

TIMBER SALE INTERVIEW SCRIPT

Thank you for meeting with us and helping us understand more about you and your land. We're grateful to you for taking the time to meet with us. Landowners like you are making decisions about their land every day, and our project seeks to shed light on this important process. Since more than 75% of the woodland in Massachusetts and other states is owned by people like you, the decisions they make strongly effects the future of all lands. We believe this interview will take about 45-60 minutes. Is that ok?

Everything we learn from you will be confidential and not used in any way that can connect your name with answers or results. Likewise, we'll be asking about other people you know and may have provided you with advice about woodland. Their names will not be used in our research, either. All results and information will be held anonymously.

If you have any questions about our project or the questions we are asking, please do not hesitate to ask us as we move along. Do you have any now?

We have an informed consent form that we'd like to share with you, and have you sign, if you agree. We will leave a copy with you, too, and it has information on how to contact us if you have questions in the future. This informed consent form assures that we will maintain the information confidentially, and all results will be anonymous.

Let's start by asking some basic questions about you and your land.

Basics about the Your Land and the Timber Sale

1. In what year did you acquire your land? _____

2. How did you acquire your land (inherit? Purchase?)

INHERIT PURCHASE OTHER: _____

3. How many acres do you own? [if needed]

4. How important are the following possible reasons for owning woodlands to you?

	Unimportant					Important		
Current home site	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Income from land	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Recreation	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Legacy for family	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Protect wildlife and/or wildlife habitat	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Protect the environment	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Enjoy scenery	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	
Other:	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	

5. Gender FEMALE MALE

6. In what year were you born? _____

7. How far from the land where the harvest occurred do you live (that is, permanent residence)?

- On or beside it
- 0-10 miles away
- 11-25 miles away
- 26-50 miles away
- 51-100 miles away
- more than 100 miles away

8. Whether you live on, beside, near, or far from your property, how often do you spend time in your woodlands for any reason. Please choose the one that best describes your experience over the course of an entire year.

- Once or more per week
- Once or twice per month
- Once or twice every 3 months
- Once or twice per year
- Less than once per year

9. What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed?

- Grade 11 or less
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college
- College graduate
- Graduate or professional school

10. What was your total household income in 2007, before taxes and from all sources?

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

11. What is/was your primary profession? If retired, please denote.

_____ RETIRED: YES NO

Assessing the Timber Sale

12. Please briefly describe the circumstances that led you to consider harvesting timber. For example, ***prompt (use all, or more than 1)***: did someone contact you? Did you need the \$? Was it part of your management plan?

13. At the time of the timber sale, was there a written management plan for the property?

YES

NO

I don't know

14. Was there a written, signed timber sale contract?

YES

NO

15. How would you rate the outcome?

-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Overall Negative						Overall Positive
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Ecologically bad						Ecologically good
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Not worth the effort						Worth the effort
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Would NOT recommend to others						Would recommend to others
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Financially bad						Profitable

16. How would you describe the process? (everything leading up to the outcome)

-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Difficult						Easy
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Negative						Positive

17. If I had to do it over again...

I would do it exactly the same.

I would do it mostly the same.

I would do it differently.

I would not do it again.

} Please explain.

Role in timber sale; rating of *degree of involvement in the decision to do it* . Please note that involvement may not be limited to knowledge or actual effort. It could reflect someone's "moral support" or assistance in helping you "think through" the process.

Interviewer takes the list and goes down person by person, asking the subject to identify whether or not each person was involved or influential with the timber sale. 0= not involved

1= involved,. [prompt] For example, *involved or influential* might mean: gave advice on other people to talk to, gave you the name of a logger or forester, talked to you about their experience, provided direct professional advice or service.

13. Did you attend any workshops or other educational events that informed your decision-making? [please describe each]

a	
b	
c	
d	
e	

14. Did you read any materials (Internet sites, books, publications) that informed your decision-making? [please describe each]

A	
B	
C	
D	
e	

Prompt: before we move on, is there *anyone else* to add to the list? We've been away from it...

16. For each *person rated 1 or greater in terms of involvement*, please complete a VIP form. When completed, please rank the VIPs in terms of importance to outcome. If the interviewee did not identify the logger as an important or influential source, please complete a form for the logger as well.

Closing statement.

Thank you very much for your time today. We really appreciate your help with our study. The collective future of Massachusetts forests depends on the decisions made by thousands of private woodland owners like you. Our study aims to help design the best programs to help landowners make decisions in the future.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the study, and keep your copy of the consent form so you can contact us if you have any future questions.

VIP INTERVIEW SCRIPT

VIP Name/ID: _____

1. Please rate this individual contribution to your decision-making along the following dimensions.

EXPERTISE						
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Low						High
TRUST						
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Trustworthy						Not trustworthy
ACCESSIBILITY						
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Difficult						Easy
INFORMATION PROVIDED?						
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Useless						Useful
<i>Shared values?</i>						
Dissimilar						Similar
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
OVERALL ASSESSMENT						
Negative						Positive
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

2. Did you pay for the services of this person? Yes No

3. Is this individual a relative?

YES NO

4. Would you consider this individual a close friend?

YES NO

5. How frequently do you talk or visit with this individual?

- Once or more per week
- Once or twice per month
- Once or twice every 3 months
- Once or twice per year
- Less than once per year
- I only had contact with this individual during the process.

6. To your knowledge, does this individual own forestland?

YES NO

If YES, please identify the location: _____
(to determine if they are also woodland owners, too, and if proximity or ecological characteristics matter).

7. Is this individual a neighbor?

YES NO

If NO, is this individual a "local" (that is, lives close by or in the same town)?

YES NO

8. Is this individual a forester or similar resource professional?

YES NO

9. Is this individual a logger?

YES NO

10. If this individual was involved in the actual timber sale process, please describe their role. Please note if you had a specific business relationship to them (e.g., he bought the timber, my consulting forester, the mill's forester, etc.).

11. Anything else to know about this individual?