



Forest Service



MAINE FOREST SERVICE

PROJECT CANOPY

Industry update

Stewardship Forester Meetings 2015

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Maine Forest Service

At Project Canopy we:



Photo: J. Curran

- ❖ Help develop and maintain long-term community forestry programs.
- ❖ Connect people who have a particular expertise with the people who need that expertise.
- ❖ Educate people about the benefits trees provide, and how these benefits make our lives better.

Project Canopy Assistance Program

- ❖ One of the services provided by Project Canopy
- ❖ Funding provided by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program; authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 and revised by the 1990 Farm Bill Support community forestry projects – statewide
- ❖ \$50,000 - \$250,000 in Project Canopy assistance grants available annually

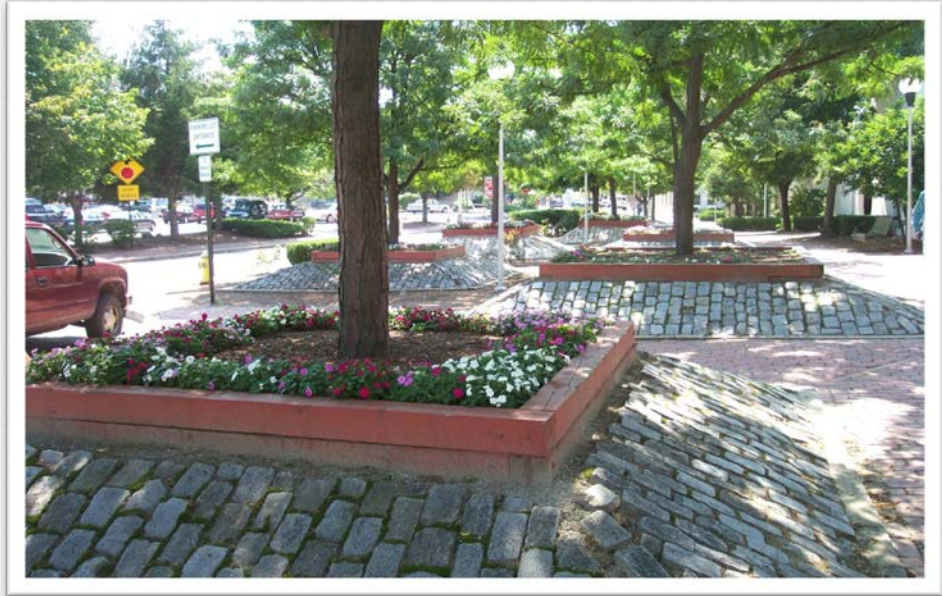


Photo: S. Murch

Community Forestry Projects

- ❖ Tree planting and maintenance
- ❖ Street tree inventories
- ❖ Street tree and town forest management plans
- ❖ Ordinance and master plan development
- ❖ Demonstration projects
- ❖ Training and community education
- ❖ Tree board development



Photo: J. Tarling

2015 Grant Awards

- o Dixmont Conservation Commission – Town Forest Plan
- o Farmington Conservation Commission – Street tree inventory and plan
- o Town of Kennebunkport – street tree inventory
- o Town of Monmouth – street tree inventory
- o Kennebec Estuary Land Trust – Demonstration Forest Plan
- o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve – Yankee Woodlot Educational Programs
- o City of Presque Isle – Downtown Tree Planting
- o University of Maine, Farmington – Campus Tree Planting
- o Town of Pittsfield – Gateway tree planting
- o Town of Fort Kent – Park planting/beautification
- o City of Lewiston – Nursery development
- o City of Belfast – street tree planting
- o City of Ellsworth – Park tree planting
- o Town of Greenville – downtown tree planting
- o Town of Dover-Foxcroft - downtown tree planting
- o Town of Milo – downtown tree planting
- o Town of Camden – Replacing storm damaged trees
- o Yarmouth - Tree planting in town parks, schools, and streetscapes
- o Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District – Educational tree planting at the Law Farm community forest



Photo: M. Bunnell

2015 grant program?

- ❖ grant availability will be announced Late early summer 2015
- ❖ funding levels should remain stable for the next round
- ❖ Street tree inventory and management, forest management on public woodlands, planning for the arrival of exotic insects, along with priority planting for water management will be priority focus for '15/'16.





