

CHAPTER 805

COOPERATIVE FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

SUBCHAPTER 1

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

(REPEALED)

§8601. Advice; recommendations

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §7 (RP).

§8602. Foresters

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 785, §B75 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 555, §7 (RP).

§8603. Annual timber-cut report

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 34 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A98 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 861, §11 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 555, §7 (RP).

§8604. Reports by forest landowners

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 488, §9 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A99 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 555, §7 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 1-A

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

§8611. Bureau of Forestry advisory programs

The bureau shall undertake the following programs to provide information and educational services for forest management in this State. [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

1. Forest management information. The bureau shall provide a forest management information clearinghouse service with a statewide toll-free number. The information and referral service must include, but is not limited to:

- A. Reporting, notification and management requirements pursuant to this chapter; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
- B. Timber and forest management options; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
- C. Soil conservation practices; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
- D. Insect and disease management practices; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
- E. Recreation management options; and [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
- F. Wildlife management options. [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

Addresses, telephone numbers and electronic mail addresses collected by the bureau for the purpose of contacting forest landowners owning less than 1,000 acres statewide to provide them with forest management information are confidential and may be disclosed only in accordance with section 8005. The bureau shall provide copies of forest management information sent to landowners to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters.

[PL 2005, c. 358, §2 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

2. Natural resource educator. The director shall employ a natural resource educator to develop and coordinate natural resource education, workshops and training opportunities for school-age children, forest landowners, forest products harvesters and forest managers.

A. [PL 2005, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

B. [PL 2005, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

[PL 2005, c. 133, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A40 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 346, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 133, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 358, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8612. Field foresters

The bureau shall employ by 1991, at least 16 field foresters to be located in field offices. [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

1. Duties. These foresters shall provide outreach services and referrals to small woodland owners and wood processors for harvesting, marketing and utilization of wood products. The foresters shall assist landowners and processors in:

A. Obtaining and explaining required forms for harvest notification and reporting; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

B. Obtaining information to comply with the performance standards under this chapter; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

C. Following up with landowners after harvest notification; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

D. Reviewing landowner forest management plans; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

E. Obtaining information to comply with environmental standards; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

F. Explaining forest management options; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

G. Promoting involvement in grants and incentive programs; [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

H. Disseminating educational material; and [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

I. Other duties as the director prescribes. [PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]
[PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

2. Limitations. Field foresters are limited to 3 site visits per landowner over a 5-year period, except as necessary to administer federal programs related to forestry or to determine compliance with provisions of this Title.
[PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

3. Comprehensive plans. The foresters may provide technical assistance on forestry issues to municipalities in developing their comprehensive plans.
[PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW).]

4. Reporting requirements. The commissioner shall report biannually beginning in 1991, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters on activities under the field forester program. This report, to be completed by February 1st, must include a description of the types of assistance given to landowners and wood processors, a description of the activities of the field foresters and any recommendations for changes in the program.
[PL 2003, c. 346, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §8 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 346, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

SUBCHAPTER 2

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

§8701. Establishment of nurseries

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 663, §70 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 819, §§A37,A38 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 21, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 133, §2 (RP).

§8702. Public shade trees

To promote aesthetic and environmental values of trees to communities and to restore those values lost through death of trees from insect and disease depredation, soil depletion, adverse growth factors and old age, the director may enter into agreement with municipal officials and Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribal governments to pay, so far as funds are available, up to 50% of the costs of procuring young tree-planting stock and planting and general care of public shade trees. Whenever the State does contribute funds for this purpose, it shall have the authority to establish requirements for a municipal tree care program and requirements and procedures relative to selecting, planting, and care of such trees. This program is not intended to extend beyond village or community limits, except for municipal parks or cemeteries. [PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).

§8702-A. Elm Tree Restoration Fund

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 98, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 12, §1 (RP).

§8703. Municipal forests

The director may establish a program to provide, at cost, forest seedlings or transplants for use on lands acquired by municipalities for forest purposes as allowed in Title 30, chapter 227. Application for such material shall be made on forms as the director prescribes. The director, whenever providing forest seedlings or transplants, shall recommend procedures for the planting, management and protection of the municipal forest lands. [PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).

§8704. Rehabilitation program

The director may carry out a forest rehabilitation program on unstocked and poorly stocked potential forest land, either public or private, with first priority to burned areas. The director shall make use of federal funds as and if available and of inmates of state institutions, including penal, whenever possible or feasible. The State shall participate in the cost of such forest rehabilitation up to 50% of the total cost on private land including the value of trees. Rehabilitation on private lands may be done only at the landowner's request. [RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §64 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §64 (COR).

§8705. Community Forestry Fund

1. Establishment of fund. The Community Forestry Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction of the bureau to promote the community forestry activities in the municipalities of the State. The bureau may apply for and accept any appropriation, grant, gift or service made available from any public or private sources consistent with the purpose of this section and shall deposit any such money into the fund. [PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXX, §1 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

2. Use of the fund. The bureau shall develop a process for municipalities to submit proposals and establish criteria for reviewing proposals and awarding grants from the fund for the purpose of developing and maintaining community forestry activities. [PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXX, §1 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 439, §XXX1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

SUBCHAPTER 3**REGULATION****ARTICLE 1****COMMERCIAL STANDARD FOR MAINE WHITE-CEDAR SHINGLES****§8821. Purpose**

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8822. Raw material

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8823. Maine commercial standard shingles

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8824. Grades

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8825. Nomenclature and definitions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8826. Dimension of shingles

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8827. Dimension of bundles

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8828. Sawing

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8829. Area coverage

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8830. Labeling

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8831. Registration**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8832. Grading and reinspection**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 452, §F38 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

§8833. Penalties and revocation**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 547, §B31 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B80 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 13, §1 (RP).

ARTICLE 2**TRANSPORTATION OR CUTTING OF CHRISTMAS TREES****§8841. Definitions**

For the purpose of this Article the following terms shall have the following meanings. [PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).]

1. Christmas tree. "Christmas tree" means any species of coniferous tree severed from the stump and cut for commercial purposes as a Christmas tree.

[PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).]

2. Evergreen boughs. "Evergreen boughs" means boughs or tips of all species of coniferous trees cut for commercial purposes.

[PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW).]

3.

[PL 1983, c. 507, §1 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §1 (AMD).

§8842. Owner's permission required**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §F39 (RP). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§8842-A. Owner's permission required

1. Cutting prohibited. A person may not:

A. Cut Christmas trees or evergreen boughs on land of another without securing written permission or a bill of sale from the owner or the owner's authorized agents and having a copy of this written permission or bill of sale in immediate possession. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or [PL 2015, c. 55, §1 (AMD).]

B. Violate paragraph A when:

(1) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$10,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class B crime;

(2) The person is armed with a dangerous weapon at the time of the offense. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class B crime;

(3) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$2,000 but not more than \$10,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class C crime;

(4) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$1,000 but not more than \$2,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class D crime; or

(5) The person has 2 prior Maine convictions for any combination of the following: theft; any violation of Title 17-A, section 401 in which the crime intended to be committed inside the structure is theft; any violation of Title 17-A, section 651; any violation of Title 17-A, section 702, 703 or 708; or attempts thereat. Title 17-A, section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2015, c. 55, §1 (AMD).]

