



Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District  
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The following is a text copy of the survey used by the Kennebec District to collect public input on issues included in the Natural Resource and Priority Assessment report.

## Kennebec County Natural Resource Priorities

### Introduction

Thank you for taking the Kennebec County Natural Resource Priority Survey. The following 10 questions are pretty straight forward. Take the time to answer and submit your responses. Forward the link to others you believe may have an interest in providing their opinion. The survey generated 306 respondents with each question having a slightly different total as indicated [n]. The survey questionnaire is reprinted below. The responses to the questions are indicated in [brackets]. In some cases, reading the comments allowed us to apply that respondent's comment to the appropriate answer selection.

### Background information

Page one simply collects some background information about you and your interests.

[

1. INDICATE WHICH TYPE OF RESIDENT BEST DESCRIBES YOU.

[Nearly all respondents indicated that they were landowners and not renters. Some commented that they were both.]

- Landowner?
- Lease or Rent?

2. TOWN OF RESIDENCE OR WHERE YOUR LAND IS LOCATED

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

3. WHICH MAJOR WATERSHED OF KENNEBEC COUNTY IS YOUR LAND LOCATED IN?

[255 responses to this question.] 6 respondents were from outside the County. Many respondents who were not sure provided information which allowed us to place them into one of the watersheds]

- [21 – 7%] The Seabasticook River watershed?
- [15 – 5%] West Branch of the Sheepscot River watershed?
- [22 – 7%] China Lake watershed and outlet?
- [12 – 4%] Webber, Threemile & Threecorner watershed system?
- [38 – 13%] The Belgrade Watershed system?
- [68 – 23%] The Cobbossee Watershed system?
- [18 – 6%] The 30 Mile Stream-Androscoggin Lake Watershed system?
- [5 – 2%] The Bond Brook watershed?
- [27 – 9%] The Togus-Togus Stream watershed?
- [68 23%] The Kennebec River directly?
- [9 – 3%] Don't know or not sure, check here.

If you are not sure, identify the closest water body. \_\_\_\_\_

4. HOW MANY ACRES OF LAND DO YOU MANAGE OR CONTROL (ESTIMATE)?

[n=293 responses to question]

- [21%] Less than 1 acre
- [27%] 1-5 acres
- [20%] 5-25 acres
- [17%] 25-100 acres
- [15%] more than 100 acres

Comment for further explanation. \_\_\_\_\_

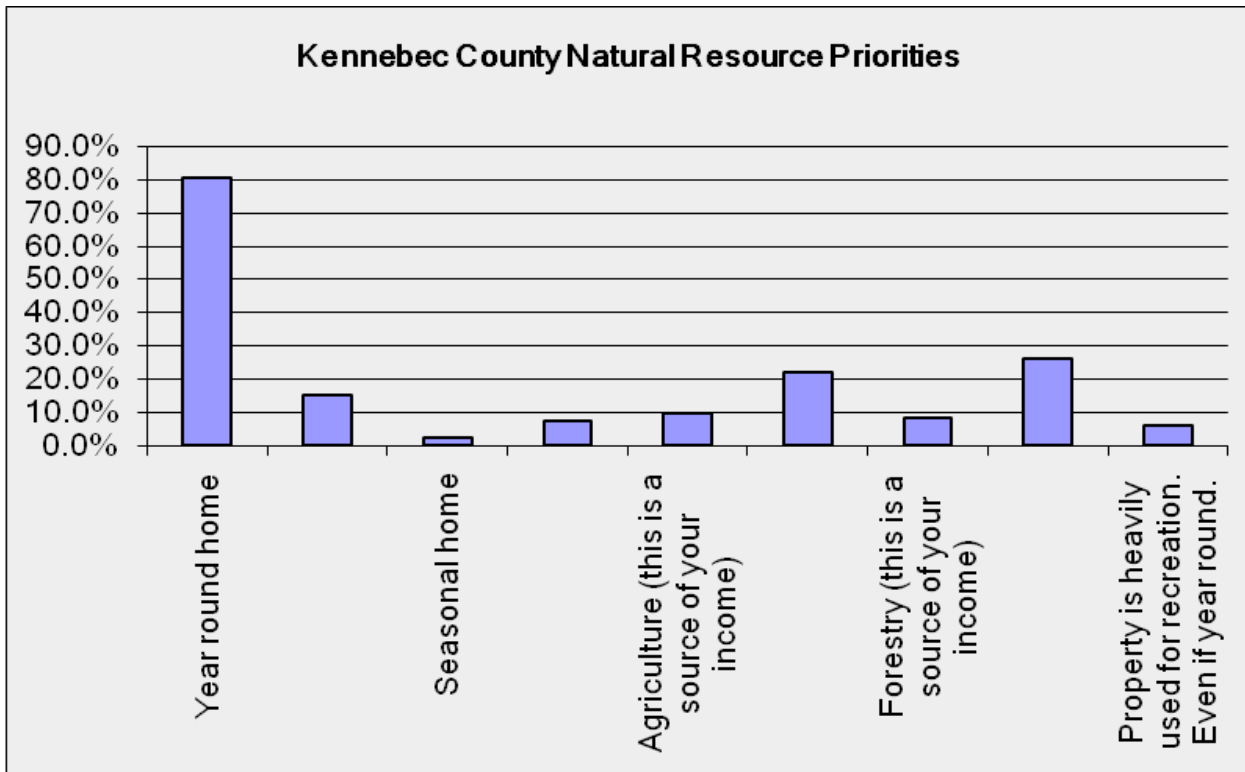
**5 TYPE OF LANDOWNER (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT YOU BELIEVE APPLY TO YOU)**

