

State Assessment & Strategies



Where the Forest Stewardship
Program Fits


State Forest Assessment

- Forest Condition and Trends - Criteria & Indicators
 - Existing and Emerging Benefits and Services
 - Issues, Threats, and Opportunities
 - Priority Landscape Areas
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State Forest Assessment - Issues

- Keeping Forests as Forests
 - Maintaining a Diverse, Robust Forest Products Industry
 - Maintaining the Forest Land Base, Conversion, and Parcelization
 - Making good forestry pay
 - Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management
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State Forest Assessment - Issues

- Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine
 - Maintaining the health of Maine's forests in the face of threats from native and exotic invasive insects and diseases
 - Maintaining the health of Maine's forests in the face of threats from native and exotic invasive plants
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State Forest Assessment - Issues

- Increasing removals of forest biomass
 - Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies
 - Climate change impacts on forestlands
 - Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire
 - Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide showing a silhouette of a mountain range in a teal color, matching the background.

State Forest Assessment - Issues

- Maintaining healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas
- Increasing the environmental literacy of Maine citizens
- Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach
- Maintaining and enhancing forest biodiversity

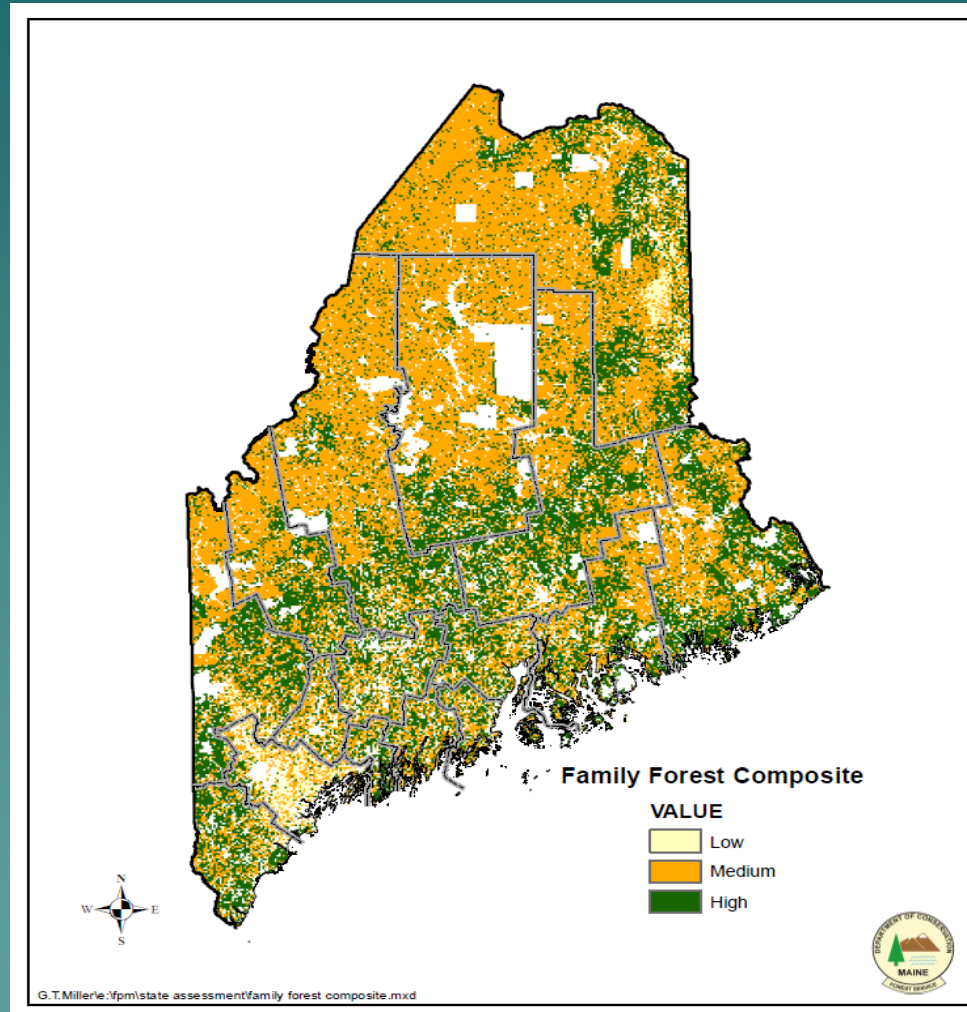
State Forest Assessment - Opportunities

- Markets: Biomass
- Markets: Biofuels
- Markets: Engineered wood
- Markets: Ecosystem services
- Large scale land conservation

