

# Identifying Strategies to Assist Maine's Logging and Trucking Professionals

*2008 Logger/Trucker Congresses*

## Progress Report

*Report prepared for the Panel on Optimizing  
Wood Harvesting and Utilization in Maine*

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Maine's forests*

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## **Introduction**

In November and December of 2008 a series of statewide meetings were held to identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and solutions facing Maine's logging and trucking industry. The Logger/Trucker Congress builds on previous efforts to assist the logging and trucking industry by the state of Maine, private industry, University of Maine, and individual researchers. The purpose of the Logger/Trucker Congress was to help secure the forest products supply chain by seeking grassroots involvement in developing recommendations to strengthen the logging and forest products trucking community. Over the past two months the Logger/Trucker Congress Steering Committee has met to develop a draft vision, interim recommendations and next steps for this effort. What set this group's work apart from previous efforts is its focus on the supply chain, specifically loggers and truckers. That said, throughout the process the steering committee has viewed issues in the context of the larger supply chain with the goal of strengthening the logging and forest products trucking community.

The following summarizes the steering committees draft vision, recommendations and next steps.

## **Vision**

Although many challenges lie ahead, the future is bright for a highly adaptive, talented, and evolving forest products industry in Maine. Maine's 18 million acres of healthy forestland will continue to provide economic, social, and environmental benefits to all its citizens. Now and in the future there will be strong demand for high quality loggers, truckers, and progressive landowners. The facts bode well for Maine's forest products industry and its competitiveness in the world marketplace.

It is important to the state of Maine's future that:

1. Maine has adequate harvesting and trucking capacity to continue to harvest and transport current and future needs to various markets through variable weather and ground conditions;
2. Loggers and truckers and their workers are profitable in their businesses to assure their continued economic viability;
3. Maine's social conditions, educational programs, and economic development and business support programs support continued recruitment into the logging and trucking industries at replacement level;
4. Operationally-based forest research and development, including the supply chain, be supported and encouraged;

Maine's loggers and truckers are well qualified to meet future challenges. They have a tremendous work ethic, a diverse set of skills, many years of experience, exceptional problem solving abilities, perseverance; are innovative and creative, and are always developing new ways to overcome obstacles. In addition to our workforce, our forests are some of the most resilient in the world.

There is a future for Maine's forests and its workforce - and the future is bright.

### **Recommendations**

1. That there is demonstrated commitment by all members of the forestry community to sustainable forestry in Maine;
2. That efforts are made to improve mill-contractor-landowner business relationships;
3. That a priority be placed on entry recruitment into the industry; and,
4. That new and existing professional development programs be supported, enhanced, and improved.

### **Next Steps**

Action Item	Responsibility	Completion Date
Meet to develop work plan	Steering Committee	June 2009
Complete final work plan	Steering Committee	July 2009
Draft final report	Steering Committee	October
Meet with various legislative committees	Steering Committee	November
Other		

### **Steering committee members**

- Sandy Brawders
- Don Mansius
- Belinda Raymond
- Brian Souers
- Alec Giffen
- Joel Swanton
- Mike St. Peter
- Pat Sirois
- Rosaire Pelletier
- Rod Wales
- Tom Cushman