

## **The Vermont Legislative Research Service**

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New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island present a diverse array of forest management practices in their policies for timber theft, forms for harvest, and trip tickets. The states employ different strategies to maintain their forests, clearly exhibiting different priorities.

Rhode Island requires timber theft offenders to pay the owner of a tree twice the value of any tree cut and three times the value of wood or underwood garnered from the tree.<sup>1</sup> In addition to any other applicable civil or criminal penalty allowed by law, New Hampshire requires a penalty of no less than three or more than ten times the market value of every tree.<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts punishes offenders in civil court by imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine up to \$500; but, if the offense is committed on a Sunday, in disguise, or secretly during the night, the imprisonment is not more than five days and the fine is not less than \$5.





When logging on privately owned lands, states have slightly different regulations. In New York a state permit is not necessary for harvesting timber specifically, but a state permit is required when crossing certain classified streams, working in certain designated wetlands, or for clear-cuts over 25 acres in the Adirondack Park." <sup>24</sup>

~~In New Hampshire, any logging must file a Forestry Notification Form with the Department of Environmental Services, along with a Notice of Intent to Cut with the township or municipality where logging occurs.~~ <sup>25</sup> Additional forms are required if the harvest would remove more than 50% of the Basal Area in the harvest lot or if the timber lot may affect wetland areas. <sup>26</sup>

forms state that harvesting will be “conducted according to Best Management Practices and Rule 6.02 (exempt activities) of DEM’s [Department of Environmental Management] regulations governing the Freshwater Wetlands Act,” the need for an additional wetlands permit is eliminated.<sup>32</sup>

Trip tickets are uncommon in these five states; only Maine requires trip tickets for timber harvesting. Each truckload of wood transported must be accompanied by a trip ticket which contains the following: the date the wood is hauled, the name of the landowner, the town of origin, the name of the contractor, the name or names of the cutting crew, the name of the hauler, the destination of the wood (both town and customer), and the signature of the truck driver.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, the trip ticket must have the harvest notification form number, filed with the Bureau of Forestry in -ii7( c5 )TJ-0cup ET5)14(4(o)8Tns)6( t)10(he)3( )10(fo)2(l)4(l)4(o)2(w) 1e2eJ-0.( fi)43

require trip tickets. Each state surveyed has a highly individualized system for tree harvest on both public and private lands.

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This report was completed on February 23, 2016 by Laura Felone, Tracy Guion, and Evan Leonard under the supervision of Professors Jack Gierzynski, Robert Bartlett and Eileen Burgin in response to a request from Representative Kesha Ram and other members of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

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