2. Transport prohibited. A person may not:

A. Transport Christmas trees or evergreen boughs without written permission or a bill of sale from the owner of the land where the trees or evergreen boughs were harvested or that owner's authorized agents. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Violate paragraph A when:

(1) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$10,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class B crime;

(2) The person is armed with a dangerous weapon at the time of the offense. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class B crime;

(3) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$2,000 but not more than \$10,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class C crime;

(4) The value of the trees or boughs is more than \$1,000 but not more than \$2,000. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class D crime; or

(5) The person has 2 prior Maine convictions for any combination of the following: theft; any violation of Title 17-A, section 401 in which the crime intended to be committed inside the structure is theft; any violation of Title 17-A, section 651; any violation of Title 17-A, section 702, 703 or 708; or attempts thereat. Title 17-A, section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence. Violation of this subparagraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

3. Inspections and investigations. An officer authorized to make inspections and investigations under this article may require of any person, firm or corporation engaged in cutting or transporting Christmas trees or evergreen boughs to show:

A. If engaged in cutting trees or boughs belonging to another, a current written permit or bill of sale issued pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A; and [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. If engaged in transportation, a current written permit, bill of sale, port of entry statement or other written proof of ownership when transporting for commercial purposes trees, loose or in bundles, or boughs, loose or baled. A driver shall carry this permit on the driver's person or in the vehicle. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

4. Remedies not exclusive. Prosecution under this section does not preclude the civil remedy available under Title 14, section 7552.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

5. Strict liability. Violation of this section is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §40 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 452, §F40 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 55, §1 (AMD).

§8843. Forgery

Every permit, bill of sale, port of entry statement, or other written document specified in this Article shall be deemed to be a written instrument subject to the laws relating to forgery. [PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR).

§8844. Seizure or attachment

Any officer authorized to make inspections, investigations or arrests under this Article may seize and hold Christmas trees or evergreen boughs until proof of ownership has been established. If proof of ownership has not been established, the officer shall try to determine where those trees or boughs were cut and notify the landowner. If the owner does not want the trees or boughs, or ownership cannot be determined, the State may dispose of them and any money derived from the disposition of the trees and boughs must be paid to the landowner, if the landowner's identity can be established and, otherwise, to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the General Fund. [RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §65 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §65 (COR).

§8845. Federal quarantine regulations

Compliance with this Article does not relieve or exempt from legal responsibility any person from compliance with the federal regulations concerning any quarantine law. [PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §2 (RPR).

§8846. Trees from out-of-state

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §3 (RP).

§8847. Enforcement agencies

State police, county sheriffs, municipal law enforcement officers, state forest rangers and game wardens are authorized to make inspections, investigations, arrests and disposals of trees and boughs under this Article. [PL 1983, c. 507, §4 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §4 (RPR).

§8848. Registration

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §5 (RP).

§8849. Penalty

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 507, §6 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §F41 (RP). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

ARTICLE 3

FORESTRY SUPERVISION OF BIOMASS FUEL WOOD HARVESTING

§8860. Purpose

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 286 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §9 (RP).

§8861. Definitions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 286 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 502, §B14 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 555, §9 (RP). PL 2007, c. 466, Pt. A, §36 (RP).

§8862. Certification of harvest required

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 286 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §9 (RP).

§8863. Sample forms

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 286 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §9 (RP).

§8864. Repeal**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 286 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 749, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 555, §9 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 3-A**FOREST PRACTICES****§8866. Purpose**

The Legislature finds and declares that the State's forests are resources of great significance to the people of the State. These resources have great economic value, environmental value, scenic beauty and unique characteristics and unsurpassed recreational, cultural and historical values of present and future benefit to the citizens of the State. The well-being of communities of the State depends upon sustainable forest management. Liquidation harvesting is a serious and direct threat to forest management, forest industries and rural communities over the landscape of Maine. Liquidation harvesting produces significant adverse economic and environmental effects and threatens the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the State. Liquidation harvesting is incompatible with responsible forest stewardship and must be substantially eliminated. [PL 2003, c. 422, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 422, §A1 (NEW).

§8867. Rulemaking**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 528, §G8 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §G8 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 722, §2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 722, §3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 722, §4 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 722, §11 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 720, §1 (RP).

§8867-A. Rulemaking

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may adopt rules to implement this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. D, §9 (AMD).]

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall consult with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that rules adopted under this subchapter are consistent with wildlife habitat and environmental protection. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. D, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 720, §2 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. D, §9 (AMD).

§8867-B. Regulation of timber harvesting activities in areas adjacent to rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands and tidal waters

In accordance with the purposes of chapter 206-A and Title 38, chapter 3, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375 to establish performance standards for timber harvesting activities in areas adjacent to rivers, streams,

ponds, wetlands and tidal waters. The rules must provide the maximum opportunity for flexibility that achieves the goal of protecting the public resources while minimizing the impact on private resources. The initial rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Subsequent amendments to those rules are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. D, §10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 695, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 566, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 335, §2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. D, §10 (AMD).

§8867-C. Enhancement of cold water fisheries habitat

By November 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to allow activities that enhance cold water fishery habitat without a permit or fee. The rules must establish standards for the placement of wood in stream channels and specify that only a licensed forester trained by the bureau in cooperation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in techniques to enhance fisheries habitat may implement these techniques. [PL 2011, c. 599, §3 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

In developing standards to enhance brook trout habitat and the training required to implement habitat enhancement, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall consult with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection. The bureau shall notify the departments of habitat enhancement activities conducted under this section. [PL 2011, c. 599, §3 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

A permit is not required for activities conducted in accordance with the rules adopted under this section in stream segments that have been identified by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as lacking desired habitat features. The Department of Marine Resources must be consulted and approve of any habitat enhancement under this section on a stream that is identified as Atlantic salmon habitat. [PL 2011, c. 599, §3 (NEW).]

The initial rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Subsequent amendments to those rules are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. This section does not relieve a person from meeting the requirements of section 8867-B or Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 2-B. [PL 2011, c. 599, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 599, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

§8867-D. Regulation of timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities within the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State

Beginning November 1, 2012, the director of the bureau shall administer and enforce the regulation of timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities in areas classified as protection districts and management districts by the commission in accordance with section 685-A. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish standards in rule to implement this section. [PL 2011, c. 599, §4 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§6, 7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

The initial rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Subsequent amendments to those rules are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2011, c. 599, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 599, §4 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§6, 7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8867-E. Regulation of land management roads, gravel pits and water crossings within the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State

1. Regulation. In accordance with section 685-A, subsection 14, beginning November 1, 2012, the director of the bureau shall administer and enforce the regulation of construction, maintenance and repair of land management roads, water crossings by land management roads and gravel pits of less than 5 acres in areas designated as protection districts and management districts by the commission. [PL 2013, c. 256, §11 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

2. Rules. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to implement this section. Initial rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Subsequent amendments to those rules are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Rules adopted under this subsection must be adopted in consultation with the commission. The rules must:

A. Require a permit from the bureau for activities located within areas of special flood hazard as defined in the commission's rules; [PL 2011, c. 599, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

B. Include standards to protect outstanding river segments, historic, scenic, scientific, recreational and aesthetic resources in districts classified by the commission for special protection and delineated on land use maps adopted under section 685-A, subsection 7-A; and [PL 2011, c. 599, §5 (NEW).]

C. Require review by and approval from the commission for any activity in a protection district described in paragraph B that requires a permit. [PL 2011, c. 599, §5 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 599, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§6, 7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 599, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§6, 7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 256, §11 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8867-F. Fee schedule

The bureau shall establish a schedule of fees through rulemaking for the administration of sections 8867-D and 8867-E. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, subsection 2, paragraph A, rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The bureau may not issue an approval, certificate, special exception or variance until the required fee has been paid. [PL 2011, c. 599, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 599, §6 (NEW).

