebec County's forests to satisfy our wood products needs, while also protecting more forestlands in permanent reserves?

The answers to these questions will inform landowners, conservation organizations, those who make a living from the woods, and policy makers about the long-term stewardship and sustainability of Kennebec County's forests.



Brent Mace stands by the sawmill at his family's business in Readfield.

Since I started in this business more than twenty years ago, my goal has been to utilize the forest resource to its fullest potential. For example, by processing much of my low-grade lumber and slabs into other refined products, I get a better return on each log. Sawdust is a resource, I feel, that is underutilized and could be a component of local energy independence. It's important for people to understand the value that our forests hold.

- Brent Mace, Readfield



Three SFI-certified stacks of lumber ready to be used in a camp repair in Wayne.



The Sebasticook Regional Land Trust's Fowler Bog Preserve in Unity.



A tour of the Hammond Lumber yard in Belgrade.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.



Sarah Fuller

I have a strong feeling for the land because my family has been here since the 1700s. When I see a piece of land and know who owned it for the last 300 years, that land is more valuable to me because I know its history.

- George Rogers, Litchfield

Left: Visitors explore the Webber-Rogers farmstead conservation area in Litchfield.

Why is my woodland important to me?

A key element of stewardship is the connection of landowners to their woodlands. This connection between person and place can be linked to the way in which land is acquired or the reasons why people choose to own land. For some landowners, history, family stories, and traditions are interwoven with the meaning of woodlands passed down through generations. Other landowners may have bought property after looking for a private place to call their own, or purchased forestlands primarily as a long-term financial investment.

Landowners' goals and objectives for their woodlands can be as extensive and varied as the unique histories behind their properties. Recreation, privacy, solitude, wildlife habitat, diversification of investment, a place to get hands-on experience, or any combination of these interests may be the driving force behind continued ownership

of woodlands. Because there is always a choice between keeping or selling woodlands, it is important for landowners to articulate their personal reasons for keeping their land forested. Landowners with clearly defined forest management objectives are more likely to have a long-term vision for the future of their woodlands.



Sarah Fuller

What do I call that land I own that has trees on it?

Many people think of forests as large tracts of land with hundreds or thousands of acres of trees, located far away and typically

owned by large companies or the government. Others see their land with trees on it as the "woods," a "woodlot," or simply "out back." For consistency, we will generally refer to "woodlands" and "woodland owners," and sometimes "forest" and "family forest owners" to talk about forested land and land ownership. Ultimately, what you call your land with trees on it is not important – what matters are the decisions you make.

The professionals who provide management services to woodland owners are licensed as foresters. They generally offer a different set of services from those provided by timber harvesters or loggers. In the Maine Forest Service, Forest Rangers enforce laws and issue fire permits, while District Foresters answer questions and help woodland owners make informed decisions about their land.

We hope you find the Stewardship Steps in this booklet to be a helpful guide to making decisions about your woodlands now and in the future.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.

What do I want to do with my woodland?

Managing your woodland means making decisions about what's important to you. This process of determining your goals will guide the choices you make about your property in the future. Many owners find it helpful to think and talk about what's important to them when making decisions about their land's future.

Questions you can ask yourself include: Do you enjoy your woodland for its scenic beauty and wildlife? Do you value the opportunity to hunt, fish, or cut firewood on your property? Do you care for your woodland so that your children or grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy it? Are you hoping to get income from timber harvesting or from the land itself?

And: What do you value most about your woodland? How do you use the property now, and what are your future priorities? If you own property with other family members, what are your family's values and goals?

Articulating your goals is an important first step in making good decisions about your woodland's future. In addition, if you are working with professionals such as foresters or loggers, it is critical to convey your priorities to them so that they can help you meet your goals.

There may be many options as you decide what to do with your woodlands. Determining which options work best for you depends on your goals and on the conditions in your woods. A forest management plan is a good way to turn your goals for your woodlands into actions. Turn the page to learn more!



