



Forest Stewardship in Michigan

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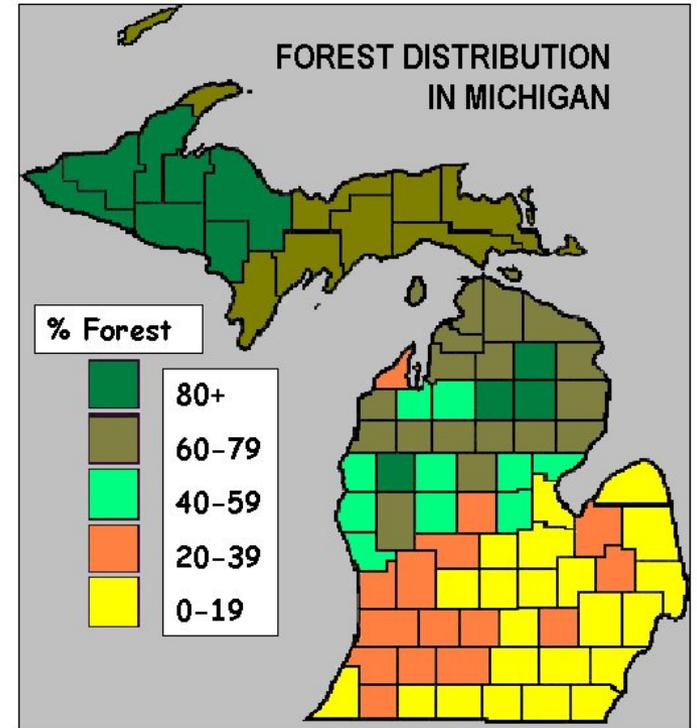
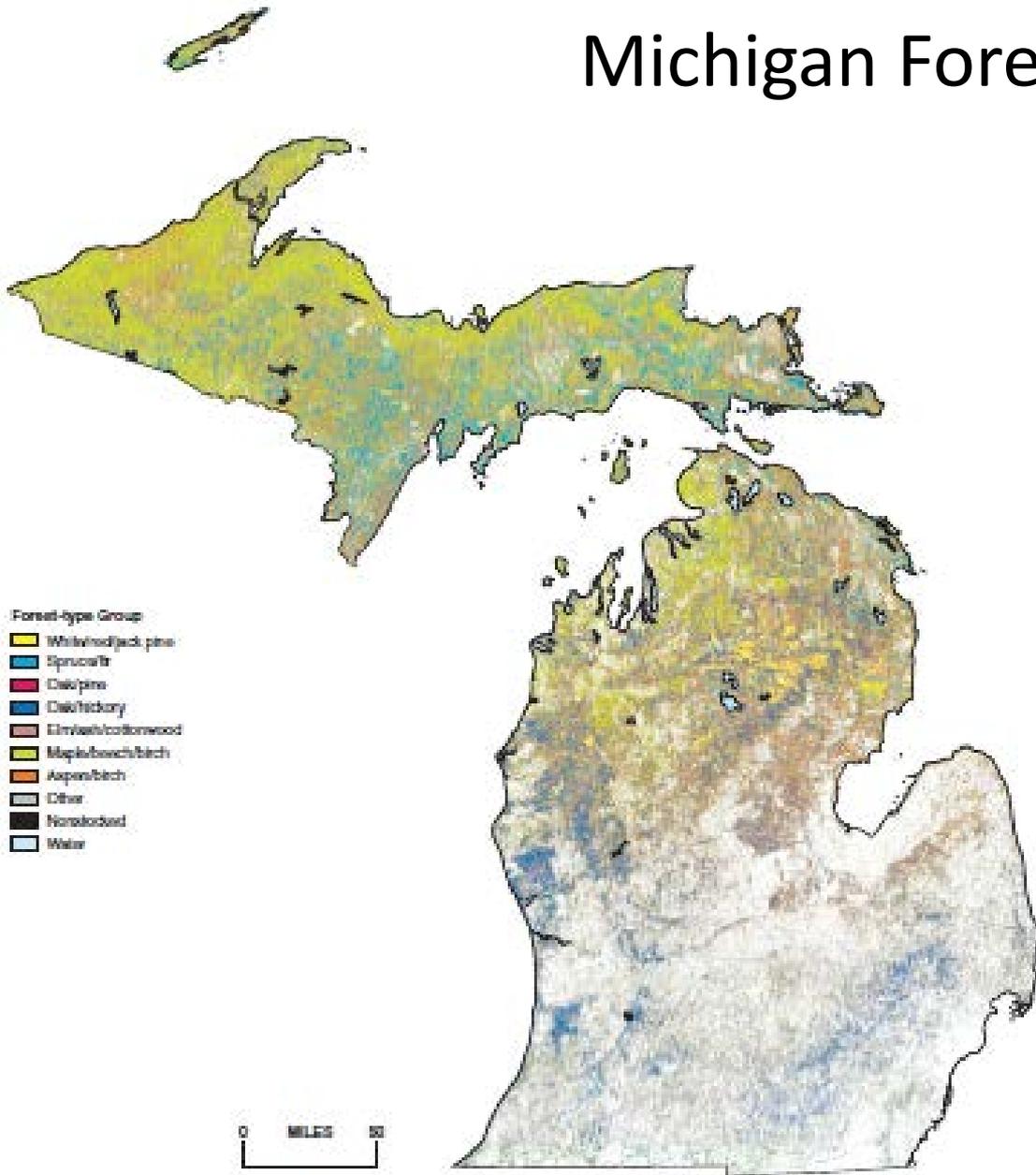
Department of Natural Resources - Forest Resources Division

