

A
MAINE
FOREST
READER

Contents

Brief History.....	2
Who Owns Maine.....	5
Maine's First Nations.....	7
Paper Plantation.....	9
Labor.....	12
Industrial Forestry.....	15
Low Impact Forestry.....	18
Conservation.....	20
Resistance.....	23
Wildlife.....	24
Renaming our Forests.....	26
Old Growth in Maine.....	44
Babies in the River.....	45
Forests for the Future...	51
Resources.....	54

Maine's forests are vast and beautiful, supporting human and non-human communities alike. Yet, their story is one of corporate colonization and ongoing oppression. This reader is meant to shed light on some of the forces at work in the Maine Woods and the effects they have on the state, and to inspire a desire to fight and protect our forests and their inhabitants from the powers that be. May Maine's wild forests regenerate, and overgrow the repressive industrial forces.

**COMPILED FOR THE 2004
EARTH FIRST!
ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS
HELD IN MID-COAST MAINE
JUNE 28-JULY 5**



Resources

Books

"Beyond the Beauty Strip: Saving What's Left of Our Forests" - Mitch Lansky
Radical critique of Industrial Forestry in the Maine Woods.

"The Paper Plantation" - William Osborn
Classic study of the Pulp and Paper industry in Maine and its colonial treatment of the Maine Woods.

"The Interrupted Forest: A History of Maine's Wildlands" - Neil Rolde
Extensive history of Maine's Forests from geologic time to present.

"Low Impact Forestry: Forestry as if the Future Mattered" - Mitch Lansky
In depth explanation of current methods of low-impact forestry using Maine as a case study.

"The Trees in My Forest" - Bernd Heinrich
Ecology of Maine's Forests

Websites

Forest Ecology Network
www.powerlink.net/fen
Group is no longer active but their website contains tons of information on Maine Forest Issues

Northern Appalachian Restoration Project/Northern Forest Forum
www.northernappalachianrestoration.org

Maine coalition for tribal sovereignty
<http://www.penobscotnation.org/coalition.htm>

Maine citizens for fair bear hunt-
www.fairbearhunting.org

Downeast Salmon Federation
www.mainesalmonrivers.org

Maine Wolf Coalition
<http://home.acadia.net/mainewolf/>

For more information on anything found in this reader contact:
cub@riseup.net



INDUSTRIAL COLONIZATION OF MAINE'S FORESTS

A BRIEF HISTORY

Maine's vast Forests have long been exploited and converted to capital, fueling the expansion of empire and corporate greed.

As early as the mid 1600's the Massachusetts Bay Colony began its imperial spread northward, occupying Native lands and displacing or killing off tribes such as the Abenakis, Pigwackets and Norridgewocks until there were only two major tribes remaining in the area which is now known as Maine, the Penobscot and the Passamaquoddy.

Britain relied on this New England Colony to supply ship masts for its powerful navy. One of the clauses of the Massachusetts charter specified that all trees large enough to be masts were property of the King. Surveyors were sent into the dense Maine Woods to mark the trees with an arrow sign, declaring the King's ownership of these forest giants. Eventually, most of Maine's virgin White Pines were hacked and dragged from the forest to build British war machines.

By the late 1700's the commonwealth of Massachusetts was independent of England, and could focus on expanding the new American empire. Through a series of deceptive treaties and land purchases such as the "Old Indian Purchase", the Penobscots and Passamaquoddies were tricked into relinquishing rights to their land, and were essentially forced onto isolated reservations.

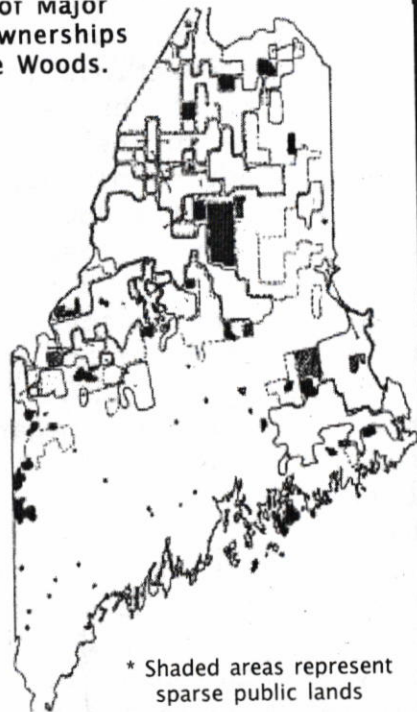
In 1820 Maine broke from Massachusetts and became independent, yet both states shared ownership of the public lands in Maine. However, due to the lack of settlement in Maine, the government saw no need for public land and began to auction it off to private interests, business persons and entrepreneurs.

