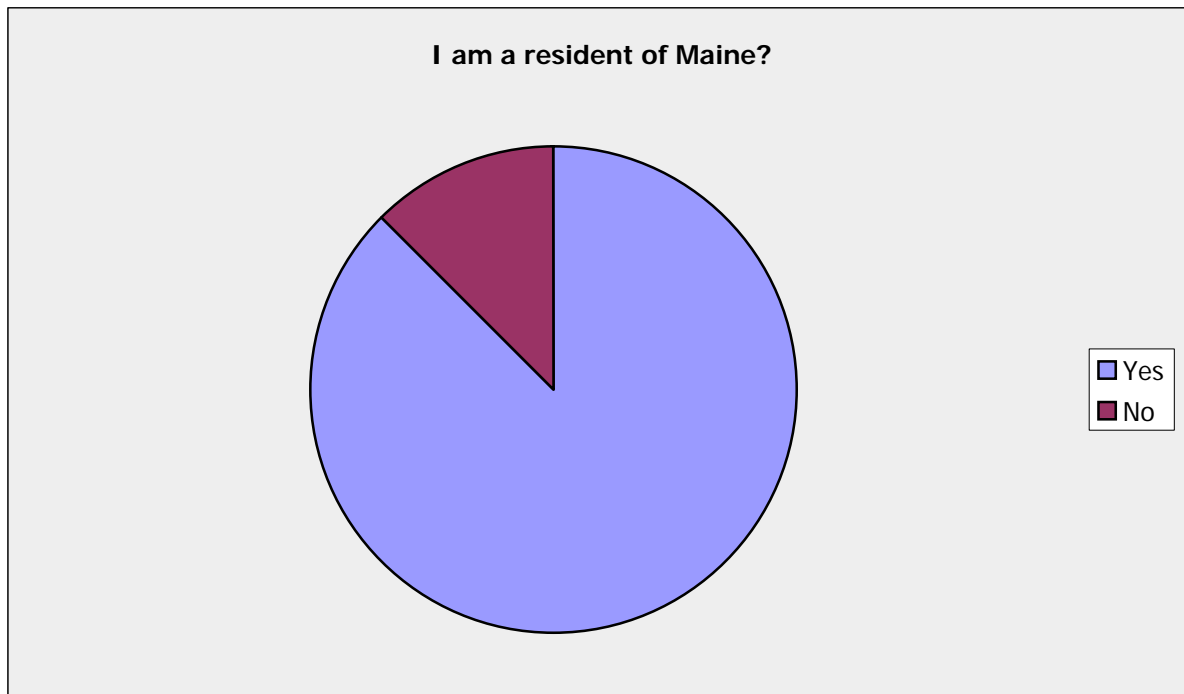


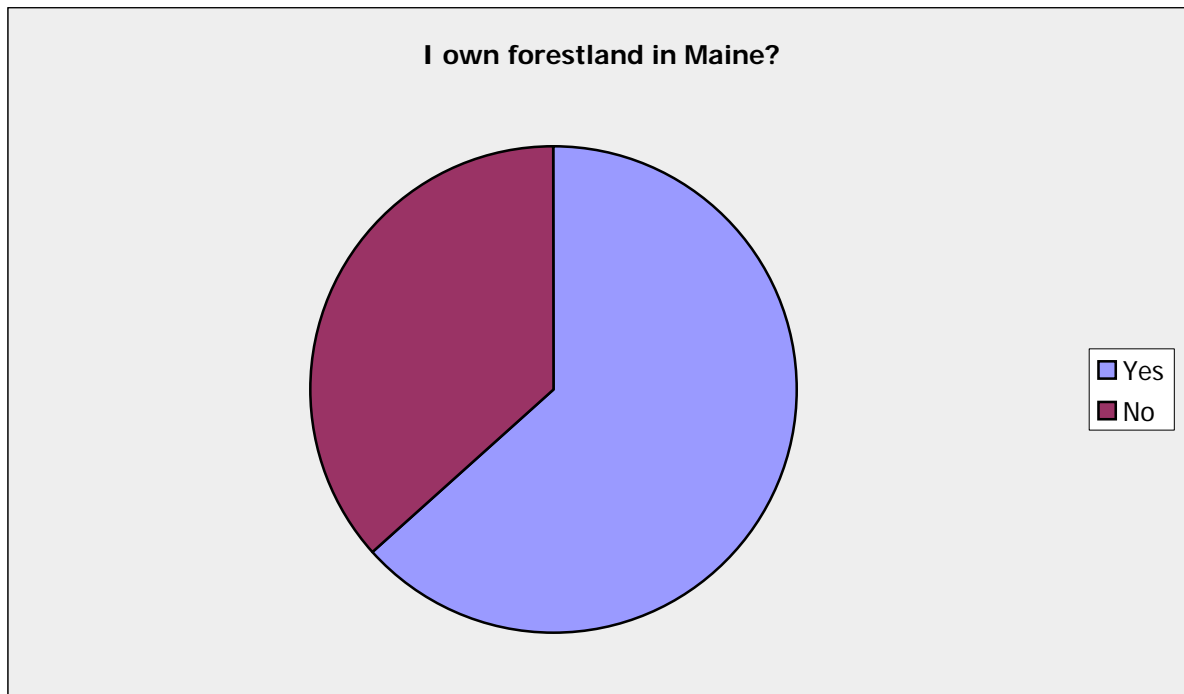
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

I am a resident of Maine?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	87.4%	236
No	12.6%	34
<i>answered question</i>		270
<i>skipped question</i>		4



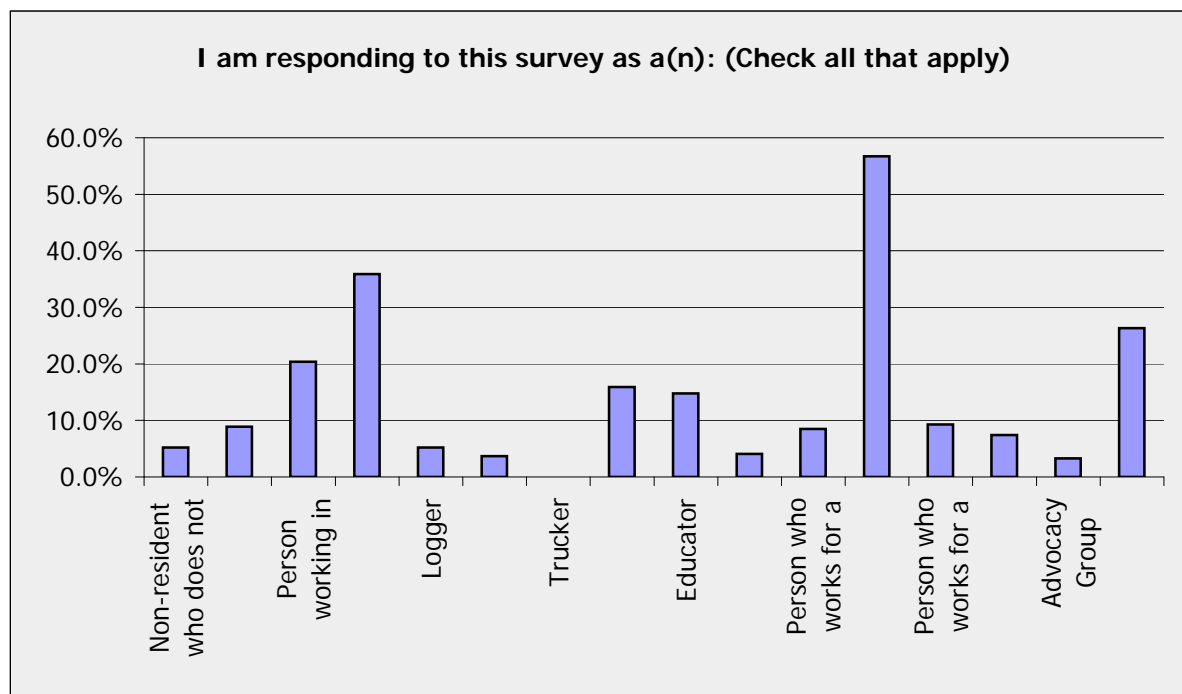
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

I own forestland in Maine?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	63.4%	170
No	36.6%	98
<i>answered question</i>		268
<i>skipped question</i>		6