Overview

- Michigan Forests
- Types of Foresters
- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Michigan Forest Management Programs
 - Forest Management Plans
 - Property Tax Programs
 - Conservation Practices
 - Forest Certification
- Forest FUN!



Michigan Forests



Source: <http://mff.dsisd.net/TreeBasics/History/Facts.htm>

Trees in Michigan Forests

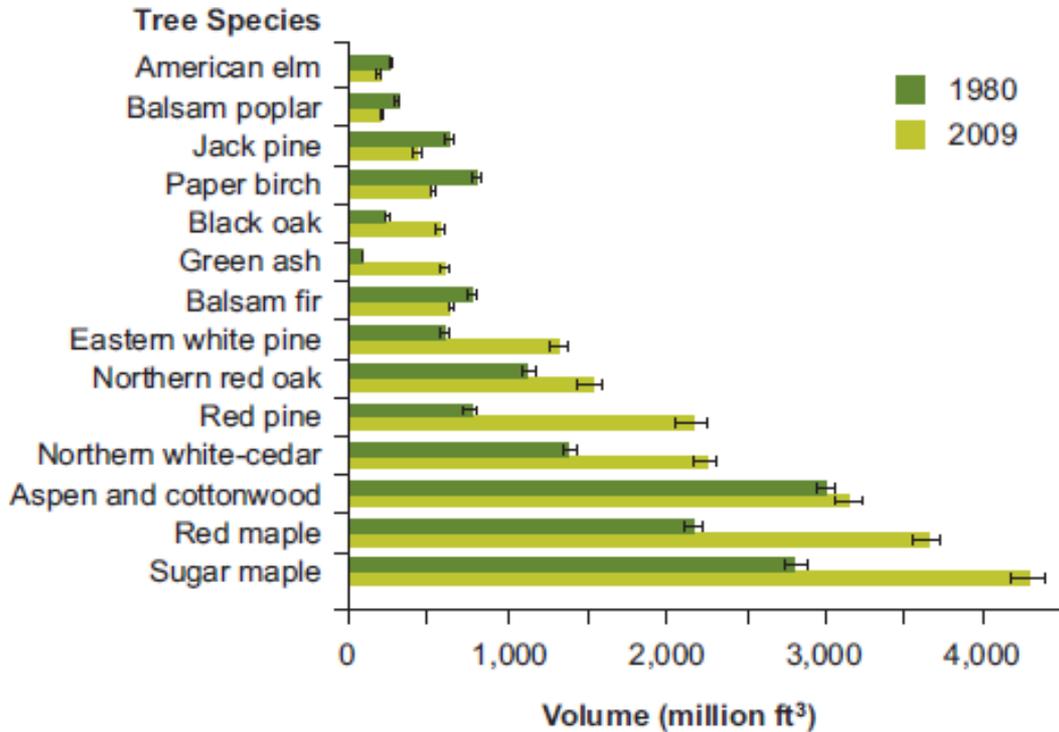
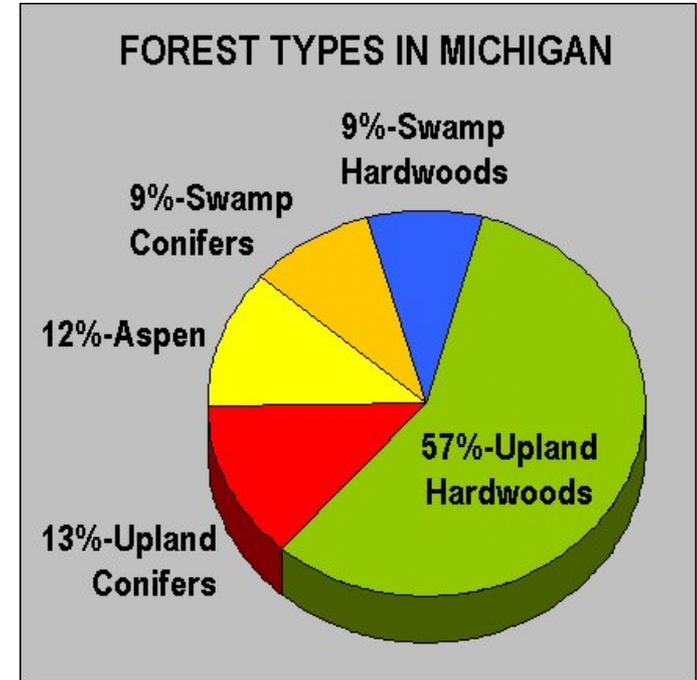


