Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Timber Report

Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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.

Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2015-2016 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. Some harvest treatments are added for stands that are at high risk or showing signs of mortality due to forest health insects and disease.

The fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 plan of work currently identifies 69,356 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. Through the third quarter of FY 2015-16, Department staff has prepared 18,998 acres of timber sales with an estimated volume of 338,245 cords – an average of 17.8 cords per acre.

Additionally, 12,586 acres of timber sale preparation-marking contracts have been awarded through the third quarter. These acres will be prepared for sale by the end of the fiscal year.