§8867-G. Forest certification programs

1. Requirements for state land. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may obtain or maintain certification from a forest certification program for state land only if the program, in order to obtain certification under the program:

A. Contains performance-based indicators described in subsection 2 that protect forest workers, including logging and trucking contractors, that can be assessed and verified by a recognized certifying entity; and [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]

B. Does not require payment to a trade association that is registered with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]

2. Performance-based indicators. Performance-based indicators required by subsection 1 include the following labor practices:

- A. No use of child labor; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- B. No use of forced labor; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- C. No discrimination; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Freedom of association and collective bargaining; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- E. Promotion of gender equality; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- F. Implementation of legal occupational health and safety practices; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- G. Payment of fair wages that meet or exceed the minimum wage; [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- H. Adequate and effective training; and [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]
- I. Grievance resolution and compensation for damages. [PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 380, §1 (NEW).

§8868. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

1. Clear-cut. "Clear-cut" means any timber harvesting on a forested site greater than 5 acres in size that results in a residual basal area of trees over 4 1/2 inches in diameter measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground of less than 30 square feet per acre, unless, after harvesting, the site has a well-distributed stand of acceptable growing stock, as defined by rule, of at least 3 feet in height for softwood trees and 5 feet in height for hardwood trees that meets the regeneration standards defined under section 8869, subsection 1.

A. [PL 1997, c. 720, §3 (RP).]

B. [PL 1999, c. 361, §1 (RP).]

[PL 1999, c. 361, §1 (RPR).]

1-A. Commission. "Commission" means the Maine Land Use Planning Commission established under section 683-A.

[RR 2013, c. 1, §25 (COR).]

2. Forest management plan. "Forest management plan" means a site-specific document signed by a professional forester outlining proposed activities to ensure compliance with performance standards and regeneration requirements established pursuant to this subchapter.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

2-A. Parcel. "Parcel" means a contiguous tract or plot of forest land owned by a landowner. Multiple contiguous tracts, plots or parcels of forest land owned by the same landowner are considered a single parcel for the purposes of this subchapter.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §4 (NEW).]

2-B. Outcome-based forest policy. "Outcome-based forest policy" means a science-based, voluntary process to achieve agreed-upon economic, environmental and social outcomes in the State's forests, as an alternative to prescriptive regulation, demonstrating measurable progress towards achieving statewide sustainability goals and allowing landowners to use creativity and flexibility to achieve objectives, while providing for the conservation of public trust resources and the public values of forests.

[PL 2013, c. 542, §2 (AMD).]

3. Professional forester. "Professional forester" means a person licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 76.

[PL 2001, c. 261, §2 (AMD).]

3-A. Separation zone. "Separation zone" means an area that surrounds a clear-cut and separates it from other clear-cuts.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §5 (NEW).]

4. Timber harvesting. "Timber harvesting" means the cutting or removal of trees or forest products that when cut or removed are transported to a roundwood processing operation, as defined in section 8881, subsection 10. "Timber harvesting" does not include reclaiming trees, logs or bark from timber harvesting or other operations, including but not limited to retrieving submerged timbers from log drives or bark from bark piles.

[PL 2021, c. 30, §1 (AMD).]

5. Timber harvesting activities. "Timber harvesting activities" means timber harvesting, the construction and maintenance of roads used primarily for timber harvesting, the mining of gravel used for the construction and maintenance of roads used primarily for timber harvesting and other activities conducted to facilitate timber harvesting.

[PL 2011, c. 599, §8 (AMD).]

6. Liquidation harvesting. "Liquidation harvesting" means the purchase of timberland followed by a harvest that removes most or all commercial value in standing timber, without regard for long-term forest management principles, and the subsequent sale or attempted resale of the harvested land within 5 years.

[PL 2003, c. 422, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

7. Land management road. "Land management road" means a road constructed and used primarily for agricultural or forest management activities.

[PL 2011, c. 599, §9 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 720, §§3-6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 361, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 695, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 261, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 339, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 422, §A2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 550, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 271, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 488, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 599, §§7-9 (AMD). RR 2013, c. 1, §25 (COR). PL 2013, c. 542, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 30, §1 (AMD).

§8869. Forest harvest regulations

To promote a healthy and sustainable forest that contains a balance of age classes necessary for a sustainable timber supply and spatial and compositional diversity, forest harvesting and liquidation harvesting are regulated pursuant to this subchapter. [PL 2003, c. 422, Pt. A, §3 (AMD).]

1. Standards for regeneration after harvests. The commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure adequate regeneration of commercial tree species on a site within 5 years of completion of any timber harvest. Rules to implement this requirement shall include identification of commercial tree species, minimum stocking standards and methods to mitigate inadequate regeneration. In developing

regeneration standards, the commissioner shall take into consideration regional differences in forest types, tree species and physiographic conditions.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

2. Performance standards for clear-cuts. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, performance standards for clear-cuts, including limitations on size. These standards shall protect water quality, minimize soil erosion, ensure adequate regeneration, address adverse impacts on wildlife habitat and provide for a healthy and sustainable forest. The commissioner shall incorporate regional variations in developing performance standards that consider growing conditions, tree species and site quality.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

2-A. Separation zones. A clear-cut must be separated from any other clear-cut by at least 250 feet except where a property line is closer than 250 feet from the edge of the clear-cut. Unless an exemption is provided in rules adopted pursuant to section 8867-A, a separation zone must be equal to or greater than the area clear-cut.

[PL 1999, c. 361, §2 (AMD).]

3. Forest management plans for clear-cuts over 20 acres. For a clear-cut of 20 acres or more, the landowner, or agent of the landowner, shall develop, prior to harvest, a forest management plan for that clear-cut signed by a professional forester that conforms to the standards set forth in subsections 1 and 2. The plan must state the purpose of the clear-cut. This plan must be kept on file by the landowner or agent of the landowner and be available for inspection by the bureau until adequate regeneration in accordance with the standards set forth in subsection 1 is established.

[PL 1999, c. 361, §3 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

3-A. Plans for outcome-based forestry areas. Practices applied on an area created pursuant to section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q must provide at least the equivalent forest and environmental protection as provided by existing rules and any applicable local regulations. At a minimum, tests of outcome-based forestry principles must address:

- A. Soil productivity; [PL 2001, c. 339, §3 (NEW).]
- B. Water quality, wetlands and riparian zones; [PL 2001, c. 339, §3 (NEW).]
- C. Timber supply and quality; [PL 2001, c. 339, §3 (NEW).]
- D. Aesthetic impacts of timber harvesting; [PL 2001, c. 339, §3 (NEW).]
- E. Biological diversity; [PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (AMD).]
- F. Public accountability; [PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (AMD).]
- G. Economic considerations; [PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (NEW).]
- H. Social considerations; and [PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (NEW).]
- I. Forest health. [PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (NEW).]

The Governor shall appoint a panel of at least 6 technical experts to work with the director to implement, monitor and assess tests of outcome-based forestry principles. The panel of technical experts must have expertise in all of the principles listed in paragraphs A to I. In order to participate in an outcome-based forestry project, the landowner, director and technical panel must develop agreed-upon desired outcomes for the outcome-based forestry area and develop a method for determining if the outcomes have been attained and a system for reporting results to the public. The technical panel shall assess whether the practices applied on the outcome-based forestry area provide at least the equivalent forest and environmental protection as provided by rules and regulations otherwise applicable to that outcome-based forestry area. The technical panel may not delegate this assessment to any other person,

except that the technical panel may consider information provided by the bureau, the landowner or a 3rd-party forest certification program auditor.