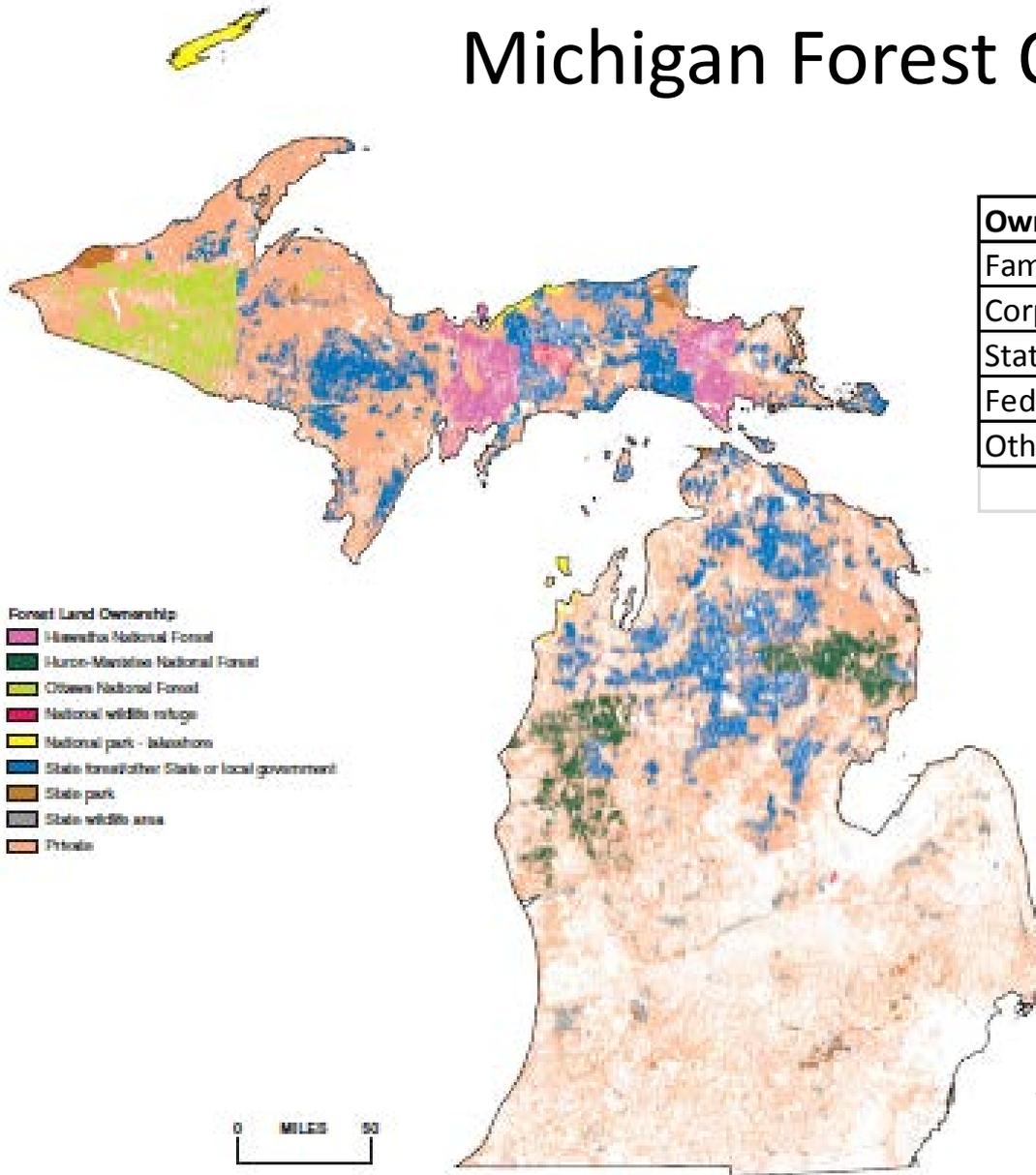
Figure 23.—Volume of growing stock on timberland by species, Michigan,