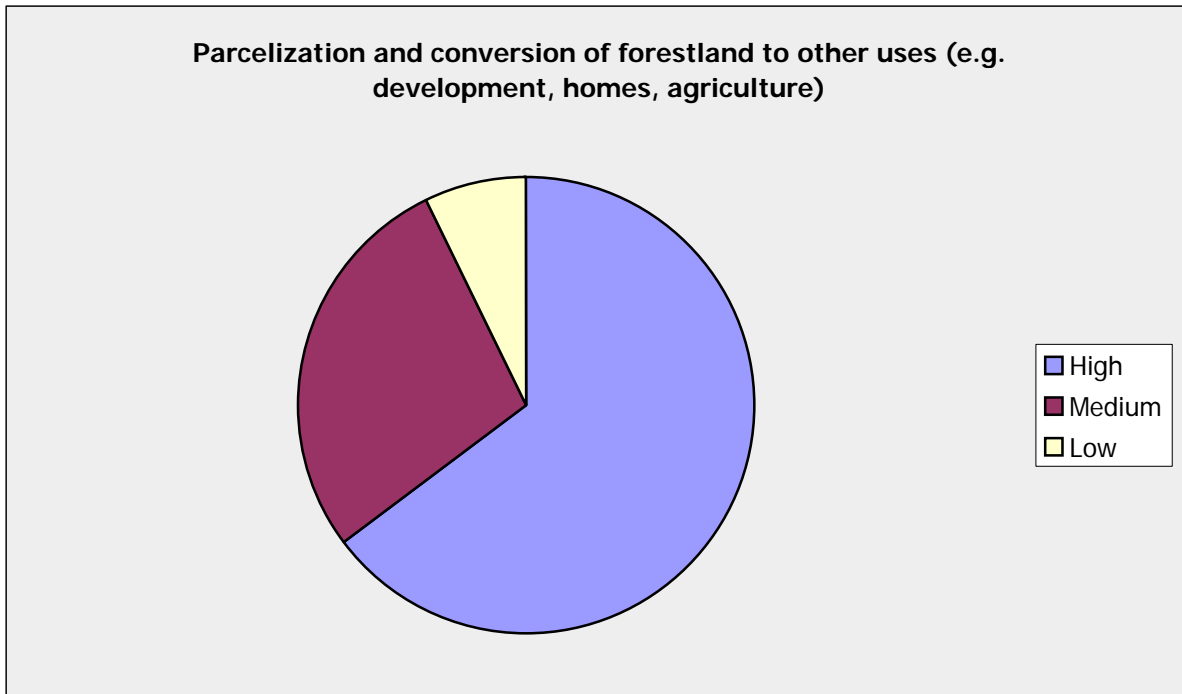
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

I am responding to this survey as a(n): (Check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Non-resident who does not own forestland	5.2%	14
Absentee owner of forestland	8.9%	24
Person working in Maine's forest industry	20.4%	55
Forester	35.9%	97
Logger	5.2%	14
Arborist	3.7%	10
Trucker	0.0%	0
Person who works for a government agency	15.9%	43
Educator	14.8%	40
Elected official	4.1%	11
Person who works for a non-governmental organization	8.5%	23
A citizen who is interested in conservation in Maine	56.7%	153
Person who works for a conservation organization	9.3%	25
Land Trust	7.4%	20
Advocacy Group	3.3%	9
Other (please specify)	26.3%	71
answered question		270
skipped question		4



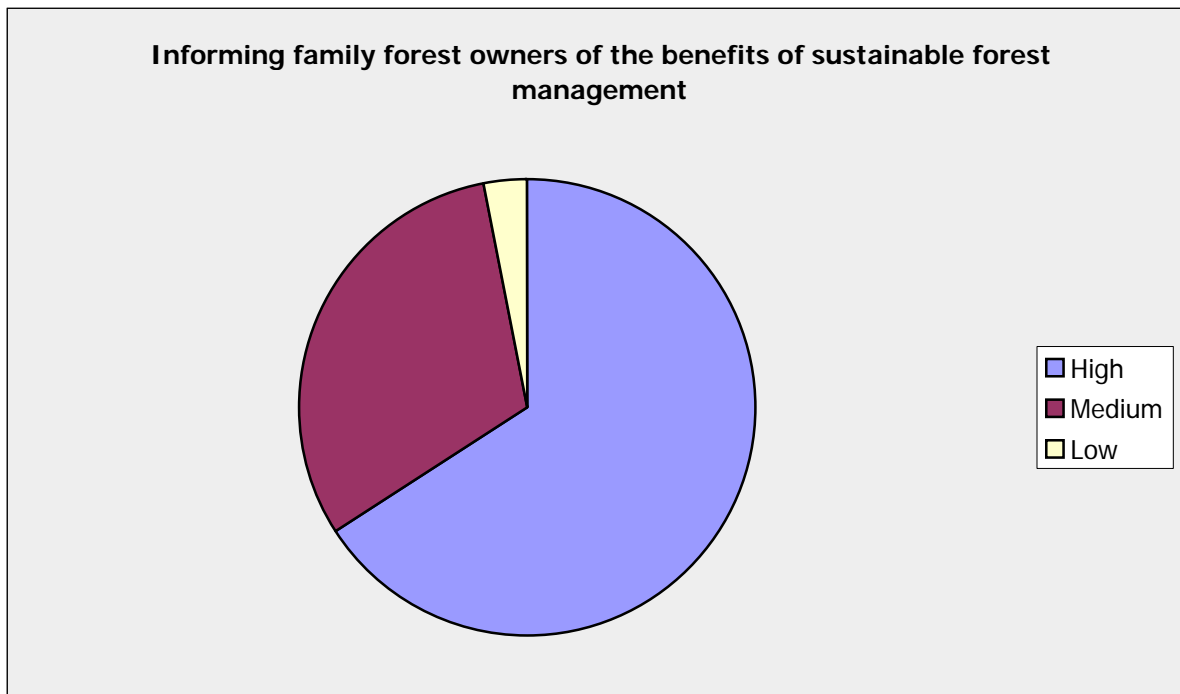
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Parcelization and conversion of forestland to other uses (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	64.9%	170
Medium	27.9%	73
Low	7.3%	19
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		12



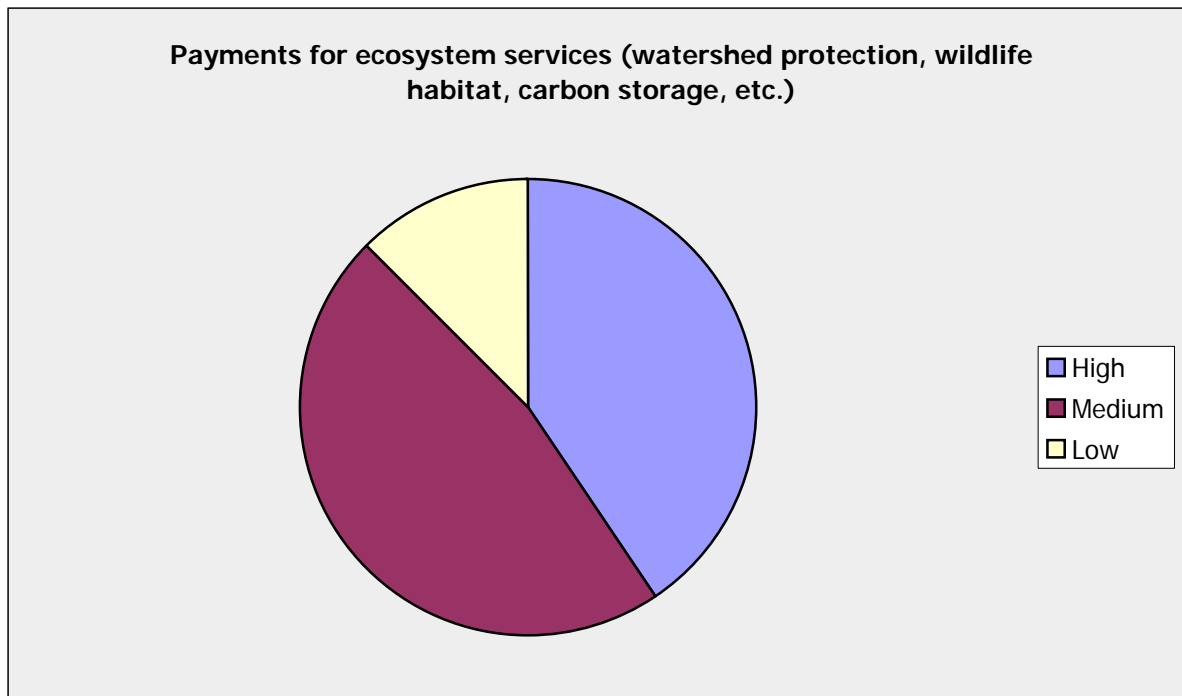
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	65.9%	172
Medium	31.0%	81
Low	3.1%	8
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		13



Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Payments for ecosystem services (watershed protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	40.6%	106
Medium	46.7%	122
Low	12.6%	33
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		13

