

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Timber Report  
Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

**Background**

Michigan's state forest system was originally certified under both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) third party forest certification standards in December 2005. To date, Michigan has successfully retained certification under both standards.

The Department's investment in forest certification strengthens Michigan's forest products sector. Certification is essential in order for primary and secondary wood producers in Michigan to have continued access to national and international markets.

**Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Timber Treatments**

State forest planning and activities, including timber treatments, are conducted within the framework of SFI and FSC forest certification principles and standards, which require both multidisciplinary Department staff and public participation. The Department utilizes the compartment review process for participation and approval of treatments. Timber treatments in a given year are based on decisions made two years prior to actual implementation of the treatments. Some harvest treatments are added for stands that are at high risk or showing signs of mortality due to forest health, insects, and disease.

Each year, timber harvest treatments are prescribed for both softwood (coniferous) and hardwood (deciduous) tree species. Although hardwood and softwood trees often grow together, forest stands are typically coded by the predominant tree species present. The table below reports by Year of Entry (YOE) hardwood<sup>1</sup> forest stands prescribed for treatment.

Year of Entry (YOE)	Hardwood Acres Prescribed
2012	37,890
2013	39,073
2014	40,037
2015	39,840
2016	42,250

The fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 plan of work prescribed 69,356 acres for timber sale preparation. Managers developed work plans to prepare 68,003 acres for sale. The remaining 1,353 acres will be included for treatment in the FY 2016-17 plan of work.

Timber sale preparation-marking contracts amounting to 12,931 acres were awarded in FY 2015-16. Of these, 12,586 acres were completed this fiscal year, and 345 acres will be completed by spring 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Hardwood cover types include aspen, birch, mixed northern hardwoods, oak, swamp hardwoods and lowland poplar.

Through the combined efforts of Department staff and private consultants, and in accordance with the state forest plan, 61,208 acres were prepared for sale. The estimated timber volume on those acres is 1,120,208 cords, which averages 18.3 cords per acre.

Additionally, Department staff, through the Good Neighbor Authority, prepared 1,333 acres for the U.S. Forest Service. The estimated timber volume of those acres is 20,710 cords.

A total of 49,502 acres with an estimated volume of 899,879 cords were sold in FY 2015-16.