

Timber Theft

It is estimated that Maine Forest Service Rangers investigate over 1000 complaints annually involving timber trespass or deliberate theft of timber. Timber harvesting is a large part of Maine's economy. However, often times property lines are not well defined resulting in timber being cut without the landowner's permission. In some cases, a few loggers specifically target forest landowners, especially nonresidents and the elderly. Individuals who make their living stealing timber give the entire industry a black eye. The vast majority of loggers are honest, reputable business men and women. Their ability to obtain timber harvesting contracts is hindered by this very small group of timber thieves.

As a forest landowner, here are a few steps you can take to prevent timber trespass/theft:

- Keep all property lines well marked and brushed out.
- Know who the adjacent property owners are.
- Have someone keep an eye on your property should you be unable to.
- Should you suspect someone is cutting wood on your property, call the nearest Forest Ranger.
- Never give oral permission for someone to harvest your timber.
- Always have a written contract for all timber harvesting.

Timber Theft:

Intending to deprive a landowner of their property or proceeds by intentionally or knowingly cutting their trees without permission or failing to pay for stumpage proceeds.

- Maine Forest Rangers aggressively investigate timber theft in order to eliminate predatory timber thieves.
- Preventing the loss of valuable timber resources whose landowners depend on them for financial security.
- Making certain law abiding loggers have continued access to private woodlots for the future timber harvests.
- [Maine law requires that loggers pay landowners for each truckload of wood within 45 days of delivery to a mill or log yard.](#)

Timber Trespass:

Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cutting the timber of another without the consent of the owner. The actor need not take possession of the timber to commit this offense.

- Preventing damage from poor harvesting practices so as to protect landowners from unwanted wood cutting.



Contact the Maine Forest Service

- Marking boundary lines
- Access signs
- List of Consultant Foresters
- Certification
- Master Logger List
- Certified Logging Professionals



Visit the Maine Forest Service website for laws pertaining to timber theft, timber trespass, harvest notifications, boundary lines and fire prevention regulations



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Forest Protection is to protect Maine's forest resources and to enhance the safe, sound, and responsible management of the forest for this and future generations.



Contact Information

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Department of Conservation
Maine Forest Service
Forest Protection Division



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Maine Forest Rangers

"Protecting Maine for more than 100 years."