

The Winter Crop: What Farmers Should Know About the Part of Their Land with Trees On It

Andy Shultz, Landowner Outreach Forester
Maine Forest Service

January 14, 2015

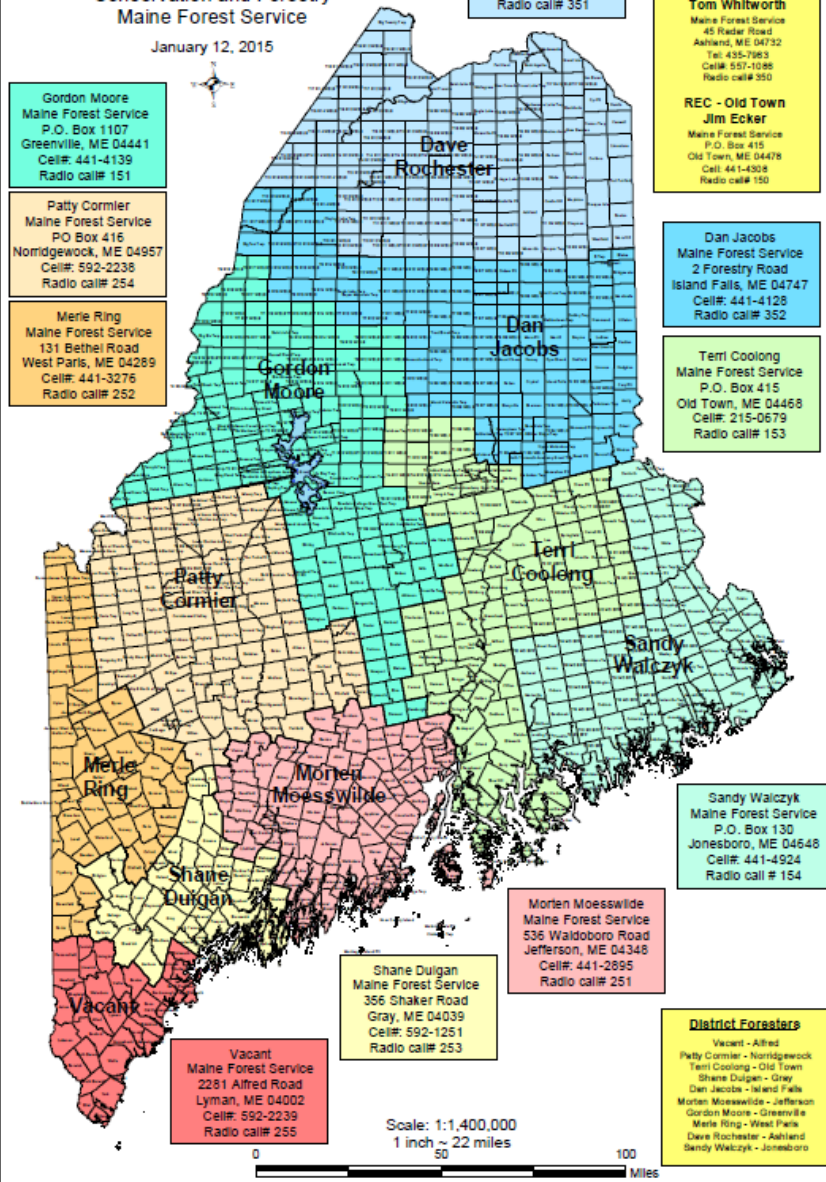


Forester Districts Field Staff

Forest Policy & Management

Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry
Maine Forest Service

January 12, 2015



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22 State House Station,
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

1-800-367-0223 (in state)

207-287-2791

www.maineforestservice.gov

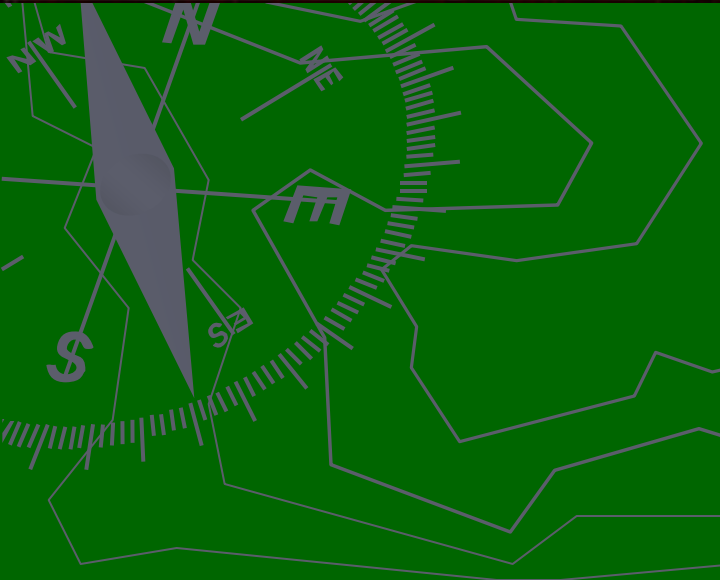
forestinfo@maine.gov

Maine Forest Service

- ▶ Maine Forest Service
 - 10 District Foresters & Augusta staff
 - ▶ Forest Rangers
 - ▶ Forest Health specialists
- ▶ Landowner Assistance –
 - Publications, presentations, workshops, etc.
 - Woodlot visits with individual landowners
 - Questions by email/phone
 - Referrals to private Licensed Foresters



For more information on the many topics in this presentation, take a "Working With Your Woodland" course with an MFS District Forester .





07 29 2008



DECISION TREE

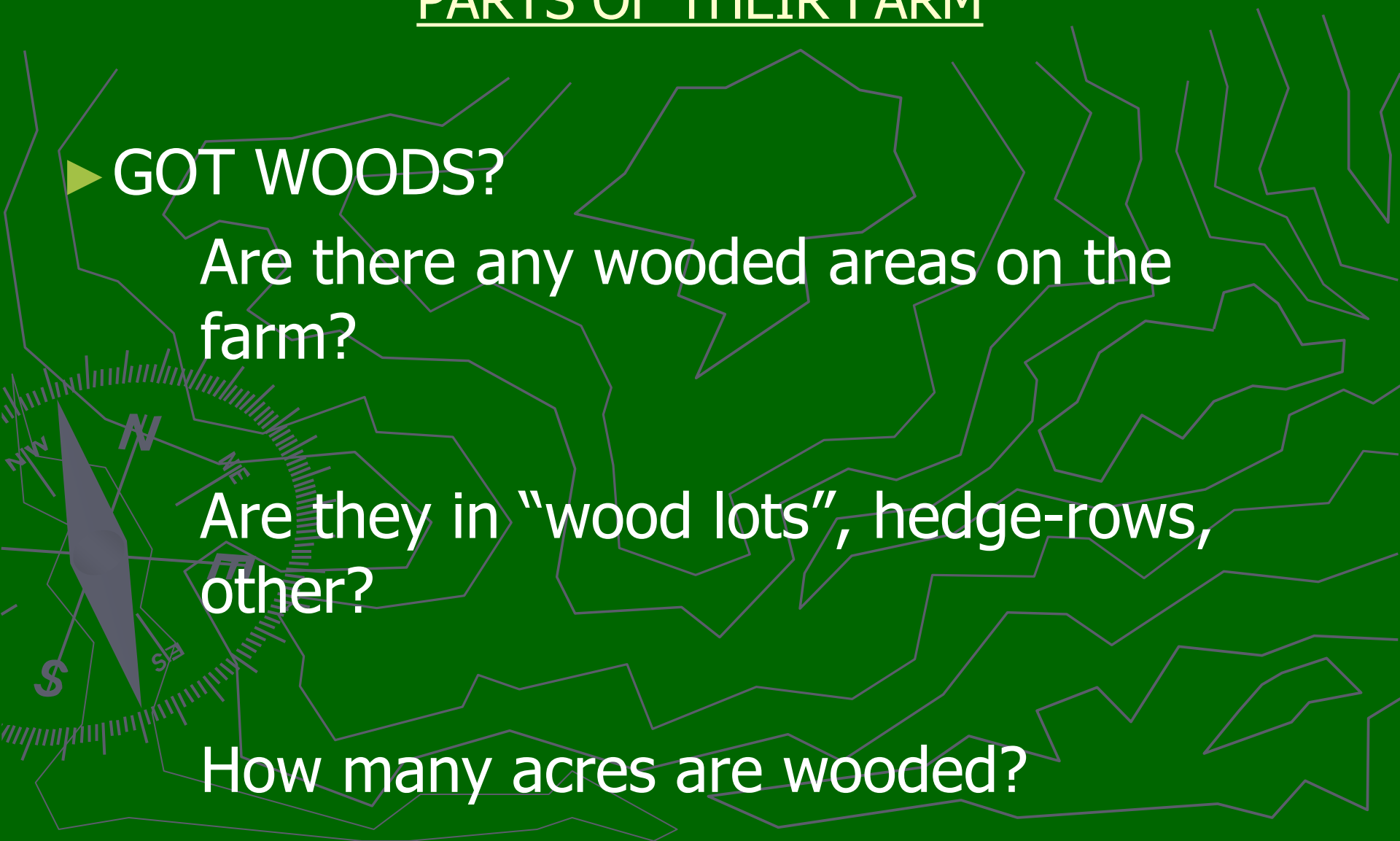
QUESTIONS FOR FARMERS ABOUT THE WOODED PARTS OF THEIR FARM

▶ GOT WOODS?

Are there any wooded areas on the farm?

Are they in "wood lots", hedge-rows, other?

How many acres are wooded?