Forest Service

Maine's Healthy Forests Program

Jan Santerre, Project Canopy Coordinator
Andrew Shultz, Landowner Outreach Forester
Maine Forest Service

Maine's Healthy Forests Program

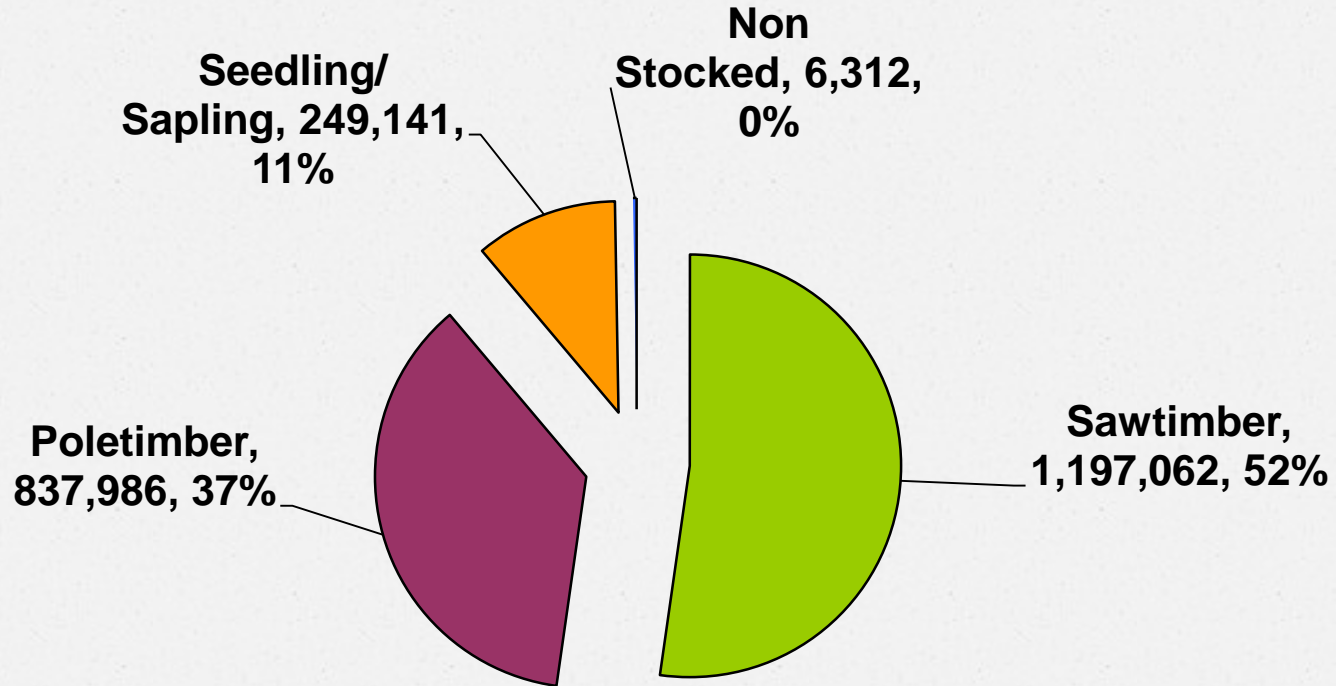
o Goal

- o identify strategies to increase active forest management on family woodlands
- o improve wood availability, wildlife habitat, forest health, recreational opportunities, water quality, aesthetics, etc.
- o increase landowner enjoyment and support jobs and the state's economy.

