



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
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June 6, 2008

The Honorable Michelle McManus, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources
S-2 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Michael Lahti, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources
S-1489 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator McManus and Representative Lahti:

Pursuant to Section 52506, PA 451 of 1994, attached is the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) report addressing forestry issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief
Budget and Support Services
517-335-3276

Attachment

cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Members
House Appropriations Subcommittee Members
Ms. Jessica Runnels, Senate Fiscal Agency
Dr. Kirk Lindquist, House Fiscal Agency
Mr. Robert Emerson, State Budget Director, Department of
Management and Budget (DMB)
Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB
Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB
Director Rebecca Humphries, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR
Ms. Arminda Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff, DNR
Mr. Daniel Eichinger, Acting Legislative Liaison, DNR
Ms. Lynne Boyd, DNR
Ms. Jane Schultz, DNR

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**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Public Act 451 of 1994, Section 52506 Report**

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) is required to provide a report to the Natural Resources Commission and the legislature that details the following:

(a) The number of harvestable acres in the state forest as determined by the certification program under section 52506.

Forest Certification systems do not determine the number of harvestable acres. Systems evaluate whether harvesting is being conducted in accordance with sustainable forestry principles that consider a broad range of environmental, social, and economic criteria.

(b) The number of acres of the state forest that were harvested and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from the state forest.

There were 42,784 acres of state forest harvested in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 that yielded an estimated volume of 629,367 cords.

(c) The number of acres of state-owned lands owned or controlled by the Department, other than state forestlands that were harvested, and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from those lands.

There were 411 acres, other than state forestlands, that were harvested in FY 2006-07 that yielded 10,337 cords.

(d) Efforts by the Department to promote recreational opportunities in the state forest.

Publicity for the state forest campground program was provided via outdoor shows, the Michigan State Fair and Upper Peninsula State Fair, various Department publications and the Department website.

The Department printed 96,000 Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) guides and 34,000 Snowmobile brochures.

(e) Information on the public's utilization of the recreational opportunities offered by the state forest.

The Department website and webpages were reformatted to improve ease of use and access to recreation information, the campground search engine, and the campground reservation system.

There were 41,966 camp registrations for state forest campsites in 2007, for a total of 137,963 registered campers. This equates to a total of 288,000 camper days (number of campers multiplied by the number of camp days stayed at a campsite) for the year.

There were 200,530 Snowmobile Trail Permits sold during the season (9/1/2006 through 5/31/07) and 187,108 ORV licenses sold in license year 2006.

Ninety-five state forest use permits were issued for a variety of events such as dog sled, ski, mountain bike and snowshoe races, dog trials and skeet shooting.

(f) Efforts by the Department to promote wildlife habitat in the state forest.

Wildlife Division works jointly with Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division in the compartment review process to ensure wildlife habitat management goals are reflected in the approved stand level treatments. In FY 2006-07, Wildlife Division participated in reviewing 485,603 acres of state forests to determine wildlife management needs. The review process included considerations for habitat improvement and habitat planning on sites with exemplary natural features, endangered/threatened species, or natural areas contained within state forests. Additionally, Wildlife Division participated in completing the State Forest Plan. Draft regional State Forest Plans are currently being developed for the eastern and western Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula.

(g) Status of the plan and whether the Department recommends any changes in the plan.

In FY 2005-06, the Department prepared a draft "2006 State Forest Management Plan" (SFMP) that was released for public review and comment. Throughout 2007, the Department reviewed comments and developed responses to be posted on its website. Changes to the plan were incorporated into a second draft for public review. In addition to revising the SFMP, staff worked on reframing the ecoregion planning platform that complements the SFMP. The ecoregion level is being revamped to a Regional State Forest Plan covering state forest lands and an Ecoregion Plan across all ownerships. The Regional State Forest Plan will include Management Areas that provide more specific direction to local resource managers.

(h) Status of certification efforts required in section 52505 and, beginning in 2006, a definitive statement of whether the Department is maintaining certification of the entire state forest.

The State Forest System was awarded forest certification in December 2005 under the auspices of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). A combined SFI and FSC annual certification audit was conducted in October 2006.¹ The audit verified that the Department is in compliance with SFI and FSC standards. The Department is monitoring and continually improving sustainable state forest land management.

¹ The 2007 audit was scheduled starting October 2, 2007 but was delayed due to the possible State Government shutdown at the start of the 2008 fiscal year. The audit was conducted October 30-November 2, 2007

The Department is maintaining SFI and FSC forest certification of the state forest system excluding minor acreages that are not under the exclusive, direct control of the Department, e.g. the Grayling Military Reserve and forest lands leased to Luce County (original 15-year lease in 1984 and one-time renewal in 1999).

(i) A description of any activities that have been undertaken on forest pilot project areas described in section 52511.

Four forest pilot project areas were established in 2006, as required by section 52511. Department staff began preliminary discussions on contracting issues, concerns and options.