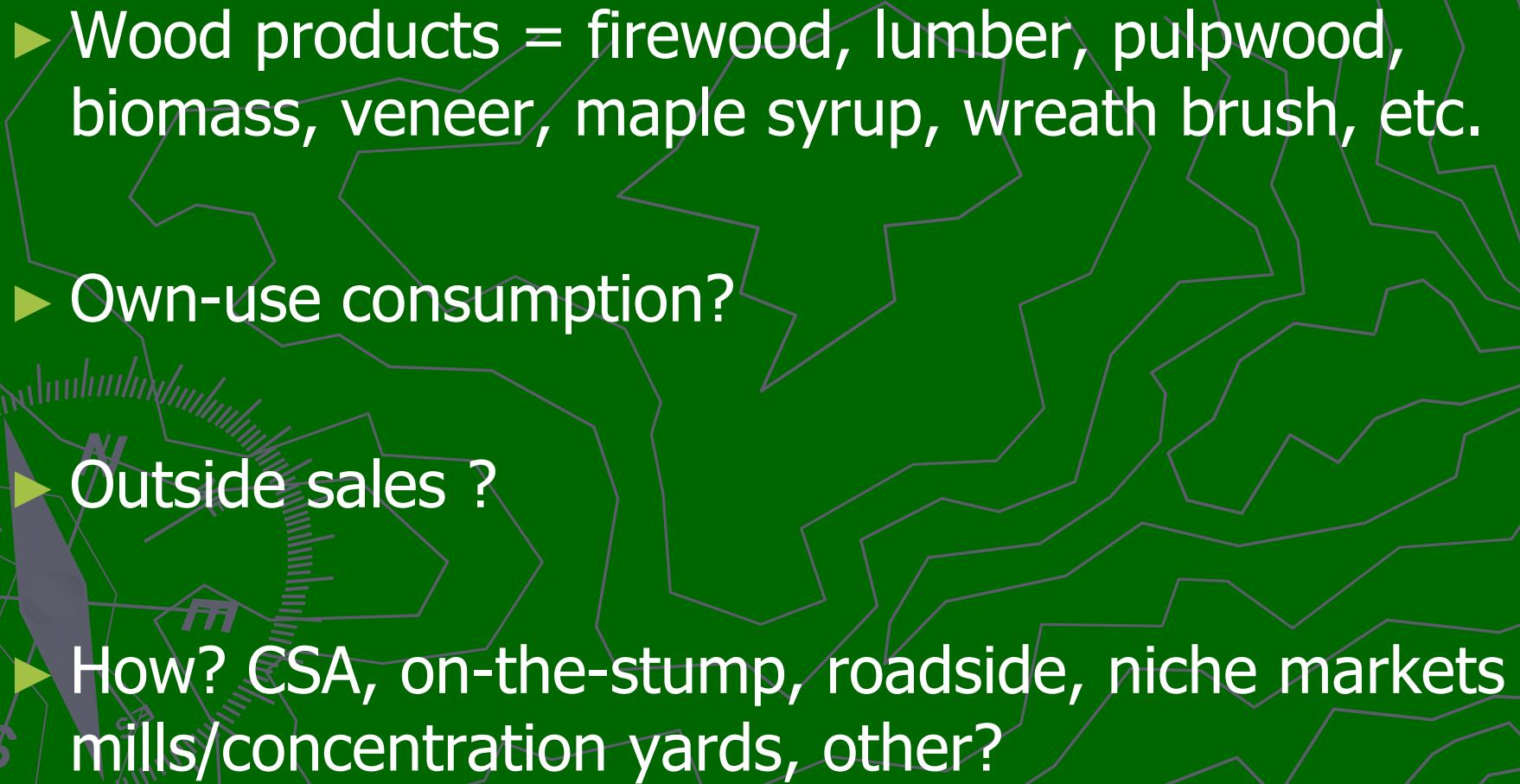
How do the wooded parts of the farm fit with the overall farm plan?

- ▶ Are trees growing on good ag land? Will you convert these acres to ag? If so, how soon?
- ▶ Is land currently in ag that is not needed or desired to continue in ag production? Does reforesting any of these acres fit the overall farm plan?
- ▶ Are some or all of the woods desirable for forage or cover for livestock?

Does working in the woods fit into the farm labor and equipment equation?

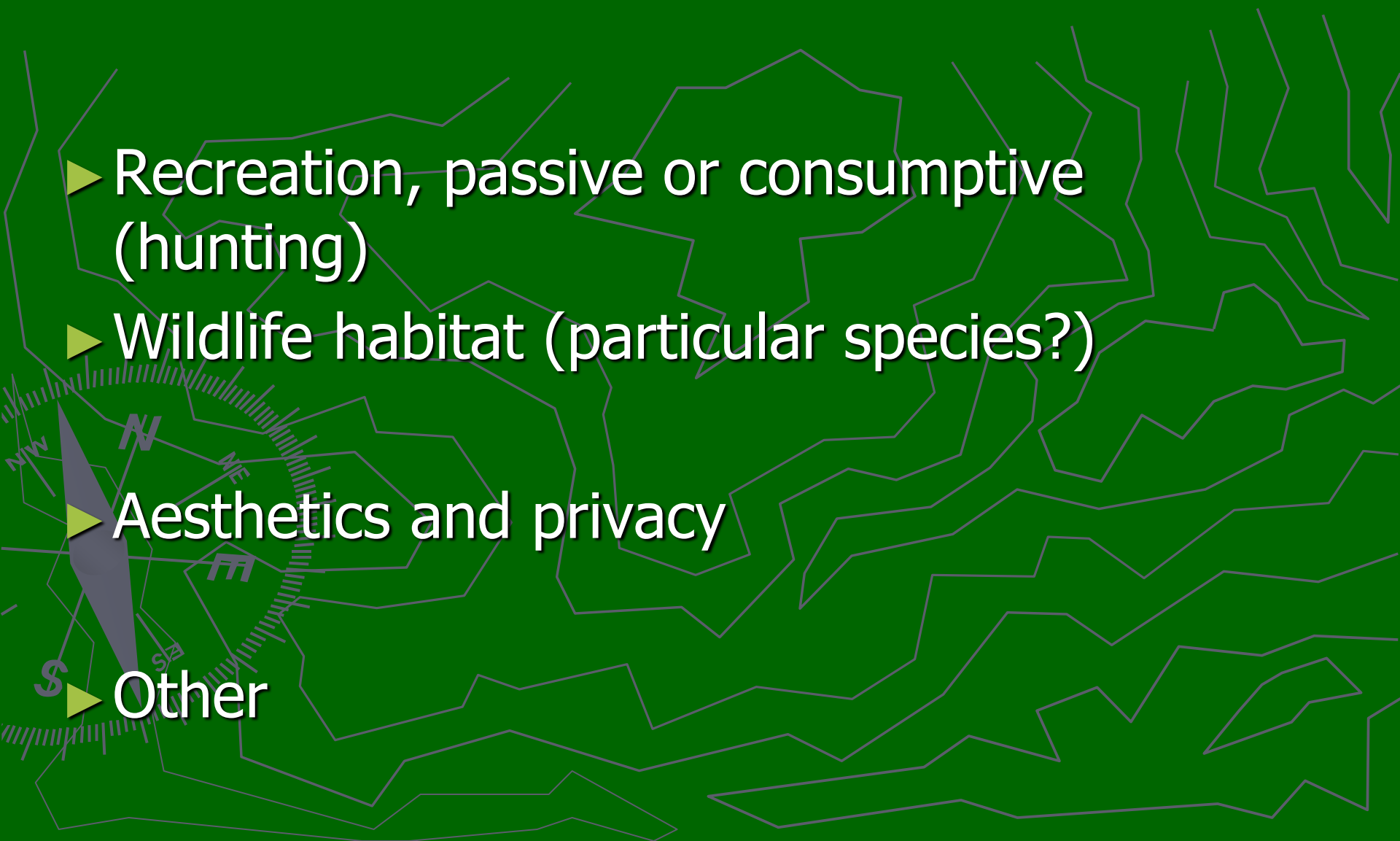
- ▶ woods work=planting, pruning, thinning small sapling stands, harvesting saleable/useable wood products, hauling optimal loads to market, boundary line maintenance, woods road and trail construction & maintenance, etc.
- ▶ “Labor & equipment equation” considers skills and training, equipment mix, and available time for farmers, employee farm crew or contractors.

Do wood products fit the farm's overall marketing plan ?

- ▶ Wood products = firewood, lumber, pulpwood, biomass, veneer, maple syrup, wreath brush, etc.
 - ▶ Own-use consumption?
 - ▶ Outside sales ?
 - ▶ How? CSA, on-the-stump, roadside, niche markets mills/concentration yards, other?
- 
- The background of the slide is a dark green color with a white topographic map overlay. The map shows irregular contour lines representing terrain. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a compass rose with a purple arrow pointing towards the top-left, and a white dollar sign (\$) is positioned near the bottom-left corner of the map area.

What else is the woodlot for?