The Bell family enjoys winter fun at Curtis Homestead, where Nat Bell and his father Bruce lead sustainable forest management school programs with the Kennebec Land Trust.

I am lucky to be able to make my living working in the woods, and am proud to show the brand of forest management that is the result of my work. Sound forest management is something that everyone should see and expect to see everywhere, and is in everyone's best interest whether you're a hawk or a human.

- Nat Bell, Leeds



Meet Harry Dwyer

It's way more than the money....

- Harry Dwyer, Fayette

Fayette woodland owner and forester Harry Dwyer recognizes that many of his clients and neighbors see land ownership as a burden. Although Harry admits that the pressures weigh on him, too, owning land provides him with a satisfaction that outweighs the burdens. He buys land to create an undeveloped buffer around his house and for its timber value, and harvests his woodlands with deep consideration for their future potential. Land ownership is more than a financial investment for Harry – it's also the enjoyment of picking blueberries, riding his horse, observing wildlife, and pondering the natural processes of his woodlands.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.



Andy Shultz

We believe in one action accomplishing multiple objectives... so we're going to thin the woods, we're going to keep it rural, we're going to encourage wildlife, we're going to make the trees that are left grow better. "Either-or" is something this society seems to be really hooked on, but you can get the best of both worlds with vision and goals. - Will Cole, Sidney

Left: A well-stocked white pine stand following a timber harvest in Vassalboro. Allowing these valuable trees to grow larger faster is a result of forest management planning.

What would a forest management plan do for me?

A key element of woodland stewardship is creating and maintaining a forest management plan (FMP). As one woodland owner put it, "My plan helps me know what I've got and what I can do with it."

FMPs are written for a defined period of time, often ten years. They can usually be amended and are generally updated or renewed after ten years to reflect changing landowner objectives, forest stand conditions, and markets. Amendments can also incorporate

new information about forest health, wildlife habitat, or harvesting technology.

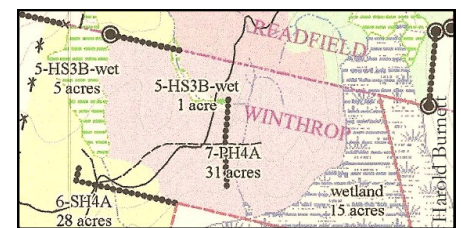
An FMP provides an ideal place to articulate the values that inform your decision-making. It can help family members, professionals, and future landowners understand your priorities and goals more clearly and help you work toward your vision for your forestland.

FMPs come in many sizes, shapes, and levels of detail specific to the individual woodland and the landowner's goals. Most landowners hire a licensed forester to develop their FMPs, though some write their own plans.

The most important part of any plan is a set of recommendations for action on the property. This section is a blueprint for management. It can be a set of broad guidelines or a detailed schedule of actions, with dates and goals to be accomplished.

An FMP usually includes a section on the property's history, a

description of the parcel's soils, terrain, and hydrology, and a description of the forest's current condition, resources, and values. The forest description can be broad and general or specific and detailed. The fieldwork to create an FMP can range from a walk-through to a thorough inventory based on measurements at a number of systematically located sample points. The amount of fieldwork depends on landowner needs, program requirements, and cost/benefit calculations.



Another important part of a plan is a good map. Maps show how woodlands fit into the surrounding landscape and convey information about property lines, types of forest cover, the locations of streams, ponds, and other bodies of water on or near a parcel, and roads, trails, and other structures important to management activities.



Jennifer Irving

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.

How can I keep my woodland healthy?

Many landowners strive to keep their woodlands healthy. However, health can mean different things from the forest's perspective. For instance, most forests have some dead or declining trees that provide important habitat for birds, insects, salamanders, and other wildlife. Dead logs and branches also return nutrients to the soil.

