

Culturally & Economically Important Nontimber Forest Products of Northern Maine

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<http://www.nsrcforest.org>

Summary: Culturally & Economically Important Nontimber Forest Products of Northern Maine

Research goals:

- Document NTFPs and their uses in the St. John River watershed
- Record gatherers' traditional ecological knowledge about NTFP species
- Explore factors that condition access to NTFPs
- Identify strategies for sustainable management of NTFPs

Major findings:

- ❖ More than 120 species of wild plants and fungi
- ❖ Important to people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, esp. Native Americans.
- ❖ Extensive traditional ecological knowledge
- ❖ Reduced access to NTFPs
- ❖ Opportunities to assure a future for NTFPs and gathering



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Background: Continuity & Change in northern Maine

- Long history of NTFP use
 - Personal
 - Cultural
 - Commercial
- Maine's tradition of public access to private lands



Photo by Tony Bush, Rose Lake Plants Materials Center,



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Background: Continuity & Change in northern Maine

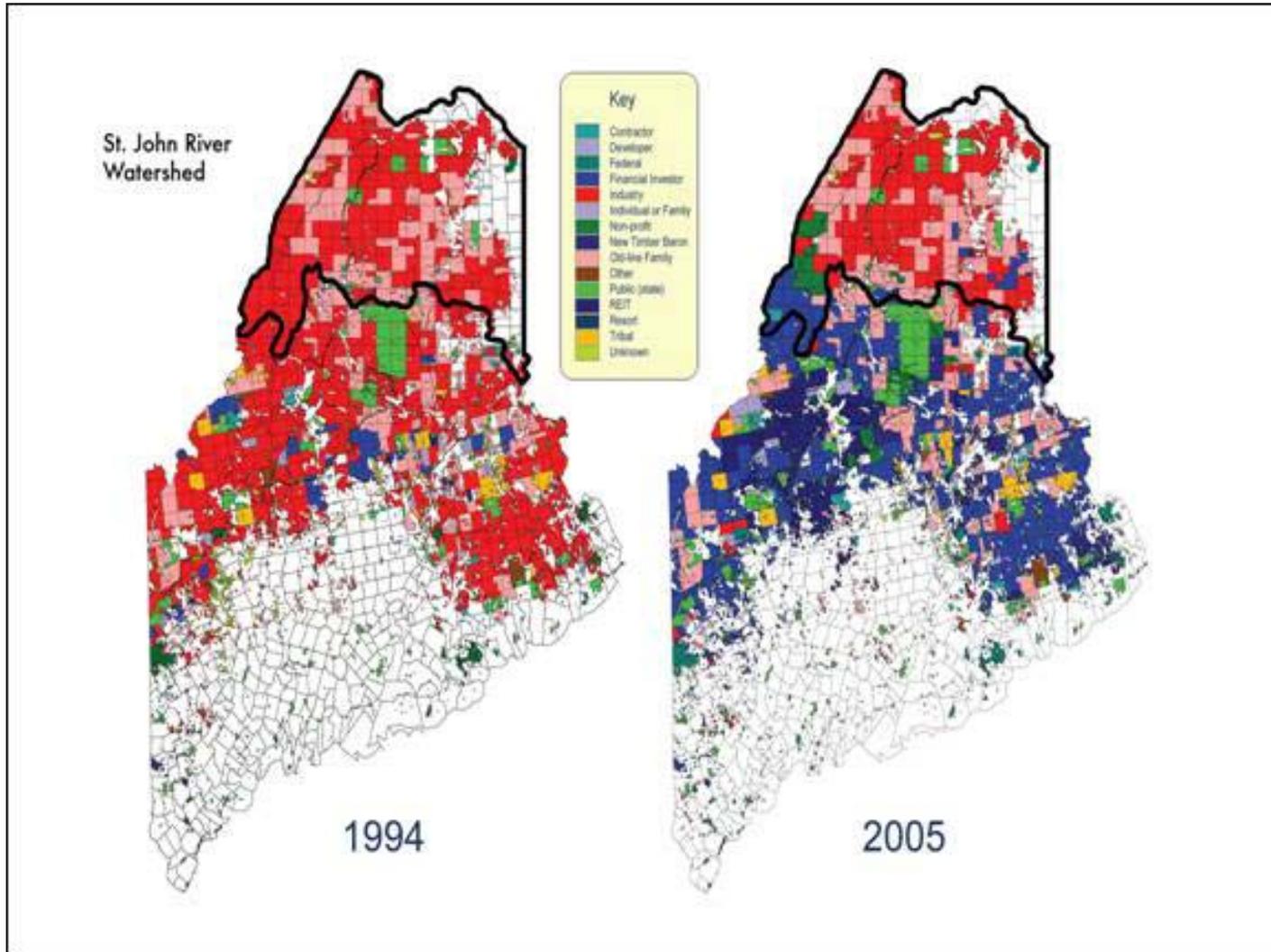
- Decline in forest industry landownership
 - 1994 -- 59% of large tract ownership (>5000 acres)
 - 2005 – 15.5% of large tract ownership
- New types of owners
 - Timberland/financial investors
 - Private individuals
 - Non-profit organizations
- Eroding access
- Changes prominent in central Maine & heading north



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Land ownership change in Maine, 1994-2005.

