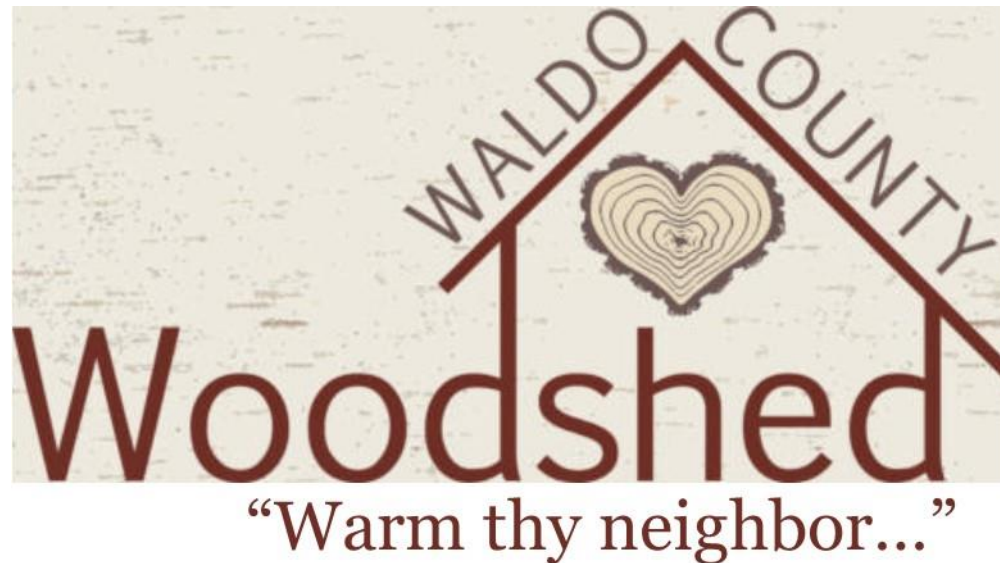


# “Starting a Wood Bank; How Hard Could it Be?”

One Year In: Lessons Learned



# *How wood banks could help Mainers avoid an eat-or-heat dilemma*

By Sabrina Vivian and Jessica Leahy, Special to the BDN.

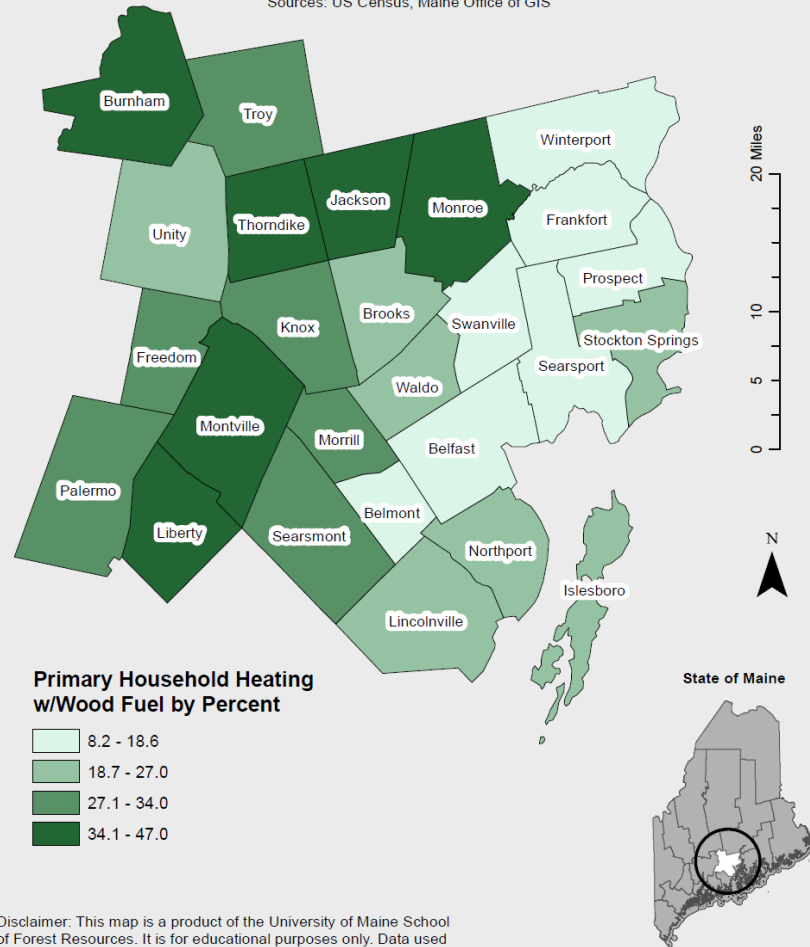
**Imagine a local food pantry or food bank. Replace the focus of food with firewood, and you have a center known as a wood bank.** Like food pantries, wood banks aim to help community members with life essentials by supplying firewood at little to no cost to those in need who rely on firewood as a heating source.

*Source: Bangor Daily News, November 10, 2014*

## Primary Household Heating - Wood Fuel (%), Waldo County

Prepared by: Sabrina Vivian, Jessica Leahy  
 Prepared on: March 23, 2015  
 Projection: UTM, Zone 19N  
 Datum: WGS 84  
 Sources: US Census, Maine Office of GIS

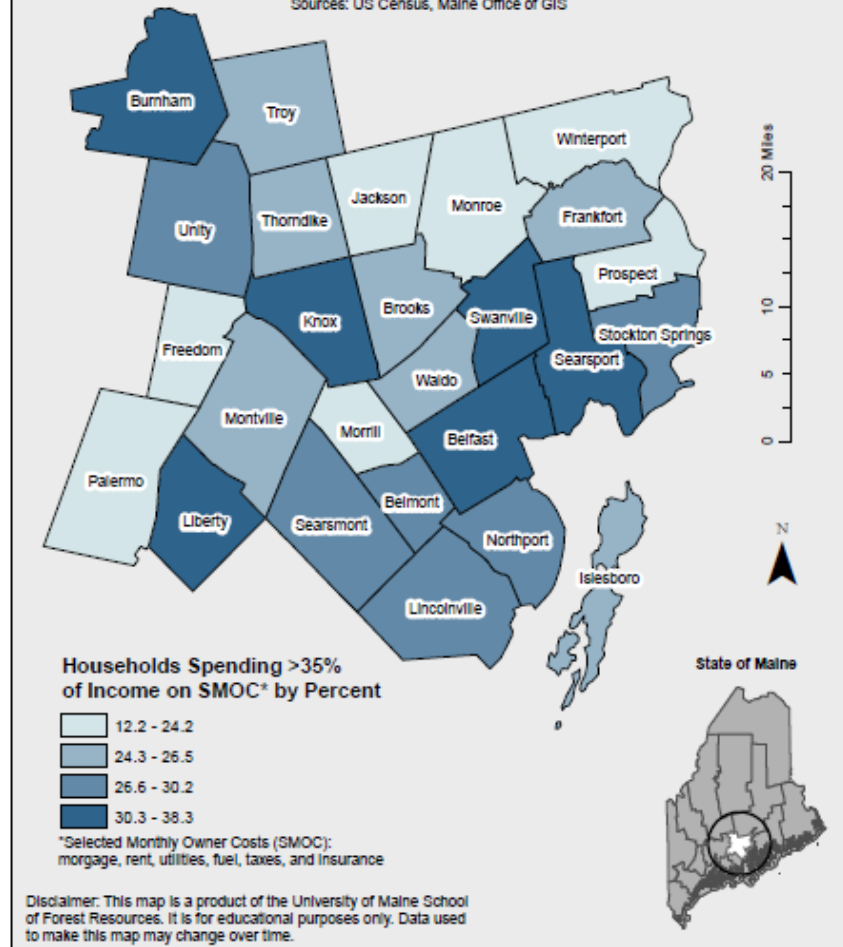
Notes: Data used to make this map are from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (DP04)