There are many types of native insects and diseases that affect trees in Maine's forests. A number of them exist at low levels and, while they may damage or kill a few trees, they are part of the forest ecosystem and not a threat to the whole forest. Windstorms, ice storms, and other events can also affect parts of your woodland.



In some forests, health can be improved by applying a silvicultural technique such as thinning the forest to make the remaining trees more vigorous and resistant to natural disturbances. Silviculture is the art and science of decision-making in forest

management. It is based on the science of silvics, the study of how and why trees grow the way they do. Foresters are trained in silviculture. They can help you understand your woodland and identify steps that can be taken to keep your woodland healthy.



The picture above shows a forest that has received a special silvicultural treatment. The growing space (light, air, soil nutrients, water, and physical space) once occupied by older, slower-growing, less vigorous trees has been reallocated to the tall hardwoods and white pine seedlings pictured above. In twenty years, the hardwoods in the foreground will be ready for harvest, and the white pines, now pole-sized trees, will be fully released to grow into the future forest.

The more I was exposed to silviculture, the more I realized that there's a science to cutting trees. It's not just about cutting the big ones and leaving the little ones.

- Harry Dwyer, Fayette

Meet Will and Don Cole

Working in the woods is our passion. We've always tried to lead by example as stewards of the land; we cut properly and encourage others to do the same.

- Will Cole, Sidney



Brothers Will and Don Cole of Sidney run their family-owned logging company, Trees Ltd., as an "outcome-based" operation. The Coles take satisfaction in mapping out and achieving specific goals and objectives for each harvest, and they make sure to monitor the long-term success of their projects following completion. The brothers' emphasis on foresight and efficiency increases their economic returns and keeps the landowners they work with invested in their stewardship role.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.



Andy Shultz

Whether it's 20 acres or 200 or 2,000, there is no greater pleasure than owning and getting intimate with a tract of woodland. For me, it's a life's calling, for others, a source of deep personal pleasure.
 - Chip Bessey, Hinckley

Left: Timber harvesting equipment at work on the Kents Hill School Forest, Readfield. This silvicultural practice, sometimes referred to as thinning or crop tree release, makes more sunlight and growing space available to a younger generation of potentially high value trees.

Should I harvest trees on my property?

Harvesting trees can help woodland owners achieve a variety of short- and long-term goals. It can:

- supply you with firewood or other materials
- enhance specific types of habitat
- increase the growth of certain tree species for habitat, scenic qualities, or timber
- allow new seedlings or sprouts to germinate
- reduce the presence of damaging insects or diseases
- provide income through the sale of forest products.

Harvesting can be implemented in a range of intensities, from thinning a few trees in a small area to creating canopy openings in a larger-scale operation. Ideally, silvicultural goals for a timber harvest mimic natural disturbances, while capturing monetary or other values from the harvested trees.



Amanda Mahaffey

Some areas in a woodlot or wooded landscape may be designated for little or no timber harvesting. These reserves can meet particular habitat, ecological, or recreational goals. Actively managed woodland often includes no-cut zones. Within larger forests, reserves can be set aside as study sites to show how natural processes influence forest ecology and succession patterns.

Harvesting may be done by landowners themselves or by contracting with a skilled professional logger. A successful harvest will protect soil, wetlands and streams, plant and wildlife

habitat, and the woodlot's appearance, while improving the future condition of the forest.

How to Harvest Successfully

If you are:

- planning to harvest on more than one or two acres,
- selling forest products, or
- hiring others to harvest trees,

here are some basic but important recommendations:

- Plan ahead and focus on communicating effectively with everyone involved.
- Consult with a licensed forester to inform your decisions and represent your interests.
- Work with a skilled, experienced professional logger to implement the harvest.
- Have a detailed written contract clarifying expectations and responsibilities.



Jake Metzler

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.

What are the financial aspects of owning a woodland?

Owning a woodland, like any investment, is a balance of expenses and benefits. Informed decisions today can protect your investment – and the benefits you enjoy – for the future. Your forester can help you decide what steps to take to increase the value of your forest while minimizing costs.