- ▶ Recreation, passive or consumptive (hunting)
- ▶ Wildlife habitat (particular species?)
- ▶ Aesthetics and privacy
- ▶ Other



The power of planning

- ▶ Forestry assistance is readily available from combination of MFS, NRCS, and private forestry consultants. Depending on the answers above, ***strongly consider including forest management planning in the overall farm plan.***



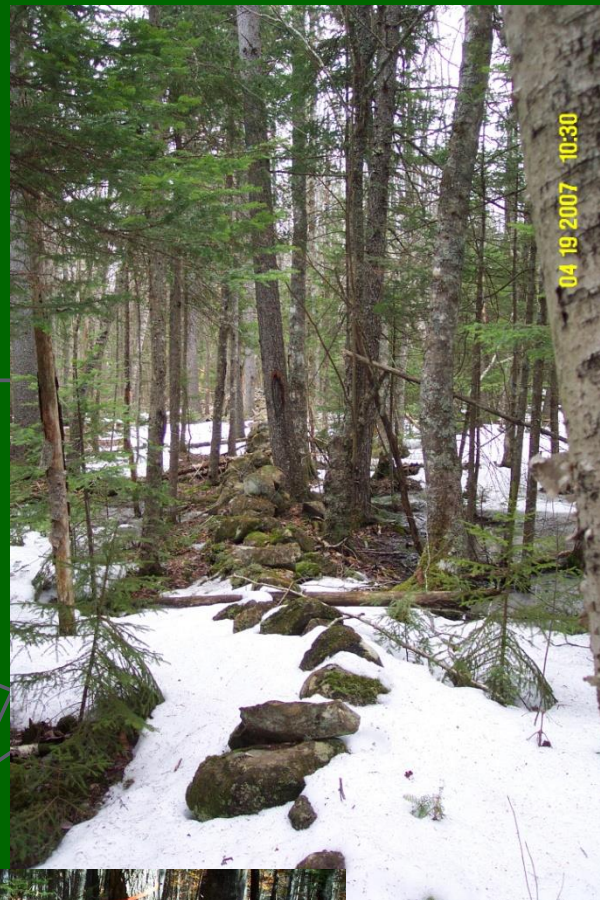
Long-term planning

- ▶ A Forest Management Plan
 - A written document
 - ▶ Prepared by/with the assistance of a Licensed Forester
 - For a particular property/ownership
 - To facilitate decisions about the forest
 - Over a given period of time (often 10 years)
- ▶ Forest conditions, goals, recommended actions, and a forest map
 - The forest portion of a farm plan...?

What farmers and all woodland owners, should know...

- ▶ Where are your woods?
[property boundaries]
- ▶ What's in the woods you have?
[inventory]
- ▶ Silviculture: growing the forest you want
[recommendations/prescriptions]
- ▶ Actions and choices
[when, what and how to harvest]

Boundaries



04 19 2007 10:30



10 23 2006 10:49



04 19 2007 10:31

KATHLEEN STICHT of Belfast in the County of Waldo and State of Maine, for consideration paid, grants to MORTEN J. MOESSWILDE AND JOANNE M. MOESSWILDE, husband and wife, both of Freedom in the County of Waldo and State of Maine and whose mailing address is 38 High Street, Freedom, ME 04941, as joint tenants, WITH WARRANTY COVENANTS, the land, together with any improvements thereon, situated in BELFAST in the County of Waldo and State of Maine and more particularly bounded and described in a deed from Clinton K. Kinney and Margaret H. Kinney to Michael Joseph Sticht and Kathleen Sticht dated July 5, 1972 and recorded in the Waldo County Registry of Deeds in Book 699, Page 412, as follows, to wit:

"a certain lot or parcel of land with the buildings thereon located on the westerly side of Congress Street in Belfast, County of Waldo and State of Maine, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a concrete post on the Westerly side of Congress Street at Northeast corner of land of Belfast Water District; thence Westerly along the line of said Water District 643 1/4 feet to a concrete post for a corner; thence northerly along the line of said Water District 345 1/4 feet to a post in stones marking the Southerly boundary of road laid out; thence South 78° 19' East along the boundary of said road laid out 511 1/4 feet to a corner of the R. Lincoln house lot; thence Southerly about parallel to Congress Street 82 1/4 feet to a corner; thence South 78° 19' East along the Southerly boundary of the R. Lincoln house lot 165 feet to an iron pipe in the Westerly boundary of Congress Street; thence South 13° 45' West along the line of Congress Street 247 1/4 feet to the place of beginning. Description taken from survey of James Duncan made August 25, 1956."

Michael Joseph Sticht died July 14, 1998, a resident of Belfast, Waldo County Maine.

Also hereby releasing all rights, easements, privileges and appurtenances belonging to the premises hereinabove described.

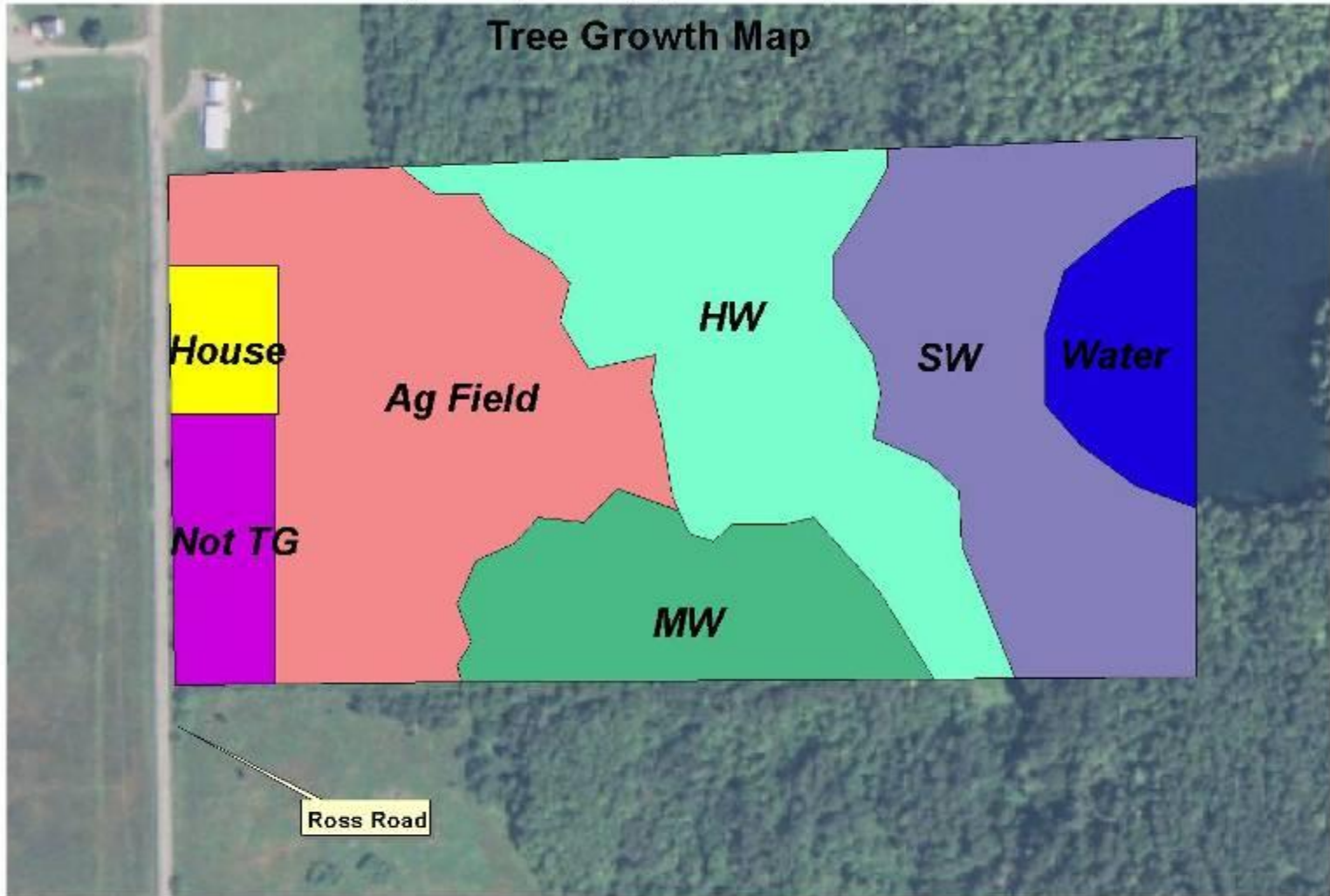
WITNESS my hand and seal this 20th day of May, 2002.

Maine Real Estate
Transfer Tax Paid



Smith Lot in Blaine

Tree Growth Map



Land Use Summary:

House = 1 ac	Not In TG = 3 ac
Ag Field = 12 ac	HW = 11 ac
MW = 7 ac	SW = 11 ac
Water = 4 ac	



300 0 300 600 Feet

Prepared By: Forester Name, LPF
Not A Legal Survey

MFS Information Sheet # 4

Boundary Line Information



INFORMATION SHEET 4
REVISED: SEPTEMBER 2005

Boundary Line Information

Maine Forest Service, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

Robert Frost's observation "**good fences make good neighbors**" is as true today as when he wrote it. With more expensive land and higher timber values, good boundaries are even more important today than they were in the past. The following information will help landowners avoid boundary problems:

Establishing boundaries:

1. An "established property line" means a line demarcated by monuments, signs, markings, pins, reference points or other markers that denotes a change in ownership between abutting properties. These established property line markers must have been placed upon mutual agreement of the abutting landowners, based on historical physical evidence of a preexisting boundary line or by a licensed professional surveyor.

Only a licensed surveyor can establish a property line if there are no existing blazes or monuments. Surveyors are licensed in the State of Maine under 32 MRSA § 13901 et seq. Copies of the law and a roster of land surveyors licensed to practice in Maine are available from the:

State Board of Licensure for
Professional Land Surveyors
35 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 624-8603.

2. The landowner or a licensed forester may maintain a line or reestablish one where some monuments or blazes still exist. If you cannot sight from one blaze to another, you should probably get the line surveyed by a licensed surveyor. Previously marked lines may be incorrect and will be relocated after an accurate survey.