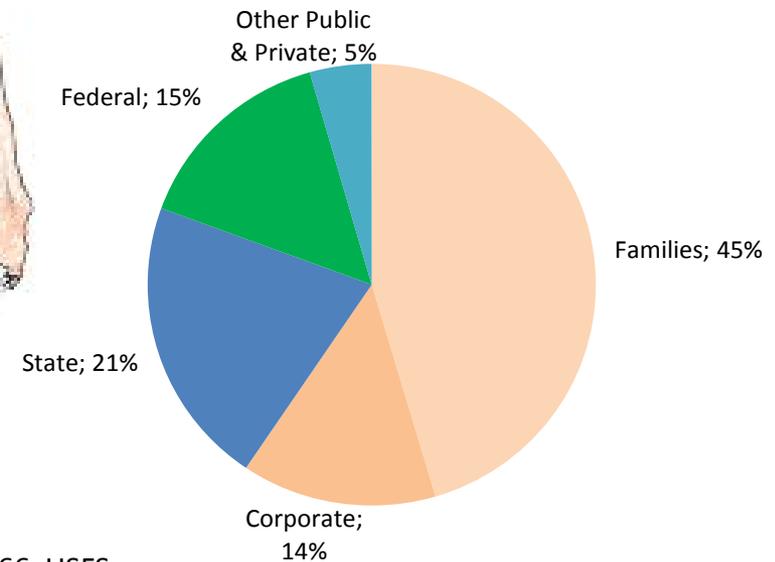
Source: <http://mff.dsisd.net/TreeBasics/History/Facts.htm>

Source: Michigan's Forests 2009, NRS-66, USFS.