St. John River Watershed outlined in black.



(Adapted from Hagan, Irland and Whitman, 2005)

Methods I: Getting the lay of the land & assuring research ethics

- Archival research
 - Maine Folklife Center
 - University of Maine libraries
 - Acadian Archives
- Honoring participants' wishes



Photo by Michelle Baumflek



Photo courtesy of Maine Natural Areas Program

Methods II: Ethnography

- Interviews
- Participant observation



Photo by Mr. MacDonald



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Methods III: Qualitative Data Management & Analysis

- Transcription
- Coding
- Reliability



Results I: NTFP species & uses

Over 120 species of wild plants & fungi⁺

	Aesthetic	Craft	Food	Medicinal	Spiritual	utilitarian
# species	5	32	55	58	7	11

Diverse livelihood uses

	Gift	Personal use	Sale processed	Sale raw	Trade
# species	14	100	45*	4	33

+ Cells do not add up to 120 because many species have multiple uses.

* 23 of 45 species sold in a processed form were mentioned by a single individual, who makes and sells medicinal remedies.

Results II: NTFP knowledge

- Sources
 - Family, friends & community elders
 - Books
 - Internet
- Sharing
 - Family, friends & community
 - Workshops & classes



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Results III: Gathering locations

- Private land owned by self, family, &/or friends
- Private land owned by others
- Industrial forestland
- Public land
- Tribal land



Results IV: NTFPs & celebrations

- Beauty
- Joy
- Special qualities
- Sacred uses



Results V: Changes in access

- Increased posting
- Decreasing access to NTFPs
- Native American gatherers especially affected
 - Special, widely dispersed habitats
 - Limited landownership



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Results VI: Environmental change

- Changes in NTFP populations & distribution
 - Natural succession
 - Land use & management
- Safety of foods & medicinals
 - Herbicides
 - Pesticides
 - Road sides



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Implications and applications in the Northern Forest region

- NTFPs are important to people throughout the Northern Forest region.
 - Local food systems
 - Household livelihoods & (small) businesses
 - Connect people to land
 - Family traditions
 - Cultural identity



Photo by Mark Twery

- Changes in land use and landownership throughout the Northern Forest region could curtail NTFP use before we understand what is at stake socially and ecologically.

Future directions

- Management plans for culturally significant NTFP species.
- Exploration of similarities and differences in NTFP systems in other Northern Forest region localities.



Photo courtesy of Green Mountain National Forest



List of products I



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

PUBLICATIONS

- Baumflek, M.J., M.R. Emery, & C. Ginger. 2010. *Culturally & Economically Important Nontimber Forest Products of Northern Maine*. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-68. Newtown Square, PA: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. (available online at <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/36175>)
- Ginger, C., M.R. Emery, M.J. Baumflek & D.E. Putnam. In review. Access to resources on private property: beyond right of entry. *Society & Natural Resources*

WEBSITE

http://nrs.fs.fed.us/sustaining_forests/conserv_e/special_products/maine_ntfp/

List of products II



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Baumflek, M.J., M.R. Emery, C.Ginger and D. Putnam. "Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ecology for Sustainable Collaborative Management of Non-timber Forest Products in the Northern Forest". Poster presentation given at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, MA, April 15-19, 2008.
- Baumflek, M.J., M.R. Emery, C. Ginger and D. Putnam. "Wild Plant and Fungi Use in Northern Maine: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Changing Land Ownership", Poster presentation given at the annual meeting of the University of Maine Board of Trustees, Presque Isle, Maine, May 17-20, 2008.
- Baumflek, M.J., M.R. Emery, C. Ginger, and D. Putnam. "Wild Plant and Fungi Use in Northern Maine: Traditional ecological knowledge and changing land ownership". Poster presentation given to the Society of Economic Botany, Duke University, Durham, N.C. June 1-5, 2008.
- Baumflek, M.J., M.R. Emery, C.Ginger and D. Putnam. "Traditional ecological knowledge and land management regimes: assessing uses of wild plants and fungi in northern Maine". Paper presentation given at the International Symposium of Society and Resource Management, June 11-14, 2008.
- Ginger, C., M.J. Baumflek, M.R. Emery, and D.E. Putnam. "Broadening definitions of access to natural resources on private property: dimensions beyond right of entry." Paper presentation given at the International Symposium of Society and Resource Management, Corpus Christi, TX. June 6-10, 2010.

List of Products III

CURRICULUM MATERIALS FOR K – 12

- Diverse economies (social studies, economics)
- Eating in season (social studies, geography, local & regional history)
- Wild nutrition (health & home economics, biology, extensions for chemistry & mathematics)
- Wild plants, gathering, & sustainability (biology, ecology)



Photo by Michelle Baumflek

Research Team



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