Governors 2015 Forest Products Summit

• Lands Panel Discussion
  – Private Lands
  • 3 hours in 15 minutes

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About Me

Education:
BS Univ. of MI
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President
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1990 -

FSC Certified = 195,000
AFF Certified = 147,779
Michigan’s Forest Owners

- 62% is Private
- 38% is Public

400,000 Family Owners
- Average size is 23 acres
- Very Diverse by region.
- Very Diverse by size.

Landowner type, percent of forest land.

Data Source: USFS Forest Inventory EVALIDator – 2013 FIA data via Mike Smalligan
Characteristics

• Large “industrial owners” vs “non-industrial owners”
  – Integrated industrial ownerships no longer exist. Now TIMO’s and REITS.

• “Non-Industrial owners” are very diverse.
  – Regional differences.
  – *Willingness to harvest or manage forestland changes over time.*
    • Changes in ecological conditions.
    • Changes in ownership goals & objectives.
    • Changes in economic conditions.
25-year TRENDS (non-Industrial owners)

• Increasing base land values (except last 5 years?). – Regional Differences.

• Increasing landowner willingness to invest in property.

• Changes in Harvest Technology.

• Ownership Fragmentation – Regional Differences
• Increasing forester capacity devoted to forestlands.
  – Is private forestland management a public function or a private function?

• New partnership models being developed to encourage the flow of labor and capital into private forestland management with multiple goals:
  – Informed landowners making informed choices.
  – Healthy Sustainable Communities.
Alphabet Soup

• **Forest Certification** (AFF, SFI, FSC)
• **Management Planning Programs**
  – Forest Stewardship Program
  – NRCS Cost Share Programs
  – Tree Farm Program
• **Preferential property tax programs:**
  
  • Commercial Forest Program (DNR) – relatively stable.
    – 2.2 million acres
    – 1.9 million acres “industrial” ownerships in UP
    – 55K acres in LP
    – 1800 landowners (20 “industrial” owners).
    – Trend is increase in owners as “industrial” land is sold as smaller parcels.

  • Qualified Forest (MDA)
    – New program growing rapidly.
    – Expect approximately 321,000 acres enrolled by 1/1/2016 (approximately 700 recent applications covering 87,500 acres).
Assistance for Private Forest Landowners

• General Forestry Information
• Forest Management Plans
• Property Tax Incentives
• Financial Assistance
• Forest Certification
• Working Forest Easements
• Wildlife Habitat

From Mike Smalligan
Public – Private Partnerships

- United States Forest Service – State and Private Forestry
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- MDARD, DEQ, DNR
- Conservation Districts
- MTU, MSU, MSUE
- American Tree Farm System
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Michigan Forest Association
- Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters
- Michigan Society of American Foresters
- Michigan Association of Timbermen
- Michigan Forest Products Council
- Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
- Project Learning Tree
- The Nature Conservancy, Huron Pines, The Stewardship Network, …
- Trout Unlimited, Quality Deer Management Association, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, …
- Many others ….
Other Issues

• National and regional shortage of foresters.