[PL 2013, c. 542, §3 (AMD).]

3-B. Reporting and notification; outcome-based forestry projects. The director, in consultation with the technical panel under subsection 3-A, shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters as follows.

A. Beginning March 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, the director shall submit a report detailing the progress on each outcome-based forestry agreement under section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q. The report must include an assessment of the landowner's progress toward attaining the outcomes under subsection 3-A. The report must be presented to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters at a public meeting no sooner than 30 days after submission of the report to the committee. [PL 2013, c. 542, §4 (NEW).]

B. When an initial outcome-based forestry agreement is approved by the director as provided by section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q, the director shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters within 15 days. In the notification, the director shall address how the proposed agreement will provide at least the equivalent forest and environmental protection as provided by rules and regulations that otherwise would apply to that outcome-based forestry area. [PL 2013, c. 542, §4 (NEW).]

C. When an outcome-based forestry agreement under this section is renewed as provided by section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q, the director shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters no later than 15 days after the agreement is renewed. [PL 2013, c. 542, §4 (NEW).]

A report, notification or any information concerning outcome-based forestry projects under this subsection must be placed on the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's publicly accessible website.

[PL 2013, c. 542, §4 (NEW).]

4. Exemption for natural disaster. If the regeneration on a harvested clear-cut, or portion thereof, is destroyed by fire, disease, insect infestation or other natural disaster, the regeneration requirement does not apply. Vegetative cover sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion must be established on the site.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

5. Variance. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, standards to permit activities that exceed the standards set forth under subsection 2. In developing standards, the commissioner shall consider the unique characteristics of a site and any related economic hardship which would result from noncompliance with these standards.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

6. Transfer or sale of property. Upon sale or other transfer of ownership of land that has been harvested, the transferee becomes responsible for the regeneration requirements on the site. The transferor shall disclose in writing to the transferee the regeneration requirements of this section at, or prior to, the time of sale or transfer. Failure of the transferor to comply with the disclosure requirement shall result in the transferor being responsible for compliance with the regeneration requirements of subsection 1.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW).]

7. Application. This section applies to all forest lands within the State, including land in municipal and state ownership. Except as provided in subsection 7-A, only state-owned or operated research forests or industrially owned research forests certified by the commissioner are exempt from these requirements.

[PL 2001, c. 339, §4 (AMD).]

7-A. Exemption for outcome-based forestry areas. An outcome-based forestry area designated under section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q is exempt from the requirements of this section if specifically exempted in the agreement establishing the outcome-based forestry area.

[PL 2013, c. 542, §5 (AMD).]

8. Relationship to municipal rules and regulations. Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to preempt or otherwise limit the existing authority of municipalities to regulate harvesting, except that municipalities regulating timber harvesting shall adopt definitions for forestry terms used in their ordinances that are consistent with definitions in section 8868 and with forestry terms adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this subchapter. Municipal timber harvesting ordinances adopted before September 1, 1990 must meet this standard of compliance with definitions no later than January 1, 2001.

A municipality may not adopt an ordinance that is less stringent than the minimum standards established in this section and in rules adopted by the commissioner to implement this section and section 8867-B. A municipality may not adopt or amend an ordinance that regulates timber harvesting unless the process set out in this subsection is followed in the development and review of the ordinance.

A. A licensed professional forester must participate in the development or amendment of the ordinance. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (AMD).]

B. A meeting must take place in the municipality during the development or amendment of the ordinance between representatives of the department and municipal officers and officials involved in developing the ordinance. Discussion at the meeting must include, but is not limited to, the forest practices goals of the municipality. At this meeting and subsequently, the department shall provide guidance to the municipality on how the municipality may use sound forestry practices to achieve the municipality's forest practices goals. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (AMD).]

C. The municipality shall hold a public hearing to review a proposed ordinance or ordinance amendment at least 45 days before a vote is held on the ordinance. The municipality shall post and publish public notice of the public hearing according to the same general requirements of posted and published notice for zoning ordinance public hearings as provided by Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 9.

In addition, when a municipality proposes to adopt or amend a timber harvesting ordinance pursuant to its home rule authority as provided by Title 30-A, section 3001, the municipality shall mail notice of the hearing by first-class mail at least 14 days before the hearing to all landowners in the municipality at the last known address of the person on whom a property tax on each parcel is assessed. In the case of a timber harvesting ordinance or amendment that applies only to certain zones or land use districts in the municipality, the municipality may meet the requirements of this paragraph by mailing notice only to those landowners whose land is in a zone or land use district or immediately abutting the affected zone or land use district.

Mailed notice to individual landowners is not required under this subsection for any type of amendment to an existing local land use ordinance merely to conform that ordinance to the minimum timber harvesting guidelines required by Title 38, section 439-A, as those guidelines may be subsequently amended, or to conform any timber harvesting ordinance to the requirements of this section for conformity of definitions when the proposed amendments do not substantially change any previously established timber harvesting standards adopted pursuant to home rule authority.

The municipal officers shall prepare and file with the municipal clerk a written certificate indicating those landowners to whom the notice was mailed and at what addresses, when it was mailed, by

whom it was mailed and from what location it was mailed. The certificate constitutes prima facie evidence that notice was sent to those landowners named in the certificate.

Any action challenging the validity of the adoption or amendment of a municipal timber harvesting ordinance based on the municipality's alleged failure to comply with the landowner notice requirement must be brought in Superior Court within 90 days after the adoption of the ordinance or amendment. The Superior Court may invalidate an ordinance or amendment only if the landowner demonstrates that the landowner was entitled to receive a notice under this section, that the municipality failed to send the notice as required, that the landowner had no knowledge of the proposed ordinance or amendment and that the landowner was materially harmed by that lack of knowledge. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (AMD).]

D. The municipal clerk shall notify the department of the time, place and date of the public hearing and provide the department with a copy of the proposed ordinance that will be reviewed at the hearing at least 30 days before the date of the hearing. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (AMD).]

E. At the public hearing, representatives of the department must be provided an opportunity to present and discuss for the municipality's information any reports, articles, treatises or similar materials published by acknowledged experts in the field of sound forestry or silvicultural management to the extent such information is relevant to the proposed ordinance or ordinance amendment.

The proposed ordinance or ordinance amendment may be revised after the public hearing. The ordinance or amendment must be submitted to the legislative body of the municipality in accordance with the procedures the municipality uses for adopting ordinances. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (NEW).]

F. Municipal timber harvesting ordinances may not be unreasonable, arbitrary or capricious and must employ means appropriate to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (NEW).]

G. All direct costs incurred by a municipality associated with landowner notification requirements and other required public notice must be paid to the municipality in accordance with a distribution schedule established under Title 30-A, section 5685, subsection 5. All direct costs incurred by a municipality in order to comply with this subsection for the amendment of ordinances adopted before September 1, 1990 must be paid to the municipality in accordance with a distribution schedule established under Title 30-A, section 5685, subsection 5. [PL 1999, c. 263, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2003, c. 335, §3 (AMD).]

9. Centralized listing of municipal ordinances. The bureau shall maintain for informational purposes a statewide centralized listing of municipal ordinances that specifically apply to forest practices.