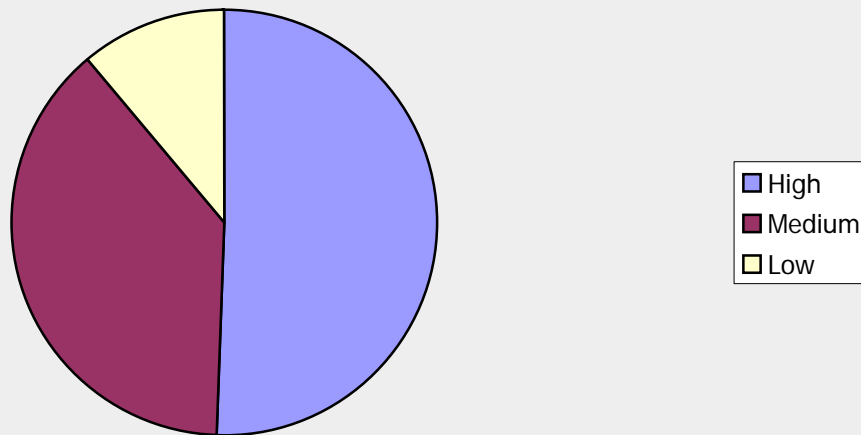


Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	50.6%	132
Medium	38.3%	100
Low	11.1%	29
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		13

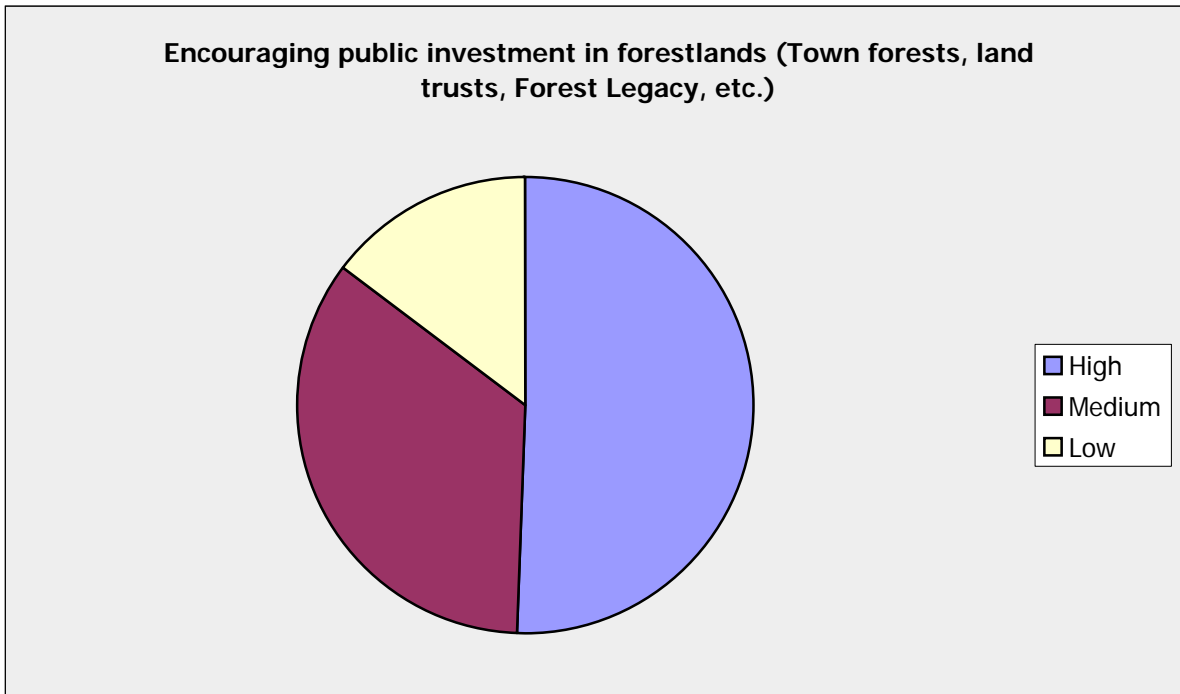
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)



Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)

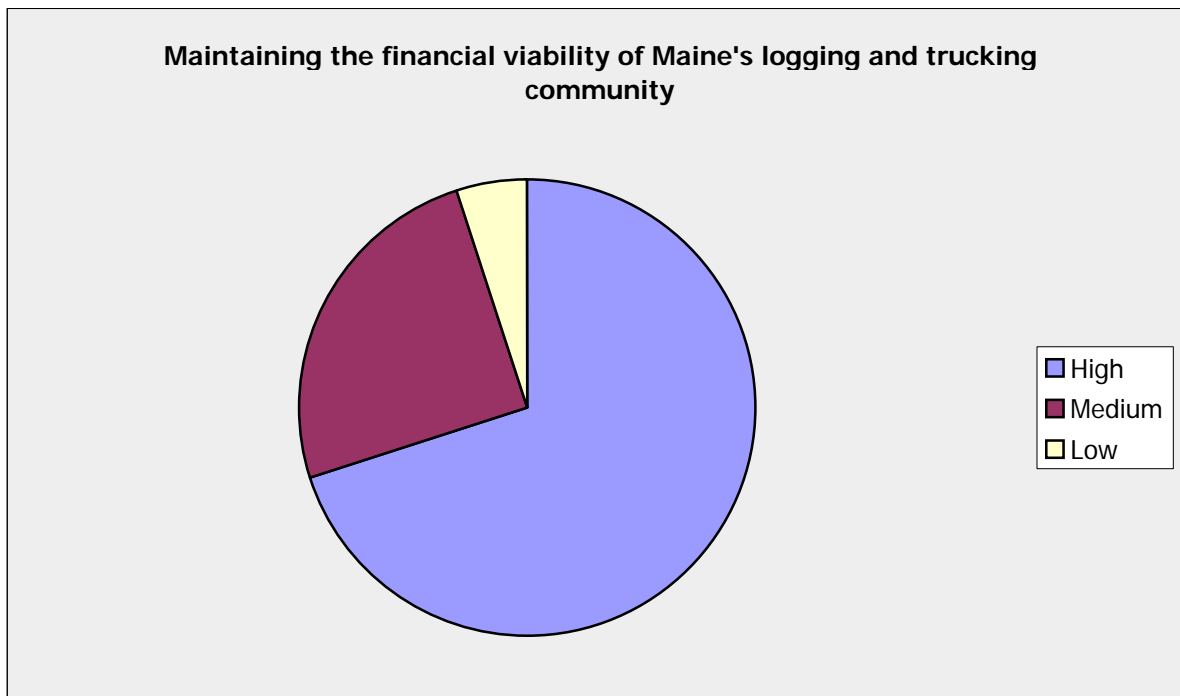
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	50.6%	132
Medium	34.9%	91
Low	14.6%	38
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		13



Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

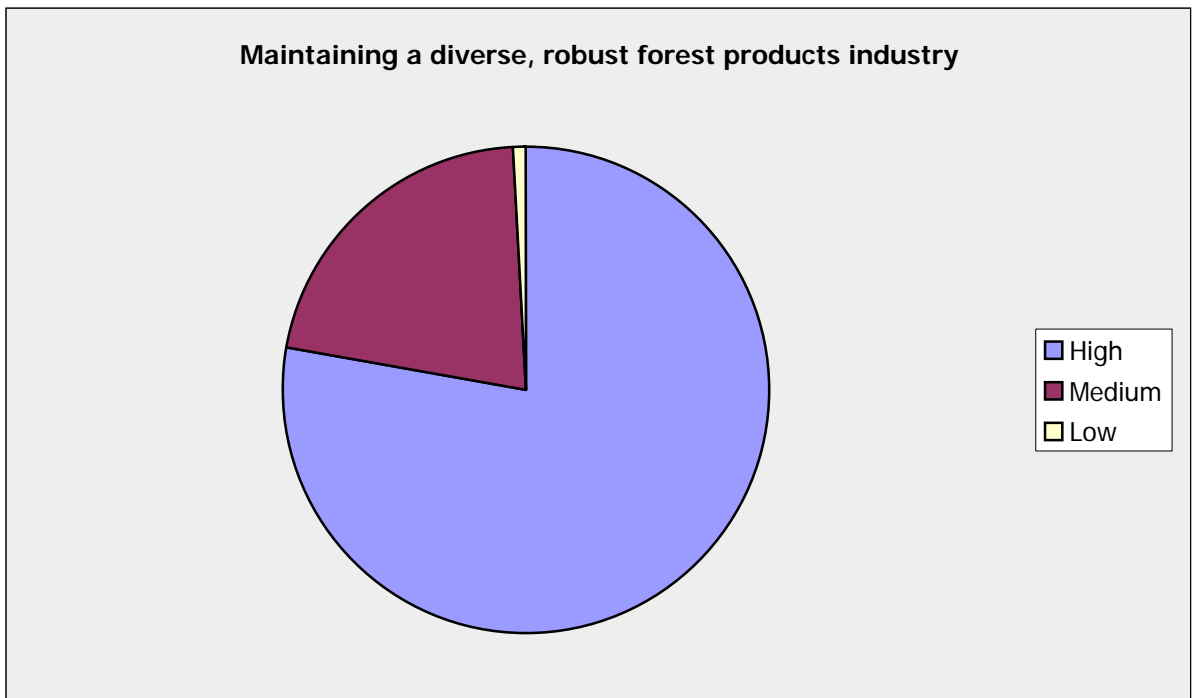
Maintaining the financial viability of Maine's logging and trucking community