## Economic Distress - Housing Costs, Waldo County

Prepared by: Sabrina Vivian, Jessica Leahy  
 Prepared on: March 23, 2015  
 Projection: UTM, Zone 19N  
 Datum: WGS 84  
 Sources: US Census, Maine Office of GIS

Notes: Data used to make this map are from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (DP04)



## Potential Wood Bank Demand Analysis, Waldo County

Prepared by: Sabrina Vivian, Jessica Leahy

Prepared on: March 23, 2015

Projection: UTM, Zone 19N

Datum: WGS 84

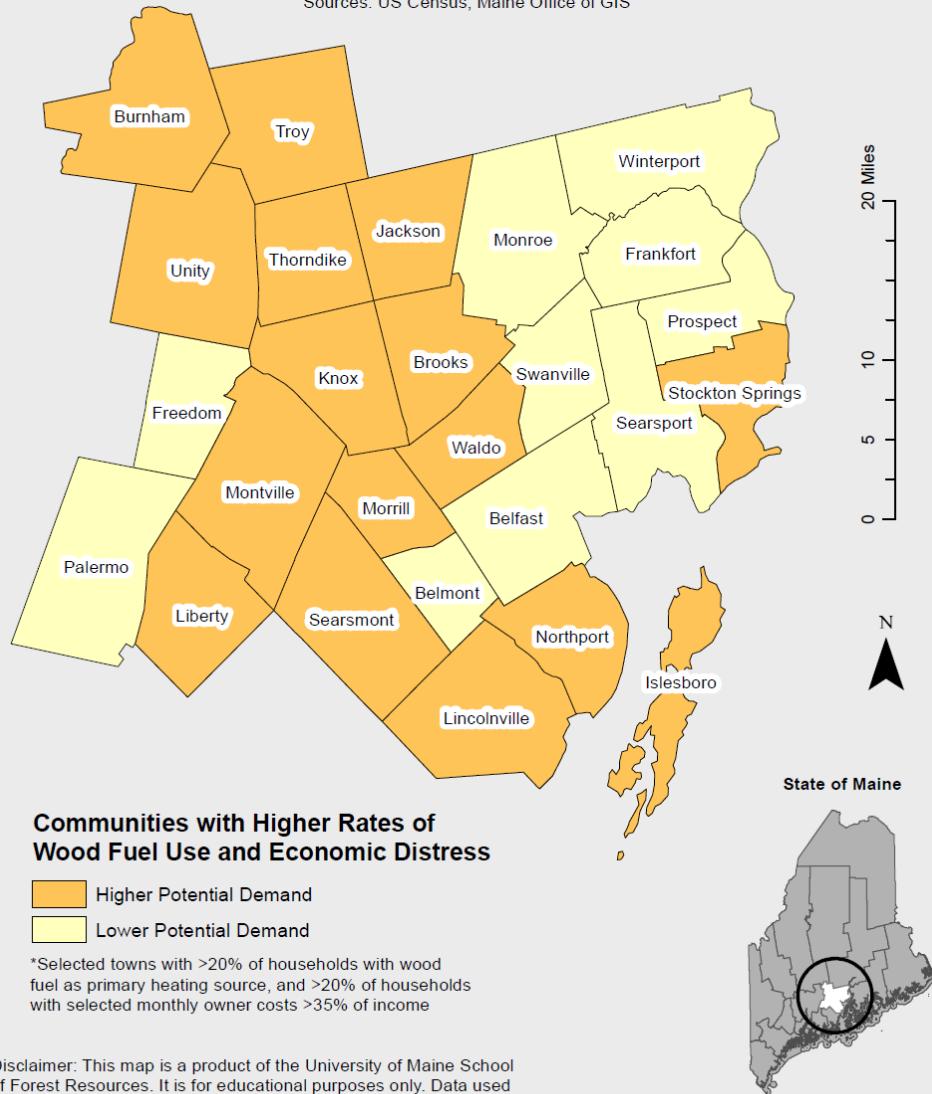
Sources: US Census, Maine Office of GIS

Notes: Data used to make this

map are from the 2009-2013

American Community Survey

5-Year Estimate (DP04)



Waldo Community Action Partners

WCAP

*we care about people*

***Is there a need?*** “Yes certainly. Last year WCAP serve about 2000 household in Waldo county with LIHEAP. Most of that was for oil and propane, but **103 were for wood**. The average benefit amount is \$618. **Wood costs \$200-\$275 a cord depending on how it is processed, therefore a LIHEAP household only gets 2+ cords and that likely won’t last the winter.** The 103 households we served with wood last year does not include all the households that probably supplement with wood heat.”