A. Within 30 days after the legislative body of the municipality votes on a timber harvesting ordinance developed according to the procedures of subsection 8, the clerk shall notify the bureau of the outcome and shall file a copy of the ordinance with the bureau. [PL 1999, c. 263, §2 (RPR); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

B. [PL 1999, c. 263, §2 (RP).]
[PL 1999, c. 263, §2 (RPR); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

10. Right of enforcement. Enforcement of this subchapter shall be by any state, county or municipal law enforcement officer, including forest rangers and field foresters of the bureau and wardens of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
[PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

11. Right of entry. Agents of the bureau have rights of access to all lands within the State to carry out the duties they are authorized by law to administer and enforce. This subsection does not authorize entry into any building or structure.

[PL 1997, c. 694, §1 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

12. Right of action. A landowner found in violation of this section and penalized under section 9701 as a result of actions of a harvester has a right of action to recover the penalty against the harvester who undertook the harvest operation found in violation. In addition to all other defenses permitted by law, it is a defense that the harvester operated under the landowner's instructions. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms "harvester" and "harvest operation" have the same meanings as in section 8881.

[PL 1993, c. 217, §1 (NEW).]

13. Confidential information. Information provided to the bureau voluntarily or to fulfill reporting requirements for the purposes of establishing and monitoring outcome-based forestry areas, as created pursuant to section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q, is public unless the person to whom the information belongs or pertains requests that it be designated as confidential and the bureau has determined it contains proprietary information. For the purposes of this subsection, "proprietary information" means information that is a trade secret or production, commercial or financial information the disclosure of which would impair the competitive position of the person submitting the information and would make available information not otherwise publicly available. The bureau, working with the landowner and the panel of technical experts appointed under subsection 3-A, may publish reports as long as those reports do not reveal confidential information.

[PL 2013, c. 542, §6 (AMD).]

14. Substantial elimination of liquidation harvesting. The commissioner shall adopt rules to substantially eliminate liquidation harvesting. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 422, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §10 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 863, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 217, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 122, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 122, §2 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 694, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 720, §§7,8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 263, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 361, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 339, §§3-6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 335, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 422, §§A3,4 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 550, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 271, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 567, §9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 488, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV). PL 2013, c. 542, §§3-6 (AMD).

§8869-A. Prior bureau approval for harvesting trees and authority to issue stop-work orders

The bureau shall establish a prior approval process for harvesting trees by a person that has committed 2 violations of unlawful cutting of trees pursuant to Title 17, section 2510, subsection 1. The process must include at a minimum the following: [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV); PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

1. Written approval. Requiring written approval from the bureau for the person to harvest trees on any land in the State; and

[PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV); PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

2. Bonding. Requiring the person to post a private bond in an amount not less than \$500,000 before commencing tree harvesting.

[PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

The bureau shall issue a stop-work order if the requirements of this section are not met at the time harvesting is occurring. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV); PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

For the purposes of this section, "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association or any other legal entity. [PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV). PL 2013, c. 412, §1 (NEW).

§8869-B. Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund

The Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established to be used by the bureau as a nonlapsing, revolving fund for carrying out the purposes of this subchapter. The balance in the fund is limited to \$20,000. To this fund are credited permit fees, civil penalties and other fees and charges related to this subchapter. To this fund are charged expenses of the bureau incurred to mitigate and remediate damages or potential damages to waters of the State created by violations of this subchapter, including but not limited to costs of cleanup of discharges of pollutants to waters of the State and the restoration of water supplies. [PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

1. Disbursements from and use of fund. Money in the fund may be used by the department and disbursed only to pay the costs, including without limitation payments to contractors undertaking physical mitigation and remediation activities and equipment expenses, involved in the control of sediment and water flow, the abatement of pollution and the implementation of remediation activities, including restoration of water supplies, related to the discharge of sediment and other pollutants discharged or at risk of discharging to waters of the State by timber harvesting activities.

Prior to undertaking mitigation or remediation activities that will result in the use of the fund, the director shall use all reasonable efforts to notify the responsible party of the mitigation and remediation activities needed and to provide a reasonable time frame for the responsible party to implement those activities. The director shall notify the responsible party that a lien may be imposed on real estate owned by the responsible party in accordance with subsection 3 if the department undertakes mitigation and remediation activities that will result in the use of the fund.

[PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

2. Reimbursements to the fund. The following provisions govern reimbursements to the fund.

A. The director shall seek recovery of all costs paid from the fund from the responsible party, unless the bureau finds the amount involved too small, the likelihood of success too uncertain or that recovery of costs is unlikely due to the inability of the responsible party to pay those costs. [PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

B. Requests by the department for reimbursement of costs paid from the fund, if not paid by the responsible party within 30 days of the request, may be turned over to the Attorney General for collection or may be submitted to a collection agency or agent or an attorney retained by the department with the approval of the Attorney General in conformance with Title 5, section 191, or the bureau may file an appropriate action in District Court for recovery of the costs paid from the fund. [PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

3. Lien. All costs incurred by the State to mitigate and remediate damages or potential damages to waters of the State created by violations of this subchapter under subsection 1 and interest on those costs are a lien against the real estate of the responsible party. A certificate of lien signed by the director

must be sent by certified mail to the responsible party prior to being recorded and may be filed in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the real estate is located. The lien is effective when the certificate is recorded with the registry of deeds for the county in which the real estate is located. The certificate of lien must include a description of the real estate, the amount of the lien and the name of the owner as grantor.

When the amount for which a lien has been recorded under this subsection has been paid or reduced, the director, upon request by any person of record holding interest in the real estate that is the subject of the lien, shall issue a certificate discharging or partially discharging the lien. The certificate must be recorded in the registry in which the lien was recorded. Any action of foreclosure of the lien must be brought by the Attorney General in the name of the State in the Superior Court for the judicial district in which the real estate subject to the lien is located.

[PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 63, §1 (NEW).

§8870. Penalties

1. Civil violation. A person who violates a rule adopted pursuant to section 8869, subsection 14 or a condition or term of a permit, variance or decision issued by the director or the commissioner in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 8869, subsection 14 commits a civil violation.

[PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW).]

2. Penalty. Except as provided in subsection 3, the following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged for each day of that violation. [PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this section after having previously been adjudicated of a violation of this section within the previous 5-year period commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$2,000 may be adjudged for each day of that violation. [PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW).]

3. Economic benefit. If the economic benefit resulting from the violation exceeds the applicable penalties under subsection 2, the maximum fines may be increased. The maximum fine may not exceed an amount equal to twice the economic benefit resulting from the violation. The bureau shall consider as economic benefit, without limitation, the costs avoided or the enhanced value accrued at the time of the violation by the violator as a result of not complying with the applicable legal requirements.

[PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

4. Effective date.

[PL 2005, c. 514, §1 (RP).]

5. Supplemental environmental projects. In settling a civil enforcement action for any violation of this subchapter or any rule adopted under this subchapter, the parties may agree to a supplemental environmental project that mitigates not more than 80% of the assessed penalty. "Supplemental environmental project" means an environmentally beneficial project primarily benefiting the public health or the environment that a violator is not otherwise required or likely to perform.