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	70.0%	184
Medium	25.1%	66
Low	4.9%	13
<i>answered question</i>		263
<i>skipped question</i>		11



Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	77.9%	205
Medium	21.3%	56
Low	0.8%	2
<i>answered question</i>		263
<i>skipped question</i>		11

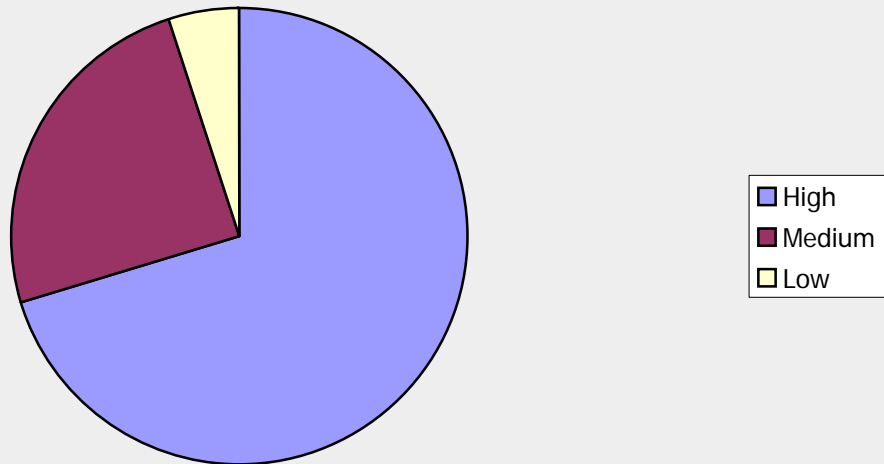


Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine

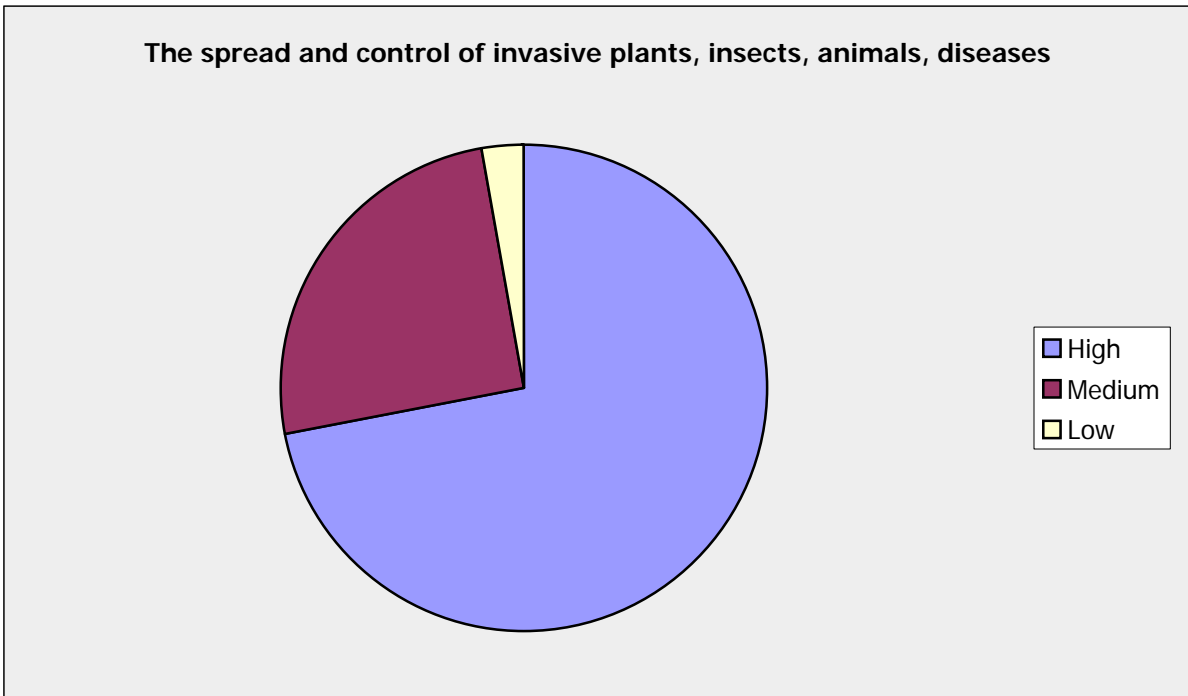
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	70.2%	184
Medium	24.8%	65
Low	5.0%	13
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		12

Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine



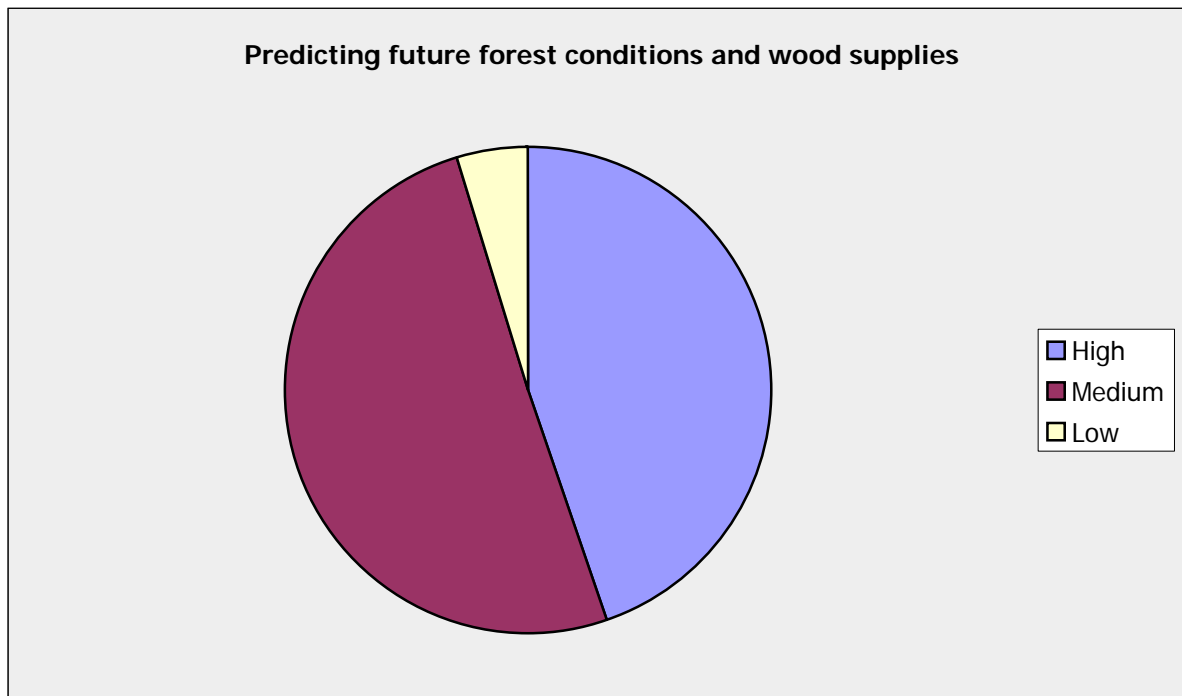
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

The spread and control of invasive plants, insects, animals, diseases		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	71.9%	189
Medium	25.5%	67
Low	2.7%	7
<i>answered question</i>		263
<i>skipped question</i>		11