Michigan Forest Owners

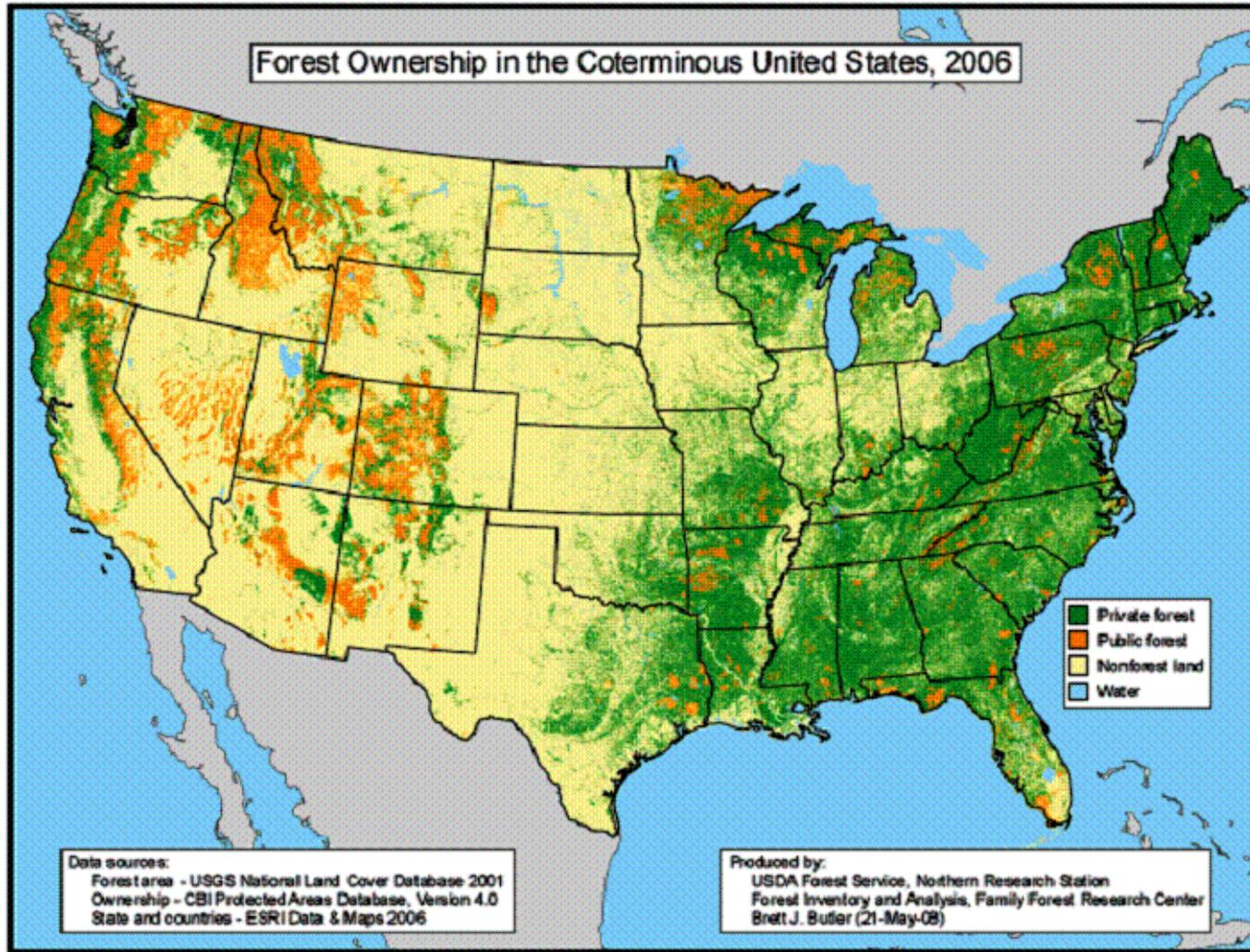


Owner	Acres	Percent
Families	9,036,700	45%
Corporate	2,797,400	14%
State	4,212,400	21%
Federal	2,966,700	15%
Other Public & Private	890,100	4%
	19,903,300	100%



source: Michigan's Forests 2009, NRS-66, USFS.

Forests in the USA



West: 57% public; 43% private

33% of Land Area

East: 83% private; 17% public

Types of Foresters

- Consulting Forester

- “A consulting forester is an independent professional who manages forests and markets forest products for private woodland owners”
- www.for.msu.edu/extension_outreach/consulting_foresters
- Association of Consulting Foresters - www.acf-foresters.org



- Industrial Forester

- Buys timber from private landowners to supply their employer, the local sawmills
- Manages a forest owned by a large timber company to supply their own mills
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative - <http://sfimi.org>
- Michigan Association of Timbermen - www.timbermen.org



- Government Forester

- Offers educational programs to the general public
- Conservation Districts (20) - www.michigan.gov/mifap
- MSU Extension (5) - <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/forestry>
- DNR (5) – www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship



Forestry Credentials

- Credentials (education and experience)
 - Registered Forester (RF) [208 in MI]
 - Registered with the State of Michigan - www.michigan.gov/foresters
 - Certified Forester (CF) [48 in MI]
 - Society of American Foresters - www.safnet.org/certifiedforester
 - Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) [22+ in MI]
 - Full-time Consulting Foresters - www.acf-foresters.org
- Program Participation
 - Qualified Forester (MDARD) [160 in MI]
 - www.michigan.gov/qfp
 - Forest Stewardship Plan Writer (DNR) [80 in MI]
 - www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship
 - Technical Service Provider (NRCS) [45 in MI]
 - www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/

What is Forest Stewardship?

Forest stewardship is ...

- intentional human *activities*
- performed in accordance with your *plan*
- to accomplish your broad *goals* and specific objectives
- that *improve* your forest for the following generations

Forest stewardship is ...

- a *long-term* process
- guided by forestry *science* and environmental *ethics*
- to become a better *manager* of your forest



“Your woodlot is, in fact, a historical document that faithfully records your personal philosophy. Let it tell a story of tolerance toward living things, and of skill in the greatest arts: how to use the earth without making it ugly.”

(Aldo Leopold, 1937 radio address)

Forest Stewardship Plan

- A document, written by a professional forester or wildlife biologist, that offers guidance to a landowner on how to manage their unique forest.
- Three Essential Components:
 1. Landowner's Goals:
 - What do you want your forest to look like in 50 years?
 2. Resource Description
 - What do you have in your forest today?
 3. Recommended Activities
 - What can you do in the next 10-20 years to accomplish your goals?
- Lots of optional components
 - Glossary, MSUE bulletins, photos, wildlife, taxes, etc.
- USFS defines minimum standards for plans
- Quality and price do not always correlate!