# Creation of Non-Profit Corporation

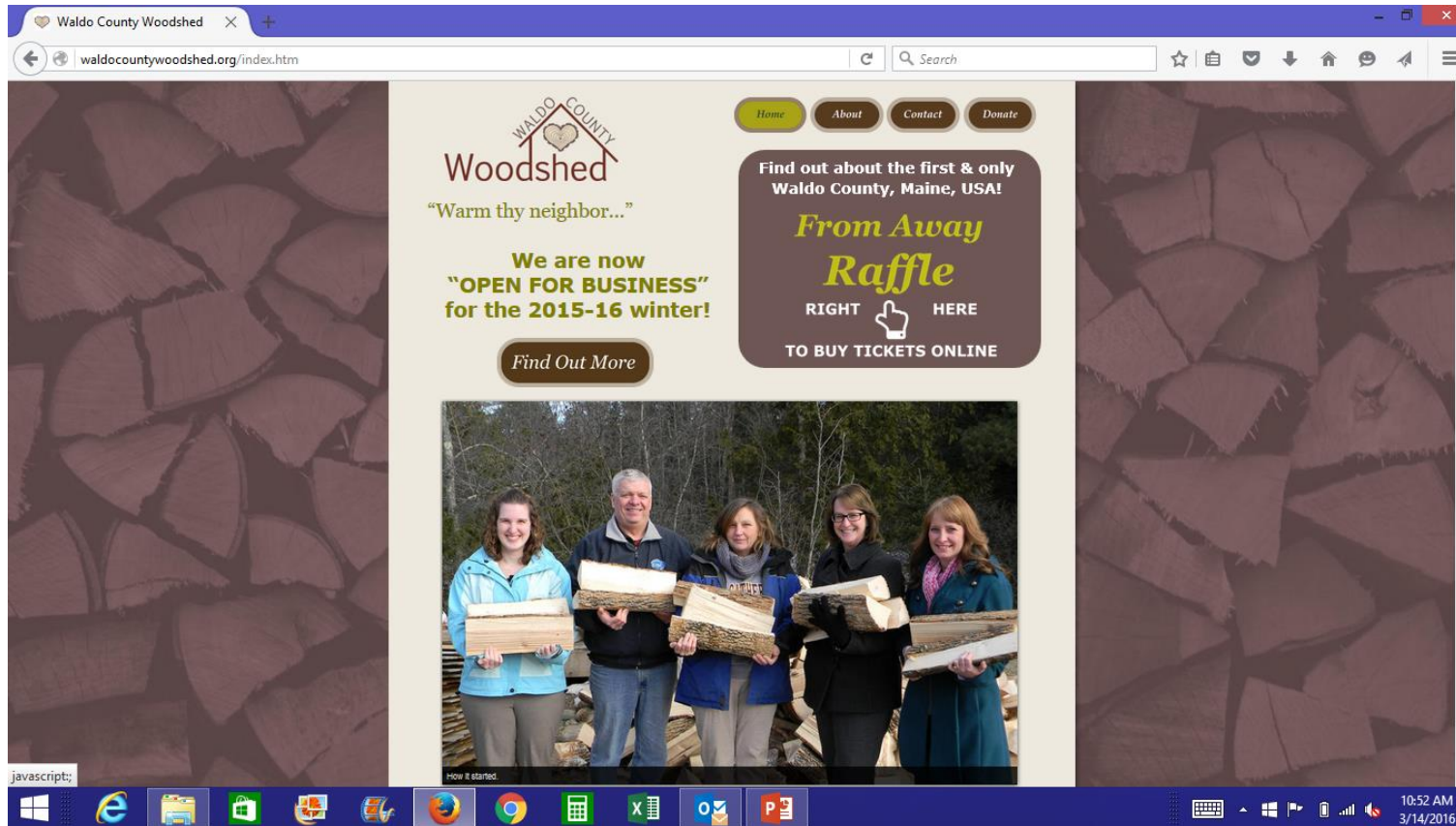
- Application for Reservation of a Name (State)
- Bylaws (State)
- Conflict of Interest Policy (State)
- Articles of Incorporation (State)
- Application for EIN (Federal)
- Application for 501 (c) (3) non-profit status **Filing Fee: \$400**

**Non-profit status granted March 11. Elapsed time 60 days.**





# Website and Logo Design



Susan Guthrie



Bre Bebb

# Wood Bank Opens for Business

January 22 – First Wood Purchased



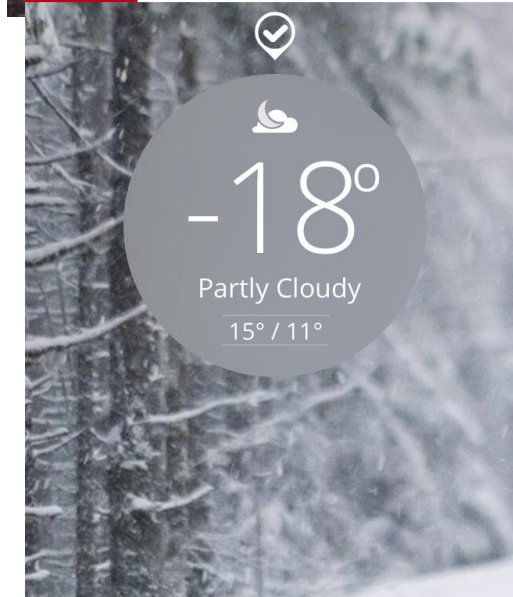
**Bangor**  
Savings Bank  
*You matter more.*

<u>Date of Inquiry</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1/25/2015	Emily		Monroe	207-xxx-xxxx	Picked up wood at MGW
2/3/2015	Mara		Knox		Picked up at NEFP yard
2/3/2015	Sabrina		Frankfort		Delivered
2/3/2015	Crystal		Swanville		Picked up .125 cord
2/3/2015	Sharon		Belfast		Will call - small car
2/3/2015	Bill		Winterport		Hopes to pick up 2/5. Called again 2/18/15. Still waiting to hear from us.
2/4/2015	Bridget	258 Prescott Hill Rd.	Liberty		Needs 1/2 cord soon. They are trying to dig and find enough for tonight
2/4/2015	Phil		Stockton Springs		Needs 1 cord, could repay with wood later/cutting from our pile 2/17/15



- Needs 1/2 cord soon. They are trying to dig and find enough for tonight
- Is out of wood. Has been borrowing wood from a neighbor.
- Needs any wood they can get. Out of wood and house is cold. 2 children, ages 3 & 5.
- 1/2 cord or less would probably be enough. Is out of oil, but lives month to month and will have more money next month to buy oil.
- 8 people in house oil running out and has a new woodstove
- Belfast town office ref. recd a 1/2 cord yesterday picked up hopes to donate wood when back on his feet
- Legally blind, stage 4 cancer - requested by friend
- Out of wood, no other heat source, ran out last night
- Completely out of wood. Waiting for tax return to buy more, but it will be at least a week.
- Three day supply, only has other source of heat in one bedroom. Elderly parents live there.
- Got a little from a neighbor and will be frugal.
- Has 4 pieces of wood left and is running the last of the oil. Can split some.
- 6 armfulls saving for emergency
- Usually cuts their own wood, but now her husband is disabled.
- Few days left two small kids - can pick up
- Out of wood, four small kids, \$240/month income
- Disabled. Can't pick up. Just ran out, is very cold. Drop in front of little camper, she can get someone to bring it into the house.
- Furnace is broken and they're also out of wood 87 years old
- Referred by LIHEAP. Has a truck, not inspected, but would take a chance. Can split wood.
- Out of wood, burning "boards" and desperate for help

February 14, 2015







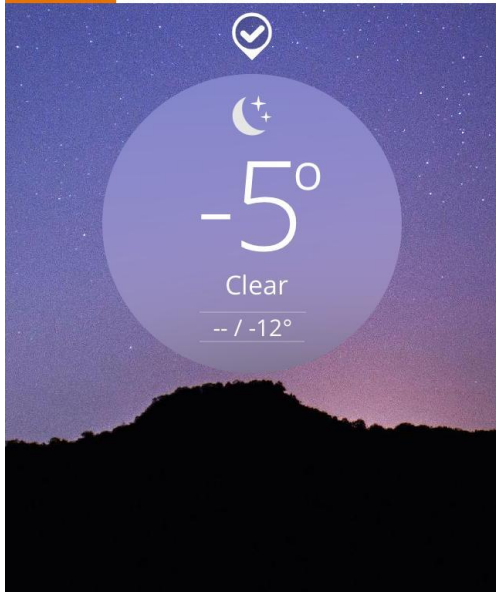
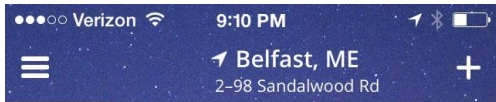
## February 23