Can money really grow on trees?

Yes, figuratively speaking. Woodlands can provide timber value, which is market-dependent, and other non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms), as well as possible income from recreational leases, ecosystem services, and carbon markets. Depending on the size of your woodlot, it can provide a steady source of income with modest rates of return.

Is there a way to reduce my property taxes?

“Current use” property tax programs often lower your woodland tax burden while ensuring that your woodland will remain woodland for the foreseeable future. The program known as Tree Growth requires that you follow a written, basic management and harvesting plan that must be updated at least once every ten years. The Open Space and Farmland programs are similar but with different requirements. Consider these options carefully before enrolling, as there are penalties for withdrawal.

Are there assistance programs for woodland owners?

Government-sponsored “cost-share” programs can help cover the cost of hiring a licensed forester to write a forest management plan and implement recommended activities. The Maine Forest Service’s WoodsWISE program is funded by the USDA Forest Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a federal agency with local field offices, also offers a variety of programs that can help woodland owners. Check with the appropriate agency to find out more about availability of funds, eligibility, and other requirements.



The **Winthrop Utilities District** currently owns roughly two hundred acres and holds a large easement on additional acreage around Upper Narrows Pond, the key source of over one hundred million gallons of clean drinking water per year. The best way to ensure the Pond’s water quality is to maintain the forested watershed surrounding it, since a healthy forest provides a natural filter for pollution from sources such as lawn chemicals and road and street run-off. The District’s primary management goal for its owned woodlands is water quality. Revenue from timber harvests has been used for replanting seedlings within the watershed and to offset management costs such as marking property lines.

Town forests are often legacies of the past, when town farms helped feed and employ residents, where townsfolk can now recreate in the woods. Today, managing these forests requires considerable public input, though supervised timber harvests there often fund other town conservation projects.

- Harold Burnett, Two Trees Forestry



Meet Herb Whittier

If you’ve got something, why let it go to waste?

- Herb Whittier, Monmouth

When the Town of Monmouth received a sixty-acre woodlot from the state, it fell to Herb Whittier and his co-workers at Monmouth Public Works to manage the property. Driven by Herb’s vision of public use, the Town hired a forester to write a management plan. The funds raised from Monmouth’s first round of cutting have been used to increase opportunities for public recreation on the property, where the Town has constructed public trails and plans to build an adjoining picnic area. Enhancing the property’s recreational value will encourage residents and visitors to connect with the natural environment and to experience the mental and physical health benefits of spending time outside.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.



Jym St. Pierre

Good forestry is a long-term endeavor. For families that want to manage their land in a thoughtful, careful way, a conservation easement can help by assuring them that their efforts will be carried on by future generations.

- Morten Moesswilde,
Maine Forest Service

Left: Mature forests such as the Kennebec Land Trust's Mount Pisgah Conservation Area in Winthrop and Wayne support a diversity of plants and wildlife. They are also important research sites and are valued for their scenic beauty.

How can I create a legacy with my woodland?

What is a conservation easement?

One tool for conserving private land, a conservation easement, is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust, municipality, or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Conservation easements allow landowners to continue to own and use their land, as well as to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When you donate or sell a conservation easement, you give up some of the rights associated with the land. For example, you might give up the right to build additional structures, while retaining the right to grow crops. Future owners of your land will be bound by the easement's terms. The easement holder is legally responsible for ensuring that the easement's terms are followed.

Conservation easements offer great flexibility. An easement on property with valuable forest resources could allow continued management for timber products. A landowner who wants to protect rare plants or wildlife and their habitats might restrict certain land uses. Sometimes easements are sold, but more often a landowner donates an easement to a selected organization. If the donation benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources, and meets other federal tax code requirements, it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation.

What strikes me about the idea of conservation is that you're thinking long range, not just about making a quick profit today or tomorrow.