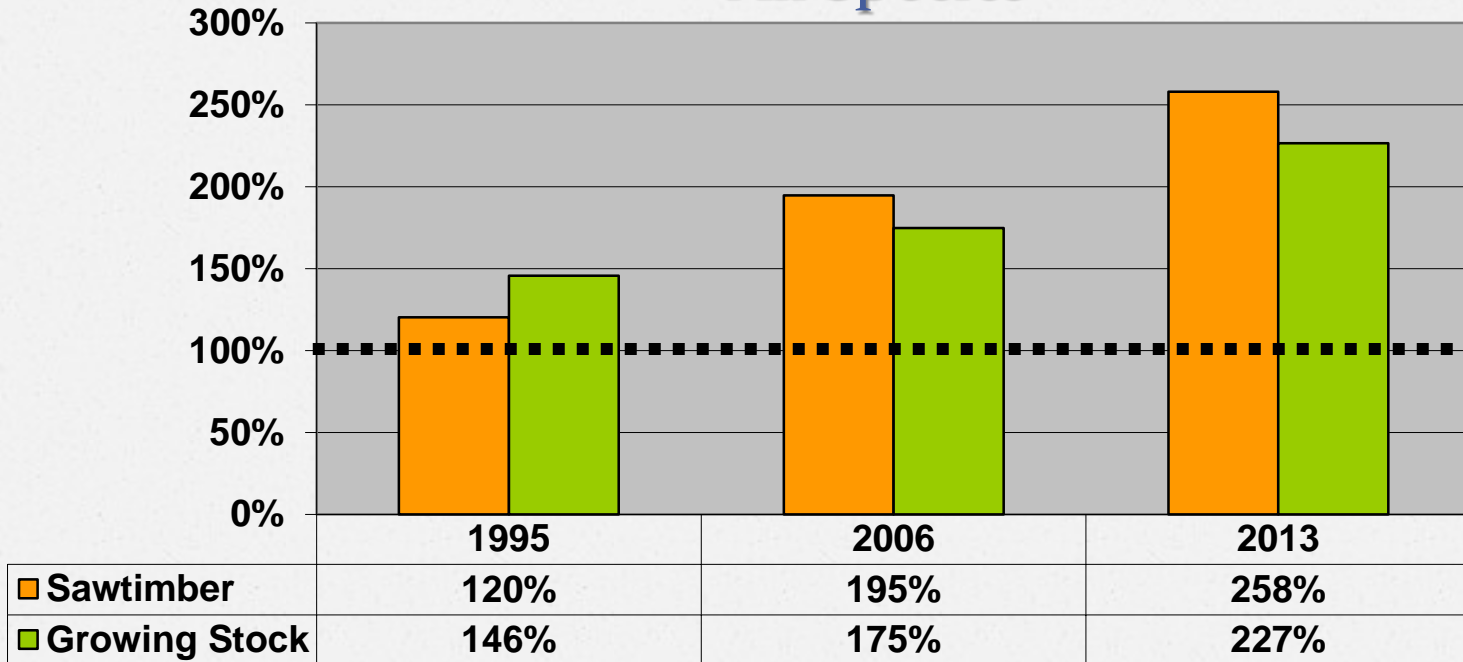
Southern Megaregion

- Capital Area FIA Unit: Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo Counties
- Casco Bay FIA Unit: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and York Counties