Priority Forest Areas Family Forests Map

- Forest Land
- Major Public Roads
- Wetlands
- Riparian
- Proximity to Public Lands
- Clean Water
- Development Pressure
- Wildlife and Natural Community Focus Areas

Priority Forest Areas



State Strategies - Goals/Themes

- Keeping forests as forests
- Improving and diversifying markets
- Protect forests from harm
- Maintaining healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas
- Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine
- Increasing the environmental literacy of Maine citizens
- Maintaining and enhancing forest biodiversity

Strategies: Direct Stewardship

- Provide information, technical assistance, and financial assistance to family forest owners interested in maintaining and improving their forest land holdings.
- Re-establish the Forest Stewardship Program (known in Maine as the WoodsWISE Incentives Program) as the forestry assistance program for the state of Maine, with delivery through MFS and its network of private consulting foresters.
- Expand the planning services menu for landowners to include Woodlot Assessments, Silvicultural Operations Plans, and post-harvest activity assessment and monitoring.
- Reinstate WoodsWISE Project cost-sharing.

Strategies: Stewardship-related

- Diversify and expand the funding base for MFS programs.
- Create a hybrid of Forest Stewardship and Urban and Community Forestry, e.g. "WoodsWISE in the Backyard" for suburban and exurban landscapes, which incentivizes and encourages collaboration among adjacent/nearby woodland owners (no minimum acreage) for planning and implementation of projects.
- Partner with outside groups to provide a "woodscaping" practitioner corps, with emphasis on "foresthetics" and habitat protection and creation.

Strategies: Stewardship-related

- In concert with UMaine Cooperative Extension and the USDA FS National Woodland Owners Survey, establish regular interval statewide and/or "priority area" surveys of Maine woodland owners, for state-specific guidance in program content and delivery.
- Create a library of video profiles of model woodland stewards, made easily accessible via DVD, web and TV.
- Create and maintain a peer-to-peer network of "Stewardship Stars" among the model stewards, to further extend outreach of the Stewardship program.


Strategies: Tangential to Stewardship

- Provide information, technical assistance, and financial assistance to municipalities interested in maintaining and improving their urban and community forest resources.
- Provide forest protection services to minimize the risks and damages from insect, disease, fire, wind, and other destructive agents.
- Continue to support a stable Tree Growth Tax Law program for current use valuation of managed forest lands.
- Continue to support and advocate for state and federal tax policies that support long-term ownership of and investment in forest lands.
- Find ways to change the economic equation to favor long-term ownership and management of forest land.
- Continue efforts to establish working forest conservation easements.

Strategies - Implementation & Resources

- Priority landscape area(s) the strategies address
- S&PF and other programs that contribute to the strategies
- Key stakeholders important for implementing the strategies
- Overview of resources available/required to implement the strategies
 - Resources potentially available
 - Resources Needed

Strategies - Implementation & Resources

- National objective(s) the strategies contribute to
 - NA sustainability criteria the strategies contribute to
 - Measure(s) of success
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Strategies - Resources Needed

“Currently available resources are insufficient to sustain programs as currently structured. Both state general fund and federal fund support for core programs has declined over the last two decades. Federal support for the Forest Stewardship Program has been particularly weak in recent years.”