	
FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN	
Prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Landowner	
Example Plan Prepared by Mike Smalligan DNR Forest Stewardship Coordinator	
Plan Start Date: August, 2014	Plan Duration: 20 Years (July, 2034)
	Department of Natural Resources - Forest Resources Division www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship
<small>Required by authority of Part 501 of Act 451, P.A. 1994 as amended to certify that this Forest Stewardship Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Landowner, Plan Writer, and the DNR Service Forester.</small>	
<small>Renewal or Revision of Prior Forest Stewardship Plan? - NO</small>	

Benefits of Investing in a Forest Stewardship Plan

- Economic
 - Lower property taxes
 - Financial assistance for implementation
 - Plan for the next commercial timber sale to optimize profits
 - Lower your capital gains taxes during the next timber sale
- Ecological
 - Improve your forest with a timber sale rather than degrade it
 - Forest health issues like insects, disease, invasive plants
 - Best Management Practices for soil & water
 - Fire prevention, carbon sequestration, important sites
- Enjoyment
 - Wildlife habitat for hunting & viewing
 - Aesthetics
 - Trails
 - Forest management is FUN!





*“My Forest Stewardship Plan
helps me manage, protect
and enjoy my forest.”*

www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship • 517-284-5884

Forest Management Programs in Michigan

- Forest Management Plans
 - Forest Stewardship Plan (USFS and DNR)
 - Conservation Activity Plan #106 (NRCS)
- Property Tax Programs
 - Commercial Forest (DNR)
 - Qualified Forest (MDARD)
- Conservation Practices
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Forest Certification
 - American Tree Farm System
 - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



Forest Management Plans



- Forest Stewardship Program
 - Simple yet comprehensive plan
 - Plan written by a Certified Plan Writer
 - Reviewed and approved by DNR Service Foresters
 - Partial cost share is \$200 + \$0.50/acre
 - \$220 for 40 acres, \$240 for 80 acres (total fees usually much higher)
 - Cost share and plans are available 350 days of the year
 - www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Plan written by a Technical Service Provider
 - Reviewed and approved by NRCS District Conservationist
 - Financial assistance is \$676 for <50 acres and \$960 for 50-100 acres
 - Landowner must apply at local NRCS office to get contract with government
 - Financial assistance is only available at limited times each year
 - www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mi/technical/landuse/forestry/



Property Tax Programs

- Commercial Forest Program (DNR)
 - Landowners pay flat rate of \$1.25 per acre per year
 - *Public can access your land for hunting and fishing on foot*
 - MUST comply with forest management plan
 - 40 acre minimum
 - www.michigan.gov/privateforestland
- Qualified Forest Program (MDARD)
 - Landowners exempt from up to 18 mills (annual 2 mill fee)
 - *NO public access for hunting and fishing*
 - MUST comply with forest management plan
 - 20 acre minimum
 - www.michigan.gov/qfp

Conservation Practices

- Financial assistance may be available to implement your plan
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Apply at your local NRCS office after you have a plan.
- www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mi/technical/landuse/forestry/

Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment Amount
Brush Management	\$482 / acre
Herbaceous Weed Control	\$111 / acre
Prescribed Burning	\$62 / acre
Riparian Forest Buffer	\$1,691 / acre
Tree & Shrub Site Preparation	\$180 / acre
Tree & Shrub Establishment	\$514 / acre
Forest Trails and Landings	\$0.97 / foot
Forest Stand Improvement	\$462 / acre

Brush Management



Removing invasive plants like autumn olive



Maintaining forest openings

Tree Planting

- 40 acre black walnut plantation
- Planted in 1984 at 12'x12' for 302 TPA
- Today:
 - 114 TPA or 38% survival
 - 10% of potential volume



Building Forest Roads, Trails, and Landings

Surveyors are cheaper than Lawyers

Figure 10. Potential location of forest trails, log landing, and optional stream crossings.



Stream crossings may require DEQ permits

Forest Stand Improvement

Remove the “junk”

Keep only “best”