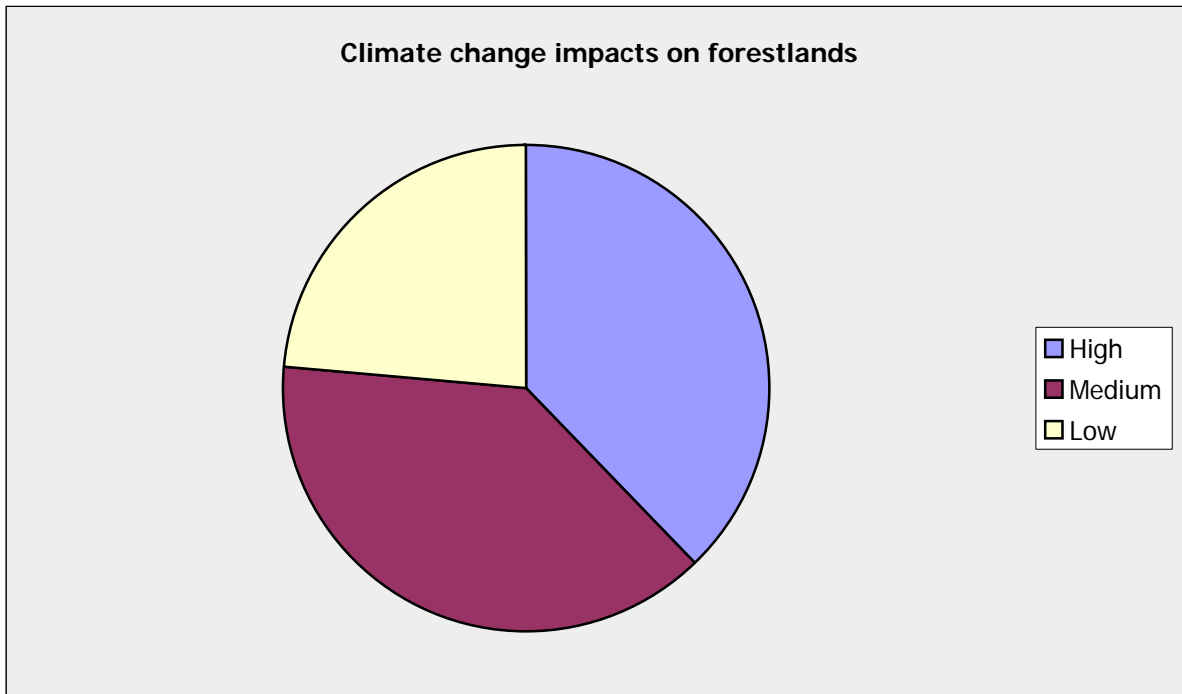
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	44.9%	118
Medium	50.6%	133
Low	4.6%	12
<i>answered question</i>		263
<i>skipped question</i>		11



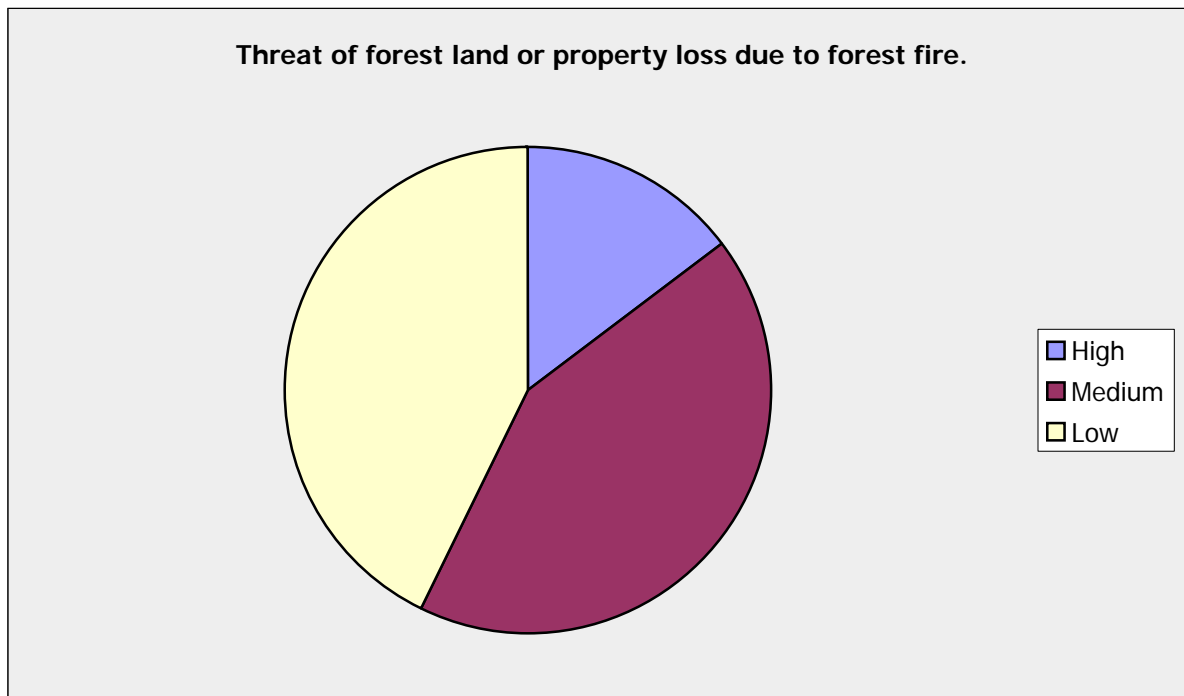
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Climate change impacts on forestlands		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	37.8%	99
Medium	38.5%	101
Low	23.7%	62
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		12



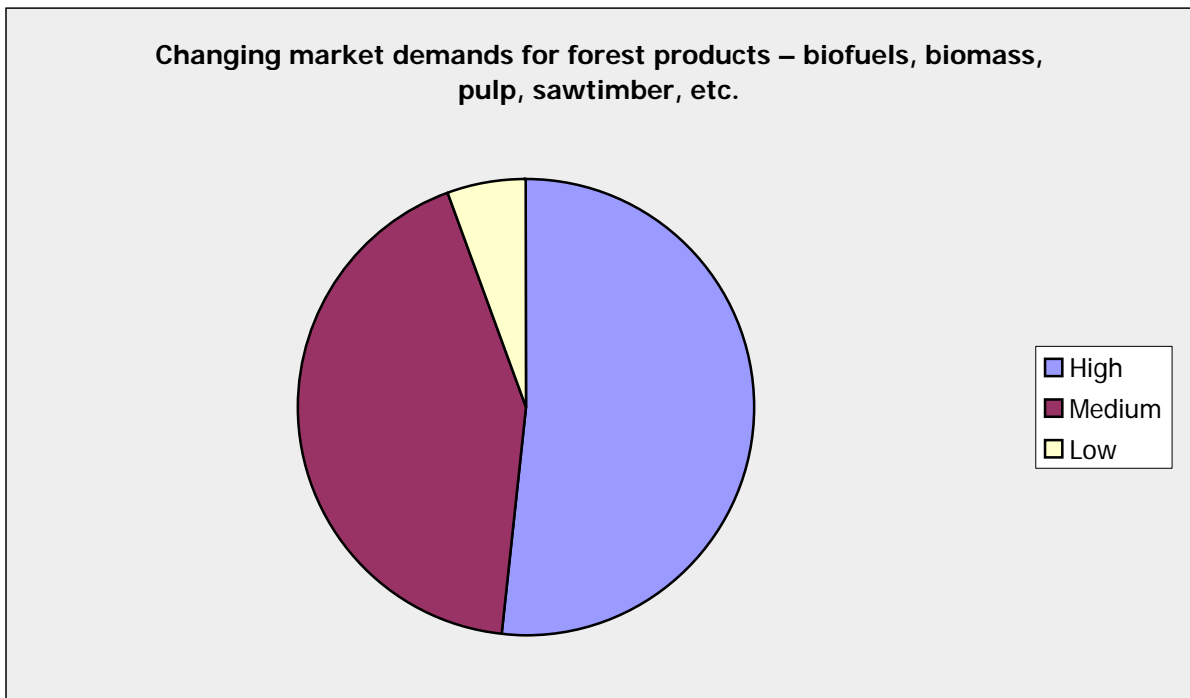
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	14.6%	38
Medium	42.5%	111
Low	42.9%	112
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		13



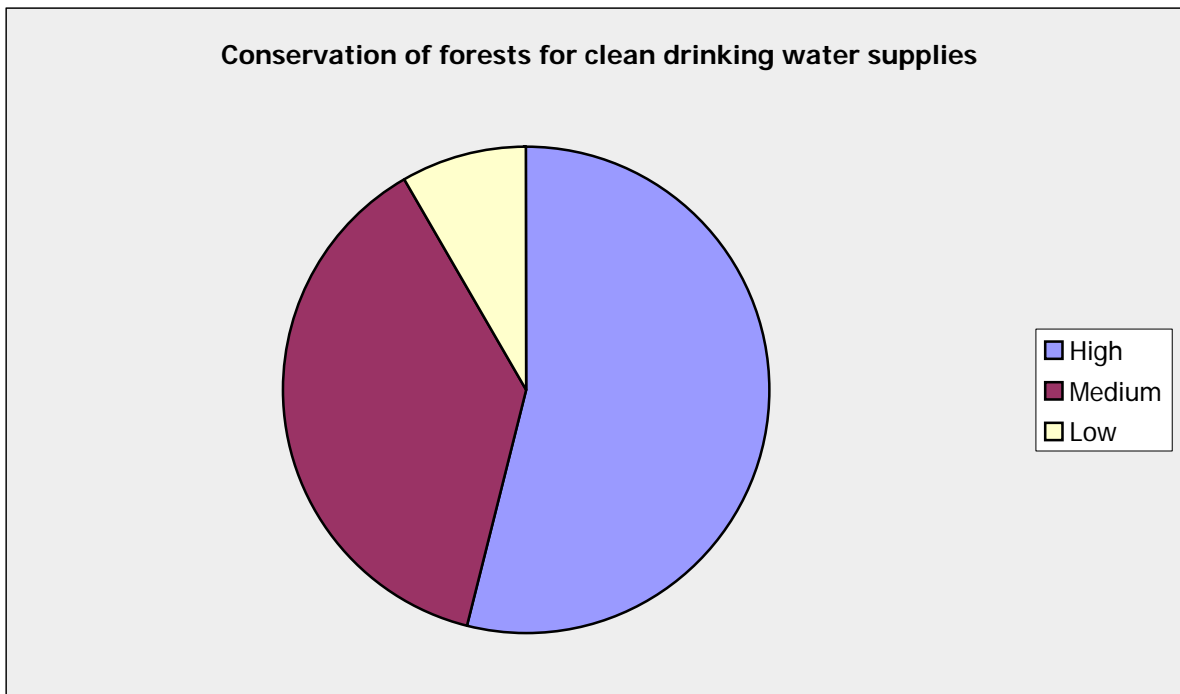
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Changing market demands for forest products – biofuels, biomass, pulp, sawtimber, etc.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	51.6%	129
Medium	42.8%	107
Low	5.6%	14
<i>answered question</i>		250
<i>skipped question</i>		24



