



Industry Overview:

The forest products industry is heavily integrated with the larger economy through housing, manufacturing, and consumer goods.

- Nationwide, forests produce more than 90% of the nation's wood and paper products, support 2.4 million jobs (\$98.7 billion in payroll), contribute to \$281 billion in timber sales, manufacturing, and shipments annually, and constitute 4.6% of the nation's total manufacturing GDP.
- Sixty percent of the softwood pine lumber that is milled in the states goes to new homes. Housing starts have dropped 22 percent, which is the fastest one-month fall since March of 1984.
- Because less wood is being purchased and harvested, new trees can't grow in their place.
- Processing mills have reduced their consumption as a result of reduced or lost markets during the COVID 19 pandemic. The ripple effect of that has been a reduction in the amount of wood fiber being transported from the forest by the small, family-owned logging and log trucking businesses.
- For every job created in the U.S. that is directly forest-related, another two jobs are created that are indirectly related. Such jobs are in transportation, distribution, and sales of forest products, and add another 3.8 million jobs to the U.S. economy.



Sector Impact Media Coverage:

[The Global Forestry Sector and the Impact of COVID-19](#)

The forestry industry is experiencing mixed demand as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. There has been a huge increase in demand for wood chips to be processed into pulp for the production of household paper products. Meanwhile there has been a decrease in demand for pulp from manufacturers of commercial paper due to the closures of schools and businesses. Some companies have also seen an increase in demand for lumber used for home improvement projects as a result of the rising interest in DIY. Due to the slowdown in construction, the industry has seen lower demand for solid wood products. Sawmills are purchasing fewer whole logs to be processed into building materials. This is negatively affecting timber prices which impacts logging companies' revenues. Continued lower demand for logs to be milled into lumber could have an effect on the availability of wood chips and sawdust for paper products manufacturing. However, the industry is beginning to see signs of recovery as construction projects restart and demand for building materials rises.

[Coronavirus and papermaking woes bring tough times to Maine's logging industry](#)

Even for an industry known for difficult labor without great rewards, these are particularly hard times for Maine's loggers. Wood prices were low going into a winter that was relatively brief and mild, which made it hard for loggers to harvest trees – long stretches of cold to freeze the ground solid is best for getting heavy equipment in and out of the woods, while tearing up soft soil can mean fines for environmental damage or stuck machinery. Then the coronavirus hit and demand dropped further as

orders to paper mills were canceled and shipments of wood pulp to Asia scuttled when paper plants halfway around the world closed their doors. A recent explosion in a pulp digester at the Androscoggin Mill in Jay and plans to shut down a paper machine in Westbrook led to layoffs at both mills and further weakened demand for the loggers' products.

FEMA's Role:

FEMA Region I established the COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force under the [*National Disaster Recovery Framework*](#) (NDRF), which promotes effective recovery from large-scale incidents and enables orchestrated support to impacted states, tribes and local jurisdictions. The NDRF focuses on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community as well as build a more resilient nation.

This COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force works in tandem, but separately from other FEMA Short-Term Recovery Support programs such as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. The Long-Term Recovery Task Force coordinates access to funding from federal agencies but does not provide direct funding.

About this Resource Guide:

This Resource Guide has been developed to provide businesses and individuals who work in Forestry (and related industries) in New England with a summary of federal agency partners, how they might be able to assist, and the resources available (funding and technical assistance) to support a resilient recovery.

