

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Timber Report
First Quarter Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15**

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 in order for primary and secondary wood producers in Michigan to have continued access to national and international markets.

First Quarter FY 2014-15 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 multi-disciplinary Department staff and public participation. The Department utilizes its compartment review process for public participation and approval of timber treatments. Timber treatments in a given year are based on decisions made two years prior to actual implementation of the treatments.

The FY 2014-15 plan of work currently identifies 67,555 acres for timber sale preparation that were approved through the compartment review process. Managers are developing work plans to prepare all 67,555 acres.

Timber sale preparation is done by Department staff and through timber marking contracts with private consultants. In the first quarter of FY 2014-15, 3,605 acres of timber sale preparation-marking contracts were awarded. Contracts for an additional 8,056 acres are expected to be in place later in the fiscal year.

In the first quarter of FY 2014-15, the Department prepared 2,299 acres of timber sales, with an estimated volume of 30,173 cords. Fewer acres are typically prepared for sale during the first quarter of the fiscal year than during subsequent quarters due to seasonal management activities.

The Department offered 92 timber sales in the first quarter. Twelve sales (approximately 13 percent of those offered) went no-bid one or more times. The 13 percent no-bid rate is the same as the fourth quarter of FY 2013-14, and just under the rate for the whole of FY 2013-14. Four of the no-bid sales have since sold. The remaining unsold sales will likely be offered again in the coming months. In total, 84 of the 92 sales offered in the first quarter have sold, totaling 7,797 acres and 120,145 cords.