3. Monuments are relatively permanent features like stone posts, iron bars, etc., that are established by the surveyor. Tree blazes are not monuments, they are only an approximate location of where the line

lies. A cap listing the surveyor's license number must be placed on the lots corner posts.

4. Line trees are those trees where the actual boundary intersects any part of the tree, such that part of the tree is on either side of the boundary (17 MRSA § 2511.1.D. See Tree A on the back of this sheet). Because they may be evidence of a line, blazed trees on a property line serve as witness trees and should not be cut. They generally have little value for timber since the blaze provides an avenue for bacteria and fungi to invade the tree and cause rot. These trees may also have fencing tacked to them, this will cause them to be rejected at the sawmill. **Line trees may only be cut with the permission of the abutting landowner** (17 MRSA §2511.2.B).

5. Before permanently marking the boundary by either blazing or painting, the line should be walked with the adjoining landowner to ensure its location is mutually agreeable. When there is a disagreement about a line, it should be surveyed. The landowners may agree to share the costs; however this should be agreed to or otherwise determined before proceeding with the survey.

Maintaining boundaries:

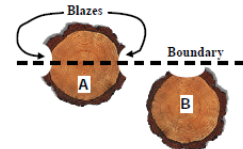
1. Boundaries should be painted with high grade, durable paint. Use a color such as red, yellow, orange or blue, these colors are easily seen and visible for long distances. Paints specifically formulated for marking boundaries are available from forestry supply companies. Paint trees only when the bark is warm and dry. Paint witness trees at the point where the boundary line intersects the tree.

2. In blazing and painting trees along the boundary line, the following rule is used:

A. If the boundary line passes through the middle of a tree, blaze and paint on both sides of that tree where the line passes through it (Tree A).

B. Where the line passes adjacent to the tree, blaze and paint one point only, immediately adjacent to the line (Tree B).

C. Be sure to blaze and paint both sides of the line so that it can be seen from either side. This will help prevent accidental trespass.



3. Avoid blazing well-formed, large or valuable trees as blazing the tree may allow the entrance of bacteria and fungi causing decay. Blazes should be about 4 to 5 inches in diameter and located about five feet above the ground. Blaze often enough so that it is possible to see the next blaze easily.

4. Boundary lines should be cleaned/brushed out for easy traveling and locating. Pruning limbs to head height and cutting small trees along the line will help. Cutting any vegetation on another's property requires permission. Check with the adjoining landowner before proceeding.

5. Corner posts should be of some permanent material, with the adjoining trees (witnesses) marked for easy locating. Wood, with the exception of cedar, makes a poor corner post as in a few years it will rot and fall to the ground. Iron pipe is long lasting, easily transported and inexpensive, and is easily driven into the ground. Where available, pile small stones around any corner post. Paint the stones and the corner post.

6. High quality paint, properly applied, should last at least ten years in the woods; axe blazes should last longer. Lines should be checked and maintained annually or periodically. Lines and corners should be shown to family members so they can locate them in the future.

Timber Harvesting and Boundaries:

Maine law is careful to protect adjoining landowners from timber trespass and damages that occur during any logging or wood harvesting operations. If you are considering harvesting timber, you should know and observe state and local timber harvesting regulations near property lines, trespass and slash disposal laws.

1. Anyone who authorizes timber harvesting, or in fact harvests timber shall **clearly mark with flagging or other temporary and visible means any established property lines within 200 feet of an area to be harvested**. The marking of property lines must be completed prior to commencing timber harvesting. Parcels less than 5 acres are exempt. (17 MRSA § 2511). Failure to clearly mark property lines may also make the person who authorized the cutting liable for double damages to an abutter if a timber trespass occurs (14 MRSA § 7552-A).

2. Slash left from any cutting operations of forest growth must be disposed of according to the following regulations: (12 MRSA § 9331-9336).

A. Along highways, slash must not be left in the right-of-way or within 50 feet of the nearer side of the right-of-way of a public highway.

B. Along railroads and utility lines (pipeline, electric, telephone, telegraph, or cable) slash must be removed from in the right-of-way or within 25 feet of the nearer side of the right-of-way.

C. Slash that might constitute a fire hazard shall not be allowed to remain on the ground within 25 feet of the property line of land belonging to another.

For more information, please contact:

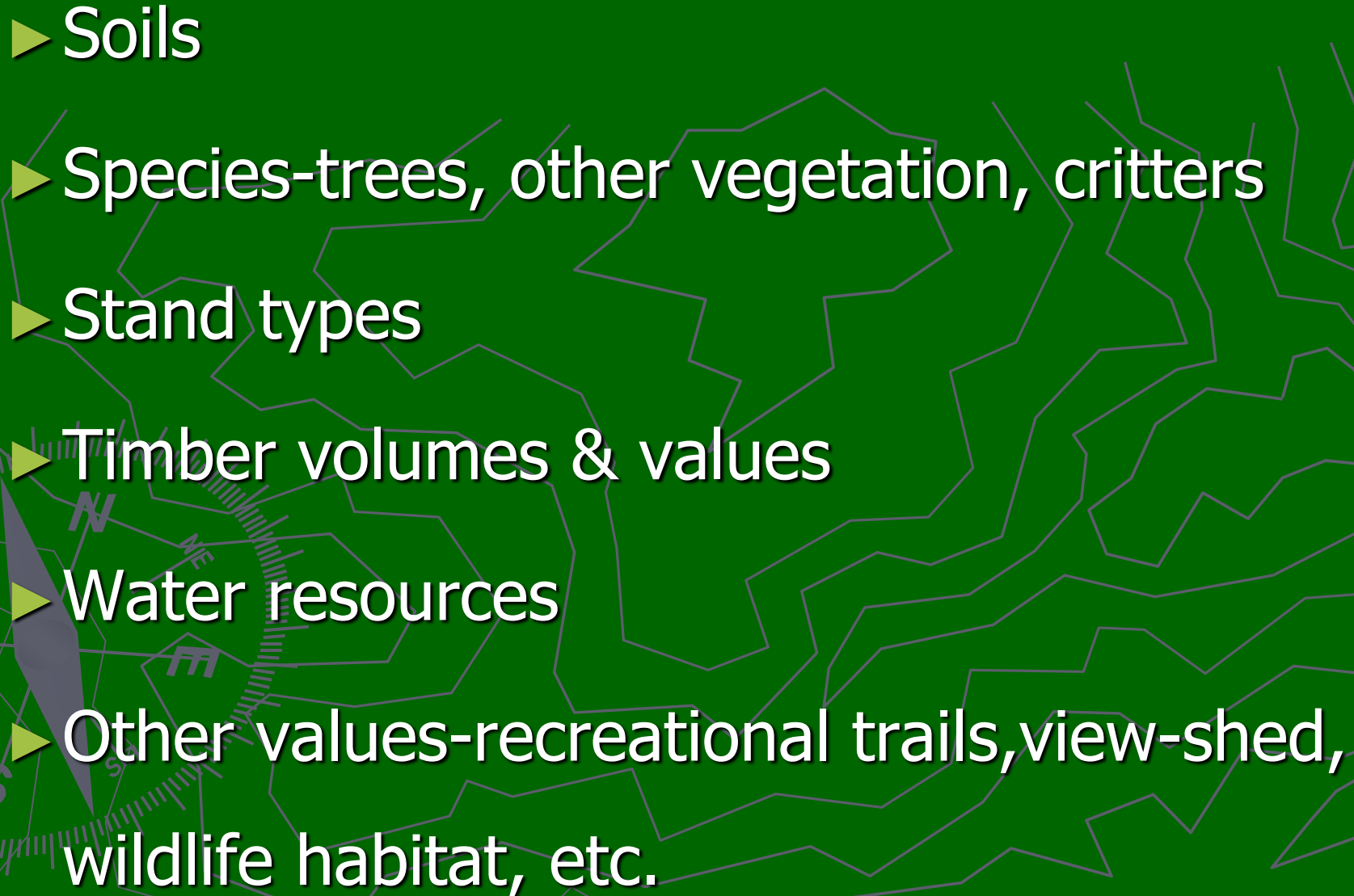
Maine Forest Service
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME
04333-0022
(207) 287-2791 or
1-800-367-0223
forestinfo@maine.gov

Be Woods Wise!

