

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Environmental Stewardship Division
FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – FY15



Manager: Stephen Shine, 517-284-5606, shines@michigan.gov

Legal Authority: 2013 Public Act 59, as amended

Description of the Program:

- The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is designed to help private forestland owners manage their forests in an economically beneficial and environmentally sound manner.
- Conservation district foresters work with private landowners to increase their understanding of the value of actively managed forest resources and refer landowners to private sector foresters for management plan development, silvicultural practice implementation, timber valuation, and harvests. FAP foresters also work closely with local private sector natural resource professionals to connect them with private forestland owners and provide quality training opportunities.
- FAP foresters promote the development of forest management plans, enrollment into the Qualified Forest Program, and review Qualified Forest Program applications for program eligibility.



Why it Matters:

- Nearly 50 percent of Michigan’s 19 million acres of forestland is owned by non-industrial private forestland owners.
- The forest products industry contributes approximately \$17 billion to the state’s economy annually, with the potential to contribute much more.
- Family forest owners contribute 64 percent of Michigan’s timber supply.

Key Stakeholders

- Non-industrial private forestland owners
- Private sector professional foresters
- Michigan’s forest products industry
- Local units of government
- Forestry, wildlife, and conservation advocacy groups

Key Deliverables

- Provide landowners with private and public sector referrals to natural resource professionals
- Conduct forestry outreach events
- Provide free site visits to landowners to discuss management options
- Assist with enrollments in the Qualified Forest Program

FY15 Accomplishments:

- In FY15, the Forestry Assistance Program saw an increase from 17 foresters covering 42 counties to 20 foresters covering 49 counties.
- Increased the number of site visits from FY14 by nearly 13 percent.
- Provided FAP foresters with training opportunities, including: Certified Tree Farm Inspector, Forest Stewardship Program plan writing, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Conservation Activity Plan 106, Forest Management Plan training.
- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development partnered with the Michigan Forest Products Council to conduct a statistically sound audit of forestry best management practices in the western Upper Peninsula. Consultant Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc. conducted the audit.

Measuring Success:

Metric	FY13	FY14	FY15
Foresters available (FTEs)	13	17	20
Counties served	31	42	49
Outreach events	195	299	346
Site visits	1,243	1,781	2012
Private sector referrals	424	790	837
Public sector referrals	433	550	627
Timber harvest referrals	193	352	360
Estimated value of referrals (\$M)	4.5	6.1	8.4
Acres referred to Qualified Forest	11,983	53,108	77,049

Dashboards and Scorecards:

- Forestry Assistance Program's MiScorecard metric is a measure of the percent of achievement toward referring non-industrial private forestland owners to professionals in the private sector. The FY15 goal to refer \$6 million in estimated economic activity from private forestlands was exceeded with an estimated \$8.4 million in economic activity being referred. The dashboards and scorecards can be found at www.michigan.gov/openmichigan.

FY16 Program Goals:

- Provide Michigan residents with 2,250 on-site assessments.
- Initiate 1,000 referrals to the private sector for work on private forestlands.
- Augment the program's ability to offer effective, meaningful outreach events to landowners and natural resource professionals that showcase a wide range of topics and attract a variety of Michigan residents.
- Complete 100 Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System risk assessments.
- Achieve 50 MAEAP Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System verifications.