A. An eligible supplemental environmental project is limited to the following categories:

- (1) Environmental enhancement projects in the same ecosystem or geographic area of the violation that significantly improve an area beyond what is required to remediate any damage caused by the violation that is the subject of the enforcement action;
 - (2) Community forestry projects in the same ecosystem or geographic area of the violation that are conducted in accordance with the purposes of section 8705;
 - (3) Environmental awareness projects substantially related to the violation that provide training, publications or technical support to members of the public and that are regulated by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; or
 - (4) Scientific research and data collection projects that advance the scientific basis on which regulatory decisions are made. [PL 2005, c. 514, §2 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]
- B. A supplemental environmental project may not be used in the following situations:
- (1) Repeat violations of the same or a substantially similar law administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by the same person;
 - (2) When a project is required by law;
 - (3) If the violator had previously planned and budgeted for the project;
 - (4) To offset any calculable economic benefit of noncompliance;
 - (5) If the violation is the result of reckless or intentional conduct; or
 - (6) If the project primarily benefits the violator. [PL 2005, c. 2, §11 (COR); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

Any settlement that includes a supplemental environmental project must provide that expenditures are not tax deductible.

[RR 2005, c. 2, §11 (COR); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

6. Costs permitted. In any action or proceeding brought by the Attorney General under this section, the court may award litigation costs, including court costs, reasonable attorney's fees and reasonable expert witness fees, to be deposited in the General Fund of the State if the State or any of its officers or agencies is a prevailing party in the action or proceeding and the defendant's defense was not substantially justified. For the purposes of this subsection, a defense is "substantially justified" if the defense had a reasonable basis in law or fact at the time it was raised. [PL 2009, c. 536, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 694, §1 (NEW). RR 2005, c. 2, §11 (COR). PL 2005, c. 514, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 536, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

SUBCHAPTER 4

ASSESSMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

(REPEALED)

§8871. Maine's forests

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §11 (RP). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD).

§8872. Assessment of forest resources

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §11 (RP). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD).

§8873. Annual report

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §11 (RP). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD).

§8874. Cooperation

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §11 (RP). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD).

§8875. Authority

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 545, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 555, §11 (RP). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 4-A

FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

§8876. Forest Resource Assessment Program

There is established in the Bureau of Forestry a Forest Resource Assessment Program. The purpose of the Forest Resource Assessment Program is to systematically and continually assess the ability of the State's forests to provide sustainable forest resources and socioeconomic benefits for the people of this State. The Director of the Bureau of Forestry, referred to in this subchapter as "the director," shall implement this program to: [PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

1. Current status. Assess the current status of forest resources, using standards of forest sustainability developed in accordance with section 8876-A; [PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD).]

2. Future demand. Project future demand for forest resources based on a common economic forecast developed by the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and on other appropriate economic projections; [PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §21 (RPR).]

3. Trends. Identify trends in resource utilization and forecast supply available to meet the projected demands; and [PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD).]

4. Potential shortfalls. Identify potential shortfalls in forest resources and the management and policy actions necessary in the public and private sector to avoid shortfalls. [PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD).]

5. Recommendations.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (RP).]

The director shall coordinate the efforts of this program fully with ongoing bureau and federal forestry program planning efforts and with the efforts of the Maine Economic Growth Council to develop a long-term plan for the State's economy pursuant to Title 10, section 929-B. [PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 875, §J10 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 720, §9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §12 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. IIII, §6 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §21 (AMD).

§8876-A. Forest sustainability

The director shall establish a process to assess forest sustainability. In developing this process, the director shall build on the principles of sustainability developed by the Northern Forest Lands Council established by Congress in 1990 and the criteria developed by the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management pursuant to Executive Order #11 dated April 25, 1995. [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

1. Standards. Standards must be established to assess each of the criteria listed in this subsection by January 1st of the year indicated. The following standards must be specific, measurable and understandable by both forest managers and the general public:

- A. Soil productivity by 2001; [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- B. Water quality, wetlands and riparian zones by 1999; [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- C. Timber supply and quality by 1999; [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- D. Aesthetic impacts of timber harvesting by 2003; [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- E. Biological diversity by 2002; [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- F. Public accountability of forest owners and managers by 1999; and [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]
- G. Traditional recreation by 2003. [PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

2. Process. The director shall identify individuals with scientific background and practical experience in each of the criteria areas listed in subsection 1 and convene technical working groups. In the development of standards pursuant to subsection 1, the director and working groups shall assess current status and trends, the desired objectives and actions to reach the objectives. Each working group shall identify a range of alternative standards and recommend a set of standards based on a comprehensive review of available information and an assessment of the economic impacts of implementing the standards. The director shall coordinate the efforts of each working group and provide an opportunity for public comment on the recommended standards prior to final adoption.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

3. Report. The director shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters with a recommendation for each set of standards and an articulated goal for each criterion by the date specified in subsection 1. At the time of the report, the director shall indicate the recommended timetable for revisiting the particular criterion and standards.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

4. Monitoring. As each set of standards is adopted, the director shall develop a system to monitor statewide progress in achieving those standards and begin monitoring. Standards and monitoring systems must be in place for all criteria by July 1, 2004.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 720, §§10,11 (NEW).

§8877. Review and coordination

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 875, §J10 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 528, §G9 (RP). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §G9 (RP).

§8877-A. Determination of supply and demand for timber resources

The director shall use a variety of methods, including those specified in this section, to assess the status of timber resources, project future demand for these resources and forecast the supply available to meet the projected demands. [PL 1997, c. 720, §11 (NEW).]

1. Forest inventory. The director, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, shall conduct a forest inventory and analysis program. The inventory must be based on plot data collected annually in a manner that provides for the entire State to be inventoried on a cycle of not more than 5 years. Plot data must be collected and compiled to provide for analysis by ownership class and geographic region. The director shall provide for collection of supplemental plot data when needed to assess the impact of catastrophic events on the State's forests or significant changes in harvesting levels or methods.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §11 (NEW).]

2. Remote sensing data. The director shall review data collected using remote sensing technology to determine the area of forest types and gross changes in forest types.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §11 (NEW).]

3. Timber supply modeling. The director shall coordinate efforts to project future timber supply using forest models based on growth, harvest and other dynamic factors affecting the forest. The models must allow for statewide projections and projections for geographic regions and landowner classes.

[PL 1997, c. 720, §11 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 720, §11 (NEW).

§8878. Reports

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 875, §J10 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 720, §12 (RP).

§8878-A. Annual report on clearcutting

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 720, §13 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 532, §1 (RP).

§8879. Report on the state of the State's forests

The director shall publish a report on the state of the State's forests every 5 years. The director must submit a copy of the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters by January 1st every 5 years beginning January 1, 2016. [PL 2011, c. 532, §2 (AMD).]

1. Content. The report must describe the condition of the State's forests based on historical information and information collected and analyzed by the bureau for the 5-year period. The report must provide an assessment at the state level of progress in achieving the standards developed pursuant to section 8876-A, including an assessment of designated outcome-based forestry projects authorized under section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph Q, including a recommendation to continue, change or discontinue the outcome-based forestry projects. The director shall also provide observations on differences in achieving standards by landowner class. The report must summarize importing and exporting of forest products for foreign and interstate activities. The director shall obtain public input during the preparation of the report through appropriate methods. [PL 2013, c. 542, §7 (AMD).]

1-A. Report on changes in ownership of forest land. Using information received under Title 36, section 581-G, the director shall monitor changes in ownership of parcels of forest land that are 1,000 acres or greater in area within the municipalities of the State and classified under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Using information received under Title 36, sections 581-F and 581-G, the director shall monitor the number of parcels classified under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and the distribution of parcels by size. The report must include information on the number of parcels, classified by size categories, for the organized and unorganized territories of the State. The information must be presented in a manner that facilitates comparison from year to year.