“Firewood for the needy stolen in Waldo”

“Firewood Stolen From Waldo County Woodshed”

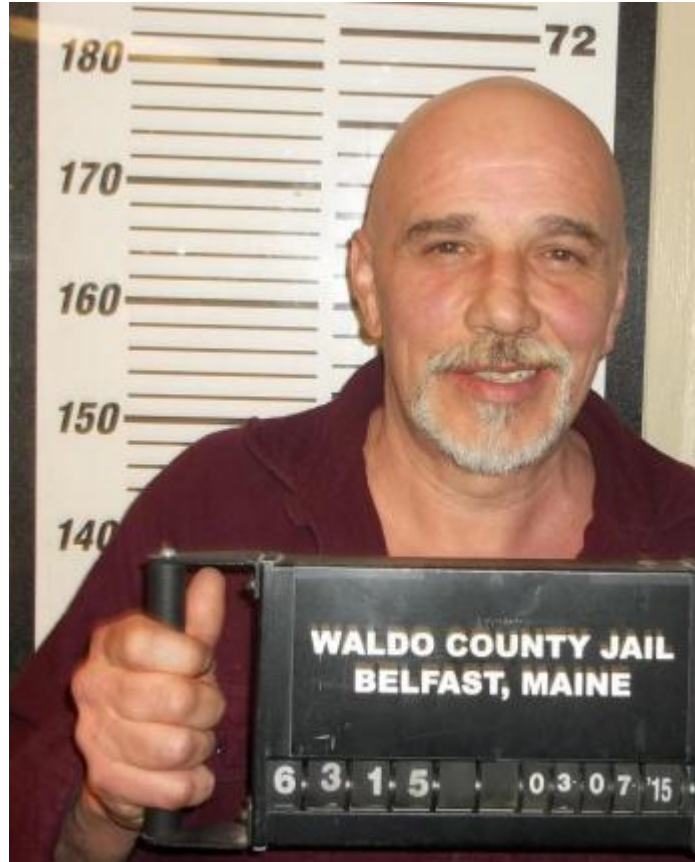
“Waldo County Woodshed Theft”

“Waldo County Sheriff’s Office investigating wood theft from “Woodshed””



Post-theft Donations      \$2853.00

# **March 7 Deputy charges Brooks man with Wood Bank theft**



**Fine: \$250**

**Restitution: \$300**





# First Winter Results

- Creation of non-profit charitable organization
- Raised \$6400
- Purchased/received/distributed 20+ cords of wood
- Provided assistance to over 60 homes
- January 25-April 6

# 2016 Goals

- Develop fundraising campaign
- Purchase wood splitter
- Procure 100 cords of wood for winter 2015-16
- Open additional distribution sites
- Increase volunteer base

# Goal: *Develop Fundraising Campaign*

- Found a volunteer to write grant applications
  - James Gamman Trust - \$2000
  - Agnes Lindsay Trust - \$2000
  - Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation - \$5000
  - Maine Community Foundation - \$2000

Grant Total \$11,000



## Silent Auction at *Out of the Woods*

\$2300



## Business After Hours Fundraiser *Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce*

\$2000

# Waldo County, Maine, USA Raffle!

- First Prize: Items donated from all 50 States
- Second Prize: Items donated from all 16 Main counties
- Third Prize: Items donated from Waldo County





# Goal: *Purchase wood splitter*

- Online fundraising with the help of social media raised \$2800 to fund the purchase of a new wood splitter from Union Farm Equipment



## Goal: *Procure 100 Cords of Firewood*

- Received +/- 60 cords donated firewood from loggers, landowners, and Coastal Mountain Land Trust
- Purchased 120 cords from local loggers, landowners and firewood dealers



# Main Distribution Yard - Searsmont



**April 1, 2015**

**June 6, 2015**







**November 21, 2015**

**January 1, 2016**





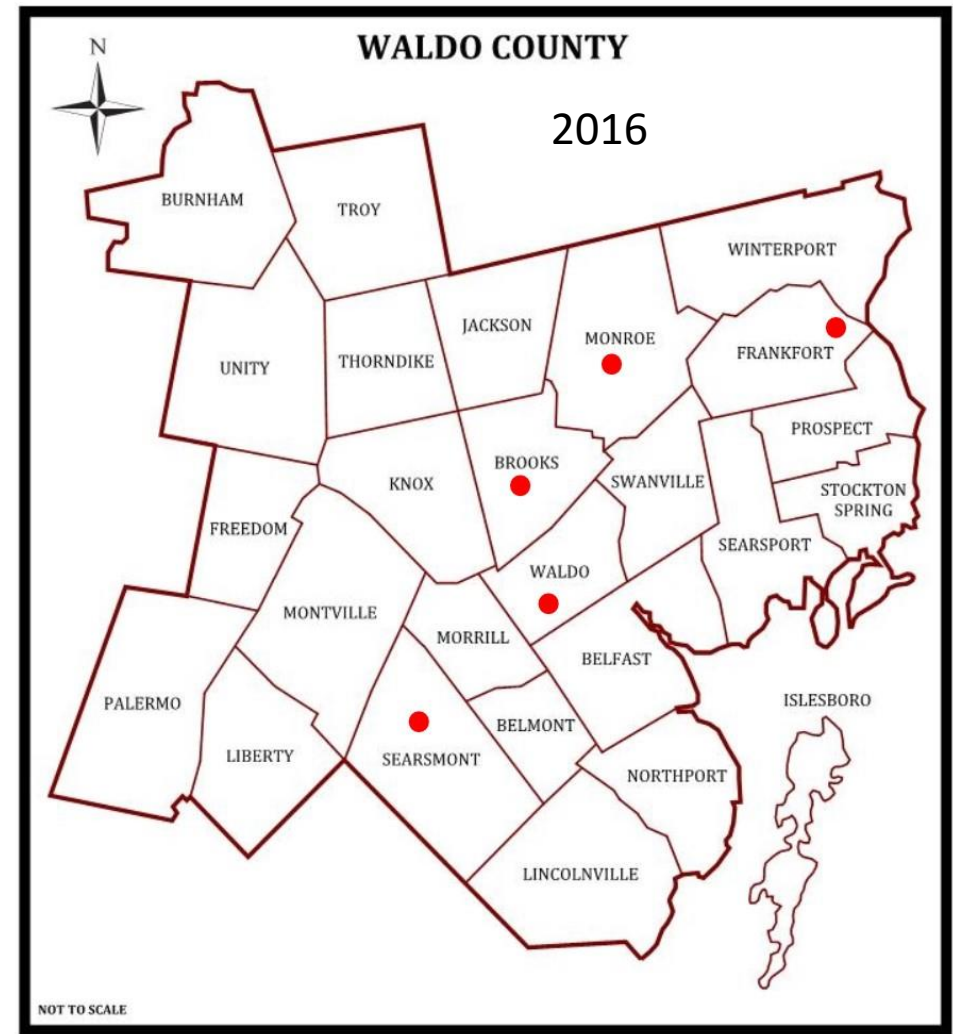
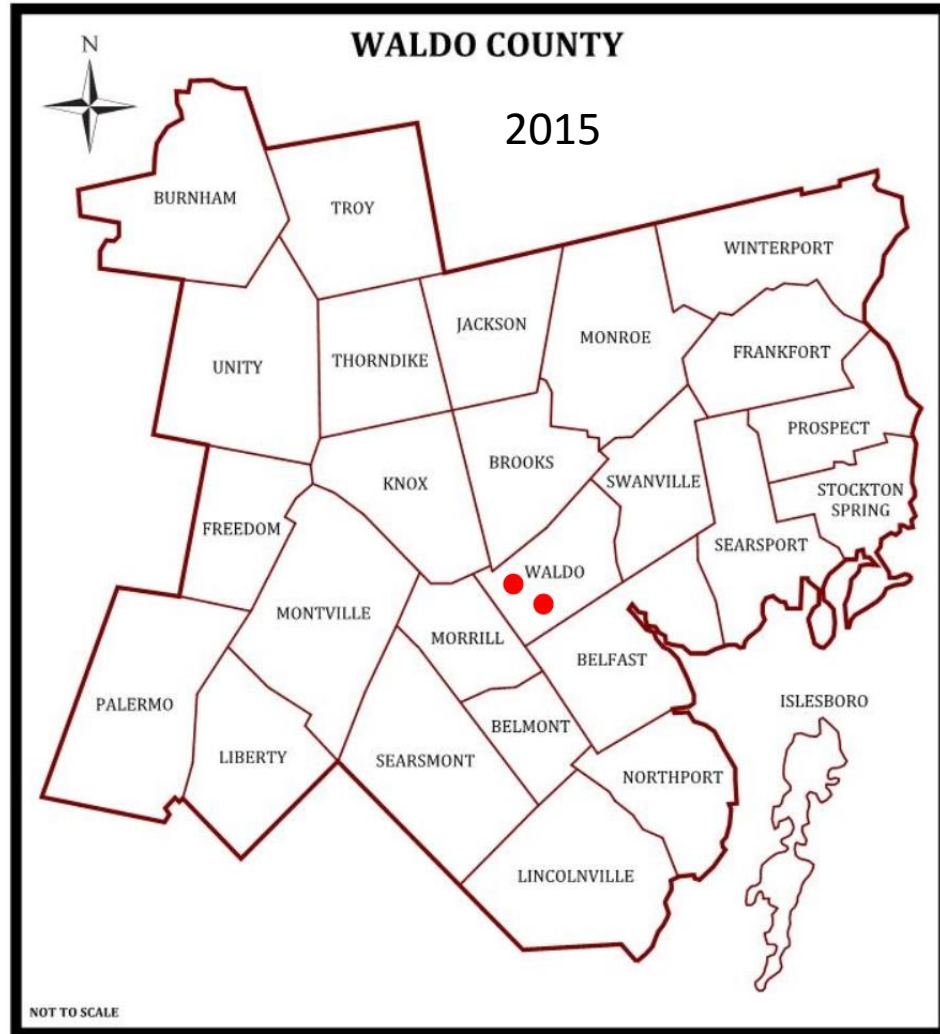