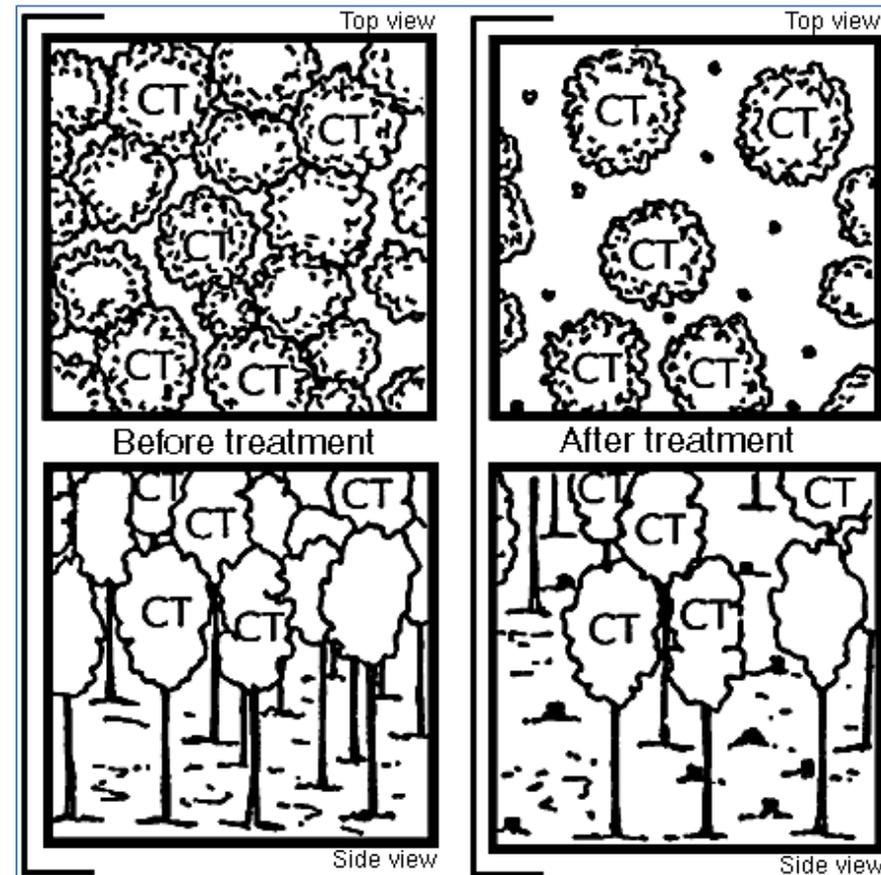
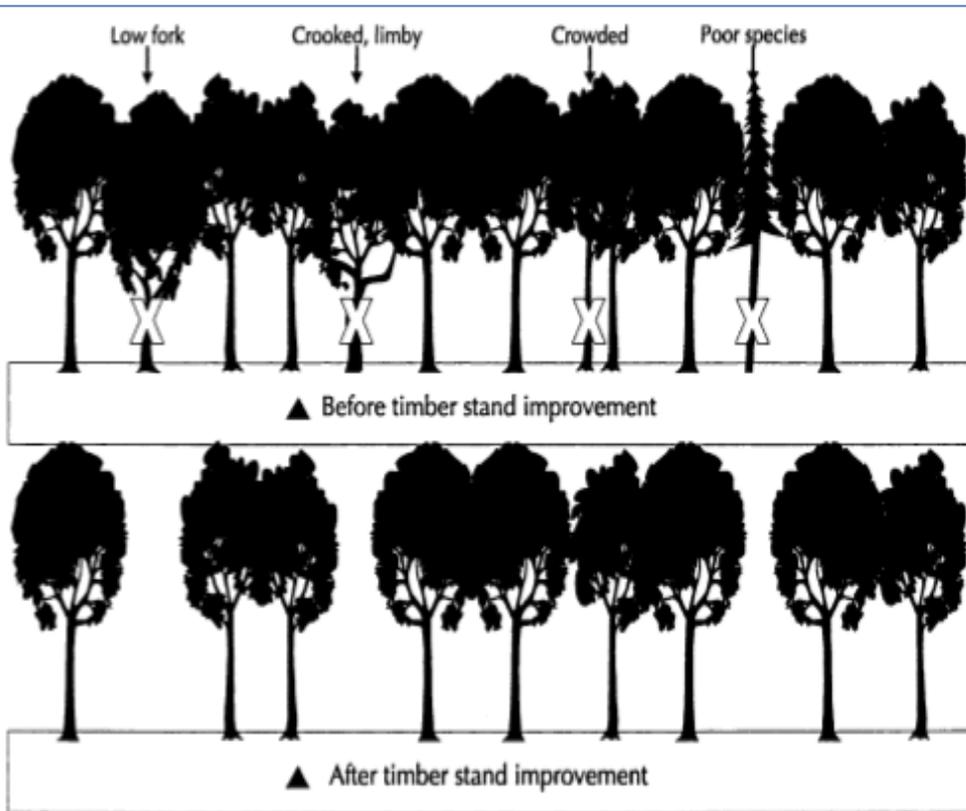


Figure 5-1. Timber stand improvement for fast growth and valuable wood products.