Thus begun the timber industry in Maine. The Maine woods began attracting "timber barons" and speculators from Boston to New Brunswick. There was a frenzy of land sales as individuals and wealthy families purchased entire townships in the Maine Woods.

With the development of log "booms" on rivers such

Who Owns Maine?

Rough map of major Industrial Ownerships in the Maine Woods.



With Greater than 90% of its landscape covered in forests, Maine is the most forested state, percentage-wise in the nation. The 10.5 million acres that make up Maine's North Woods is the largest area of woodlands east of the Mississippi River. More than half of the state of Maine has never been settled or permanently developed.

The lack of development and settlement in the Maine Woods would lead one to believe that the area was ripe with protected public land, parks and reserves. Yet, **Maine has the smallest proportion of public land of any similarly forested state.**

Landowner	Acres
Irving Woodlands	1,570,000
International Paper	1,200,000
Pingree Associates	941,000
State of Maine	919,000
Plum Creek	905,000
Prentiss & Carlisle Inc.	860,000
Bayroot	518,000
Sunrise Tree Farm	445,000
U.S. Government	191,000
Passamaquoddy Tribe	138,000
Penobscot Nation	123,000

***Irving, International Paper, and Pingree all own more land in Maine than the state itself.**

***Irving owns more than six times the amount of land of held by both of Maine's remaining first nations combined.**

Approximately 94% of Maine's lands are under private ownership. There is almost no National Forest land in Maine. The small amount that does exist is an extension of New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest that spreads into Western Maine.

Maine has the highest concentration of industrial land ownership of any state in the U.S. Nearly 10 million acres, or 57% of Maine's forests are owned by industrial and institutional landowners with interests in timber harvesting.

The small amount of public land in Maine has been justified by the fact that industrial owners traditionally allow access to their land for recreation. Yet, the constant swapping of land-ownership among various large industrial owners makes it difficult to trust the future of our forests.

Besides, what kind of life can be supported by industrial forests full of clearcuts, compacted skidder trails, toxic herbicide sprays??

cides. Almost half of the agricultural chemicals used on US crops are applied to cotton. (*not to mention soybeans, and tree farms and replants*)

Hemp produces more pulp per acre than timber on a sustainable basis, and can be used for every quality of paper. Hemp's low lignin content reduces the need for acids used in pulping, and it's creamy color lends itself to environmentally friendly bleaching instead of harsh chlorine compounds. Less bleaching results in less dioxin and fewer chemical byproducts. (*and less cancer and less air pollution and less toxic rivers and less bioaccumulated toxins threatening keystone predators*)

Hemp fiber paper resists decomposition, and does not yellow with age when an acid-free process is used. Hemp paper more than 1,500 years old has been found. It can also be recycled more times. Hemp fiberboard produced by Washington State University was found to be twice as strong as wood-based fiberboard. Eco-friendly hemp can replace most toxic petrochemical products. Research is being done to use hemp in manufacturing biodegradable plastic products plant-based cellophane, recycled plastic mixed with hemp for injection-molded products, and resins made from the oil to name just a very few examples.

The Creative Universe:

Sometimes I start to feel like it's all hopeless and doomed. But then I go for a walk in the woods, and I am moved by the clarity of the forest, the tendency of life to persevere. Trees want to grow. And certainly will long after I am rotting back into the soil that created me. I want to believe that We will create sustainable alternatives to forest fibers. I want to believe that We will save the remaining wild places, and their spirit and diversity will propagate outward, spreading beauty and strength. And if it doesn't? Well, don't you love it enough that you would fight for it anyway?

