Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Timber Report
Fiscal Year 2025
Public Act 22 of 2025, Section 802

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

State Forest 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.

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 forest stands prescribed for treatment.

Year of Entry (YOE)	Hardwood Acres Prescribed
2021	32,295
2022	30,708
2023	32,848
2024	30,334
2025	29,264

Hardwood cover types include aspen, birch, mixed northern hardwoods, oak, swamp hardwoods and lowland poplar.

The fiscal year (FY) 2025 plan of work identified approximately 48,168 acres for timber sale preparation that were prescribed for treatment and approved through the compartment review process.

Timber sale preparation is done by Department staff, and through timber marking contracts with private consultants. In FY 2025, Department staff prepared 49,694 acres of timber sales with an estimated volume of 896,427 cords. This averages out to 18.0 cords per acre. Additionally, state timber sale preparation-marking contracts for 9,335 acres were awarded in FY 2025.

State timber sales are primarily sold through a sealed bidding process; however, direct sales and oral auctions can also be used. In FY 2025, the Department sold 47,939 acres with an estimated volume of 925,353 cords. This averages out to 19.3 cords per acre. In FY 2025, the Department received approximately $38,854,600 in revenue from state timber receipts.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Timber Treatments

The FY 2025 plan of work identified 9,379 acres for GNA timber sale preparation that were prescribed for treatment and approved by the U.S. Forest Service.

In FY 2025, the Department prepared 8,415 acres of GNA timber sales with an estimated volume of 167,858 cords. This averages out to 19.9 cords per acre. Additionally, GNA timber sale preparation-marking contracts totaling 3,831 acres were awarded in FY 2025.

In FY 2025, the Department sold 8,043 acres of GNA timber sales with an estimated volume of 171,808 cords. This averages out to 21.4 cords per acre. The Department received approximately $5,599,000 in revenue from GNA timber receipts in FY 2025.