Source: <http://woodlandstewardship.org>

Source: www.extension.umn.edu

Commercial Timber Sales



1. Forest Inventory
2. What trees to sell? What trees to keep?
3. Advertise to Multiple Bidders
4. Timber Sale Contract
5. Administer Timber Sale

Forest Certification Programs

- American Tree Farm System
 - Started in 1941 by timber industry as landowner recognition program
 - Now operated by the American Forest Foundation
 - 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for certification
 - Reviewed and approved by a Tree Farm Inspector after a free site visit
 - www.treefarmssystem.org
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
 - Very rigorous international program
 - 10 Principles and 57 Criteria
 - Expensive third party verification
 - <https://us.fsc.org/family-forests.202.htm>



Forest Management Programs in Michigan

Program	Summary	Strengths	Weaknesses
Forest Stewardship Program	Simple plan that describes landowner's goals, forest resources, and offers general recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy access for landowner - No obligations or contracts - Cost share available all year - Flexible program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small cost share - Only 80 plan writers
NRCS CAP 106	Detailed plan that describes goals, resource concerns, and conservation practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent financial assistance - Exact specifications for a landowner to implement plan - Conservation Districts promote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowner must get contract - Contracts once per year - Only 45 TSPs to write plans - DC review inconsistent
Commercial Forest Tax Law	Tax incentive for private forest owners who must follow management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outstanding tax break - Simple requirements for plan - 208 Registered Foresters write 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public access to land - Penalties for withdrawal - Obligated to comply
Qualified Forest Tax Law	Tax incentive for family forest owners who must follow management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good tax break - Simple requirements for plan - 160 Qualified Foresters write 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual 2 mill fee - Penalties for withdrawal - Obligated to comply
American Tree Farm System Certification	Third party certification for family forest owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy and inexpensive to enroll - Reasonable Standards - Recognized by SFI and PEFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No price premium - Less market demand than for SFI or FSC
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Rigorous third party certification for public, corporate, and family forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International leader - Very rigorous with 10 Principles and 57 Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No price premium - Verification costs - More restrictive

So How Does a Landowner Choose?

- Professional:
 - Who do you want to work with? Do they share your management philosophy?
 - Consulting forester? Or procurement forester? or wildlife biologist?
 - Costs and quality of work vary greatly among forest management plan writers
 - interview several foresters - ask for references and a previous plan to review
- Program:
 - What program is best for you and your forest?
 - Do you want a plan that barely meets minimum requirements or greatly exceeds requirements?
- Timing:
 - What are the deadlines for program applications?
 - Commercial Forest application deadline is April 1 for benefits in the following year
 - Qualified Forest application deadline is September 1 for benefits in the following year
 - NRCS sign up period for the year ends in the spring and contracts not available until late summer
 - Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) cost share is available 350 days of the year
- Cost:
 - FSP has average cost share, and easy to obtain through your plan writer
 - NRCS has high cost share, but more effort for landowner to obtain a contract with government
 - Tree Farm plan can be free, but you get what you pay for...
 - CF and QF have different fees (one time vs annual) and very different tax benefits

Have Some FUN in Your Forest!

1. Learn to identify plants, trees, and forests
2. Minimize your frustrations
3. Invest in a forest management plan
4. Share your knowledge with others
5. Buy another chainsaw
6. Take lots of pictures
7. Increase your income
8. Reduce your expenses
9. Expand your forest
10. Start your own seedlings
11. Spend more time in your woods
12. Plant a wildlife food plot
13. Have a family meeting
14. Listen to your forest



Contact Information for Michigan Forest Management Programs

- Forest Stewardship Program
 - Administered by the Department of Natural Resources
 - Website: www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship
 - Program Contact: Mike Smalligan; 517-284-5884; smalliganm@michigan.gov
- Qualified Forest Program
 - Administered by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Website: www.michigan.gov/qfp
 - Program Contact: Rich Harlow; 517-284-5627; harlowr@michigan.gov
- Commercial Forest Program
 - Administered by the Department of Natural Resources
 - Website: www.michigan.gov/commercialforest
 - Program Contact: Shirley Businski; 517-284-5849; businskis@michigan.gov
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mi/technical/landuse/forestry/
 - Program Contact: Andy Henriksen; 517-324-5234; andy.henriksen@mi.usda.gov
- American Tree Farm System
 - Administered by the American Forest Foundation
 - Website: www.treefarmssystem.org/michigan
 - Program Contact: Scott Robbins; 517-853-8880; srobbins@michiganforest.com



Questions?

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