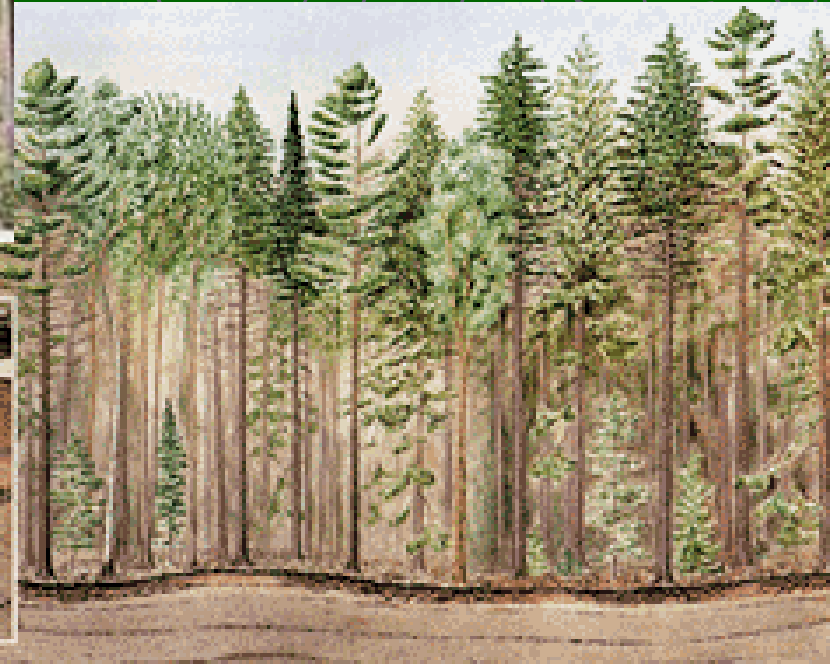
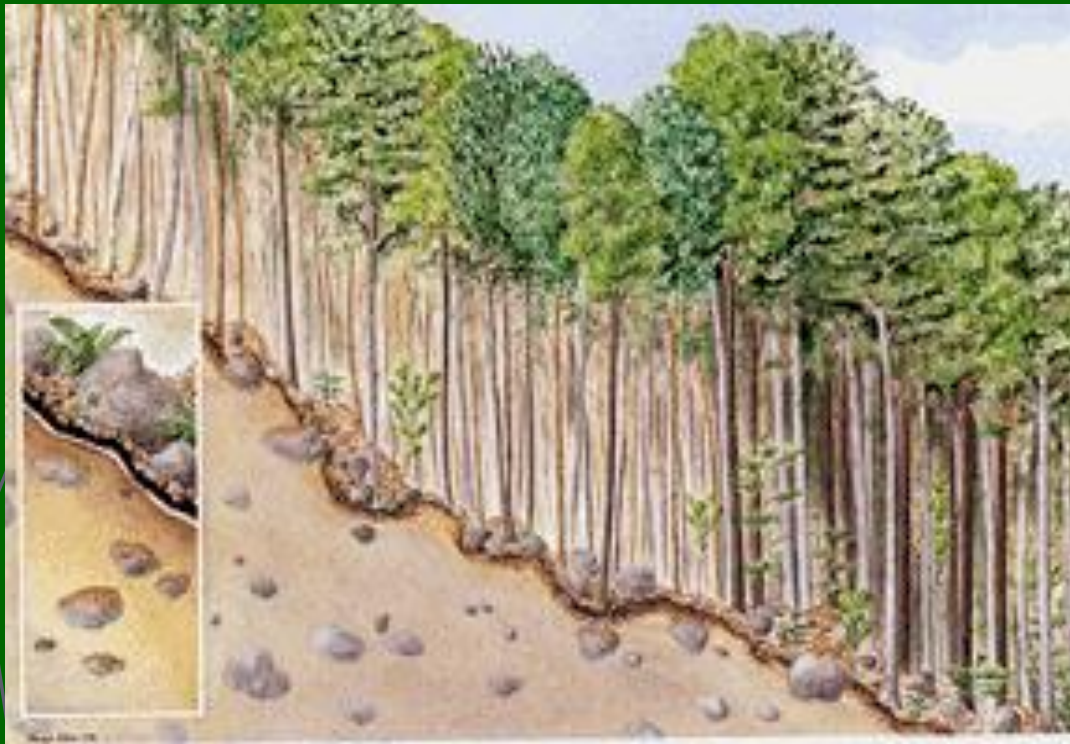
Practical advice for your land and trees
from the Maine Forest Service.
www.maine-forestservice.gov

Practical advice for your land and trees from the Maine Forest Service

What's there?

- ▶ Soils
 - ▶ Species-trees, other vegetation, critters
 - ▶ Stand types
 - ▶ Timber volumes & values
 - ▶ Water resources
 - ▶ Other values-recreational trails, view-shed, wildlife habitat, etc.
- 
- A topographic map with contour lines is overlaid on a green background. A compass rose is visible on the left side, with a shaded area pointing towards the bottom-left. The map shows various terrain features and a network of lines, possibly representing roads or trails.

“**Site**” refers to the characteristics of a location that help determine what grows there.



Things like..

- soil depth, texture
- rockiness, slope, terrain
- drainage class

Maine's soils and moist climate generally allow trees to regenerate naturally. Trees are the natural vegetation over most of Maine.

Know your trees...

Most trees have unique characteristics that make them easier to identify.



Sugar maple

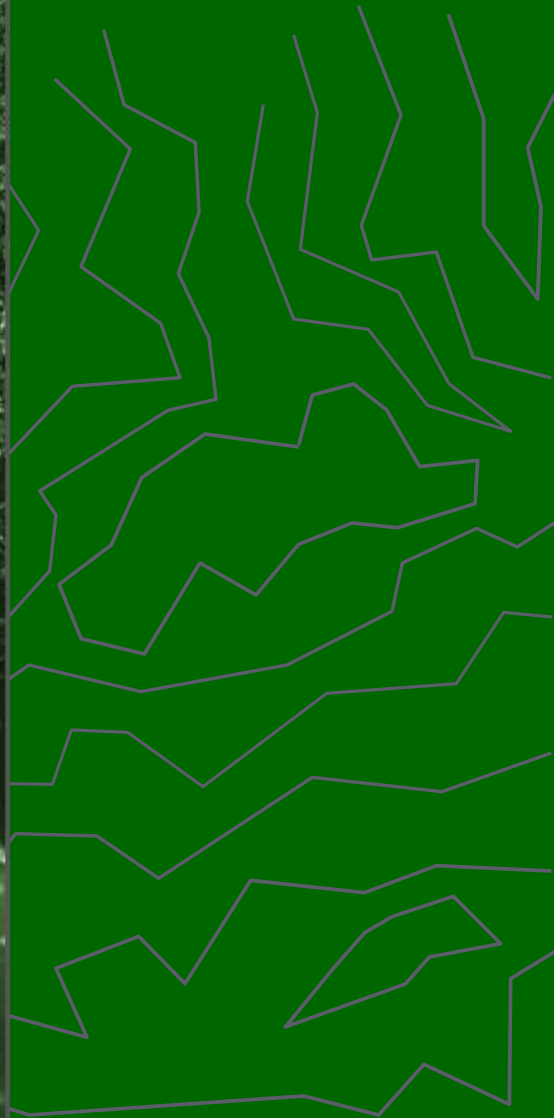
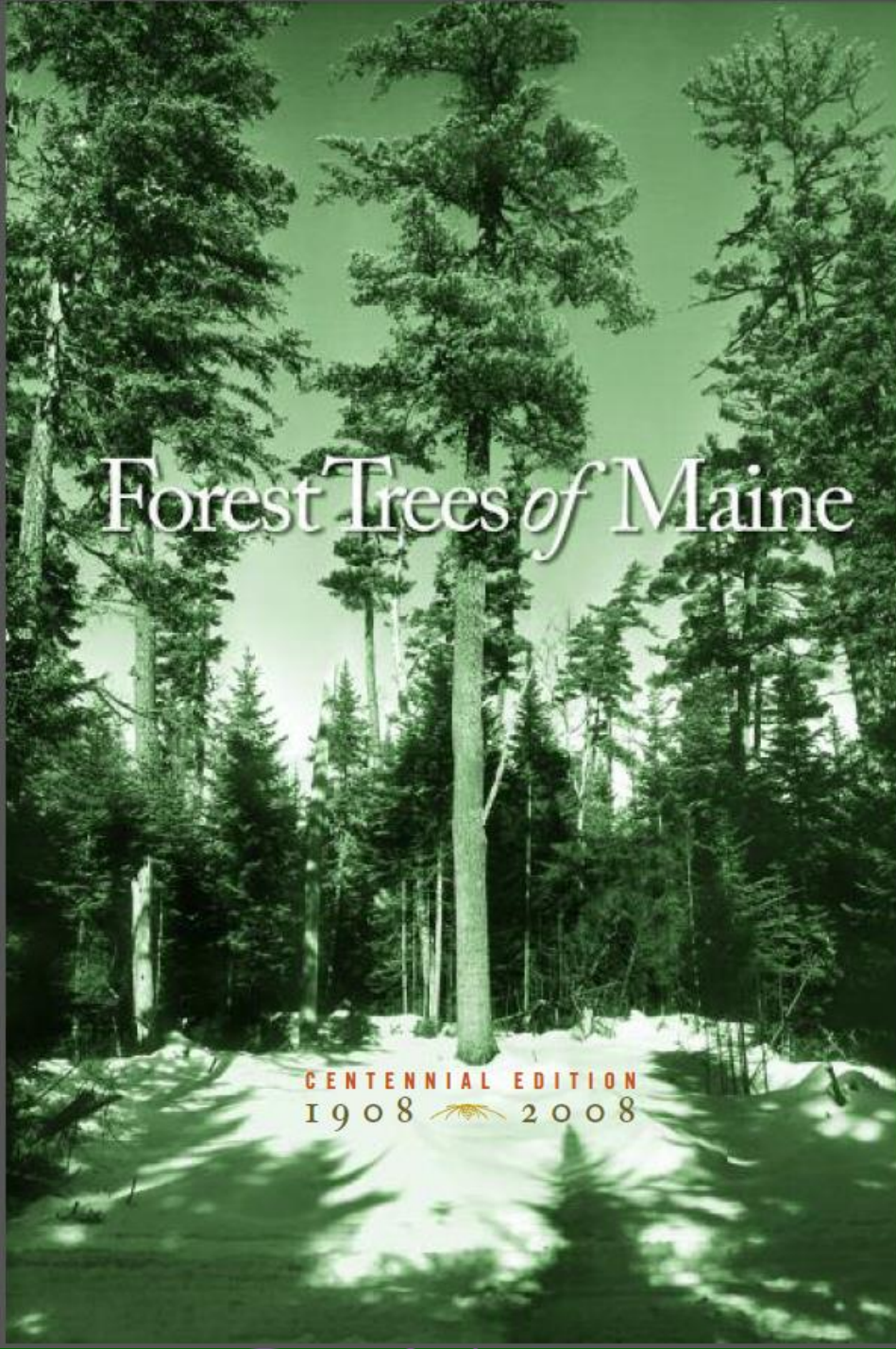
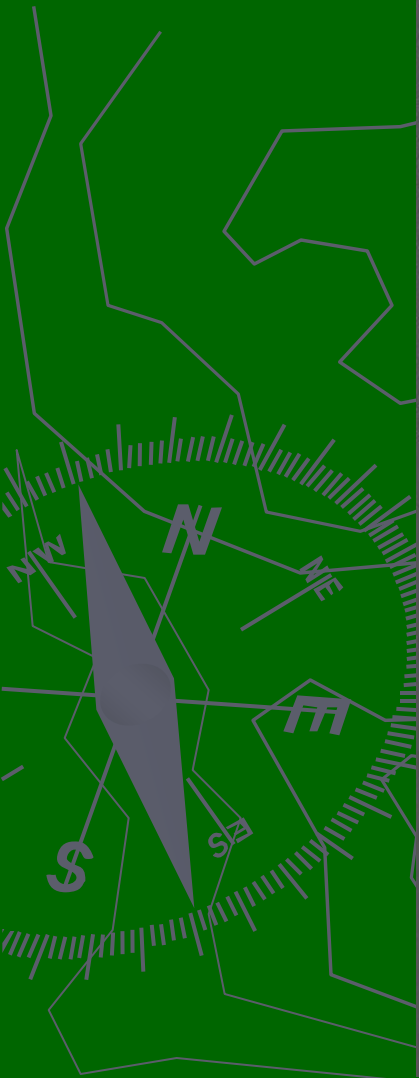
Sugar maple buds (left) compared with Red maple (right). Sugar maple buds and twigs are brown, not red, and bud scales are small, numerous and pointed.