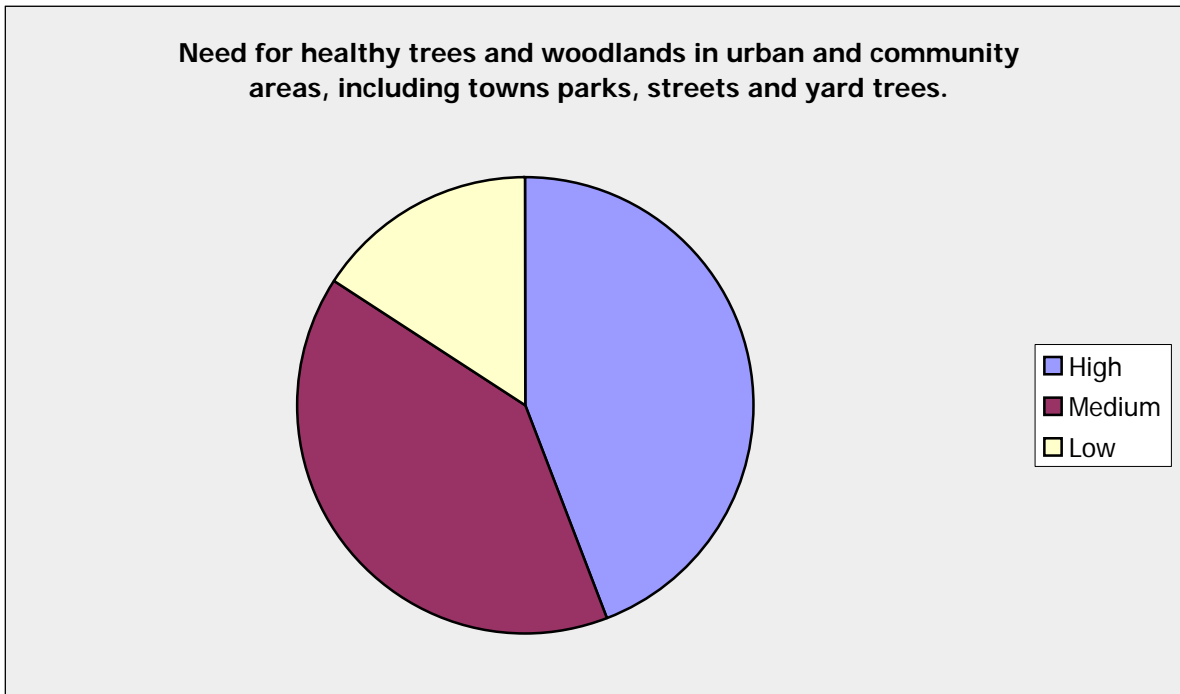
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	53.8%	135
Medium	37.8%	95
Low	8.4%	21
<i>answered question</i>		251
<i>skipped question</i>		23



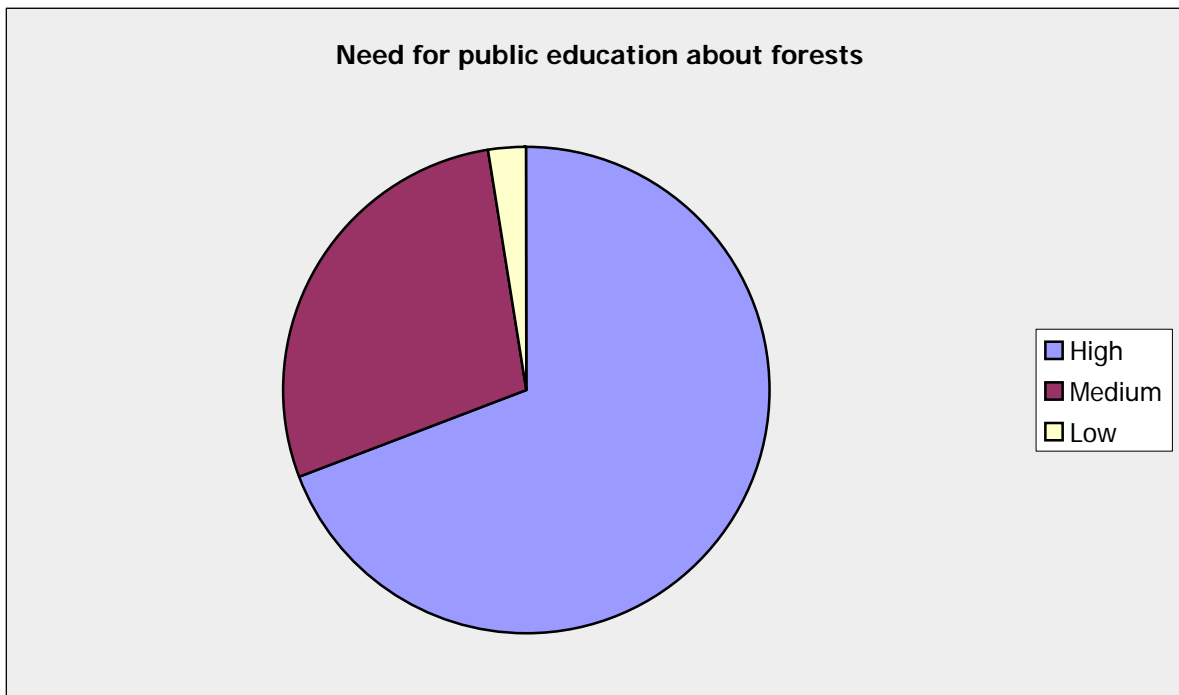
Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	44.2%	111
Medium	39.8%	100
Low	15.9%	40
<i>answered question</i>		251
<i>skipped question</i>		23



Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Need for public education about forests		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	69.3%	174
Medium	28.3%	71
Low	2.4%	6
<i>answered question</i>		251
<i>skipped question</i>		23

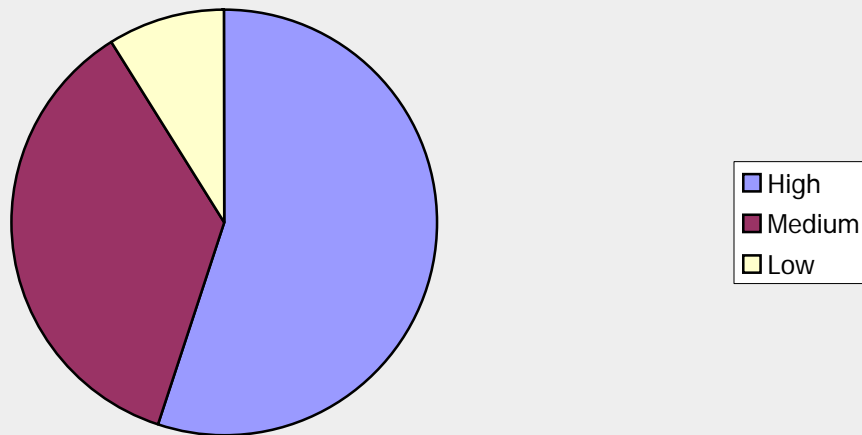


Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey

Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High	55.0%	138
Medium	36.3%	91
Low	8.8%	22
<i>answered question</i>		251
<i>skipped question</i>		23

Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.



