



Forest Resources Division Fiscal Year 2015

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Michigan's 4 million acres of state-managed forest land are part of a 20-million-acre statewide forest resource. Professional management of this system provides societal benefits that include meeting the demands of a bustling forest products industry, providing the backdrop to world-class forest recreation opportunities, and helping to keep clean the watersheds of the largest system of fresh surface water on earth.

There are many facets to keeping Michigan's forest resources among the best of the best. Forest Resources Division responsibilities include urban forestry, forest health, wildlife habitat enhancement, wildfire suppression and prevention, and the management of one of the nation's largest state forest systems.



PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

Working with many partners, the Forest Resources Division is responsible for ensuring Michigan's state forest land is sustainably managed to meet the needs of residents, tourists, businesses, and the many wildlife species that thrive in the woods. The division would not be able to accomplish its goals without the dedication, expertise and funding of its internal and external partners. Their support is invaluable.

In 2015, DNR staff worked with more than 800 volunteers through the Adopt-a-Forest program to clear public forest land of illegal trash and debris dumping. Volunteers cleaned up more than 407 truckloads of trash from 31,000-plus acres of public land. More than half (53%) was recycled, including over 2,000 tires that were crumbled and used for tire-derived fuel.

A working forest, which includes protected wildlife habitat, sustainable forest management and public outdoor recreation opportunities, is the result of a collaborative effort by the DNR and Little Traverse Conservancy. The Gitcha-ninj Nebish forest project in Charlevoix County, which includes 750 acres of northern hardwoods and nearly three-quarters of a mile of Thumb Lake shoreline, was co-funded by a grant through the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program and a donation by the landowner – Lake Louise Christian Community.

MANAGING YOUR STATE FORESTS

Michigan's state-managed public forest land continues to make a strong contribution to the state's forest products industry — an industry that contributes \$17.8 billion per year to Michigan's economy and supports 87,000 jobs.

- In fiscal year 2015, Forest Resources Division staff prepared 59,866 acres of timber sales on state-managed land that supplied 1,055,036 cords of wood.
- The state received \$49 million in timber sale revenue in fiscal year 2015.

For 10 years, Michigan's state forest system has been certified by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and the Forest Stewardship Council®. Forest certification is an independent third-party review and evaluation of the DNR's on-the-ground forest practices. As more consumers and producers seek wood sourced from sustainably managed forests, this dual certification is even more relevant. Look for these logos to see if the products you use come from a certified forest.



In fiscal year 2015, DNR survey staff completed 153 survey projects in support of timber harvests, delineating property lines between private and state lands.

In 2015, the DNR helped to attract Arauco, a Chilean-based company, to Grayling. The company's new particleboard plant promises a \$325 million investment and 250 jobs.

Reforestation is a vital part of the DNR's mission. When natural regeneration is not possible, staff will plant seedlings to help ensure healthy forests for the future.

Reforestation efforts in fiscal year 2015 included planting a total of nearly 5.1 million seedlings on 5,676 acres of state forest land. An additional 1.2 million seedlings were planted to maintain 784 acres of critical habitat for the federally endangered Kirtland's warbler.



PROTECTING YOUR RESOURCES

In fiscal year 2015, the DNR:

- Helped save 532 structures through suppression action on 345 fires totaling 2,921 acres.
- Sent 54 individuals to assist with fire-line leadership and hand crew work when wildfires raged in six western states and a Canadian province.
- Improved wildlife habitat, controlled invasive species, reduced hazardous fuels and promoted forest regeneration by performing 135 prescribed burns on 9,359 acres.
- Provided wildfire training to 1,900 local firefighters and cooperators.
- Helped local fire departments in their fire suppression efforts by awarding federal grants worth nearly \$331,400 to purchase communications and suppression equipment, and \$3.2 million in excess federal equipment – including fire trucks and road graders.



FOREST HEALTH

The DNR stepped up the management of forests with significant white spruce and balsam fir trees



in response to the building spruce budworm epidemic.

The goal is to harvest and regenerate at-risk mature spruce and fir stands before they are affected by

the budworm, as these trees provide material to lumber and paper mills that benefit local economies and allow for the production of the forest products we rely on every day.

To learn more about the health of the state forest system, check out the 2015 Forest Health Highlights report by visiting www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.

COMPOSITE MATS

In an effort to better protect sensitive habitat, while maintaining forest management operations, the DNR purchased 20 interlocking composite mats that allow access to sites that could otherwise be seen as obstacles. The mats are used during logging operations when other methods can't provide enough flotation, stability or reach. Once the mats are in place, fully loaded log trucks are able to cross an area without leaving ruts or disrupting water flow.



PRIVATE LANDS FORESTRY

The Commercial Forest program provides a property tax incentive for private landowners to retain and manage forest land for long-term timber production, while providing foot access to the public for hunting, fishing and trapping. In 2015, the DNR approved 4,913 acres for the program. About 1,720 landowners have more than 2.2 million acres currently listed in the program, most of which is in the Upper Peninsula.



The Forest Stewardship Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015. The cost-sharing program – a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and DNR – provides technical assistance to private landowners who are looking to manage their forest land to meet a variety of goals. More than 5,400 landowners in Michigan have used their Forest Stewardship plans, written by professional foresters and wildlife biologists, to manage, protect, and enjoy over 875,000 acres since the program started in 1990.



The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program provides technical and financial assistance to promote stewardship of trees and urban forests in communities of all sizes throughout the state. Trees are a part of a community's infrastructure and provide important aesthetic, environmental, social and economic benefits to all citizens. A healthy urban forest can improve air quality, reduce storm water runoff, improve property values and make our communities more vibrant, healthy and livable. To assist communities' urban forestry efforts throughout the state, UCF awarded 69 program grants worth more than \$502,000 in fiscal year 2015.

The DNR Forest Resources Division manages, protects and provides for the sustainable use of Michigan's forest resources. Its vision is for vital, healthy and abundant forests that provide social, economic and ecological benefits.

Learn more about how we're working to manage your forests at www.michigan.gov/forestry

Sign up for email updates from the DNR. Current forestry-related topics include Forest Health, Forest Planning, Urban and Community Forestry, Assistance to Private Forest Landowners, Prescribed Burn Notices and Wildfire Incident Updates.



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The Forest Resources Division is mainly funded by the Forest Development Fund which is primarily comprised of the revenue generated from the sale of timber. The remainder of the budget is comprised of general funds, state restricted funds, federal funds, and donations from private entities.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.