

## The Maine SBW Task Force Report

Leading authorities on the spruce budworm (SBW) and various aspects of Maine's forest resources address the following key aspects of the coming outbreak:

- Wood supply & economic impacts
- Monitoring & protection
- Forest management
- Policy, regulation, & funding
- Wildlife habitat
- Public communications & outreach
- Research priorities

Awareness about the coming SBW outbreak among forest landowners and managers, members of the forest products industry, state and federal government officials, wildlife biologists, forest researchers, the news media, community leaders, and interested members of the public is vital as we prepare for and respond to the coming outbreak. This report helps Maine's forestry community learn from previous successes, avoid past mistakes, and take advantage of new opportunities.



## Resources

The full *Spruce Budworm Assessment and Preparation Plan* report is available online: [sprucebudwormmaine.org/task-force](http://sprucebudwormmaine.org/task-force)

**Center for Research on Sustainable Forests**  
(SBW outbreak status, background, ongoing research)  
[crsf.umaine.edu/maine-spruce-budworm-outbreak](http://crsf.umaine.edu/maine-spruce-budworm-outbreak)

**Maine Forest Service**  
(Entomology)  
[maineforestservice.gov](http://maineforestservice.gov)

**Maine Forest Products Council**  
(Issues and education)  
[maineforest.org](http://maineforest.org)

**Northeast Forest Information Source**  
(Archival information)  
[umaine.edu/nefis](http://umaine.edu/nefis)

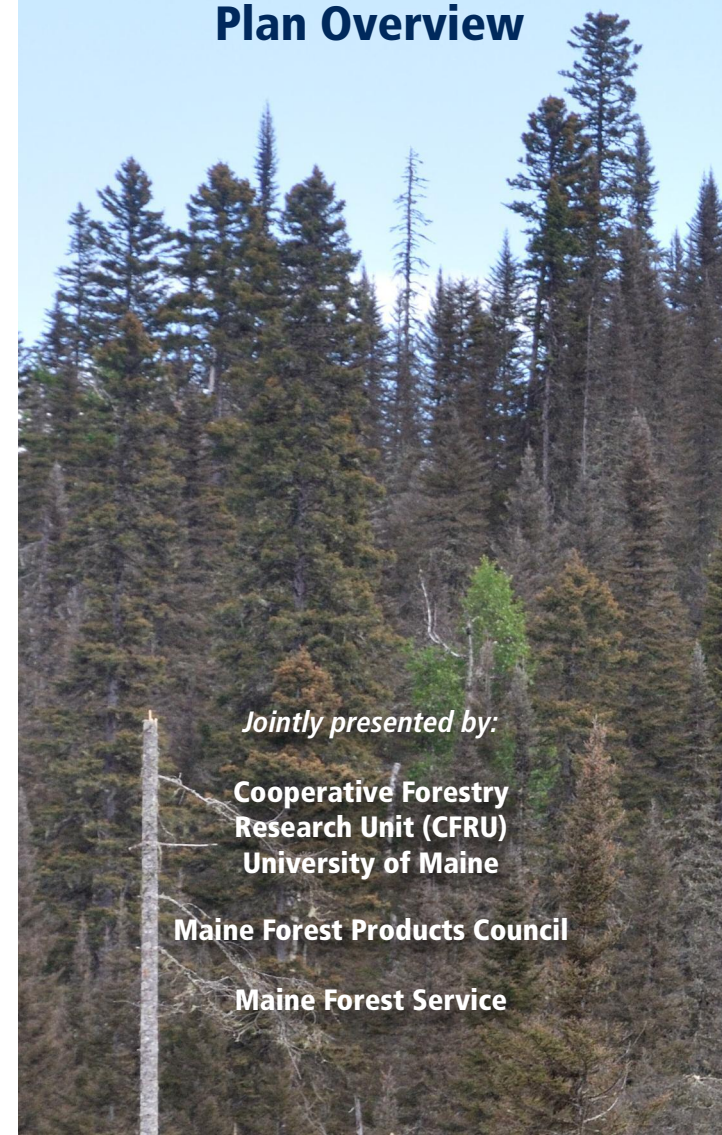


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## Spruce Budworm Assessment and Preparation Plan Overview



*Jointly presented by:*

**Cooperative Forestry  
Research Unit (CFRU)  
University of Maine**

**Maine Forest Products Council**

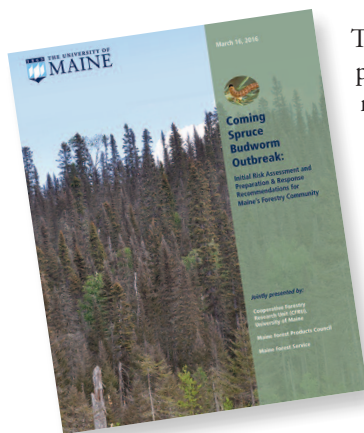
**Maine Forest Service**





View from Mount Katahdin during the 1980s shows the large area of trees killed by spruce budworm. *Photo courtesy of David Field*

## How Can Maine's Forestry Community Prepare?



The following is a partial list of recommendations from *“Coming Spruce Budworm Outbreak: Initial Risk Assessment and Preparation & Response Recommendations for Maine’s Forestry Community.”*

## Status, Potential Risks, and Response

**Over 15 million acres of spruce-fir forest have been defoliated by the spruce budworm in Quebec.**

**The spruce budworm population is growing rapidly across northern Maine.**

**5.8 million acres of Maine's spruce-fir forest, containing 27 million cords of merchantable balsam fir, are at risk of defoliation and death.**

**The impact of the coming outbreak can be reduced by adapting harvest operations now, protecting foliage with insecticide, and salvaging dead and dying trees.**

**Without action, the annual economic impact of the coming outbreak could reach almost \$800 million.**

- Participate in monitoring efforts such as moth trap counting.
- Regularly communicate with government agencies and other landowners to understand how the infestation is moving.
- Map location, condition, and concentration of high-risk stands on forestlands.
- Seek and encourage markets for low-value trees.
- Adapt harvest activities before or as early as possible into the outbreak to reduce the area of high-risk stands.
- Prepare for the possibility of applying insecticide to protect foliage in high-risk and high-value stands not ready for harvest.
- Prepare to salvage dead and dying trees when they occur.

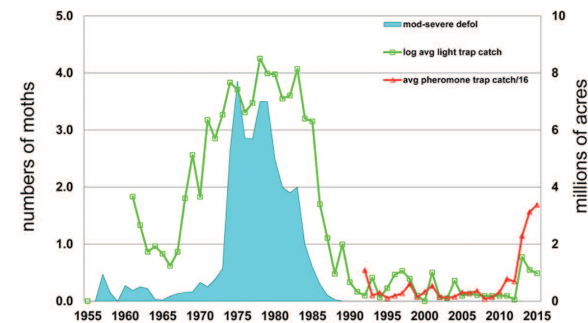
## Spruce Budworm



The spruce budworm is the immature stage of a gray-brown moth. It is at this stage in the life cycle that the insect feeds on tree needles and causes defoliation.



Pheromone traps are one tool used to monitor spruce budworm populations.



SBW moth trap catches and area of moderate to severe spruce-fir defoliation in Maine from 1955 to 2015. *(Source: Maine Forest Service)*