In assessing changes in forest land ownership, the director shall also consider information reported pursuant to Title 36, sections 305 and 2728. The director shall provide a summary of changes in ownership of forest land in the report. [PL 2011, c. 532, §2 (AMD).]

2. Recommendations. The report must include recommendations for state and private actions designed to address the needs identified in the assessment.

A. State action recommendations must be defined in terms of necessary policies, programs, staff and budgetary requirements to achieve specific goals. [PL 1997, c. 720, §13 (NEW).]

B. Recommendations for actions on privately held forest lands may be developed separately for large, industrial ownerships and small, nonindustrial ownerships. These recommendations must be defined in terms of actions needed to achieve specific goals. [PL 1997, c. 720, §13 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 720, §13 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 720, §13 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 339, §7 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 564, §2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 683, §A15 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 532, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV). PL 2013, c. 542, §7 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 5

FOREST LANDOWNER AND WOOD PROCESSOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

§8881. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

1. All-weather road. "All-weather road" means a public or private road that may be traversed during all seasons of the year.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

2. Designated agent. "Designated agent" means a person, firm, company, corporation or other legal entity representing the landowner in timber sales or land management.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

3. Forest products. "Forest products" means logs, pulpwood, veneer, bolt wood, wood chips, stud wood, poles, pilings, biomass fuel wood, fuel wood, bark or other products commonly known as forest products, but does not include Christmas trees, maple syrup, nursery products used for ornamental purposes, wreaths, bough material, cones or other seed crops.

[PL 2021, c. 30, §2 (AMD).]

4. Harvester. "Harvester" means a person, firm, company, corporation or other legal entity which harvests or contracts to harvest a forest product.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

5. Harvest operation. "Harvest operation" means a harvest of forest products on land in a single municipality or township. Land harvested need not be contiguous and more than one harvester may work a harvest operation.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

5-A. Landowner. "Landowner" means a person, company or other entity that holds title to land, including joint owners or tenants in common. If the ownership of the timber located on the land is different from the fee ownership of the land, the owner of the timber is deemed to be a landowner and is jointly and severally responsible with the fee landowner for compliance with this subchapter. If a corporate landowner is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, both parent and subsidiary are deemed to be the same landowner.

[PL 2001, c. 603, §1 (NEW).]

6. Lump-sum sale. "Lump-sum sale" means a sale in which the owner of standing timber sells the timber for one price and that price is not broken down by species or product.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

7. Precommercial silvicultural activities. "Precommercial silvicultural activities" means chemical or mechanical thinning operations, planting, stand conversion or timber stand improvement activities where no forest products are sold.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

8. Residue. "Residue" means by-products of a processed log, including, but not limited to bark, woodchips or sawdust.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

9. Roundwood. "Roundwood" means logs, bolts and other round sections of wood as they are cut from a tree.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

10. Roundwood processing operation. "Roundwood processing operation" means sawmills; bolter mills; shingle mills; veneer mills; fence pole and piling making operations; pulp and paper mills; wafer board, particle board and plywood mills; whole tree chippers; commercial fuel wood processors; bark processors; custom processing mills of these products; and log yards established to accumulate logs awaiting shipment to these operations.

[PL 2021, c. 30, §3 (AMD).]

11. Stumpage. "Stumpage" means standing timber.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

12. Timber harvesting. "Timber harvesting" has the same meaning as in section 8868, subsection 4.

[PL 2011, c. 532, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 603, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 532, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 30, §§2, 3 (AMD).

§8882. Forms

Forms required under this subchapter must be provided by the bureau and must be written in an easily understandable format. In addition to the information required under section 8883-B, the bureau may request information regarding business practices and workers' compensation coverage. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §42 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 648, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §F42 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8883. Notification

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 648, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 361, §§4-7 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 603, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 345, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §F43 (RP). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§8883-A. Notification of importing or exporting

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 242, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 133, §3 (RP).

§8883-B. Notification

1. Notification required prior to harvest. Unless exempted under subsection 6 or by rule, a landowner or designated agent shall notify the bureau prior to beginning timber harvesting.

A. [PL 2011, c. 532, §4 (RP).]

B. [PL 2011, c. 532, §4 (RP).]

When the timber harvesting is occurring within a municipality, the bureau shall send a copy of the notification form to the municipal clerk.

[PL 2011, c. 532, §4 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

2. Notification form. Unless an alternate form or method of reporting is provided in rule, notification must be on forms supplied by the bureau and must include the following information:

A. The name, address and phone number of the landowner, any designated agent and, if known, any harvester or harvesters; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. The name and address of any licensed professional forester consulting the landowner on forest management or harvesting practices; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. The municipality or township and county of harvest; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

D. The name of the nearest public or private all-weather road; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

E. The approximate dates the harvest will begin and finish; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

F. The anticipated acreage to be harvested; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

G. An indication whether the land being harvested is taxed under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law; [PL 2011, c. 532, §5 (AMD).]

H. Whether the land is being harvested to convert to another use within 2 years and, if so, what that use is to be; [PL 2011, c. 532, §6 (AMD).]

I. The signatures of the harvester when listed on the form in accordance with paragraph A and the licensed professional forester when listed on the form in accordance with paragraph B; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

J. The signature of the landowner and the signature of the designated agent when a designated agent is listed in accordance with paragraph A. If the designated agent is a licensed professional forester who has a fiduciary responsibility to the landowner, the signature of the landowner is not required; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

K. A map locating the harvest site in relation to known or easily identifiable terrain features such as a road junction or a stream and road junction. The map must be a copy of a 7.5 or 15 minute series topographical map produced by the United States Geological Survey or a map of equivalent or superior detail in the location of roads; and [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

L. The date of notification. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2011, c. 532, §§5, 6 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

3. Harvest reporting forms. Upon receipt by the bureau of the form required under subsection 2, the bureau shall mail forms to the landowner or designated agent for reporting harvest information pursuant to this subchapter.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

4. Notification form on file; posted. The landowner or designated agent shall retain a copy of the notification form and produce it upon request of agents as specified in section 8888. The landowner or designated agent shall post the notification number at the harvest site in a clearly visible location.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

5. Duration. A notification shall remain valid for 2 years from the date of issue or upon completion of the harvest, whichever occurs first. If the harvest extends beyond 2 years, a new notice under this section must be filed.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

6. Notification exemption. The following activities are exempt from the notification requirement under this section:

A. Activities when forest products are harvested for an owner's own use and are not sold or offered for sale or used in the owner's primary wood-using plants; [PL 2011, c. 532, §7 (AMD).]

B. Precommercial silvicultural forestry activities; and [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §44 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. Harvesting performed by the landowner within a 12-month period when the total area harvested on land owned by that landowner does not exceed 2 acres. [PL 2011, c. 532, §7 (AMD).]
[PL 2011, c. 532, §7 (AMD).]

6-A. Alternative notifications. The bureau may develop alternative notification forms and methods for reporting:

A. A timber harvesting operation 10 acres or less in area; and [PL 2011, c. 532, §8 (NEW).]

B. Timber harvesting for the purpose of converting the land to another use when a person certified in erosion control practices by the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for management of erosion and sedimentation control at the harvest site. [PL 2011, c. 532, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 532, §8 (NEW).]

7. Penalties. The following penalties apply to the failure to notify the bureau pursuant to this section. Each day of failure to notify is a separate offense.