Southern Megaregion - Stand size class, acres, and percentage

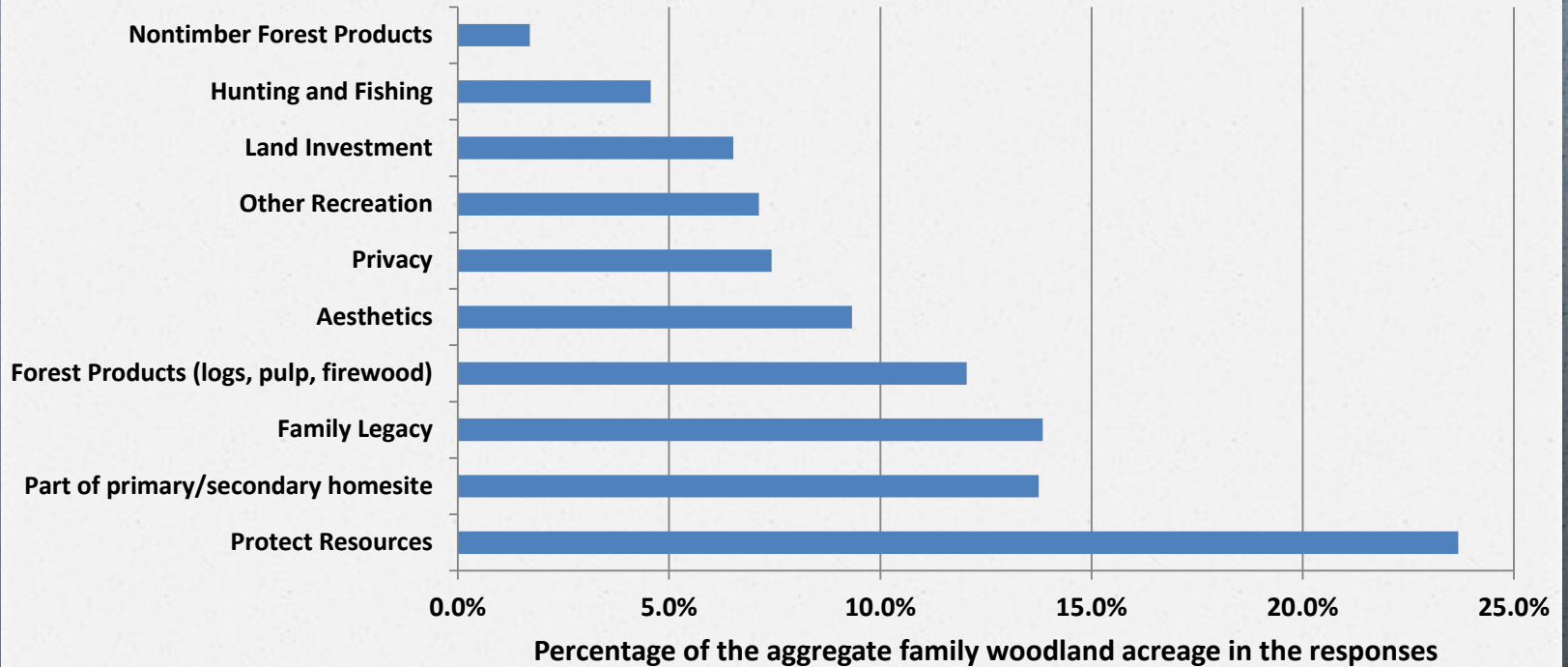


Southern Megaregion, net growth to removals percentage for 1995, 2006, and 2013 inventory years All Species



Family Woodland Ownership Objectives

Maine, 2013



Healthy Forests Program Status

- o **Began with stakeholder meetings in 2012**
- o **Action Plan developed**
- o **On the ground delivery of priority action items including programming, training, and messaging**
- o **Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction survey is part of this effort**



Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction Survey

- o 2100 mailed in July 2014; Some come in electronically. Approx. response rate = +/-38%
- o 820 responses a/o early December 2014



Maine Timber Harvest Satisfaction Survey IS:



- o a feedback mechanism from a notable portion of our customers. It provides insights and some possible direction for further data-gathering and outreach efforts.

The Survey is NOT---

- o a statistically supported study.
- o We are still analyzing data - while encouraging, too early to make definitive pronouncements.

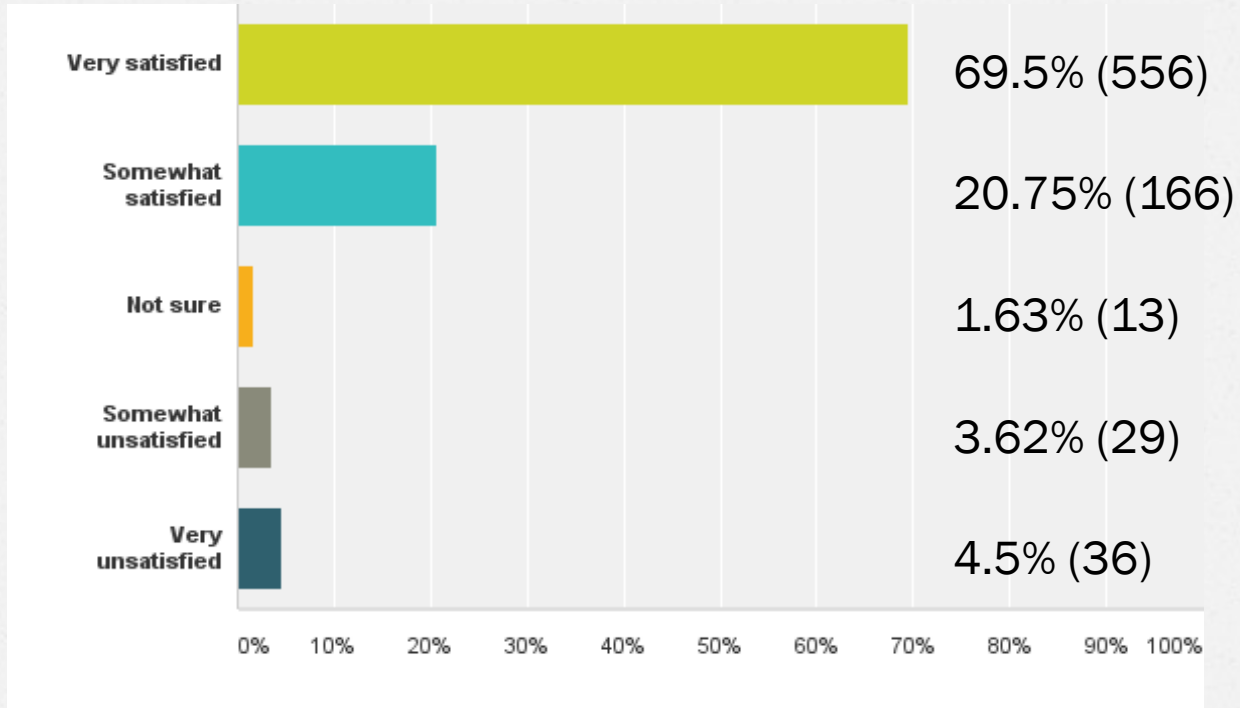




How it works:

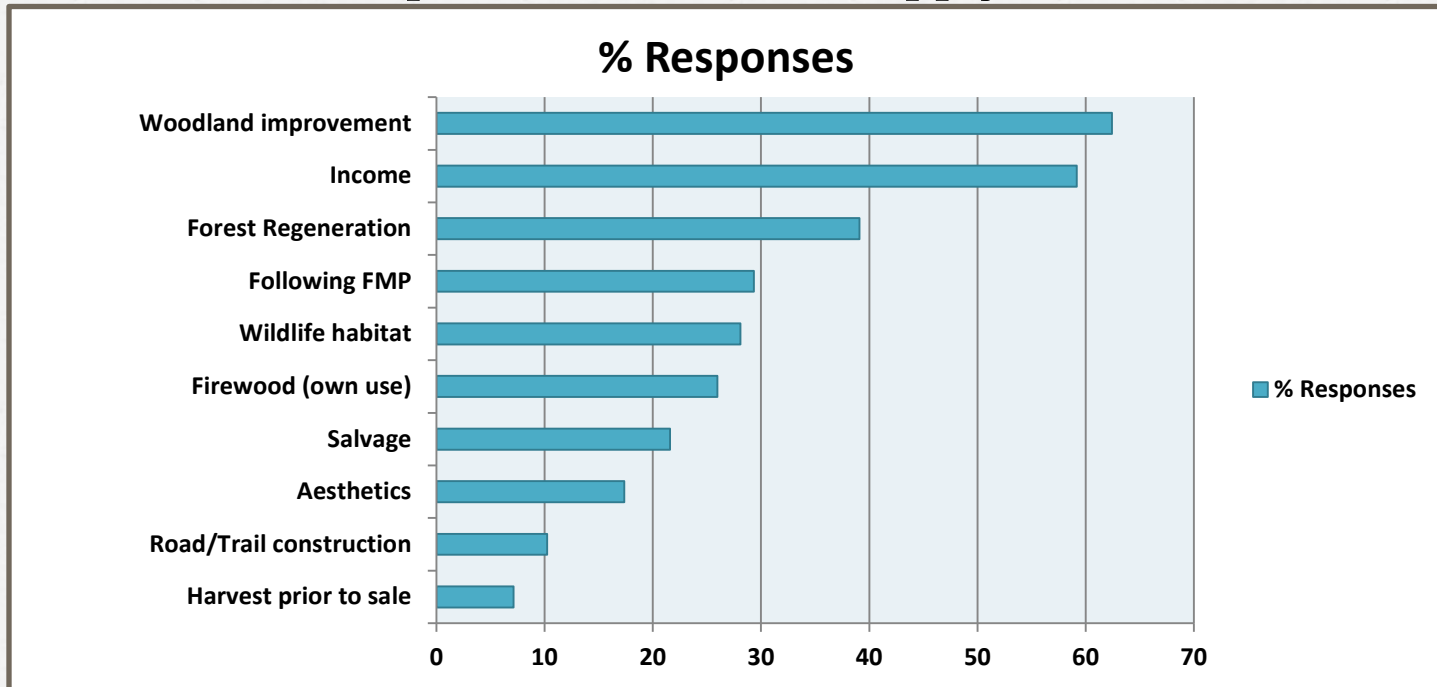
- Totally voluntary and confidential.
- Only offered to landowners with ≤ 1000 acre statewide ownership who file a FON as a supplement to confidential landowner report of timber harvest.
- “Heads-up” letters sent with FON reply info; includes link to on-line version of Survey.
- Each year after Confidential Landowner Reports have been collected, a paper copy is mailed to those who indicate their harvest is complete.

Q2: Your overall satisfaction with the harvest:



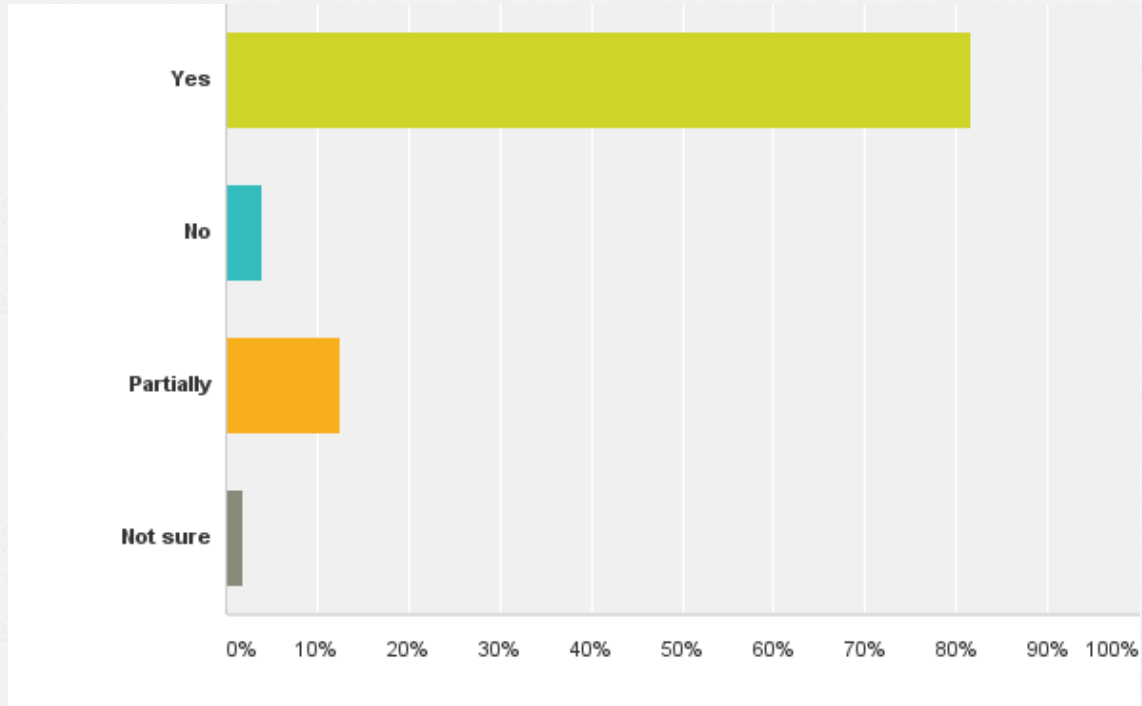
Answered: 800 Skipped: 25

Q5: What were your goals for the harvest (please check all that apply):



Answered: 801 Skipped: 24

Q6: Did the harvest meet your goals?

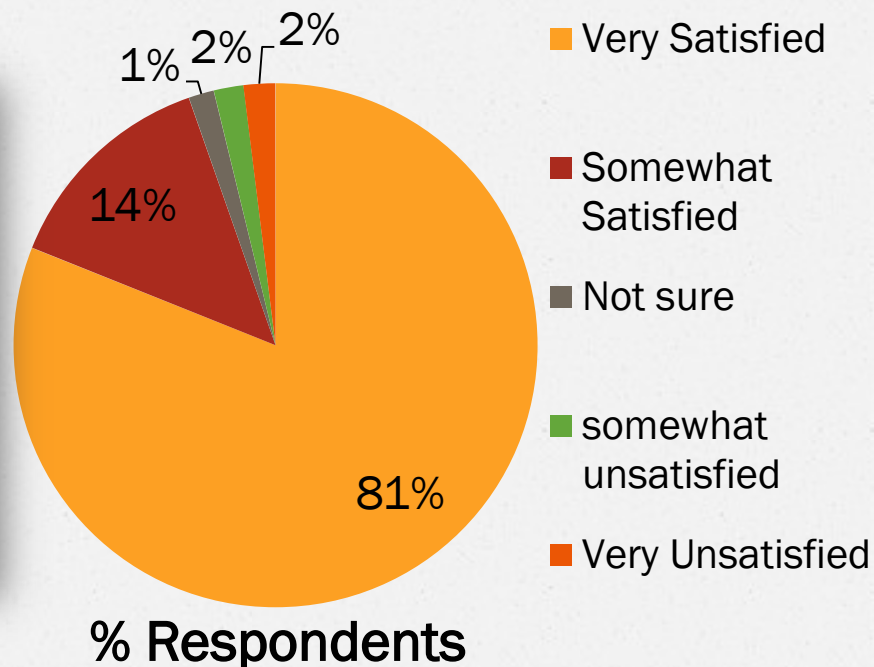


Answered: 794 Skipped: 31

Q18: How satisfied are you with the financial outcome of the harvest:

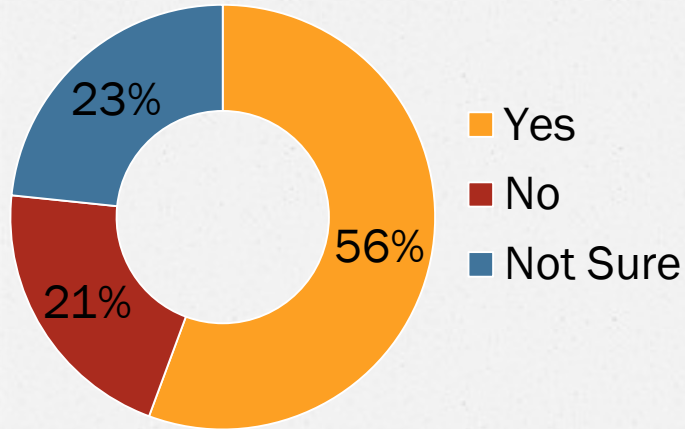


Answered: 768 Skipped: 57



Q26: Were neighboring landowners and/or other community members notified before the harvest began?

Responses



Answered: 762 Skipped: 63



Q32: Did you have a written timber sale agreement or logging contract?

Sample Timber Sale Contract

Note: This document is for educational use only. The sample timber sale contract (below) can be a starting point for your own contract, but we encourage you to contact an attorney for help in designing a timber sale contract that meets your specific needs.

This Contract is entered into by and between _____ (Seller), and _____ (Purchaser). This agreement is made and entered into between the parties below hereinafter called the SELLER and the PURCHASER.

The Seller solely owns the timber rights to this land and has no concurrent sales agreement on the parcel described below.

SECTION I

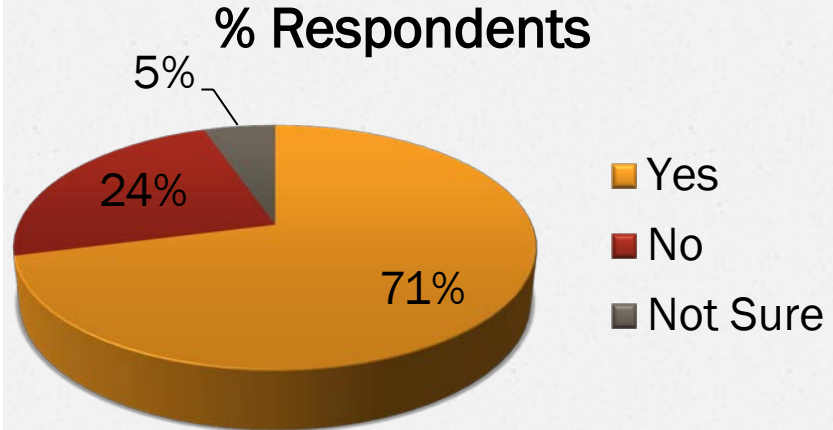
The Seller agrees to sell and the Purchaser agrees to buy, under the terms and conditions hereinafter stated, all the timber marked or designated by the Seller on certain lands held by the Seller and described as follows:

_____ acres in Section _____, Township _____, Range _____,
in _____ County, State of _____.

Timber to be harvested is marked or designated as follows: [Describe cutting blocks and how timber is marked].

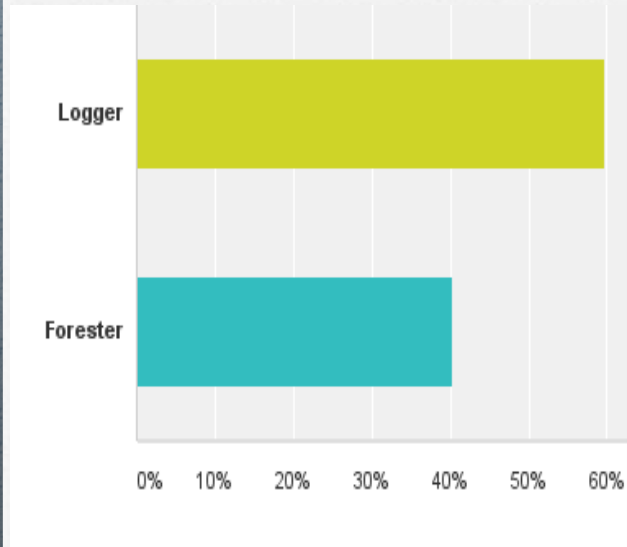
SECTION II

The Purchaser and Seller hereby agree to the following payment schedule: [Insert Option A or B]



Answered: 737 Skipped: 88

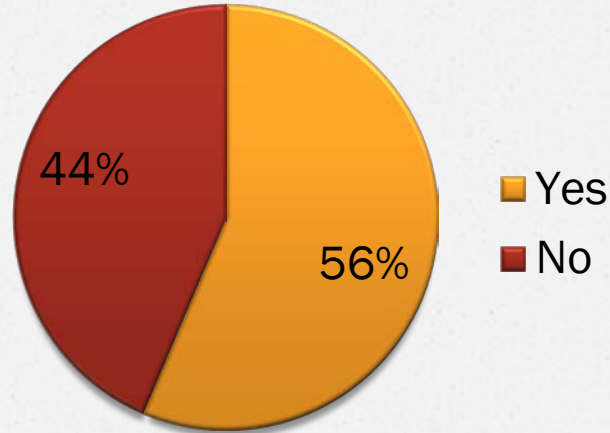
Q33: Who prepared the written agreement?



