



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

January 18, 2006

DEAR TIMBER PURCHASER:

On January 12, 2006, Director Rebecca Humphries announced the certification of Michigan's State Forest as being sustainably managed by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The effective date for SFI certification is December 14, 2005, and the effective date for FSC certification is December 31, 2005. This means that stumpage from the State Forests can be considered as certified wood. Starting with sales advertised in February and bid in March, the State Forest Timber Sale Contracts will contain the following statement:

"Unless otherwise indicated in this contract under the Sale Specific Conditions & Requirements, Section 7 – Other Conditions, the area encompassed by this timber sale is certified to the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) - Certificate #NSF-SFIS-5Y031-S1 and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) - Certificate #SCS-FM/COC-090N. Forest products from this sale may be delivered to the mill as "FSC and / or SFI certified" as long as the contractor hauling the forest products is chain-of-custody (COC) certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area."

Timber sale transaction documents, including the Timber Sale Prospectus and the Timber Sale Contract, will contain the Department of Natural Resources's (DNR's) SFI and FSC certificate number. Please note that State Game Areas in southern Michigan have not been certified. In addition, forest land controlled by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is not certified. Military land is within the State Forest and is located in Crawford, Kalkaska, Otsego, and Roscommon Counties.

You will also see ongoing changes in our timber sale procedures:

1. There will be an emphasis on safety and procedures to deal with safety violations. Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn by DNR staff and will be expected to be worn by employees of timber sale contract purchasers. Safety will be checked and enforced on all State Forest Timber Sale Contracts.
2. There will be more frequent timber sale site visits and increased documentation of sale inspections, best management practices (BMPs) and forest regeneration.

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3. There is a required pre-work meeting between the purchaser and the DNR. This may be on-site, off-site or over the telephone, depending on the situation. The meeting will be documented and a record of the meeting kept in DNR files.
4. For all contracts sold since September 2005, purchasers are required to certify that the timber sale contract supervisor has a certificate of completion of Sustainable Forestry Education (SFE) training. The training must be obtained before logging operations may begin and will be checked at the required pre-work meeting. Information about SFE can be obtained from Michigan State Extension at the following website: <http://wildfire.for.msu.edu/extension/sfe.htm> or by calling (989) 344-3263 or (866) 339-1587.

Forest certification promotes sustainable forestry. Sustainable forestry means forestry practices that are designed to meet present and future environmental, social and economic needs. It employs a stewardship ethic that integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, as well as land use and recreation opportunities. We feel that our certification effort will better help the DNR fulfill its mission of conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

If you have any questions regarding stumpage purchasing and contracting on State forest land, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Doug Heym, Timber Sales Specialist
Forest, Mineral & Fire Management
517-335-3342