Percent respondents ranking issue as High Concern	
Issue	Percent
Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry	77.9%
The spread and control of invasive plants, insects, animals, diseases	71.9%
Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine	70.2%
Maintaining the financial viability of Maine's logging and trucking community	70.0%
Need for public education about forests	69.3%
Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management	65.9%
Parcelization and conversion of forestland to other uses (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)	64.9%
Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.	55.0%
Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies	53.8%
Changing market demands for forest products – biofuels, biomass, pulp, sawtimber, etc.	51.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	50.6%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	50.6%
Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies	44.9%
Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.	44.2%
Payments for ecosystem services (watershed protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc.)	40.6%
Climate change impacts on forestlands	37.8%
Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.	14.6%

Percent respondents ranking issue as Low Concern	
Issue	Percent
Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.	42.9%
Climate change impacts on forestlands	23.7%
Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.	15.9%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	14.6%
Payments for ecosystem services (watershed protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc.)	12.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	11.1%
Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.	8.8%
Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies	8.4%
Parcelization and conversion of forestland to other uses (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)	7.3%
Changing market demands for forest products – biofuels, biomass, pulp, sawtimber, etc.	5.6%
Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine	5.0%
Maintaining the financial viability of Maine's logging and trucking community	4.9%
Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies	4.6%
Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management	3.1%
The spread and control of invasive plants, insects, animals, diseases	2.7%
Need for public education about forests	2.4%
Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry	0.8%

**Open-Ended Responses to State Forest Assessment and Strategy Survey
18 December 2009**

- The widespread and increasing conversion of northern Maine forest lands to residential development. The costs of this conversion will mean a loss of present and potential benefits of a sustainable, diverse and renewable set of resources presently just discovering many unanticipated benefits from energy to carbon sequestering. We are paving our future!
- Two sets of issues: 1) educating non-forestry Mainers that logging/forestry can be done well and that sustainable forestry is an important component of Maine's economy 2) ensuring that the forestry that occurs in Maine IS sustainable and of the highest standard.
- Destruction of forestland for wind farm and transmission lines. Too much emphasis by State Forester on carbon credits and certification.
- The disposal of garbage, used tires, old appliances, mattresses and other trash from homeowners should be covered by tax assessments. Once you go to a user pay system the trash is dumped along back roads and in out of the way places. We then often either pay for its pick-up and removal or stick the landowners with the cost of removal which eventually results in loss of access, posted lands and road closures by landowners attempting to stop the dumping.
- Need for more education on non-timber resources of forests and their economic opportunities.
- Some concerns are currently being addressed sufficiently, such as forest fire control in Maine. The potential for change in forest products is not so much a concern as an opportunity and something to plan for. TIMOs and REITs are an opportunity plus we can't control who buys land. We can make these owners an easement or other offer they can't refuse.
- Maine Forest Service has been a ready source of information and advice about maintaining the woodland portion of my property (about 40 of 80 acres in Brunswick). Thanks. I have placed a conservation easement on the property, with much help from MCHT, TNC, and the local land trust. Closer coordination between MFS and such groups might help protect more working woodlots. For example, my neighbors were surprised to learn that the easement as we drafted it does allow continued wood harvesting, subject of course to certain conservation practices. It is not widely appreciated that a conservation easement may individually specify the nature and extent of any permitted uses, including woodcutting, public access, motorized traffic, hunting, etc. Talk it up!
- Forest Management and managers must increasingly focus on the big picture. A stand by stand approach must transition to one that incorporates stands into a large landscape perspective, one which enables the manager to consider how issues like habitat, carbon, water quality, and wood supply interconnect. The forest management community, logging community, and the general public need to become better educated about this evolution in the management of our forest resources.

Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service - Forest Policy & Management Division

- Role & viability of 3rd party forest certification in meeting stewardship goals. Also, role of forests and forestry in rural economic development. Also, are current state policies/regulations wrt forest lands effective & up-to-date??
- A need to educate the public in the area of Forest Fire control, Patrol, and recognition of fires. I believe the public should be made aware of all these factors including the fire triangle.
- Note...many of the questions that we mark as areas of high concern are areas that we support but do not have any concern with. There wasn't a clear distinction in the questions though.
- I am very opposed to the poorly thought out proposal to cost share biomass. I am concerned regarding the possible cut backs in funding for the Forest Management Division but feel that the Fire Control Division should undergo scrutiny as to the number of full time employees it supports.
- Thank you for inviting comments on this important issue. My responses to the items in this survey indicate how deeply I care about the matters you have raised. I am a Conservation Biologist. One of my interests is in monitoring forest health through use of long term data sets that reveal changes over time. I have the unusual privilege of working in all parts of Maine, every county and most townships, and of working in remote areas where most people do not go. As a botanist, I assess the condition of the vegetation wherever I go, and I have published peer-reviewed research on invasive plants and forest succession under various harvest treatments. For land trusts especially in midcoast Maine I prepare management recommendations that focus especially on vegetation attributes and how to protect biodiversity in a fragmented landscape. I have seen (and measured) every kind of condition that the forest can hold, including old growth, well-managed woodlots, vast commercial clear cuts from the budworm salvage operations of the 1980s, catastrophic windthrow, fire, fragmentation due to development, overcutting in buffer strips, lack of leaving any riparian buffer at all, destruction of vernal pools, and so forth. I have prepared recommendations regarding pollution, erosion, dumping, and inappropriate recreational use in forests. I used to worry that market incentives and weak forest policy was leading to consistent removal of the best-formed, fastest-growing, most disease- and pest-resistant stock over numerous harvests. I was concerned that high-grading sets up for dysfunction, poor economic value (except as firewood), and lack of resilience in future stands. I can see the value and purpose of certain types of clear cutting for stand renewal and habitat. With sufficient advance regeneration, the creation of forest openings can be beneficial. I think the Maine Forest Practices Act has helped bring about somewhat of a balance in harvest intensity - until recently. But in the past few years I have become especially concerned with what I think is a paradigm shift from the concept of sustainable forestry to the idea that forests are nothing but sources of BTUs. While I adhere to the idea that trees are renewable resources for fuel, paper and wood products, I think the public has recently drifted away from the realization that forests are complex ecosystems that are essential habitat for birds and mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, other invertebrates, plants, lichens, fungi, and uncounted microbes. It is my opinion that the ecology of the forest is not well-enough understood for us to be sure that such severe repeated disturbances, with lack of large snags and logs and removal of nutrients from the slash, are sustainable at all. I think great harm is being done to the forest through widespread and expanding harvest for biomass. If biomass plants are to be a well-conceived part of the Maine

landscape (and they should be), then we should see much more emphasis on restoring brown sites near population centers, closer to the users of the electricity, where copped trees such as fast-growing poplar could be grown and where recreational opportunities might be developed that would enhance quality of life for the people who live nearby. Interpretive signs would help the public understand why a given parcel was populated by trees one day, then cut to the ground another day. This would be preferable to the intense harvest of natural areas that we are currently seeing, in which all but the poorest trees are removed from a 35 ac stand and most of the slash is removed also. I fail to see the justification for the increasing use of this type of management. I also think we should continue to protect more acres of mature forest in Maine, and link them with corridors where possible. I would like to see some semblance of the Maine Ecological Reserve system continue to be implemented. If trees are to be turned into electricity, then there should be much more effort to teach people to use energy efficiently. We should emphasize energy conservation, yet instead I perceive that Maine forests could be the target for entrepreneurs who would fuel the unbridled energy appetites of citizens in other states or even other countries. I recognize the difficulty in getting raw logs to Maine producers when the Canadian mills are at the border in northern Maine, but I would like to see development of a plan to bring back to Maine the jobs of harvesting, moving, and adding value to Maine trees. I think we should not export raw logs -- at all. The Maine economy will be like that of a developing country until we work out ways to keep the jobs with Maine workers. Careful planning and foresight are required. What is expeditious is not necessarily good for Maine in the long term. I will be glad to talk with anyone about these ideas.

- I would have more levels of concerns. Very high, high, medium, low and very low.
- public education public education public education - BUT, we are NOT our target audience! Education about many topics, but of most concern to me is coordination with other New England states on ALB education - which MFS is already working on, thank you for that. Conversion/development of forest and farmland is also of great concern, especially when developments tend to set aside low \$ value (wetland) as "open space" - great for amphibians, but residents need usable recreation area, too!
- The continuing loss of old, late successional forests with complex structure across Maine is very concerning. Such forests are recognized as being key for biodiversity conservation (for instance, Manomet's work with rare lichens in LS forests) but no strategy for their identification and management has been developed. Every year the area of such forests is shrinking, and soon only relictual fragments will be left. This issue needs to be seriously addressed on a statewide scale.
- I feel that the stewardship cost-sharing practices needs a complete overhaul. to me, it seems that the program is being used to pad the pockets of the foresters rather than to enhance the forest. until that changes, the program will continue to lose funding.
- Alternate forest products or alternate land uses for small woodland owners. ability or inability of small woodland owners to have harvesting done to effect good land management.
- I am concerned about the future of our forests. It seems the younger generation is no longer connecting with the outdoors. Their interests have shifted more towards activities that are sedentary in nature. In fifteen or twenty years will there be enough people who

Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service - Forest Policy & Management Division

will be making decisions who have an understanding about the forest and all that is gained from a healthy forest?

