

Lumber markets change quickly, and in order to protect Park resources and respond effectively, flexibility is paramount. Quality, science-based and economically sound forest management depends on market opportunities. If we restrict these opportunities, we restrict our management.

The SFMA is located in a region that has long been closely associated with Canadian mills. The haul distances to these mills are equidistant or shorter than Maine mills.

Markets available for SFMA woodsales have been reduced in recent years, and last fall mill-delivered prices for spruce and fir dropped dramatically in Maine. In order to prevent a revenue shortfall, we sold much of our spruce and pine to mills in Quebec. Maintaining the flexibility to do so in the future affords us some assurance of continued markets, and we can pass this stability on to our contractors and keep them employed here in Maine.

The SFMA Advisory Committee has recommended that the policy below be maintained in intent, but made more flexible by the removal of the last sentence. The intent of the policy, to ensure that Maine markets are given preference when limited difference between specifications and price exist, will remain.

Current Policy (28 April 2010):

It is the first priority of Baxter State Park to sell forest products harvested in the Scientific Forest Management Area to intrastate mills and markets.

Baxter State Park may exercise the option to sell forest products harvested in the Scientific Forest Manager Area to mills and markets outside the State of Maine when one or more of the following conditions are met:

Utilization standards allow increased volume to be processed into higher value products.

For example: a smaller top size or greater **butt** rot allowance allows more spruce to be sold as sawlogs versus pulpwood or a tie-log market allows low-grade hardwood logs to be sold as sawlogs versus pulpwood.

Markets exist for species products that do not exist in Maine.

For example: red pine poles.

Net delivered price at Maine markets is 10% or more below the net delivered price at a non-Maine market.

On a rolling five-year average the Park will not exercise this option for more than 30% of the annual allowable cut.

Proposed changes: (remove highlighted text)

Remove: "butt"

Remove: "On a rolling five-year average the Park will not exercise this option for more than 30% of the annual allowable cut."