Intended Audiences:

This Resource Guide is meant to provide useful information and resources for the following targeted audiences:

Sub-Sector Overview (list is representative, not comprehensive)

State Agencies:

- [*Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation*](#)
- [*Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Forest Environment*](#)
- [*New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands*](#)
- [*Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation*](#)
- [*Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry*](#)
- [*Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Division of Forestry*](#)

Universities:

- [*School of Forest Resources, University of Maine*](#)

Industry Associations:

- Forest Landowners Association
- Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance
- New England Forestry Foundation
- Northern Border Regional Commission
- Maine Forest Products Council
- Maine Development Foundation FOR/Maine
- Maine Woodland Owners
- Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
- Biobased Maine

Businesses:

- Landowners
- Biomass production plants
- Biofuels
- Log truck transport companies
- Saw log plants
- Soft and hardwood production plants
- Cross laminated timber plants
- Pellet wood plants
- Pulp and paper mills

Federal Agency Partner Overview:

This next section of the Resource Guide gives a description of the key federal agency partners that can support long-term recovery for the Forestry sector. Included are examples of how to engage with these agencies, what types of programs and support can be leveraged for recovery, along with helpful links and regional contact information.

[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service \(USDA-FS\)](#)

Purpose: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

USDA Forest Service resources are found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/partnerships/funding>

- [Federal and Private Grant Funding Resources](#) for both federal and private grants. Includes specific resources and information for projects and programs including recreation, forest health, watershed restoration, fire, conservation education, wildlife, plants, communities, etc.
- [Partnership Grant Calendar](#) is a site managed by Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest that lists federal & private grant deadlines.

[Start a Partnership with the USDA Forest Service or Obtain Federal Financial Assistance: A guide for Tribal Governments](#)[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service Region 9 \(inclusive of New England\)](#)

Matching grants from \$20,000 to \$600,000 at no more than 5 applications per state per year in coordination with the State Forester are provided. The purpose is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.” In addition, the program is intended to further priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans and leverage public and private resources. The program helps ensure rural forests continue to provide important benefits, including fish and wildlife habitat and watershed health improvement.

Frequently Asked Questions for Forest Service Region 9:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/sites/default/files/fy2021-lsr-rfa-faq-20200623.pdf>

[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service \(USDA-NRCS\)](#)

- 3 programs to address resource concerns on forest land in New England
 - [Environmental Quality Incentive Program](#) (EQIP) – plant health and habitat provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility.
 - [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
 - [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. – projects in partnership with NRCS. More flexibility than other programs. RFP for FY21 – will be released Aug. 6, open for 90 days.

[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agroforestry](#)

Agroforestry operates with a Strategic Framework outlined as Agroforestry Strategic Framework: Fiscal Years 2019–2024 <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-agroforestry-strategic-framework.pdf>

Within the Forest Service, three mission areas support agroforestry programs/activities

- Research and Development—Developing and communicating the scientific information and technology needed to manage, protect, use, and sustain the natural resources of forests and rangelands.
- State and Private Forestry—Connecting people to resources, ideas, and one another in order to care for forests and sustain their communities.
- National Forest System—Protecting and managing the 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept, using an ecological approach to meet the diverse needs of people

Norther Border Regional Commission

<http://www.nbrc.gov/content/program-areas>

The Northern Border Regional Commission is a Federal-State partnership for economic and community development in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Each year, the NBRC provides Federal funds for critical economic and community development projects throughout the northeast. These investments lead to new jobs being created and leverages substantial private sector investments.

Supports eligible projects in...

- Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.
- New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan counties.
- Vermont: All counties

[*U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development \(USDA-RD\)*](#)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs>

USDA has created this valuable Resource Guide with comprehensive information about all the programs and resources offered within this agency. **COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide:**

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf

USDA-RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. Out of the many, these are of the most relevance to forestry:

Rural Business-Cooperatives Service

- [Business and Industry CARES Act Program](#)
- [Business & Industry Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Intermediary Relending Program](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)
- [Rural Business Investment Program](#)
- [Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program](#)
- [Value Added Producer Grants](#)
- [Rural Cooperative Development Grants](#)

Rural Utilities Service - Electric Programs

- [Distributed Generation Energy Project Financing](#)
- [Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program \(FFB\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency & Conservation Loans](#)
- [Rural Energy Savings Program](#)
- [Energy Resource Conservation](#)

Rural Utilities Service - Water & Environmental Programs

- [Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants](#)

Cooperative Programs (Co-ops)

Cooperatives are an essential part of the U.S. economy, especially in rural communities and areas. Co-ops are usually organized to meet a need that the marketplace is not fulfilling adequately. On an economic level, cooperatives foster regional economic self-reliance and independence from outside control, empowering local people. They create employment, circulate money within the community, and offer a wide range of goods and services. Because cooperative enterprises are owned by the members themselves, profits stay in the local area.