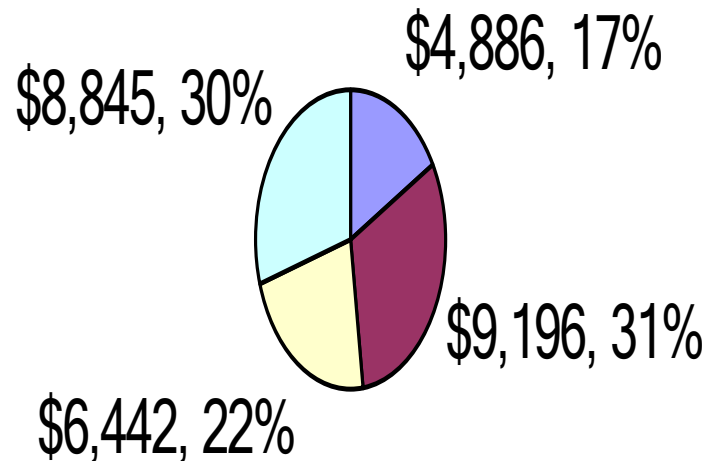
Strategies - Measures of Success

- High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion (acres - annual and cumulative)
- Number of acres in forest areas managed sustainably as defined by current Forest Stewardship Management Plan or NRCS equivalent (cumulative) - through the state's Forest Stewardship Monitoring program.
- Number of acres certified to an independent third party standard (American Tree Farm System®, Forest Stewardship Council, and/or Sustainable Forestry Initiative)
- Number of acres harvested by loggers certified to the Northeast Master Logger Certification standard.
- Growth and harvest remain in relative balance.
- BMP monitoring, multi-resource harvest assessment.

Forest Stewardship Program Fed FY 2010 Budget

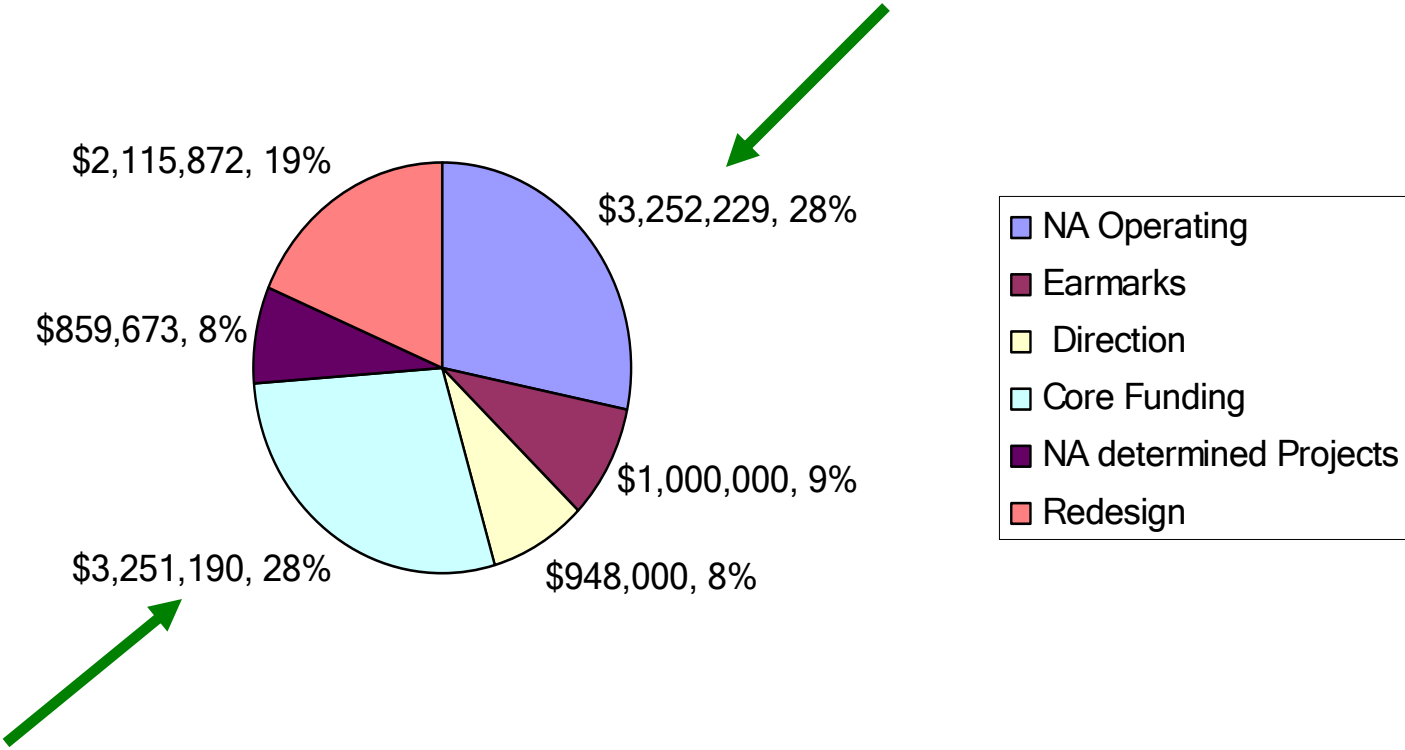
- Total appropriation (nationwide):
\$29.369 million
- Washington Office overhead:
\$4.886 million (17%)
- Balance to regional offices, states:
\$24.483 million (83%)