FREE THE LAND!

Hemp is among the oldest industries on the planet, going back more than 10,000 years to the beginnings of pottery. The (insert some pretentious authoritative book here) states that the oldest relic of human industry is a bit of hemp fabric dating back to approximately 8,000 BC. Presidents Washington and Jefferson both grew hemp. (*and held slaves and created the capitalist republic that we now live in*) Americans were legally bound to grow hemp during the Colonial Era and Early Republic. The federal government subsidized hemp during the Second World War and US farmers grew about a million acres of hemp as part of that program. (*just a brilliant illustration of our governments continued hypocrisy*) Hemp Seed is far more nutritious (*and sustainable*) than even soybeans, contains more essential fatty acids than any other source, is second only to soybeans in complete protein (but is more digestible by humans), is high in B-vitamins, and is 35% dietary fiber. The bark of the hemp stalk contains bast fibers which are among the Earth's longest natural soft fibers and are also rich in cellulose; the cellulose and hemi-cellulose in its inner woody core are called hurds. Hemp fiber is longer, stronger, more absorbent and more insulative than cotton fiber. (*Hemp cultivation also stacks functions. . its possible to get seeds, long fiber for cloth and short fiber for paper from the same crop. And still have left over biomass for burning.*)

As a biomass fuel producer hemp requires the least specialized growing and processing procedures of all hemp products. The hydrocarbons in hemp can be processed into a wide range of biomass energy sources, from fuel pellets to liquid fuels and gas. Development of biofuels could significantly reduce our consumption of fossil fuels and nuclear power. (*and could increase our dependence on fossil fuel dependant genetically engineered, pesticide and fertilizer dependant mono-cropped industrial agriculture.*)

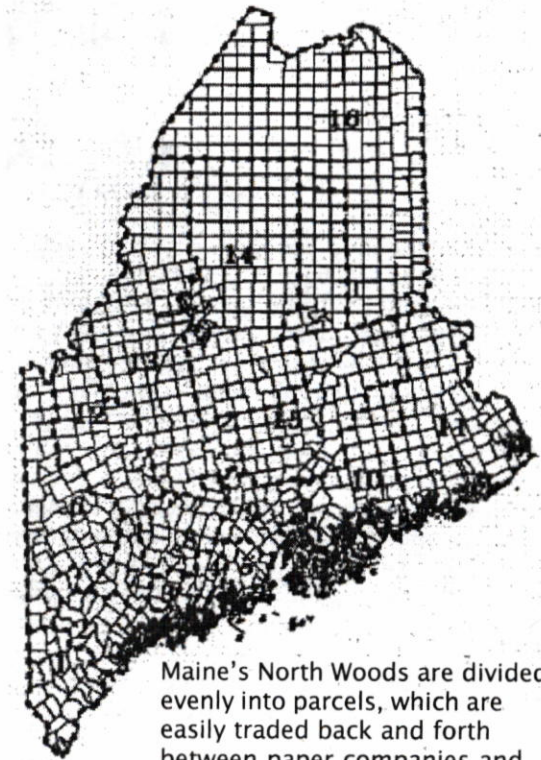
Hemp grows well without herbicides, fungicides, or pesti

Maine's Unorganized Territories

Roughly 2/3 of Maine is comprised of the Unorganized territories.

These territories have no forms of local government and are administered by the state's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC).

Many of the unorganized territories have no permanent residents and have names such as "T8 R14" and "Township E". Some territories are referred to as "plantations". The gridlike distribution of these townships seems to facilitate the frequent swapping of land in this area back and forth from one large corporate owner to the next.



Maine's North Woods are divided evenly into parcels, which are easily traded back and forth between paper companies and corporations in the timber industry

2 Maines

In Northern and Eastern Maine, income is low and poverty and unemployment rates are high. Meanwhile, York and Cumberland counties in Southern Maine are prosperously growing. The widening economic gap between the North and South is intimately connected to the exploitative forest industry.

Northern Maine is also depopulating as the forest industry is declining. Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington counties have lost 6% of their combined population in the past decade. Forest dependent towns Millinocket and Allagash have lost almost 1/4 of their populations after the paper industry cut and ran. T

Corporate landowners are not good neighbors.