Red maple

Forest Trees *of* Maine

CENTENNIAL EDITION
1908  2008



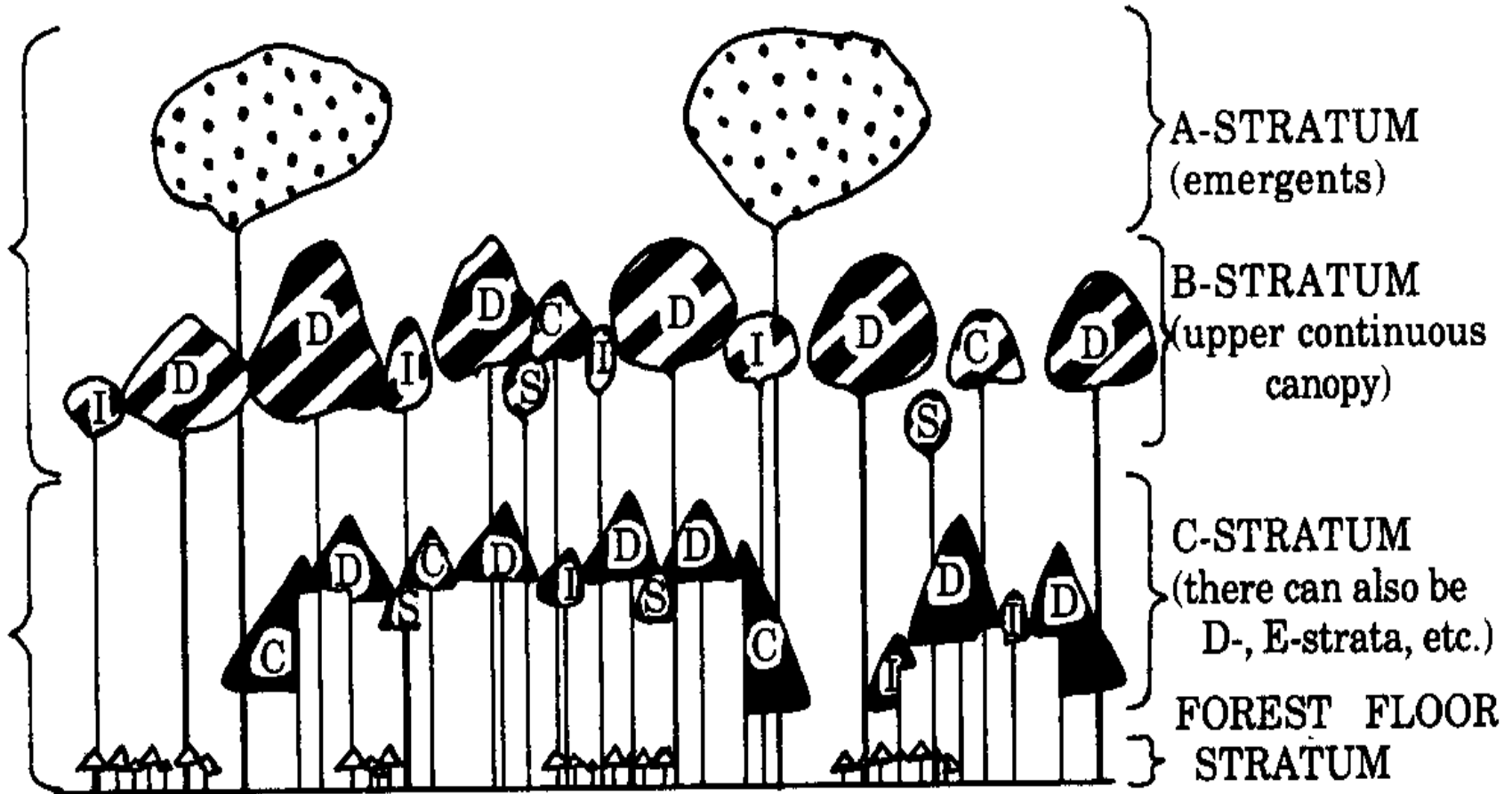
Silviculture-the art and science of managing forests to meet landowner and society's goals

Cutting to influence the future

- Growth rates (spacing)
- Tree species
- Quality
- Regeneration
- Structure

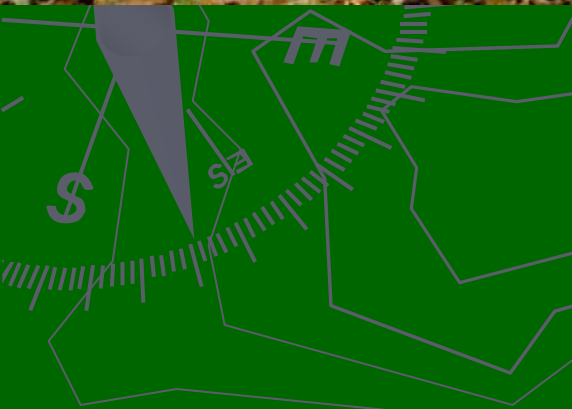


UNDERSTORY OVERSTORY



Growing space – all trees need space (light, soil, water, etc.) to grow.

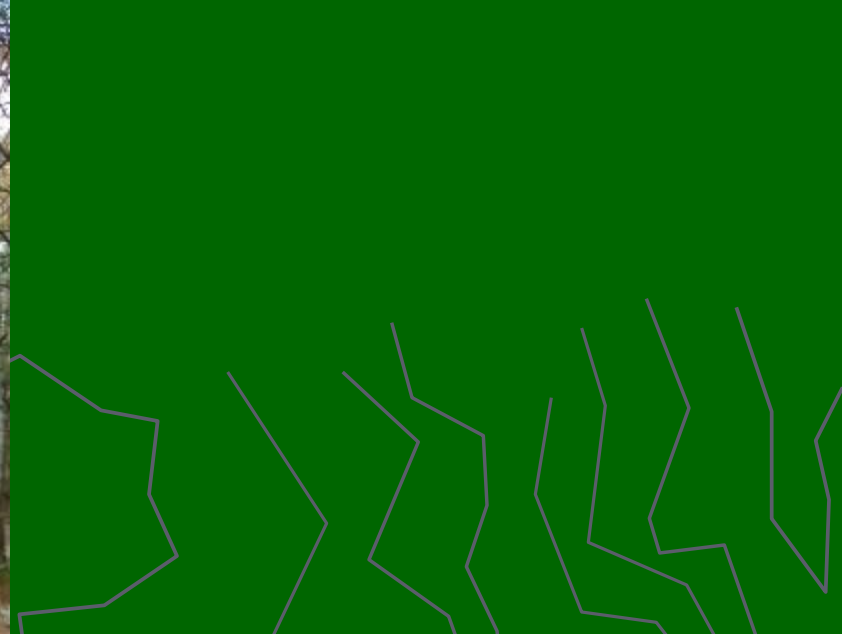
Stocking – the number/size of trees relative to the available growing space (stem density, basal area)