- Jon Lund, Hollowell

Do I want to leave a legacy by donating my land?

Land donated for conservation is a meaningful legacy for future generations. If you choose to donate your land, a conservation organization can work with you to address your specific goals. The full

market value of land donated to a nonprofit land trust is tax-deductible as a charitable gift, subject to qualifying under IRS regulations.

What if I want to sell my land but don't want to see it developed?

In a bargain sale, you sell your land to a conservation organization for less than its fair market value. This not only makes it more affordable for the buyer, but can also offer tax benefits to you as the seller.

Land permanently conserved is a gift to your community, a place where children can explore the complexities of the natural world, hikers can find solitude and artists capture beauty, local food and timber can be grown, and we can all learn to live sustainably on the earth.

If you are considering a tax-deductible donation, consultation with a tax professional is essential.



To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.

What will happen to my woodland when I'm gone?

A forest takes decades or centuries to grow. Your woodland, like all forests, is the result of many past decisions and activities. To ensure that it continues to grow and to provide future generations with the many benefits that you value, you must plan for the future beyond your ownership.

Most woodlands will be:

- inherited by children or family members, or
- sold to new landowners.

If it is important to you, you can ensure that all or part of your land:

- remains forested, and
- continues to be managed for particular values, such as scenery, wildlife, recreation, timber, and soil and water quality, among others.

The ownership, stewardship, and management of your woodland and the decisions that may be made about whether your land will be divided, developed, harvested for timber, or managed for other woodland values are important considerations.

There are many resources available to landowners who want to plan for the long term. Estate planning or intergenerational transfer of property is one way for you to plan for the future of your woodland.



Good planning can ensure that the family forest is kept intact. Lack of planning often means loss of the land the family has worked hard to steward.

- Howard Lake, Winthrop attorney

Essentials of Woodland Estate Planning

- Clearly established goals
- Communication within the family
- An estate planning attorney familiar with forestland
- A willingness to
 - begin early,
 - review all options,
 - avoid shortcuts, and
 - see the process through

Meet George and Judy Rogers

My immediate concern was to protect this land, which I have so much feeling for.

- George Rogers, Litchfield



Woodland owners George and Judy Rogers feel a deep connection to their property in Litchfield, which has been in George's family since the 1700s. Despite their long-standing roots, George and Judy see their ownership as temporary and believe they have a responsibility to maintain the land they steward for later generations. Unsure of future generations' plans, they donated a 117-acre conservation easement to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2005. This option, which protects the Webber-Rogers Conservation Area from development, has given George and Judy peace of mind about their land's future while allowing them to retain ownership rights.

To learn more about these Stewardship Steps, please visit: www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands.



Kennebec Woodland Partnership Key Principles signing, October 2010 Conference. From left: Beth Ollivier (TCNEF), Dale Finseth (KCSWCD), Patrick Strauch (MFPC), Theresa Kerchner (KLT), Jake Metzler (FSM), Don Mansius (MFS), Tom Doak (SWOAM).

Where can I get good advice about what to do with my woodland?

A cornerstone of the stewardship path is seeking advice from resource professionals. Each of the Kennebec Woodland Partners offers a distinct set of tools, information, and strategies to help you identify and achieve your goals for your woodland.

Often, working with a licensed forester is the first step. The Maine Forest Service District Forester for Kennebec County is available to meet woodland owners to “walk and talk” in and about their woods. The Maine Forest Service’s Landowner Outreach Forester is also always ready to answer your questions and help you determine



what Stewardship Steps may be right for your woodlot.

Another local resource is the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM), which offers an informative, Maine-based newsletter as well as local chapters that host workshops and discussions about woodland ownership.



If your property includes farmland, the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources can help you protect soil and water quality while actively utilizing your land. KCSWCD can also tell you about cost-share programs that will assist you in caring for your land. The Maine Drinking Water Program provides resources that can help your community protect the quality of your drinking water.