Forest Stewardship Program Appropriation, Federal FY 2010

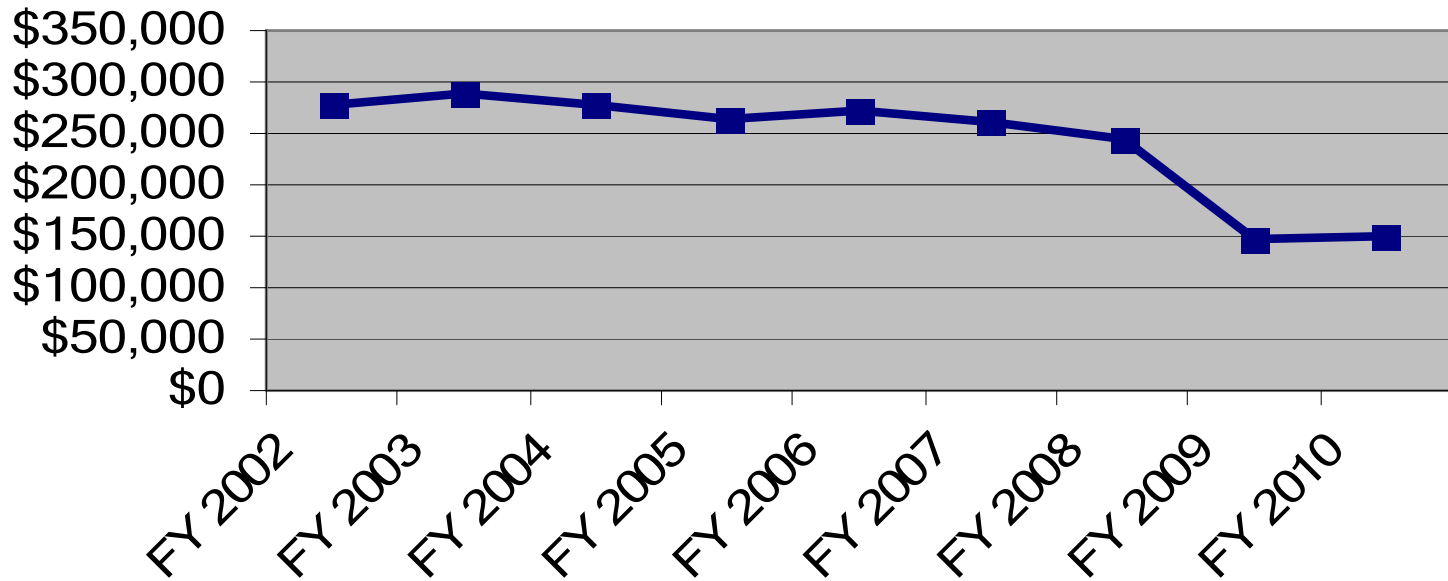


- Washington Office
- Northeastern Area total
- Southern Region total
- Western Region total (imputed)

Forest Stewardship Program Budget Northeastern Area, Federal FY 09 (\$)



Forest Stewardship Program Maine Core Allocations Fed FY 2002 - 2010



FY 2010 - 4.6% of NA core allocation; 0.5% of national appropriation

What Maine's Core Allocation Buys (all figures approximate)

FY 2010 Grant	\$149,500
Landowner Outreach Forester salary & benefits	- \$87,500
State overhead charges	- \$11,000
Grant balance	\$51,000
Number of plans that can be funded with \$51,000	51

What do we do
about Stew?

The background is a solid teal color. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark teal silhouette of a mountain range with jagged peaks.