A. [PL 2011, c. 532, §9 (RP).]

B. [PL 2011, c. 532, §9 (RP).]

C. Failure to notify the bureau of a timber harvesting operation constitutes a civil violation for which a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each occurrence may be adjudged and for which immediate cessation of the operation may be ordered by the court. Continued operation after receiving an order to cease operation constitutes a civil violation for which a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each day the operation continues may be adjudged. [PL 2011, c. 532, §9 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

D. Providing inaccurate information on a notification form for a timber harvesting operation is a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 for each occurrence may be adjudged. [PL 2011, c. 532, §9 (AMD).]
[PL 2011, c. 532, §9 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

8. Confidentiality. The addresses, telephone numbers and electronic mail addresses of forest landowners owning less than 1,000 acres statewide contained in notifications filed under this section are confidential and may be disclosed only in accordance with section 8005.
[PL 2005, c. 358, §3 (NEW).]

9. Rulemaking. No later than November 1, 2012, the bureau shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2011, c. 532, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 452, §F44 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 358, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 532, §§4-10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8884. Annual wood processing reports

1. Wood processor reports. Owners or operators of all roundwood processing operations shall submit an annual report to the director of the bureau during the month of January for the roundwood used or processed by the operation during the preceding year. The report shall specify the amount of roundwood processed by species and county where cut from the stump.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

1-A. Reclaimed waste wood and cedar waste report.

[PL 2013, c. 513, §1 (RP).]

2. Imports and exports. Persons, firms, corporations or companies selling forest products out of the State or buying forest products to bring into the State shall submit an annual report to the director of the bureau during the month of January for the forest products sold out of the State or brought into the State. The report must also identify the origin of imported forest products by state or country, the county in the State in which exported forest products were harvested and the destination of exported forest products by state or country.

[PL 2005, c. 133, §4 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

3. Confidentiality. Information collected by the bureau under this section is public except for:

A. Volumes of forest products; [PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (NEW).]

B. Species of forest products; [PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (NEW).]

C. Types of forest products; [PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (NEW).]

D. County of origin of forest products; and [PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (NEW).]

E. Personally identifying information of forest product suppliers to roundwood processing operations and importers and exporters of forest products. [PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (NEW).]

Summary reports that use aggregate data that do not reveal the activities of an individual person or firm are public records.

[PL 2013, c. 513, §2 (RPR).]

3-A. Disclosure of confidential information. Notwithstanding subsection 3, confidential information may be disclosed pursuant to this subsection.

A. The director of the bureau may disclose information designated as confidential under subsection 3 to the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station when that entity, in the opinion of the director, requires that information and the bureau and that entity have executed a confidentiality agreement that protects against further disclosure of that information except in summary reports that use aggregate data that do not reveal the activities of an individual person or firm. [PL 2023, c. 495, §1 (NEW).]

B. The director of the bureau may not disclose information furnished by a state or federal agency when that information has been designated as confidential by the furnishing agency unless the furnishing agency authorizes the disclosure. [PL 2023, c. 495, §1 (NEW).]

A recipient of information pursuant to paragraph A or B may not disclose or use the information except as authorized by the director of the bureau, and the information remains confidential and the property of the bureau.

[PL 2023, c. 495, §1 (NEW).]

4. Penalties. A person who:

A. Fails to submit a report pursuant to this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 for each failure may be adjudged; or [PL 2023, c. 495, §2 (NEW).]

B. Receives confidential information pursuant to subsection 3-A and uses that information for a purpose other than that authorized by the director of the bureau commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. [PL 2023, c. 495, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 495, §2 (RPR).]

5. Report. If the bureau provides a report related to wood processor reports received by the bureau in accordance with subsection 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry management matters, the bureau shall also submit a copy of the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.
[PL 2023, c. 353, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 935, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §G10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §G10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 242, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §F45 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 133, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV). PL 2013, c. 513, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 353, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 495, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§8885. Reports by forest landowners

1. Harvest report. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, an owner of forest land who sells forest products or harvests forest products for that owner's commercial use shall submit a report to the director stating the species, volume and stumpage price per unit of measure for each transaction, the municipality or township where the stumpage was located, the estimated acreage of the harvest, the harvest method employed and the extent of whole-tree harvesting of both solid and chipped wood. For lump-sum sales, the purchaser shall be responsible for submitting the report.
[PL 1997, c. 720, §14 (AMD).]

1-A. Alternate harvest report. The director may develop alternate forms for or methods of collecting harvest information from landowners who do not harvest timber on a regular basis. The director shall define landowners subject to the provisions of this subsection and provide report forms pursuant to section 8883-B, subsection 3.
[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §46 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Precommercial silvicultural practices report. Owners of forest land on which precommercial silvicultural practices have been performed on more than 10 acres in any year shall report these practices to the director.
[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

2-A. Report on clear-cuts. When timber harvesting produces a clear-cut as defined in section 8868, the landowner shall report to the director the acreage of the clear-cut and the purpose of the clear-cut.
[PL 1997, c. 720, §16 (NEW).]

3. Reports. Reports required under subsections 1 and 2 are due during the month of January. If the period of cutting under subsection 1 or 2 extends beyond December 31st of any calendar year, a report must be submitted during the month of January for the preceding year. A person filing a harvest notification form pursuant to section 8883-B must complete and return to the bureau a harvest report whether or not the landowner has harvested that year.
[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §47 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

4. Confidentiality. Information contained in reports filed under this section may not be made public, except that summary reports may be published that use aggregated data that do not reveal the activities of an individual person or firm. Forms submitted pursuant to this section must be available for the use of the State Tax Assessor for the administration of Title 36.

[PL 2009, c. 568, §1 (AMD).]

5. Disclosure. Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the disclosure of information to duly authorized officers of the United States and of other states, districts and territories of the United States and of the provinces and Dominion of Canada. The information shall be given only on the written request of the duly authorized officer when that officer's government permits the exchange of similar information with the taxing officials of this State and when that officer agrees that the information shall be used only for tax collection purposes.

[PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

6. Failure to submit report; penalty. Failure to submit reports pursuant to this section constitutes a civil violation for which a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each failure may be adjudged.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §48 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 720, §§14-17 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §§F46-48 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 568, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8886. Reports

The director shall produce the following reports. [PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF).]

1. Harvesting practices. Utilizing a sample of forest landowner reports and any other appropriate survey methods, the director shall tabulate an annual survey of the methods of harvesting and the harvest practices employed. The information on harvesting must include, but is not limited to, the silvicultural prescriptions employed, the estimated acreage of various harvest methods, including clear-cutting, the extent of whole-tree harvesting of both solid and chipped wood, the number of clear-cuts over 75 acres in size, the total acres planted and the total acres precommercially thinned.

[PL 2011, c. 532, §11 (AMD).]

2. Annual price reports. The bureau shall publish, annually, a report on prices as specified below. These reports must be reported by zones as determined by the director and must include a statewide average of all zones.

A. The reports must include stumpage prices paid for forest tree species of the State as reported pursuant to section 8885. Prices for other forest products may be collected using acceptable survey techniques. [PL 1997, c. 720, §18 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2005, c. 133, §5 (RP).]

[PL 2005, c. 133, §5 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 720, §18 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 133, §5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 532, §11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§8887. Penalties

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 603, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §F49 (RP). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§8888. Enforcement

Enforcement of this subchapter shall be by any state, county or municipal law enforcement officer, including forest rangers and field foresters of the Bureau of Forestry and wardens of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. [PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 600, Pt. B, §11 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 555, §12 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 600, §B11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

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