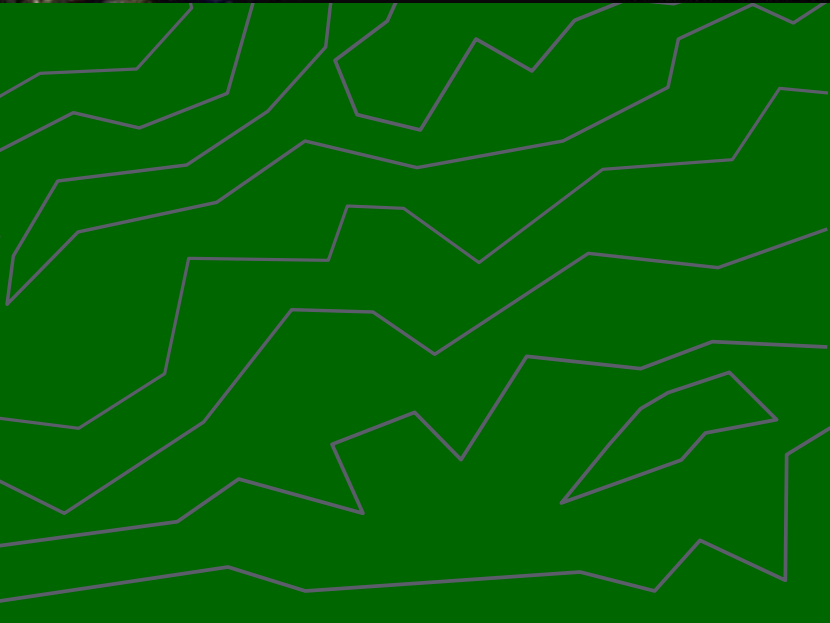
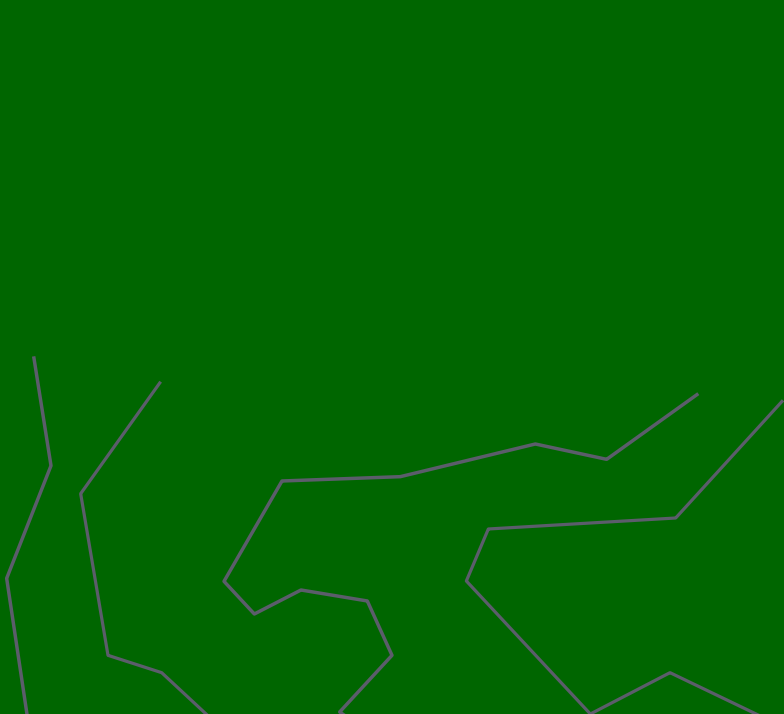












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▶ Silviculture

- Semi-natural ecosystems
 - ▶ Woody species
 - ▶ Natural regeneration
 - ▶ Polycultures
 - ▶ Multiple functions
 - ▶ Few soil inputs
 - ▶ Highly complex
 - ▶ Infrequent interventions
 - ▶ Long life-spans
- Use of native species
- Longer economic timeframes
- More than just trees

▶ Agriculture

- Highly controlled ecosystems
 - ▶ Non-woody species
 - ▶ Artificial regeneration
 - ▶ Monocultures
 - ▶ Single function
 - ▶ High soil inputs
 - ▶ Simplified
 - ▶ Frequent/annual interventions
 - ▶ Short life-spans
- Intensive breeding of crops
- Shorter economic timeframes

Tree plantations are somewhere between silviculture and agriculture

Harvesting timber

- ▶ What will be cut, and who decides
- ▶ Who harvests, hauls, markets
- ▶ Time, interest and skill level
- ▶ Training and safety
- ▶ Equipment choices
- ▶ Markets, or not
- ▶ Access, water, other considerations

Harvesting timber-continued

- ▶ Harvest plan
- ▶ Timber sale agreement/ contract
 - Inspection and oversight
- ▶ Follow-up, monitoring





Markets



Sawlogs, Pulpwood, Firewood, Chips



Wood for the farm



Other products: Maple Syrup, Christmas Trees, etc.

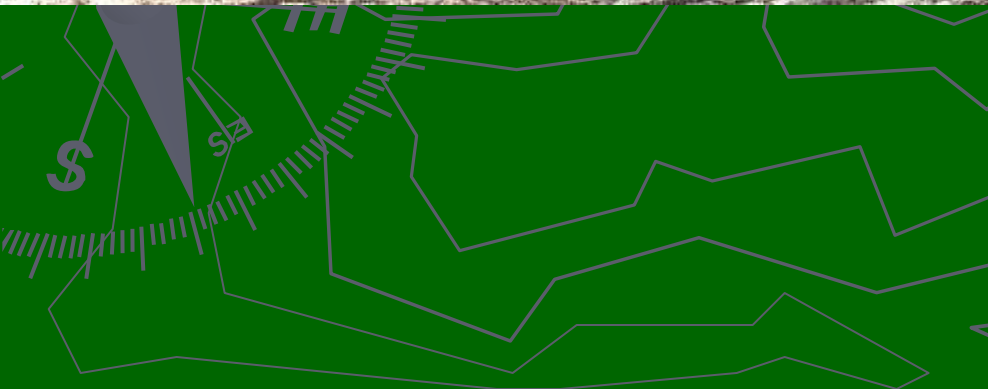


... knowing markets and planning ahead are essential!