In the Maine woods, paper companies and other industrial landowners from out of state have done little to support the local communities where they own land.

Corporations and investors in Maine are often subsidized by the state government through generous tax-breaks. With credit systems such as the Business Equipment Property Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR) and the Tax Increment Financing agreement (TIF), revenues from property taxes are redirected from local municipalities to the corporations themselves. There are no restrictions or requirements such as the creation of jobs or the raising of wages and benefits in order for corporations to be eligible for these tax-breaks.

Reminiscent of military occupations, industrial landowners in towns such as Allagash divide up their landholdings with gates, charging daily fees for passage. This means that local residents have to go through checkpoints and pay to travel throughout their own community



SOVEREIGNTY

Indigenous people across the globe have been murdered, displaced and unrecognized by colonizers and hypocritical governments. The Native tribes of the land now known as Maine are no exception. British settlers killed off and displaced many of Maine's first nations upon their arrival, and the abuse of native peoples continues to this day.

The major tribes in Maine were once organized under the Wabanaki (roughly translated as "Eastern") confederacy, which was made up of the Abenaki, Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes. However many of these people were forced north into Canada by the imperialist Puritan commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Mi'kmaq, Abenaki, and Maliseet tribes are now recognized as sovereign in Canada. While there are small bands of Maliseets and Mi'kmaq across the border in Northern Maine, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy are the only remaining tribes with a large presence in the state.

In the words of the U.S. Supreme Court: "Indian Nations are distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries, within which their authority is exclusive...". Yet, Maine tribes repeatedly have this sovereignty denied to them.

Indian Land Claims Controversy

In the 1970s, Native tribes began to enact lawsuits to enforce their rights under federal common-law and the Nonintercourse Act, which states that treaties enacted after 1790 are legally null and void if they were not ratified by congress. In Maine, tribes argued that their tribal right to possession was still in force because certain treaties were never even brought before congress.

A lawyer working on behalf of the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy tribe brought this case to federal court in 1972 and after much deliberation, proved that roughly 2/3 of Maine's land area was unjustly taken from Tribes. The Maine congressional delegation made attempts to extinguish all Native claims to the land. However, with the support of President Carter, what was then thought to be a landmark settlement was made.

In 1980, in exchange for the extinguishment of their land claims, a federal appropriation of \$81.5 million was divided evenly between the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy tribe for the purpose of purchasing land, and establishing a trust.

However, there is a clause in the settlement agreement which states that any federal Indian law passed will not apply to Maine Tribes, unless the federal law expressly directs that it shall apply to those specific Maine Tribes. This loophole allows the state of Maine to govern Maine tribes as municipalities, rather than as sovereign entities.

Water Quality

The lives of the Wabanakis were intertwined with the river. They

the yield for pine trees, which can take from 7 to 40 years to reach harvestable size. At the end of the growing season, the kenaf plant flowers. After blooming the flower drops off, leaving a seed pod behind. In almost all parts of the U.S. the seeds can never mature. Because of their African origin they require an additional 60-90 days of frost free conditions to reach the point of germination. This means kenaf cannot run wild across the country like a weed. It also presents some interesting challenges for developers to insure a consistent supply of seed for next year's crop

So kenaf is not indigenous. . . , but it can't invade because it doesn't get mature enough to produce seeds. But if it doesn't mature enough to produce seeds, it obviously isn't sustainable. . .

The stalk of the kenaf plant consists of two distinct fiber types. The outer fiber is called "bast" and comprises roughly 40% of the stalk's dry weight. The refined bast fibers measure 2.6mm and are similar to the best softwood fibers used to make paper. The whiter, inner fiber is called "core", and comprises 60% of the stalk's dry weight. These refined fibers measure .6mm and are comparable to hardwood tree fibers, which are used in a widening range of paper products.

Upon harvest, the whole kenaf plant is processed in a mechanical fiber separator, similar to a cotton gin. The separation of the two fibers allows for independent processing and provides raw materials for a growing number of products including paper, particle board, animal bedding and bioremediation aids.