[n=292 responses to question] [Nearly all responses to this question were year round residents though many also had seasonal camps they considered when answering the questions. ]

- [235=80%] Year round home
- [45=15%] Year round home with shore frontage
- [7=2%] Seasonal home
- [22=8%] Seasonal home with shore frontage
- [28=10%] Agriculture (this is a source of your income)
- [64=22%] Agriculture (best described as hobby)
- [24=8%] Forestry (this is a source of your income)
- [76=26%] Woodlot use (primarily source of recreation or personal firewood)
- [18=6%] Property is heavily used for recreations. Even is year round.

Comment for further explanation & to help us interpret your answers. [47] \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF LANDOWNER**



**Help us determine resource priorities.**

You will be given a number of choices. Remember to focus your answers based on Kennebec County.

**6. PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY ISSUES FACING KENNEBEC COUNTY IN THE NEXT 3-10 YEARS. [n=250 responses to question]**

[ranking in brackets]	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
<b>Conversion from farm &amp; forestland to comercial/residential. [#1]</b>	___[157]	___[60]	___[24]
Animal waste management as it effects water and air quality.[#7]	___[63]	___[125]	___[51]
Crop management as it effects soil erosion and health.[#6]	___[62]	___[140]	___[34]
Pasture land management as it effects erosion.[#9]	___[44]	___[132]	___[57]
Irrigation/Water management.[#8]	___[60]	___[104]	___[72]
<b>Sustainable agriculture and forestry business.[#2]</b>	___[140]	___[85]	___[14]
Invasive species (excluding water invasives). [#4]	___[134]	___[74]	___[30]
Ag & forestry impact on water quality.[#5]	___[104]	___[109]	___[27]
<b>Protect/enhance wildlife habitat.[#3]</b>	___[132]	___[89]	___[21]
Other (please specify below).	___[19]	___[3]	___[3]

Rank order

**Conversion from farm & forestland to comercial/residential. [#1]**

**Sustainable agriculture and forestry business.[#2]**

**Protect/enhance wildlife habitat.[#3]**

Invasive species (excluding water invasives). [#4]

Ag & forestry impact on water quality.[#5]

Crop management as it effects soil erosion and health.[#6]

Animal waste management as it effects water and air quality.[#7]

Irrigation/Water management.[#8]

Pasture land management as it effects erosion.[#9]

7. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SURVEY WE BELIEVE THAT AN ACTIVITY'S IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY IS A PRIMARY WAY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT ON OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. WE WISH TO DETERMINE WHAT NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES YOU BELIEVE HAVE THE LARGEST IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY IN OUR LAKES, STREAMS AND EVEN THE GROUND WATER. PLEASE RANK THE FOLLOWING AS HAVING A "HIGH", "MEDIUM" OR "LOW" IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY IN KENNEBEC COUNTY. [n=246 responses to the question]

[ranking # in bracket]	High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact
<b>Open spaces converted to commercial space. [#2]</b>	___[175]	___[57]	___[10]
<b>Open spaces converted to residential. [#3]</b>	___[146]	___[82]	___[14]
Commercial Agriculture i.e. over 50 acres. [#5]	___[100]	___[111]	___[26]
Smaller commercial agriculture i.e. less than 50 acres. [#8]	___[26]	___[122]	___[90]
Family or hobby agriculture. [#10]	___[9]	___[67]	___[161]
Large woodlot and forestry harvests primarily for firewood. [#4]	___[118]	___[93]	___[26]
Smaller woodlot harvests primarily for firewood. [#9]	___[12]	___[66]	___[157]
Water use for irrigation or animal use. [#7]	___[39]	___[97]	___[99]
Animal waste management and storage. [#6]	___[99]	___[111]	___[29]
<b>Shoreline residential development. [#1]</b>	___[188]	___[40]	___[7]

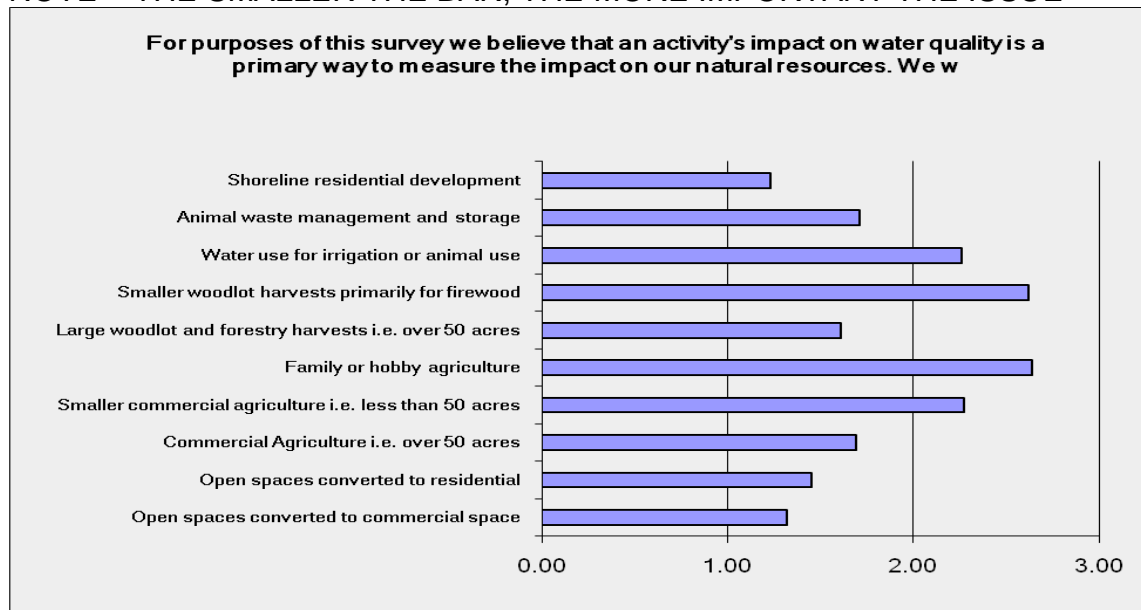
Comment for further explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_

Rank order

- Shoreline residential development. [#1]**
- Open spaces converted to commercial space. [#2]**
- Open spaces converted to residential. [#3]**
- Large woodlot and forestry harvests primarily for firewood. [#4]
- Commercial Agriculture i.e. over 50 acres. [#5]
- Animal waste management and storage. [#6]
- Water use for irrigation or animal use. [#7]
- Smaller commercial agriculture i.e. less than 50 acres. [#8]
- Smaller woodlot harvests primarily for firewood. [#9]
- Family or hobby agriculture. [#10]

NOTE – THE SMALLER THE BAR, THE MORE IMPORTANT THE ISSUE



8 PLEASE RATE WHAT YOU FEEL ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES HERE IN KENNEBEC COUNTY. RANK FROM 'MOST IMPORTANT' TO 'NOT IMPORTANT'.