Answered: 547 Skipped: 278

Q39: Was a licensed forester involved in the harvest?

% Responses

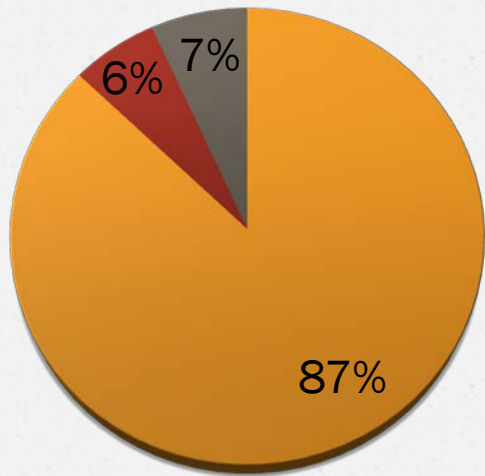


Answered: 709 Skipped: 116



Q44: Would you work with this forester again?

% Responses



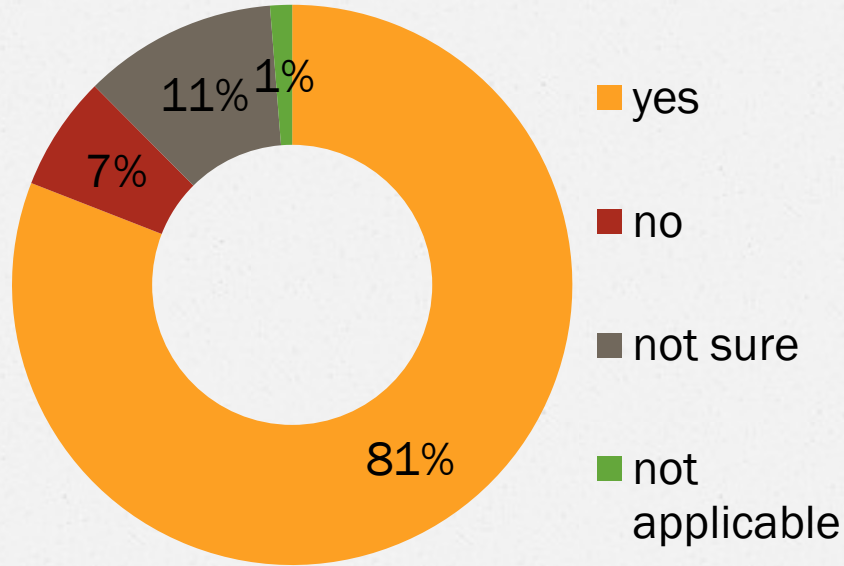
- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Answered: 426 Skipped: 399



Q48: Will you consider another harvest in the future, when the conditions are right?

% Responses



Answered: 765 Skipped: 60



General comments

- o High degree of professionalism and skill
- o Good communication—explanation of process and adherence to plans and contracts- “they did what they said they would do”
- o Financial results as good or better than expected

General comments, continued

- o Good aesthetics: clean, neat, tidy;
“ugly” trees are gone, woods look better than before
- o Variation- knowledge that woods will recover and look better—”already growing back”
- o Good questions for landowners to consider before they cut

Unsatisfied landowners

Only 64 “somewhat” or “very” unsatisfied; of these—

- o 11% (7/64) said goals were met
- o 79% (42/59) had TSA; only 57% satisfied with TSA
- o 45% (26/57) had forester involved.
- o 54% (33/60) unsatisfied with financial outcomes



Themes from unsatisfied landowners

- Communications: poor both between and with logger, sub-contractors, and forester (when involved)
- Loss of access, and cost to regain (repairs to driveway, re-clearing woods trails)
- Mess and waste; landowners may understand this very differently from loggers & foresters
- Some financial disappointment, but more important: “should have cleaned up the job.”

Questions?

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Forest Service

www.maineforestservice.org

View the full Harvest Satisfaction
Survey presentation:

[http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/p
rojects/healthy_forests/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/healthy_forests/index.html)