



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

September 30, 2005

The Honorable Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs  
805 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable David W. Palsrok, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources,  
Great Lakes, Land Use, and Environment  
S1385 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

The Honorable Michelle McManus, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Natural Resources  
905 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Howard Walker, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Natural Resources  
S-1388 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senators Birkholz and McManus and Representatives Palsrok and Walker:

In compliance with Section 801, PA 347 of 2004, the Department of Natural Resources (Department) is providing information regarding the status of forest certification in Michigan.

On May 28, 2004, PA 125 of 2004 was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The "Sustainable Forestry Act" requires that, by January 1, 2006, the Department shall seek and maintain forestry certification for state forest lands by at least one credible, non-profit, non-governmental certification program. The Governor also directed the Department to seek forest certification for 3.9 million acres of state forest lands under both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification programs. This direction assures that forest management on the state forest system, including timber marking, is conducted in conformance with these standards and in compliance with PA 347 of 2004, Section 801.

The Department's approach to forest certification for state forests has been divided into two areas; 1) achieving initial forest certification and 2) maintaining forest certification and continuous improvement of forest management and operations. Detailed progress and documentation of these efforts are on the Department's internet website at <http://www.midnr.com/publications/pdfs/divisions/forest/ForestCertification/MyWebsFC/index.htm>.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters-Chair • Mary Brown • Darnell Earley • Bob Garner • Gerald Hall • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

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In August 2005, the Department approved the Operational Management Guidance for State-owned Forest Lands which details a planning framework. In September 2005, the Biodiversity Conservation Planning process was approved. These documents provide direction for state forest planning. They are available on the Department's Forest Certification webpage.

Department staff are preparing a draft 2006 State Forest Management Plan. The draft is expected to be available for public review by December 31, 2005.

Currently, efforts are focused on being well positioned for the forest certification audit that is scheduled for September 19 through September 30, 2005. This audit will evaluate and determine whether Michigan state forest lands will be certified under one or both of the forest certification standards.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief  
Budget and Support Services  
517-335-3276

cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Members  
House Appropriations Subcommittee Members  
Ms. Jessica Runnels, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Dr. Kirk Lindquist, House Fiscal Agency  
Ms. Mary Lannoye, Department of Management  
and Budget (DMB)  
Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB  
Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB  
Director Rebecca A. Humphries, DNR  
Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff, DNR  
Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR  
Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR  
Mr. Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison, DNR  
Ms. Lynne Boyd, Chief, FMFM, DNR  
Mr. Joseph Frick, DNR  
Ms. Jane Schultz, DNR