For information on and a list of Master Loggers, contact the Trust

to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, which administers the Master Logger program. To learn how wood from your woodlot plays a role in Maine’s economy, visit the Maine Forest Products Council, which advocates for policies that ensure a sustainable future for Maine’s forest-based economy.

Perhaps you are thinking about how to keep your woodland intact so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. A local conservation organization such as the Kennebec Land Trust, the Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, or the SWOAM Land Trust can help you find the right tools to accomplish these goals. The Forest Society of Maine also maintains a knowledge base of information about conservation easements, as well as other tools for municipalities and larger units involved in managing the forest landscape.

As you plan your next Stewardship Step, you can use this resource guide and the list of Partners to find additional information and good advice about your woodland. Long-term planning for your forestland will benefit you and your family and contribute to the well-being of your community.

Have questions? Contact a Partner!



Kennebec Woodland Partnership
Amanda Mahaffey, Program Consultant
(207)449-3070
KennebecWoodlandPartnership@gmail.com
www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands

Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District
Dale Finseth, Executive Director
21 Enterprise Dr., Suite #1, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)622-7847 x3
dale@kcsxcd.org
www.kcsxcd.org



Maine Forest Service
Morten Moesswilde
Mid-coast District Forester
536 Waldoboro Rd, Jefferson, ME 04348
(207)441-2895
morten.moesswilde@maine.gov
www.maineforestservice.gov

Sebasticook Regional Land Trust
Jennifer Irving, Executive Director
P.O. Box 184, 93 Main Street, Unity, ME 04988
(207)948-3766
jennifer@sebasticookrlt.org
www.sebasticookrlt.org



Maine Forest Service
Andy Shultz, Landowner Outreach Forester
22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)287-8430
andrew.h.shultz@maine.gov
www.maineforestservice.gov

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program
Andy Tolman, Assistant Director
286 Water Street, 3rd Floor
#11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
(207)287-6196
Andrews.I.Tolman@maine.gov
www.medwp.com



Kennebec Land Trust
Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director
P.O. Box 261, Winthrop, ME 04364
(207)377-2848
tkerchner@tklt.org
www.tklt.org

Center for Research on Sustainable Forests
University of Maine
Jessica Leahy, Family Forest Program Leader
241 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469
(207) 581-2834
jessica.leahy@maine.edu
www.crsf.umaine.edu



SWOAM
Small Woodland Owners
Association of Maine

Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
Tom Doak, Executive Director
153 Hospital Street, P. O. Box 836
Augusta, ME 04332-0836
(207)626-0005
tom@swoam.org
www.swoam.org

Maine Department of Agriculture,
Food & Rural Resources
Stephanie R. Gilbert, Farmland Protection Specialist
28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028
(207)287-7520
stephanie.gilbert@maine.gov
www.maine.gov/agriculture



FOREST
SOCIETY
of MAINE

Forest Society of Maine
Jake Metzler, Forestland Stewardship Manager
115 Franklin St. 3rd Floor, Bangor, ME 04401
(207)945-9200
jake@fsmaine.org
www.fsmaine.org

Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Maine State Implementation Committee
Patrick Sirois, Maine's SIC Director
535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)622-9288
psirois@maineforest.org
www.sfimaine.org



The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands
Elizabeth Ollivier, Executive Director
41 Pineland Drive, Suite 201A
New Gloucester, ME 04260
(207)688-8195
eollivier@tcnef.org
www.tcnef.org

Maine Project Learning Tree
Patricia Maloney, Maine PLT Coordinator
153 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)626-7990
meplt@gwi.net
www.maintreefoundation.org
www.plt.org



Maine Forest Products Council
Patrick Strauch, Executive Director
535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)622-9288
pstrauch@maineforest.org
www.maineforest.org



Learn More:

www.maineforestservice.gov/kennebecwoodlands

Amanda Mahaffey, KWP Program Consultant
KennebecWoodlandPartnership@gmail.com

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