- **Funding for Cooperatives** - In conjunction with other [Rural Development program areas](#), USDA provides financial assistance opportunities that are available to assist rural businesses, including cooperatives, and agricultural producers.
- **Research** - USDA research provides support to cooperatives and their member-owners dealing with a wide variety of issues. This research provides a knowledge base to support cooperatives dealing with current and emerging issues.
- **Technical Assistance.** Technical assistance with cooperative issues may be obtained by contacting coopinfo@wdc.usda.gov, your [State Office](#), or a [Rural Cooperative Development Center](#) which are partially funded through USDA.

[U. S. Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#)

Mission: To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration. Innovation is key to global competitiveness, new and better jobs, a resilient economy, and the attainment of national economic goals. Regional collaboration is essential for economic recovery because regions are the centers of competition in the new global economy and those that work together to leverage resources and use their strengths to overcome weaknesses will fare better than those that do not. EDA encourages its partners around the country to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions.

Types of Support:

- **Public Works** Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. [Printable Public Works Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Economic Adjustment** assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Program](#), which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. [Printable Economic Adjustment Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Planning** supports local organizations ([Economic Development Districts](#), Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with short and long-term planning efforts. The [Comprehensive Economic Development](#)

[Strategy \(CEDs\) Content Guidelines](#), provides suggestions, tools, and resources for developing comprehensive economic development strategies. [Printable Planning Program \(PDF\)](#)

- **Build to Scale (formerly known as Regional Innovation Strategies)** The [Build to Scale \(B2S\) Program](#) builds regional economies through scalable startups and includes three competitions supporting entrepreneurship, acceleration of company growth and increased access to risk capital across regional economies.
- **Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms** A national network of [11 Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers](#) to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services. [Printable Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **University Centers** A partnership of the federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community. [Printable University Centers Program \(PDF\)](#), Report: [Making Connections, Evaluation Project to Assess Best Practices in EDA's University Center Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Research and National Technical Assistance** supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices and information dissemination efforts. [Printable Research and National Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Local Technical Assistance** helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. [Printable Local Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) helps small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. The SBA is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small business and provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise as the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses.

Type of support:

- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan program \(EIDL\)](#) EIDL is designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. EIDL proceeds can be used to cover a wide array of working capital and normal operating expenses, such as continuation to health care benefits, rent, utilities, and fixed debt payments.
- Targeted Webinars for the Forestry industry to expand knowledge and use of SBA loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) are available upon request
- Boots to Business (B2B) Funding Opportunity This funding opportunity is addressed exclusively to Boots to Business (B2B) grantees. Through this program, the SBA supports your organization for a period of 5 years.
- Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program This is a one year funding opportunity for organizations to organizations to execute state/regional programs that increase the number of SBIR (innovation)/STTR (research and development) proposals; increase the number of SBIR/STTR awards; and better prepare SBIR/STTR awardees for commercial success.
- Veterans Business Outreach Centers The [Veterans Business Outreach Centers](#) Cooperative Agreement provides quality counseling assistance and training events, particularly B2B events to transitioning service personnel and spouses of veterans, veteran and service-disabled small business owners and entrepreneurs.
- Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program (SDVETP) This Cooperative Agreement aims to support organizations that currently deliver entrepreneurship training programs to service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs who aspire to be small business owners or currently own a small business.
- SCORE This is a funding opportunity for a current recipient of an SBA SCORE award. To be eligible, you must be a current recipient of SBA funding to SCORE. For-profit businesses are not eligible for this award.