**March 12, 2016**





# Goal: *Open additional distribution sites*



# Goal: *Increase volunteer base*









# How it Works

2015-16 Waldo County Woodshed Waiting List

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

Search

2015-16 Waldo County Woodshed Waiting List

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

Comments Share

No show 3/7/16

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
	Source	Date of Inquiry	First Name	Last Name	Address	Town	Phone	Comments	Delivery Date	Wood Received	Qty Delivered	Firewood on Hand (cords)				
7	Seasport	3/9/2016	Roset	Hurt		Brooks	329-285									
8	Seasport	3/8/2016	Dana	Whelan		Bethel	855-554									
9	Seasport	3/7/2016	Chantal	Hindman		Belmont										
10	Seasport	3/7/2016	Morty	Dale		Waldo	342-5143									
11	Seasport	3/11/2016	Paul	Matheson	Belle Road	Knox	542-5174 (brother)	With brother								
12	Seasport	3/7/2016	Mike	Richards		Seasport	342-224									
13	Franklin	3/7/2016	Ken	Baker	737-553	Winthrop	735-7354	unlabeled								
14	No show 3/7/16															
15	Brooks	3/7/2016	Martin	McDann	1171 N Palermo Rd	Freedom	955-2031	Please call								
16	no show	3/3/2016	Adam	Dare	551 Hope Rd	Lincolnville Center	323-6533	Will fill the family vehicle								
17	no show	3/1/2016	Chantal	Hindman		Belmont	323-5196									
18	No show 2/27	2/15/2016	Ryan	Matheson	Belle Road	Knox	542-5174	Can pick up in Seasport - will be with his brother								
19	No show 2/27	2/15/2016	Paul	Matheson	Belle Road	Knox	542-5174 (brother)	With brother								
20	No show 2/27	2/23/2016	Chantal	Hindman		Belmont	323-5196									
21	Seasport	2/14/2016	Adam	Dare	551 Hope Rd	Lincolnville Center	323-6533	Tried to arrange for pickup, but couldn't. Needs delivery.								
22	Delivery	2/11/2016	Gloria	Harrington	60 Wright Street	Bethel	335-3027									
23	No Show	1/15/2016	Timmy	French		Swanville	930-9902									
24	No Show	1/15/2016	Amanda	Thomas	314 Moosehead Trail	Waldo	323-4258	No Show 1/15/16								
25	no show	1/7/2016	Jessie	Matheson	84 Spring Hill Rd	Montville	323-5564									
26	Daughter called OUT of wood	2/9/2016	Earl	Bovies	453 Moosehead Trail	Jackson	722-2727									
27	Delivery	1/29/2016	Helen	Pendleton	25 Marsh Rd	Bethel	335-4589									
28	Delivery	1/4/2016	Lorrie	Henry	25 Belle Street	Burnham	455-6543									
29	Delivery	1/4/2016	Harold	Henry Jr	25 Belle St	Burnham	457-5502									
30	Delivery	12/25/2015	Leah	Kilay	139 Rollins Road	Freedom	505-1124	Message us on Facebook								
31	Delivery	12/7/2015	Vigil	Finty	47 Montell Rd	Belmont	342-5271	Can't pick up - need delivery. Will try to get someone to pick up for her								
32	Delivery	11/15/2015	Vicky	Pomeroy	3 Pomeroy Lane	Seasport	545-2568	First trailer on right								
33	Monroe	1/4/2016	Ram	Spison	81 Pond Road	Burnham	457-1915 or 945-8001									
34		9/22/2015	Stacy	Hughes		Northport	number not in service	Can pick up								
35			Alan	Daniello		Bethel	322-0129	Phone number is no longer in service. We will have to wait for him to call us. Referred by UHEAP								
36		11/1/2015	Patricia	Ty		Freedom	332-0229	Can outspit wood from Waldo site								
37			Elizabeth	Chen	25 Mill Creek Rd	Islesboro	734-6973	Wants delivery, but will try to get someone to pick up, since I told her I didn't know if we could find a volunteer to deliver for her.								
38		11/30/2015	Thomas	Rogay		Liberty	589-2125	Number no longer in service - 12/11/15								
39		11/14/2015	Brad	Bairdick	gathings@tds.com	Liberty										
40		11/30/2015	Amber	Gerry	10 Webster Road	Swanville	335-1585	Will work for wood								
41		11/30/2015	April	MacFarland		Waldo		Let a message 12/11/15 about Seasport pickup tomorrow. (Her mom's phone, or this Peterson)								
42	3/7/2016	Brooks	Tacie	Tacy	50 Hadley Mill Rd	Jackson	201-4016083									
43	3/7/2016	Brooks	Jane	Overson		Jackson	722-3121									
44	3/7/2016	Brooks	Earl	Bovies		Jackson										
45	3/5/2016	Seasport	Kathryn	Higdon		Unity	945-8071									
46	3/5/2016	Seasport	Joseph	Belle		Lincolnville										
47	3/5/2016	Seasport	Heley	Flynn		Lincolnville	750-3521									
48	3/5/2016	Seasport	Robert	Dodge		Seasport										
49	3/5/2016	Seasport	Bern	Pendleton		Belmont	323-0171	Box 12 cord per Dawn								
50	3/5/2016	Seasport	Paul	Matheson	Belle Road	Knox	542-5174									
51	3/5/2016	Seasport	Ryan	Matheson	Belle Road	Knox	542-5174									
52	3/5/2016	Seasport	Joe	Cooper		Belmont	342-3098									
53	3/5/2016	Seasport	Katherine	Woodman		Apollon	735-2168	Helped split wood with Dawn								
54	3/5/2016	Monroe	Amy	Belle		Winthrop	735-7563									
55	3/5/2016	Monroe	Brian	Stewart	535 East Thandike Rd	Thandike	680-1085									