[n=265 responses to the question]

[rating average]	Most Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Invasive aquatic animals/fish. [#8]	___[80]	___[100]	___[54]	___[18]	___[3]
<b>Invasive aqtic plnts.[#3]</b>	___[127]	___[94]	___[28]	___[5]	___[2]
Invasive terrestrial plants.[#12]	___[66]	___[92]	___[71]	___[19]	___[6]
Use of Low Impact Development practices (investment and development).[#11]	___[71]	___[88]	___[67]	___[20]	___[3]
<b>Lake/stream watershed management and protection.[#2]</b>	___[129]	___[89]	___[31]	___[4]	___[2]
<b>Grnd wtr protection.[#1]</b>	___[132]	___[91]	___[26]	___[7]	___[1]
Soil Erosion management.[#5]	___[80]	___[111]	___[55]	___[8]	___[2]
Investment & research in renewable and energy consrvtion practices.[#7]	___[93]	___[88]	___[54]	___[17]	___[3]
Pesticide and Fertilizer use.[#4]	___[104]	___[90]	___[50]	___[11]	___[1]
Stormwater management.[#9]	___[57]	___[121]	___[56]	___[16]	___[3]
Threatened and endangered species management.[#13]	___[61]	___[84]	___[73]	___[25]	___[10]
Wetland protection/restrtion.[#6]	___[96]	___[94]	___[39]	___[18]	___[8]
Wildlife management focus on habitat.[#10]	___[82]	___[79]	___[65]	___[21]	___[6]
Other (specify below)	___[9]	___[4]	___[0]	___[1]	___[1]

Rank order

**Ground water protection.[#1]**

**Lake/stream watershed management and protection.[#2]**

**Invasive aquatic plants.[#3]**

Pesticide and Fertilizer use.[#4]

Soil Erosion management.[#5]

Wetland protection/restoration.[#6]

Investment & research in renewable and energy conservation practices.[#7]

Invasive aquatic animals/fish. [#8]

Stormwater management.[#9]

Wildlife management focus on habitat.[#10]

Use of Low Impact Development practices (investment and development).[#11]

Invasive terrestrial plants.[#12]

Threatened and endangered species management.[#13]

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## Kennebec District Services

Your feedback will help the Kennebec District prioritize changes in service and how it seeks the funding to provide those services.

9. Indicate which of the Kennebec District services you have used and which are services you feel the District should continue or start providing. [n=251 responses to the question]

	I have used this service	I believe this service should continue being offered.
Erosion and sediment control Technical Assistance.	___[47]	___[192]
Assistance with permit applications.	___[25]	___[164]
Gravel road Technical Assistance and maintenance planning.	___[35]	___[179]
GIS Mapping services.	___[30]	___[132]
Phase I Environmental Site Assessments.	___[12]	___[143]
Third Party Inspections needed for erosion control.	___[21]	___[151]
Hosting & facilitating conservation meetings.	___[37]	___[159]
Providing information/educational workshops.	___[70]	___[180]
Wetland & habitat restoration or management.	___[13]	___[177]
Buffer design and construction Technical Assistance.	___[30]	___[175]
Alternative energy and energy conservation Technical Assistance.	___[12]	___[154]
Local food/products Ag Map.	___[49]	___[130]
Conservation Times newsletter.	___[52]	___[61]
Sales of trees/shrubs, bulbs, composters etc.	___[141]	___[122]
Current or past use of Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRDCS programs)	___[57]	___[135]
Comment for further explanation		

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## Feedback

10 PROVIDE WHATEVER CONTACT INFORMATION YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE GIVING US. NONE IS REQUIRED. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 postal address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_