- State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) The purpose of this Funding Opportunity is to invite proposals for funding from eligible state entities interested in and capable of providing assistance and guidance to eligible small business concerns to increase the number of such firms that export and the value of small business exports.

Department of Labor (DOL)

The [*US Department of Labor's*](#) mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Types of Support:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Workplace Safety: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has resources to help employers and workers prepare for and respond to coronavirus in the workplace.

- [*OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19*](#) – Developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help employers respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace.
- [*Temporary OSHA Guidance on Respiratory Protection Standard*](#) – This guidance provides suggestions and options to help increase the availability of N95 filtering facepiece respirators for healthcare providers.
- [*COVID-19 Webpage*](#) – Provides infection prevention information specifically for employers and workers.

Wages, Hours and Leave:

The Wage and Hour Division is providing [*information on common issues employers and workers face when responding to COVID-19*](#), including the effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Short Term Compensation

Short-Time Compensation (STC), also known as work sharing or shared-work program, is an alternative to layoffs for employers experiencing a reduction in available work. STC preserves employees' jobs and employers' trained workforces during times of lowered economic activity. STC allows employers to reduce hours of work for employees rather than laying-off some employees while others continue to work full time. Those employees experiencing a reduction in hours are allowed to collect a percentage of their unemployment compensation (UC) benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. STC cushions the adverse effect of the reduction in business activity on workers by averting layoffs and ensures that these workers will be available to resume prior employment levels when business demand increases. Twenty-seven states have active STC programs, including CT, RI, MA, NH, and ME.

American Jobs Centers

American Job Centers are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof. Due to Covid-19, many American Jobs Centers provide virtual services. The centers offer training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related services. The [*American Job Centers*](#) system is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). To find the American Jobs Center serving your community, visit:
<https://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/americanjobcenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx>.

Support for Dislocated Workers and States: The Employment and Training Administration announced the [*availability of up to \\$100 million in National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants to help states, territories, and tribal governments respond to the workforce-related impacts of COVID-19.*](#)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-and-forestry>

<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors/forestry-wood-and-paper-products-sector-information>

The following links are intended to help the public learn more about how EPA works with the forestry, wood and paper products sector.

EPA basic regulatory information

- [Federal Regulation Finder](#)
- [Laws and regulation, compliance and policies and guidance information](#)
- [EPA information about the forestry sector](#)
- [Resources and certification programs](#)
- [Climate Impacts and Risk Analysis Report information about the forestry sector](#)

EPA resources

- [ENERGY STAR resources for the pulp and paper manufacturing sector](#) – ENERGY STAR is an EPA voluntary program that helps businesses save energy and money.
- [SmartWay Transport](#) – EPA's SmartWay Transport helps companies advance supply chain sustainability by measuring, benchmarking, and improving freight transportation efficiency. Any company or organization that ships, manages, or hauls freight in its operations can become an EPA SmartWay Partner.
- [Sustainable Materials Management Prioritization Tools](#) – Free, life cycle-based tools that offer a starting place to establish priorities for environmental improvement, focus limited financial and human resources where action could offer greater holistic benefit, and consider key industries for collaboration.
- [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#): competitively funds environmental technology research at small businesses.

Resource Contact Information:

FEMA Region 1

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FEMA Federal Agency Field Coordinators:

EDA:

Please refer to the Regional Office Section on the website below to find the state by state contact, <https://eda.gov/contact/>

USDA Rural Development:

Maine

Tim Hobbs, State Director

Phone: (207) 990-9160

www.rd.usda.gov/me

Massachusetts | Rhode Island | Connecticut

George Krivda, State Director

Phone: 1 (800) 352-8015 or (413) 253-4300

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EPA:

Information and contacts for EPA programs in New England can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england>

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<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>