Mechanical separation sounds dangerously industrial and fossil fuel dependant to me. . . though the potential of the plant to meet more than one need sounds great. . . stacking functions

completely interwoven. (INTERDEPENDENCE)

In addition to smashing capitalism and defending the remaining forests, we must also focus on how to build sustainable solutions. We can find alternative materials to tree fiber, such as kenaf and hemp. However, growing these crops in enough volume to satisfy current demands for forest products would require clearing vast tracts of land for their cultivation. Cutting down the forest to save the forest. Therefore, we need to first drastically reduce our demand for these kinds of products. It is the same paradigm that we are seeing with energy right now. Everyone is jumping up and down about biodiesel and solar panels, but before we can successfully transition to sustainable energy we must cut our energy consumption by two-thirds. The earth only receives one third as much energy from sun as what we use up everyday. In both cases, the runaway consumption fueled by the greed and selfishness of capitalism will prevent us from achieving sustainability. When was the last time you saw folks all excited to give up toilet paper? If the shift doesn't happen voluntarily, then it will happen forcefully as the system breaks under its own weight. It is physically impossible for things to continue the way they are. Industrial collapse is just a matter of time. To that end, we should work on finding ways to meet our fiber needs without industrial processes. Especially if we still want to write zines post-industrial collapse.

Kenaf and Hemp-Plenty of Potential

Kenaf is a 4,000 year old crop with roots in ancient Africa. A member of the hibiscus family (*Hibiscus cannabinus* L), it is related to cotton and okra, and grows well in many parts of the US. Kenaf grows quickly, rising to heights of 12-14 feet in as little as 4 to 5 months kenaf yields of 6 to 10 tons of dry fiber per acre per year are generally 3 to 5 times greater

built their villages on the banks of rivers and relied upon them for food, transportation and medicine. Today, Maine's great rivers are named after native tribes including the Penobscot, Saco, Androscoggin and Kennebec (although these are really English versions of the original Abenaki names).

Today, the Penobscot river remains the home to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe and has been the subject of a major clash between the natives and the Maine State government. The water in the Penobscot has been polluted for years by Dioxin discharge from Paper Mills along the river, such as the Lincoln Pulp and Paper Company. It is no longer safe to eat fish from the river, thus preventing the tribes from subsisting in their traditional way.

The paper companies want their water discharges to be governed by the State Department of Environmental Protection. However, the tribes assert that state officials are too beholden to corporate interests and want the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the rivers running through their lands. Three paper companies asked the tribes to turn over documents that relate to their water quality monitoring. The tribes refused, saying that as sovereign entities they are not subject to the access law. Water quality is an internal tribal matter.

As political sovereigns, the Tribes do not recognize the authority of the state over any matters that affect their health and welfare. After years of dispute, the EPA announced last year that the federal government would take control over the tribes water treatment facilities, but that the state would retain control over the rivers. The Penobscots and Passamaquoddies will not settle for this compromise and have appealed the decision in federal court.

Casino Development

A referendum on behalf of Native tribes to build a Casino in Sanford was crushed in November of 2003. Maine continued its tradition of suppressing tribal sovereignty in a decision that appeared more anti-natives than anti-gambling because during the same voting period, a referendum passed allowing the installation of slot machines at a harness racing facility.

While the construction of Casinos would surely have a negative impact on the fragile ecosystems and wildlife in the proposed site, continuing the sprawl and development that has been consuming many of Maine's wild places, the issue is not one of conservation. The issue is the sovereign rights of Maine's first nations, who should not be prevented from independent economic development on their lands.

Liquefied Natural Gas

LNG is a concentrated, highly flammable fuel. A site hosting an LNG receiving port would face many environmental threats, including disruption of local fishing operations, and possible catastrophic accidents including the spread of hazardous vapors or thermal damage. LNG ports have already been rejected by locals in Harpswell, Sears Island, and the Portland Offshore area. The newest target for LNG developers is Pleasant Point, on Passamaquoddy Tribal land. While an LNG port may provide much needed jobs and economic development for the tribe, the Passamaquoddy are clearly being targeted for this destructive endeavor now that wealthier communities, with the ability to do so have said NO to LNG.