Wood Requests - Offers to Help/Volunteers -

Sum: 1/28/2713





**Equipment on Loan to  
Restock Distribution Sites**





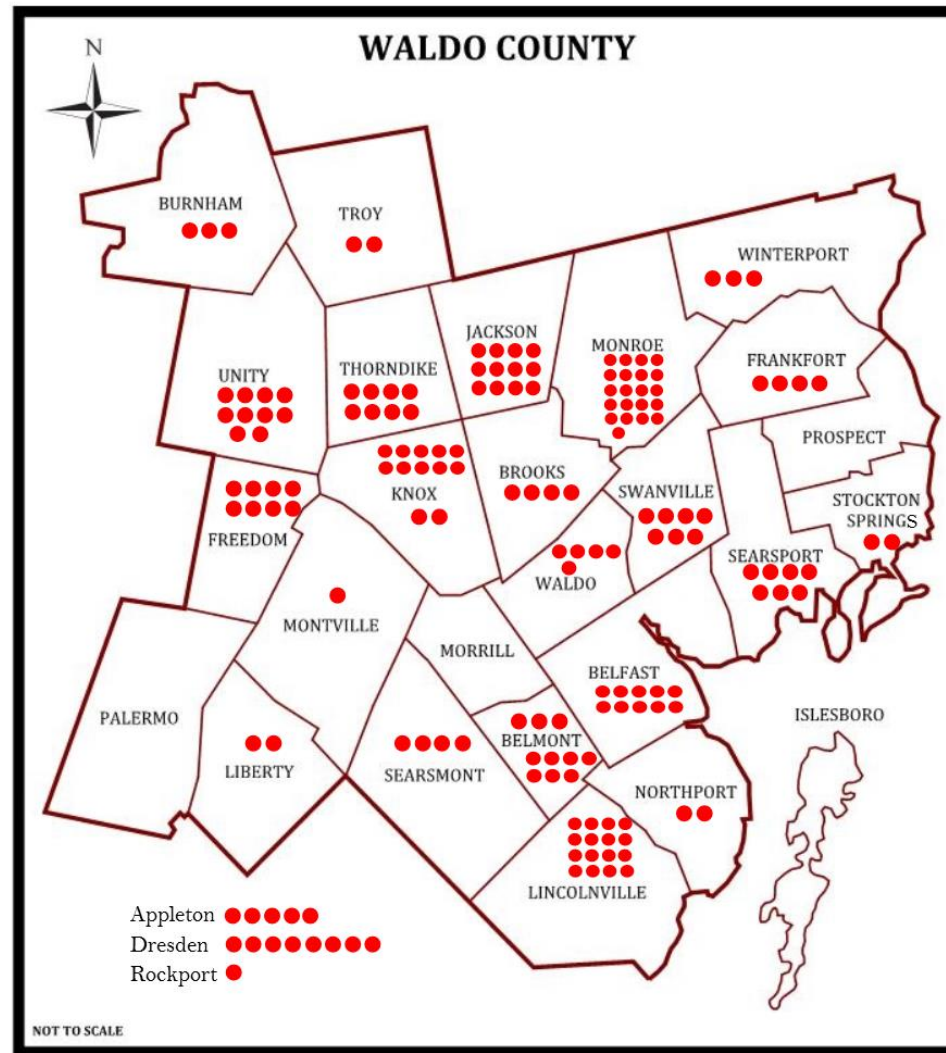


# The Coordinator



# Distribution by Town

		3/5/2016	2/29/2016
<u>Town</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>		
Belfast	2.375		
Belmont	2.5	0.75	
Brooks	1		
Burnham	0.75		
Frankfort	1		
Freedom	2		0.25
Islesboro	0		
Jackson	3		0.25
Knox	3	0.5	
Liberty	0.5		
Lincolntonville	4	0.5	
Monroe	5.25		
Montville	0.25		
Morrill	0		
Northport	0.5		
Palermo	0		
Prospect	0		
Searsmont	1	0.25	
Searsport	1.75		
Stockton Springs	0.5		
Swanville	1.75		
Thorndike	2	0.25	
Troy	0.5		
Unity	2.5	0.25	
Waldo	1.25		
Winterport	0.75	0.25	
Rockport	0.25		
Appleton	1.25	0.25	
Dresden	2		
	41.625		