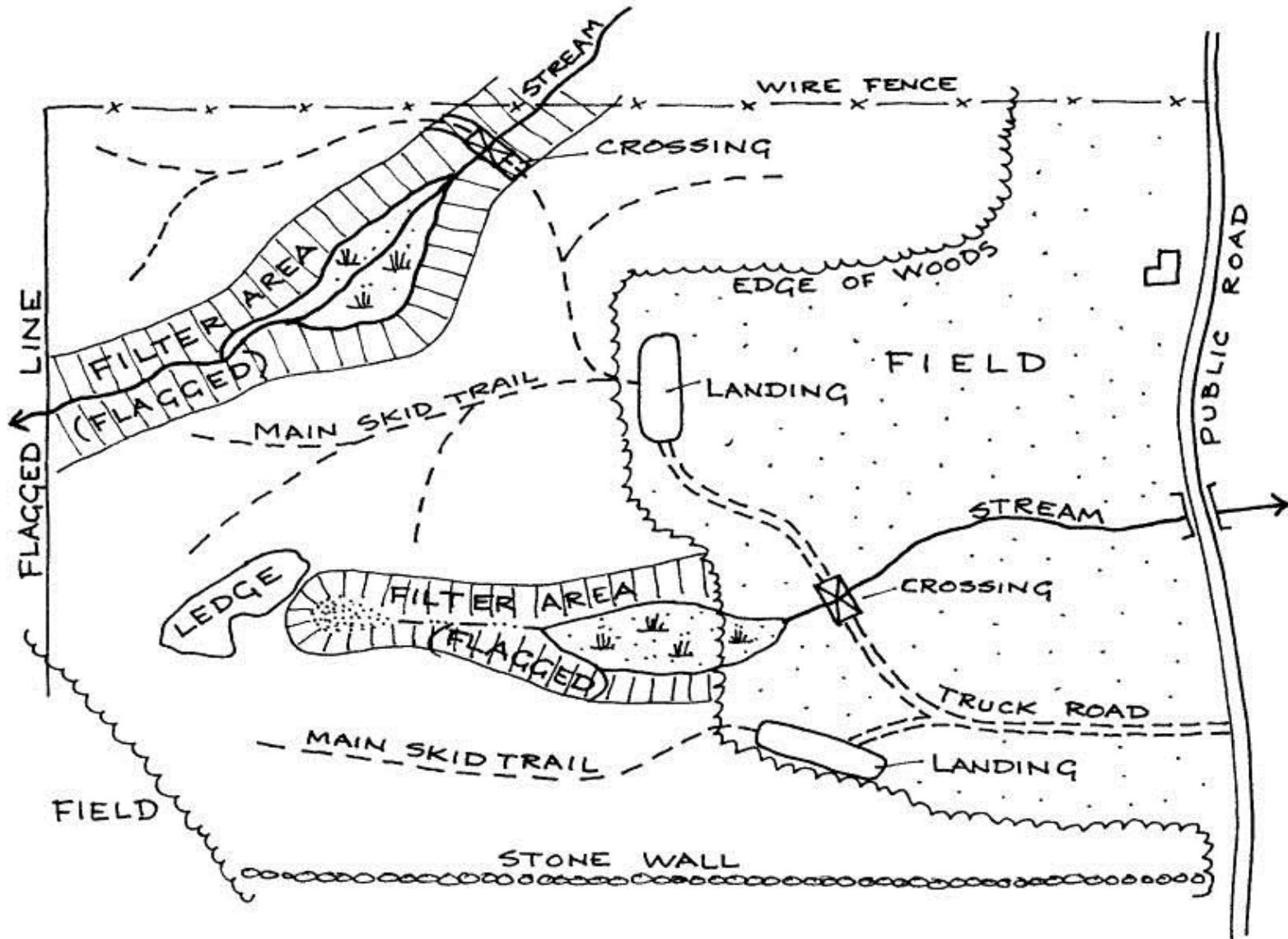


Equipment

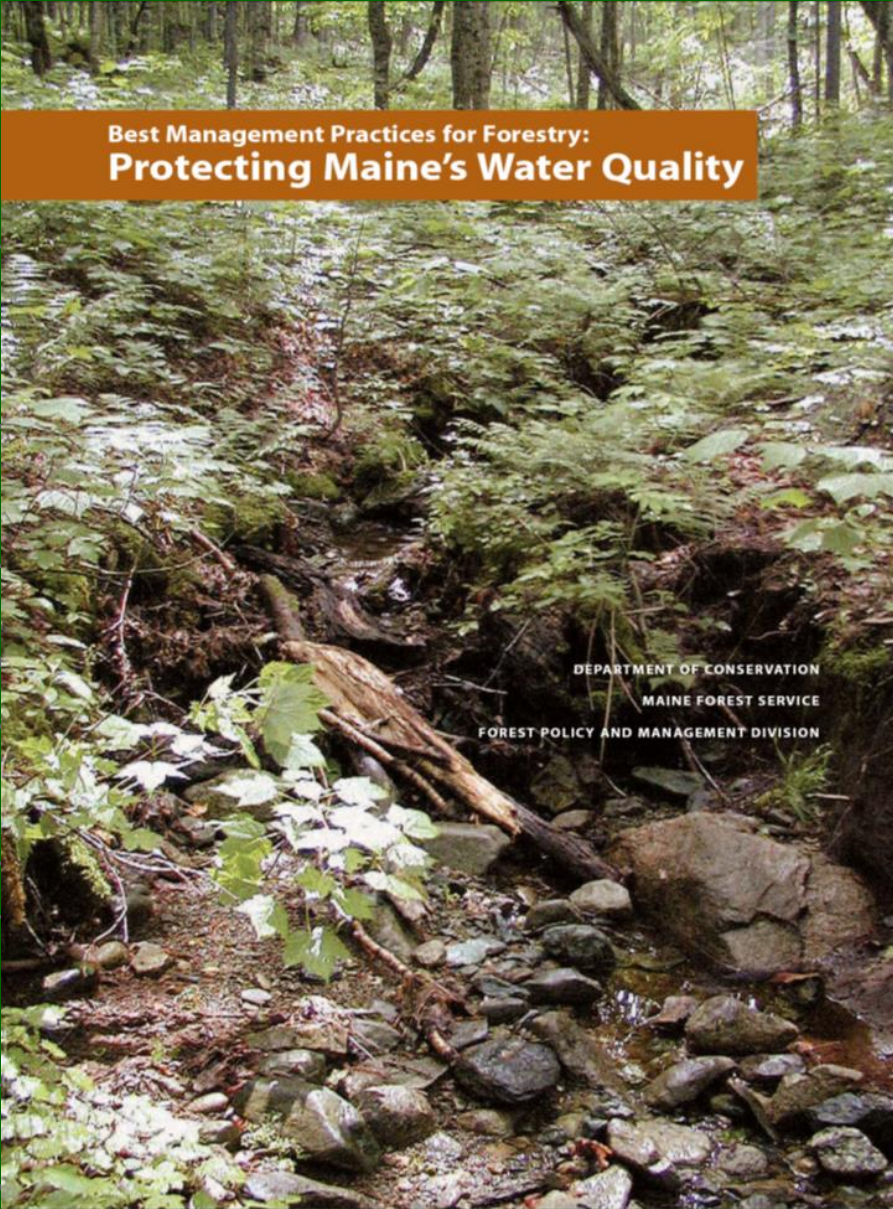




Access, water bodies, trail and landing lay-out



Best management practices



**Best Management Practices for Forestry:
Protecting Maine's Water Quality**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
MAINE FOREST SERVICE
FOREST POLICY AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Working with Professionals

► Foresters

- Woodland assessment, planning, and oversight of forestry activities
- Professional State License **required** in Maine based on education, internship, state exam

► Loggers

- Felling, yarding, bucking, marketing and trucking of wood products
- Training and/or 3rd party certifications: *voluntary and optional*

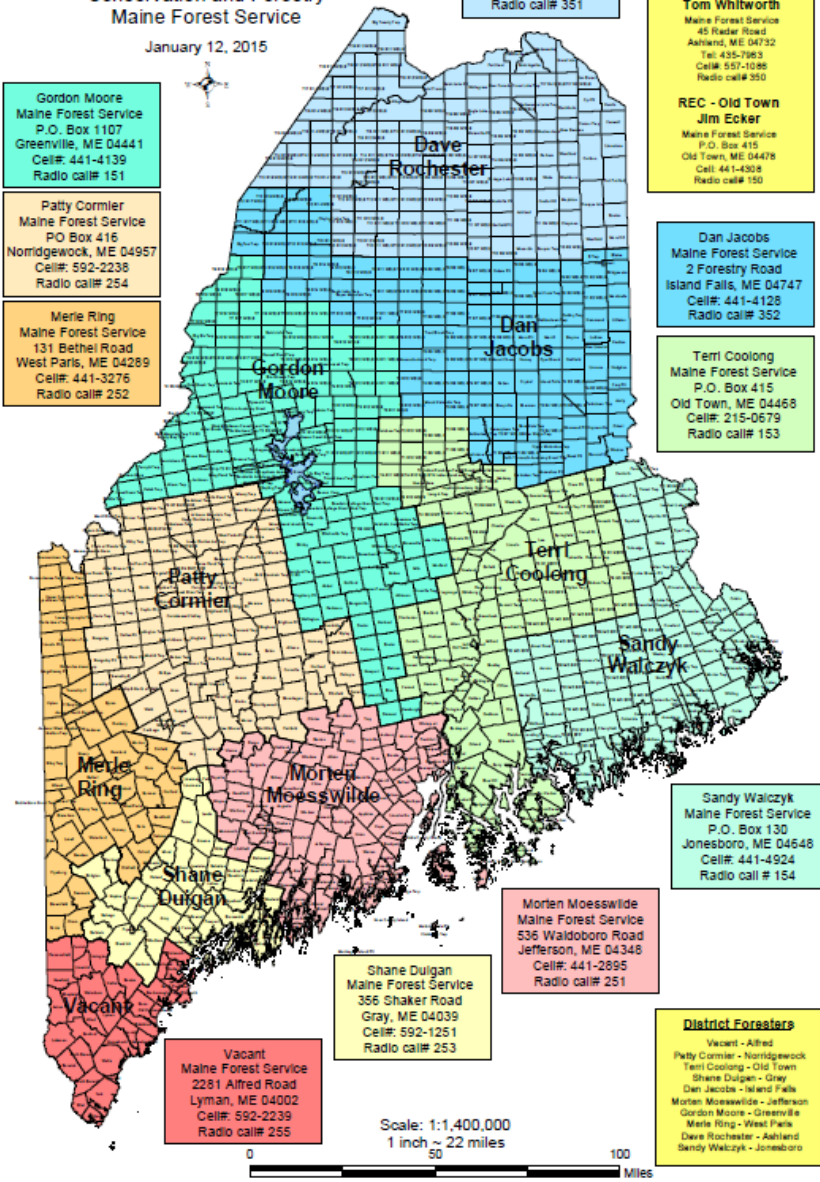
Where to get information and assistance

- ▶ **Maine Forest Service – publications, classes, etc.**
 - one-on-one assistance from a District Forester
 - WoodsWISE/Stewardship program, Woodland Resource Action Plan
 - Referral to private sector professionals
- ▶ **Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine-web site, newsletter, chapter events and Field Day**
- ▶ **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service**
 - Conservation Activity Plan – Forest Management Plan
 - Financial and technical assistance for practices
- ▶ **Private consulting foresters**
- ▶ **Maine Tree Farm Program (recognition/certification)**
 - Field Day, site visits

**Forester Districts
Field Staff**

Forest Policy & Management
Department of Agriculture,
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January 12, 2015



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22 State House Station,

Augusta, ME 04333-0022

1 800 367-0223 (in state)

207 287-2791

www.maineforestservice.gov

forestinfo@maine.gov

resources

- ▶ Links to MFS woodland owners web page

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/woodland_owners.html

- ▶ Find Your Local District Forester

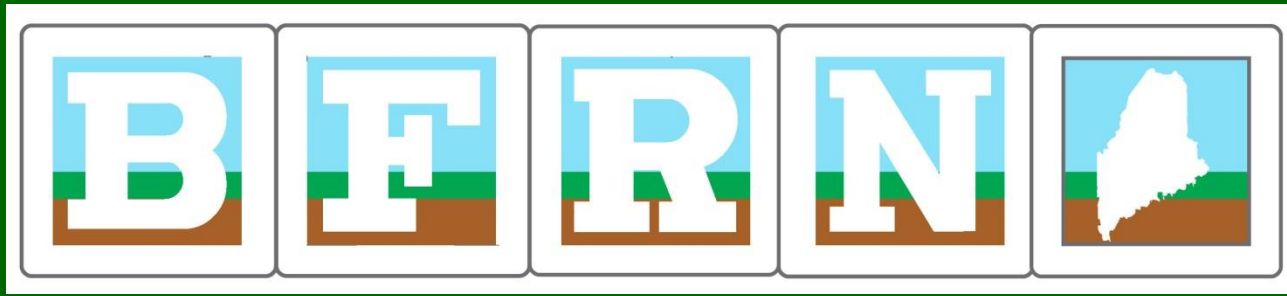
http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/district_foresters.html

- ▶ Stewardship Forester referral list

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/wwi/stew_foresters_web.pdf

- ▶ Be Woods Wise

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/woodswise/index.html



BFRN is a coalition of Maine agriculture agencies & organizations working together to connect aspiring, beginning, and transitioning farmers to resources for farm business success.



Check out our website

www.umaine.edu/beginning-farmer-resource-network/

Because finding what you need to start farming shouldn't be like finding a shear pin in a haystack.