- Effectiveness of forest certification. Is it achieving what it is meant to accomplish.
- We have had the chance to work with the forestry management system and have very happy with the quality of service. We recently (2 yrs ago) did a selective cut on our plot. The service and the logger were exceptional in their approach to our lands and our goals.
- Management of municipal woodlands. statutory reform for "ministerial and school lots
- The formation of forest landowner cooperatives (marketing and management focused) continues to be a potentially valuable tool that could help promote better forest stewardship and increased forest production because of economies of scale. This would benefit forest landowners and the forest (and general) economy in the state, and lead to healthier forests going forward. Industry will not take the lead on this, for obvious competitive reasons, so it is up to the state and SAF to foster growth of these groups. An old idea whose time is now.
- Opening up more posted land to hunt and fish on. There is way too much posted property in Maine.
- Increased regulation for environmental values, such as vernal pools. There is no discussion about state owned conservation easements.
- We need better monitoring of the health and growth of forests and the ecosystem services they provide in order to evaluate the forest condition and the trajectory of change. We need better information about options for adapting to climate change.
- The most important priority is the annual FIA surveys. "If you measure it; they (the markets) will come". The second highest priority is to maintain and improve stocking and sustainability. "If you degrade it; they will leave." Finally, "if you tax/overregulate it; they won't come and those here will leave." The importance is that no other business brings hi tech. hi wage, high benefit jobs to areas as rural as Maine's. Alternatives to the rural forest economy are nonexistent.
- The impact of the forest practices act. The act tends to encourage the would be non silvicultural clearcutter to leave 30 Sq Ft BA of junk.
- State funding of Community Forestry Programing (ie. Project Canopy)
- We have seen the stripping of the land in densely populated areas and the loss in quality of life. This could happen in Maine in fifty years.
- We need new definitions of sustainable forest management that maintains even flow production of naturally occurring forest community types (as recognized by the DOC Maine Natural Areas Program) on a sub-watershed or township scale for fiber, wildlife habitats, and water quality protection. I am the executive director of the Upper St. John River Organization, which goal include promotion of these standards (www.upperstjohnriver.org).

Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service - Forest Policy & Management Division

- Need for having Tree Growth Tax Law Program management plans reviewed and updated every ten years. Increased support of private consulting forestry, including continuing education opportunities. Inability of the NRCS to administer forestry cost-sharing program.
- Forests should be used for jobs, not for second homes
- Landowners need to be compensated in order to keep their land for the long-term. Tree Growth is a good start but we need to do more especially if they own wetlands or other significant habitat which they are maintaining while the land is on their watch.
- There is a continuing need for promulgation of best management practices and ecologically-based forest management practices. This dialogue was robust 10-15 yrs ago, shepherded in large part by the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, but is quieter now. Consideration of another such forum/effort may be merited to keep this important discussion energized.
- Forests are Maine's backbone. Keeping them sustainable is critically important, especially once demand for wood increases in the face of rising oil prices (firewood, cellulose for biofuels, etc.). If we begin depleting our forest capital, we - and our children and their children - are in serious trouble.
- Support of forest certification Support of certification of carbon storage in forests Deer Wintering Area management Trends in wildlife habitat in northern forests Reconciling conflicting habitat management goals (e.g., bears vs. deer vs. moose vs. lynx) so that landowners have clear, consistent guidance from MDIFW and the USFWS Long-range plans for creating/conserving late successional forests in representative areas
- Very concerned about Maine's reduction of (financial) support for Tree Growth laws. To pay my rising taxes, I may be required to more aggressively harvest my woodlot.
- The survey fails to ask of the importance of foresters coming first in the scheme of management of forests. The survey fails to address lack of intent to grow high quality forest products to entice businesses that need high quality forest products. The survey fails to address the down grading of forest products to feed the biomass demand. The survey fails to address the lack of need for the USFS to be involved in Maine forests. The survey fails to address conflict of interests in businesses creating forest product standards.
- One of the biggest problems that continues to plague Maine forests is over-cutting and high-grading which tend to go hand- in-hand. Included with this is the general lack of enforcement of forest-related laws including shoreland zoning. The existing Forest Practices Law should be re-worked as it encourages high-grading and over-cutting. Some emphasis in the laws should be placed on sound, long-term silviculture that will sustain Maine's forest products industries including sawmills. Sustainable forestry should be about more than just management plans and protecting water quality. Water quality laws should be re-worked to make them comprehensible. Voluntary compliance and education alone do not work.
- Issues of High Concern: Coordination of goals of this assessment with the Maine Wildlife Action Plan - especially priority forest habitats and forest-dependent Species of

Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service - Forest Policy & Management Division

Greatest Conservation Need identified in that plan. Maintaining habitat diversity, including maintaining or restoring contiguous blocks of older forest in Northern Maine. Maintaining late successional forest remnants. Avoiding forest practices that degrade timber quality. Ensuring that new demands on the forest - especially harvesting for wood energy fiber - do not adversely impact biological diversity and future timber growth and value.

- MFS service is doing a very good job especially with using the internet to keep distant land owners informed. The Maine Forest Service's weekly email newsletter the Woodwise Wire is a big help. I am glad to be receiving the Maine Forest Service's weekly email newsletter the Woodwise Wire.
- High concern for the future supply of well-qualified, professional forest resources managers; solid understanding of basic biology is being swallowed up by our society of increasing electronic technology.
- Increasingly conscious of forests as places of health and spiritual renewal.
- I raise Rainbow Trout in our ½ ac pond. Also the land is a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the NWF.
- The approval of Moosehead Lake development by a commercial developer from Washington State with a spotty past ecological record is a crime which dwarfs probably everything else you can accomplish in the immediate future. I regularly receive Woodwise Wire.
- Subsidized pulp companies via black liquor, and subsidized bio energy are unfair competition to those industries "making it on their own."
- Two items: 1. Overcoming the problem of un-managed, under managed lands held in small ownerships by NIPW owners, 2. measures of biodiversity for ecosystem/landscape level management of forest lands, especially in the face of potential widespread changes caused by climate changes. Managers need some way to assess the impacts on biodiversity resulting from active management, in a landscape setting.
- I am concerned about increasingly prescriptive legislation and certification that may have unintended consequences. I am concerned about the uncompensated taking of landowner rights.
- Export of round wood to "foreign countries" with out some kind of tax. Lack of a state run tree seedling nursery, esp. for landscape trees.
- Trucking forest product safely is another concern of mine.
- You need to change your harvest report forms. It is not possible for a landowner who sells stumpage to know if any of that wood was exported or not. Until the form is changed I can't have my woods harvested again. The last time I didn't check either box and the fine exceeded the value of the wood cut.

Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service - Forest Policy & Management Division

- My basic concern is that landowner do not become subject to control by non -forest owner interest and maintain the ability to determine the future direction of their lands, whether it is development, harvesting, or conservation without undue interference from groups with a political agenda.
- I would be very interested in grant information that would be helpful to small land owners that would allow them to maintain their forested property. I would also advocate for incentives to encourage loggers to become "green" certified.
- Practical (cost effective) methods for harvesting small parcels (under 25 acres).
- Assistance for small woodland owners where a management plan has been prepared, but the net cost (in the short term) is too high to make implementation of the plan practicable - even if a logger could be found who was willing to undertake the work on the small lot (~20 acres).
- My greatest worry is the replanting in cut areas of monoculture forests...not that such "farming" is not a viable land use, but that it makes such large, contiguous patches of "same species" growth susceptible to rapid spread of pests... A strong recommendation would be "corduroying" belts of hardwoods and softwoods of sufficient width to inhibit the spread of pests. I own 24.56 acres, and will be adding a small amount to that next month - we intend to manage the property a little better than 'benign neglect' - culling some understory growth and clearing debris and deadfalls for fire abatement, and pruning deadwood to allow the trees that have reached a productive age to put on "good wood". We will be making small improvements to the present drainage to limit the mosquito population somewhat, and removing debris dumped by neighboring homeowners over many many years. We're not making a park - we're cleaning up a woods. A small access path is being cut, but, for each tree greater than 2" at 2' from ground level felled, at LEAST one new one of the same species has replanted. It's a lot of work and expense, but we don't want to change the present diversity - trees that can be moved (smaller basal diameters) have been. Some time in the next 10 years, we intend to use an existing clearing as a building site - any areas cleared will be turned over to orchard growth - maintaining farm "status" and allowing not only for the personal benefits of the orchard, but continued cover and food sources for wildlife present. The Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine has been a tremendous help in developing our management plan.
- I appreciate information about my responsibilities and options as a forest owner.