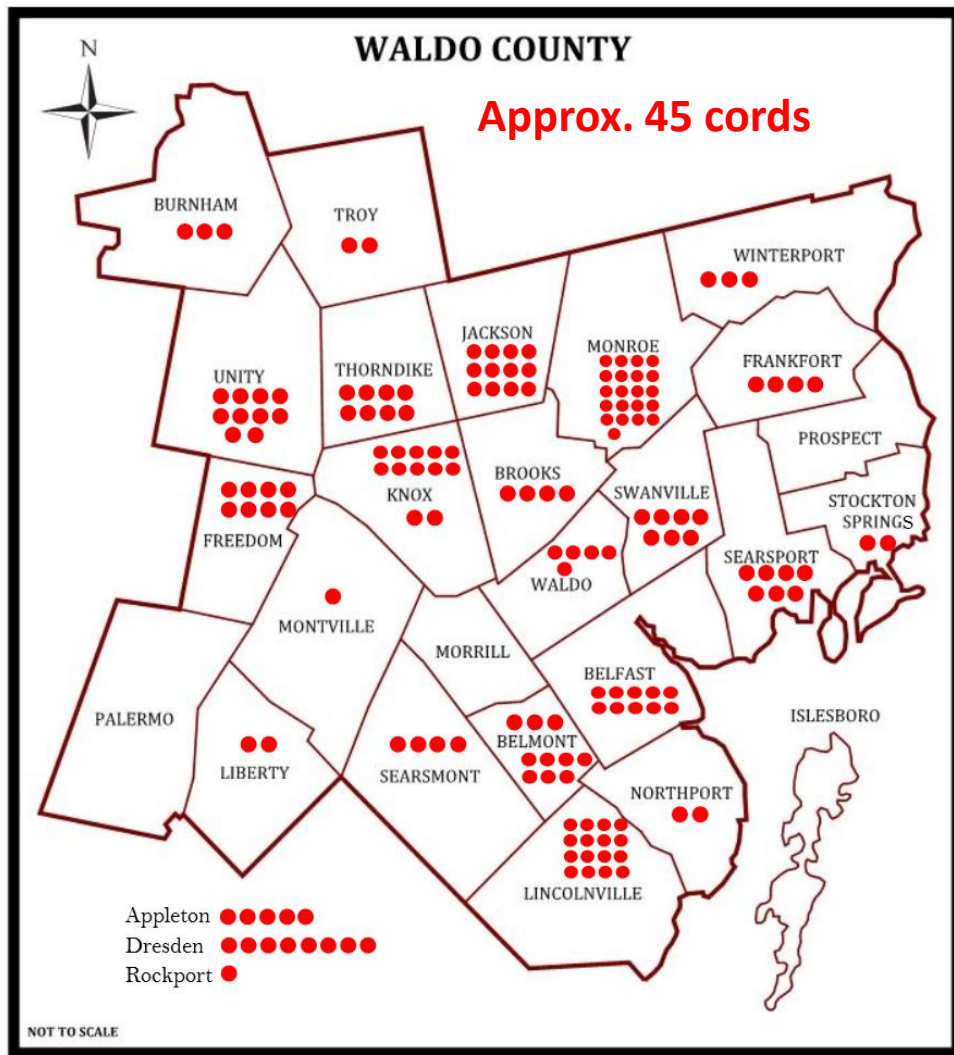


### Waldo County Woodshed

Wood Distribution by Town 11/28/15-3/5/16

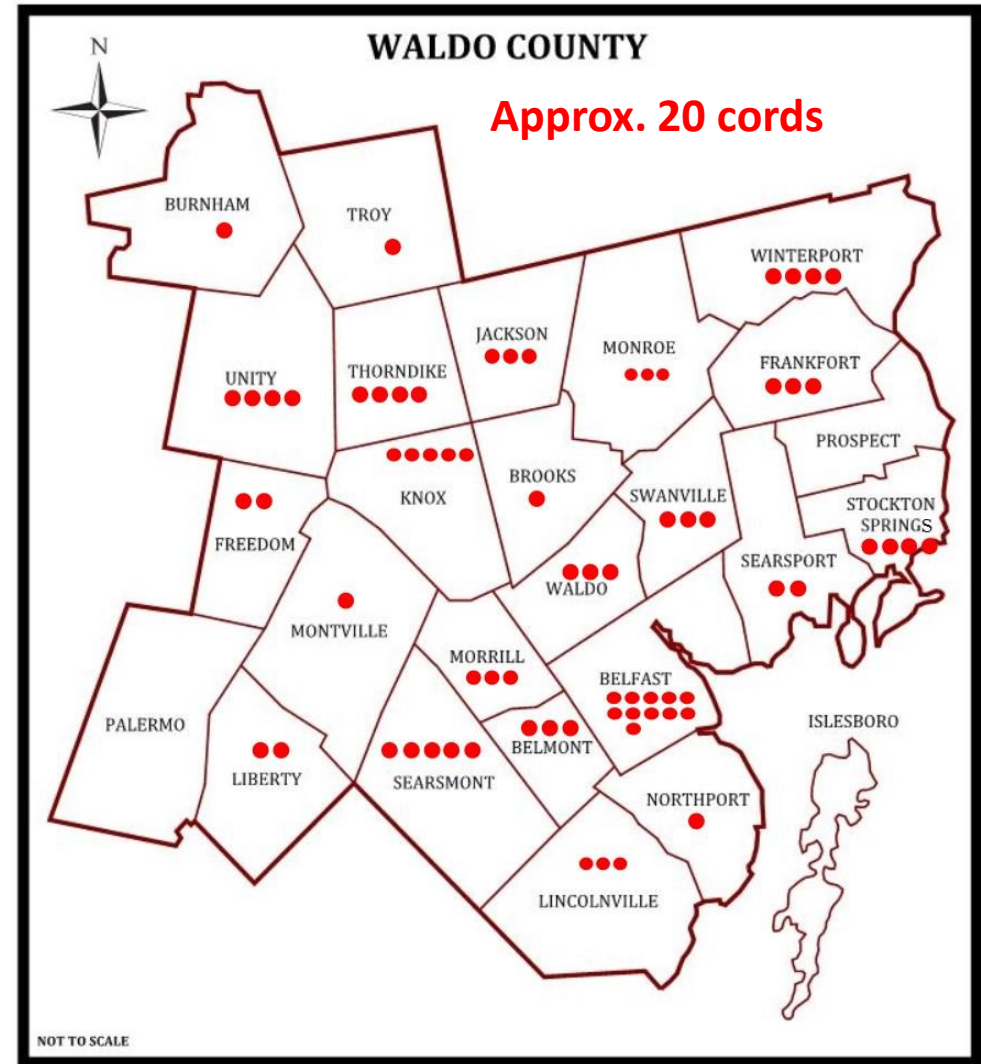
● Represents 1/4 cord distribution





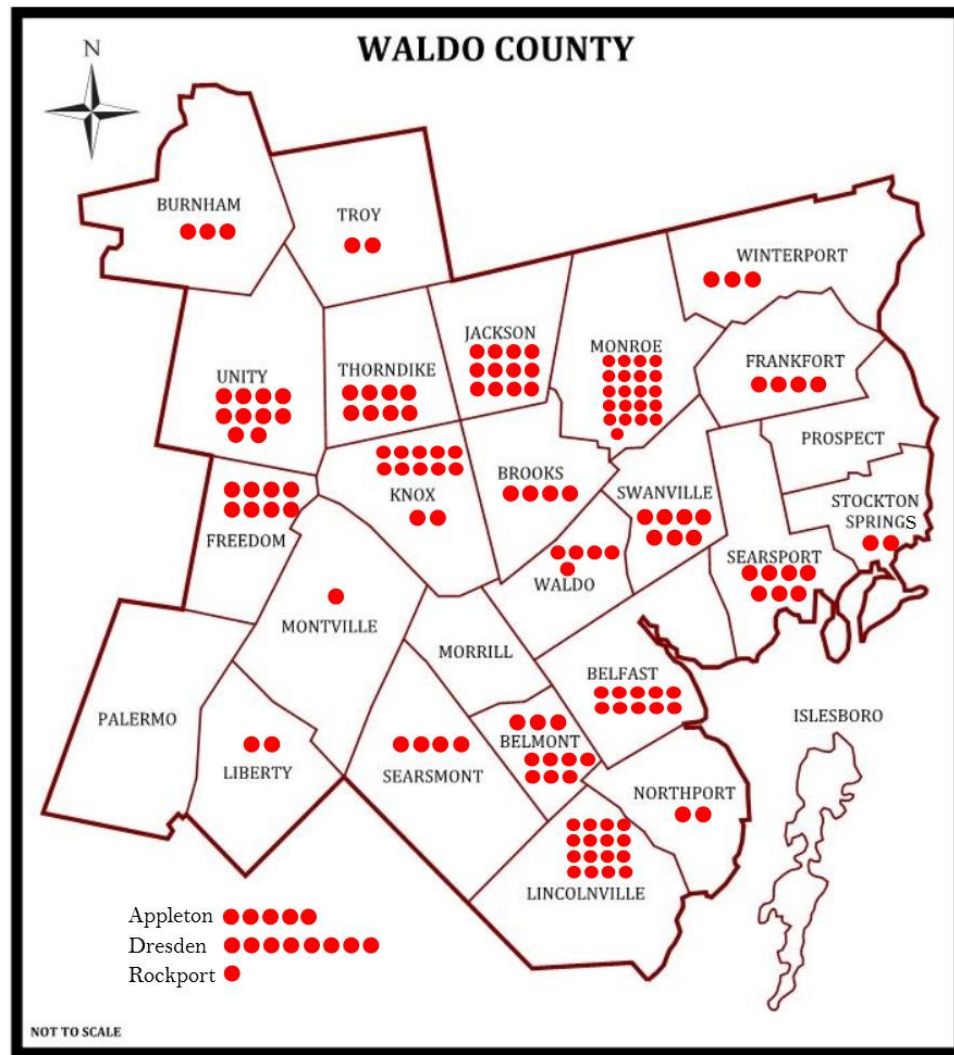
**Waldo County Woodshed**  
**Wood Distribution by Town 11/28/15-3/5/16**

● Represents 1/4 cord distribution



**Waldo County Woodshed**  
**Wood Distribution by Town Jan –Apr 2015**

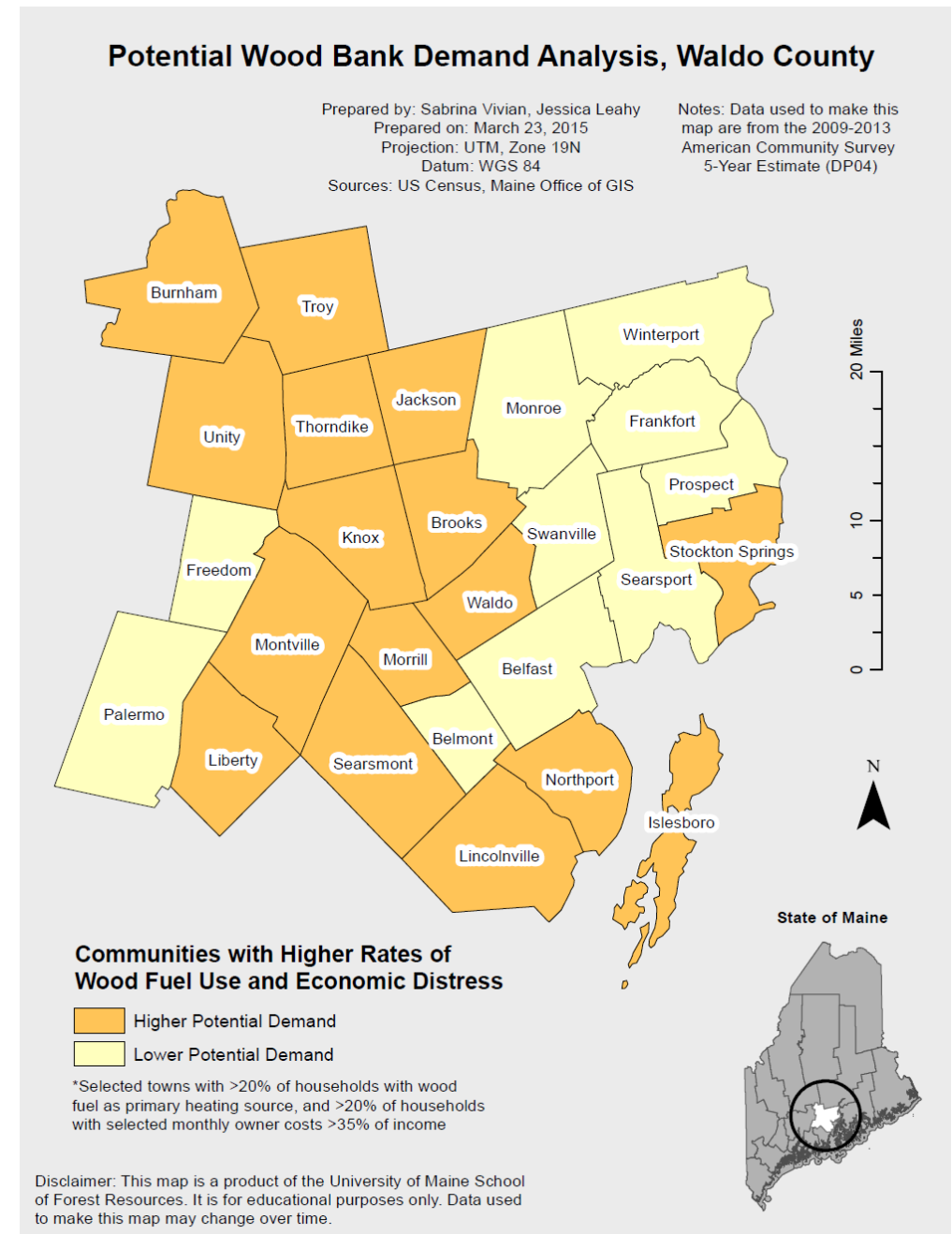
● Represents 1/4 cord distribution



### Waldo County Woodshed

### Wood Distribution by Town 11/28/15-3/5/16

● Represents 1/4 cord distribution



# 2017 Goals

- Open two additional distribution sites
- Develop a limited household delivery program
- Purchase firewood conveyor
- Procurement of wood for 2017-18
- Increase size of Board of Directors
- *Increase volunteer base – online sign up*



# Lessons Learned

- The demand is constant, despite the weather
- A solid organizational team is critical
- Volunteerism is always a tough sell
- Fundraising is not a major obstacle with a clear message and a measurable benefit
- Social media is a very powerful tool
- When it works, the rewards are immeasurable

# Thanks to Our Supporters



Seth Thayer

Bre Bebb

Nancy Fenney

Town of Brooks

Greg Tinder

Susan Guthrie

Town of Monroe

Sean and Sonya Twombly

**Maine Community Foundation**

**James Gamman Trust**

**Agnes Lindsay Trust**

**Sabrina Vivian and Jessica Leahy**