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 forestopportunityroadmapME
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Strong forest. Strong economy. Strong communities.

Maine is 89% covered by one of the most advanced, productive, and sustainable “resources” imaginable – the forest. More than half of Maine’s forests are certified sustainable, meaning they are managed for the health of the forest, wildlife, water quality, and economic contributions to the surrounding communities. They reduce carbon emissions as they grow, provide habitat for a huge variety of wildlife, invite recreation, and foster quality of life for residents and tourists year round.

Maine forests are also a longtime, critical anchor for the state’s overall economy. For generations they have provided economic opportunity for Maine families and communities. Forest outputs can be made into a staggering array of products, from packaging and advanced building materials, to eco-friendly chemicals and biodegradable plastics (replacing harmful petro-chemicals), textiles, and cutting edge medical and technical products made from nanocellulose.

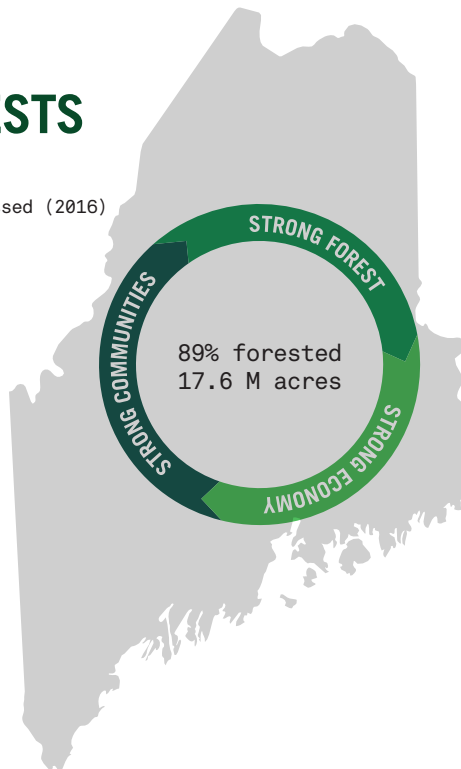
Technology, globalization, and evolving social trends are bringing change and new opportunities to Maine’s traditional forest economy. The industry is adapting and diversifying in response, developing new economic revenue streams to produce sustainable, bio-based products for both domestic and global markets – all while conserving natural lands for recreation, tourism, and wildlife. Maine’s forest communities are creating the conditions to attract investment and high-quality jobs to rural areas, including efforts to redevelop mill sites and improve broadband access in rural areas.

MAINE FORESTS

Wood Production
 13 M tons of wood processed (2016)

Economic Impact
 \$8.5 B industry
 \$1/20 Maine GDP

Job Creation
 35,000 jobs sustained
 1/24 jobs in Maine



Recreation
 Millions of acres of private working forests open for activities including fishing and hunting, hiking, rafting, canoeing and kayaking, skiing and snowmobiling, mountain biking

Wildlife
 Home for wildlife, including moose, white-tailed deer and black bear, bobcats and the endangered Canada lynx, hawks, owls and bald eagles, wild turkeys, and the largest population of native brook trout in the lower 48 states

WHAT IS FOR/MAINE?

Forest Opportunity Roadmap / Maine (FOR/Maine) is a unique cross-sector collaboration between industry, communities, government, education, and non-profits, which have come together to realize the next generation of Maine’s great forest economy.

The coalition was created with support from the U.S. Economic Development Agency and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to assess Maine’s current industry, assets and readiness, and determine a strategy to capitalize on new opportunities. We are combining collaborative actions, innovation, market and resource management expertise, and reliable data to guide smart investment and market expansion in the forest economy.

WHY MAINE FORESTS?

Maine forests have the attributes businesses and investors seek in renewable forest endeavors:

- Largest contiguous, privately owned working forest in the US: 16.3 million acres
- More than 50% certified sustainable
- Well-established forest industry infrastructure that can sustainably produce 13 million tons of wood per year
- Leading forestry school and forest products R&D facilities: University of Maine
- Proximity to the largest consumer market in the world: US eastern seaboard
- Deepwater ports offer direct shipping to Europe and around the world



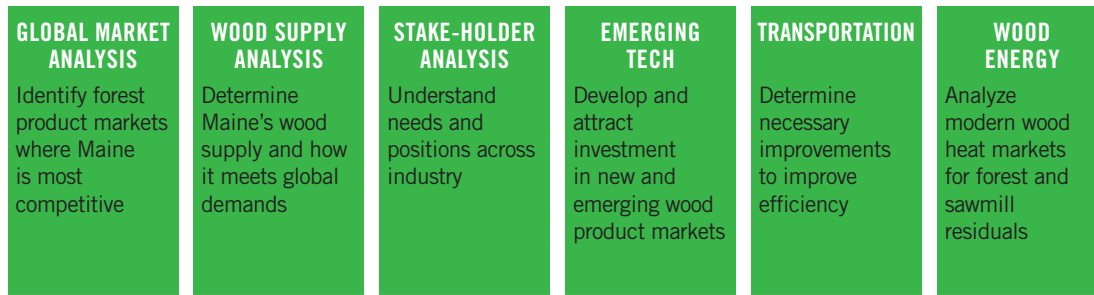
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WHAT IS FOR/MAINE DOING?

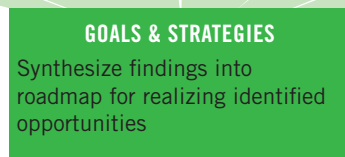
FOR/Maine’s purpose is to ensure that Maine adapts to market changes quickly and strategically in order to maintain our leading role in the global forest economy.

- Goal 1:** Sustain and strengthen Maine’s existing forest products businesses.
- Goal 2:** Attract capital investments and develop greater economic prosperity in the forest products sector, for both existing and new businesses across the state.
- Goal 3:** Support the revitalization of Maine’s rural communities as places where people want to live, work and visit.

DATA GATHERING



SYNTHESIS



IMPLEMENTATION



STEERING COMMITTEE

Patrick Strauch
 Maine Forest Products Council

Yellow Light Breen
 Maine Development Foundation

Donna Cassese
 Sappi North America

Tom Doak
 Maine Woodland Owners

Dana Doran
 Professional Logging Contractors (PLC) of Maine

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PARTNERS

