The Future of Forest Management
Deb Begalle, Michigan State Forester
Michigan’s Public Forests

- 20 million acres of forest land in Michigan
- 7.4 million acres is public land
- Nearly 4 million acres is state forest
Conservation History

Forests and the wildlife they sustain are important, then and now:

- **1899** – Forestry Commission began
- **1903**
  - Organized fire protection
  - 34,000-acre forest reserve established in Roscommon and Crawford counties
  - Nursery started at Higgins Lake
- **1904** – First tree planting
- **1921** – Dept. of Conservation
Changing Times

The way we care for and manage the forest has changed dramatically in 100 years

Same site in Roscommon, decades apart
Michigan’s Wood Production

- $21 billion forest economy; provides 99,000 jobs
- Third nationally in furniture exports
- Seventh nationally in wood products exports
- 20th nationally in paper products
- World class sugar maple resource

UP-made hardwood basketball floor
DNR Timber Sales

- About 600 sales per year on over 60,000 acres
- Value of $44 million in 2017
- More than 1 million cords of wood
Active Mills

- 52% Northern Lower Peninsula
- 11% Western Upper Peninsula
- 33% Southern Lower Peninsula
- 5% Eastern Upper Peninsula

Michigan Forest Product Primary Mills Active in 2016

Based on data collected as part of the primary mill survey conducted by Michigan DNR for primary manufacturers active in 2016.

Primary mills – companies that use wood chips, sawlogs or pulpwood obtained directly from the forest to manufacture paper or other wood products.

Large sawmills – mills that used raw material volumes ≥5 million board feet in 2016.

Energy plants – facilities that used wood chips obtained directly from the forest for generation of electricity in 2016. Plants that only used mill residues or recycled wood are not shown.

*If you need assistance with the information on this map, please contact us by phone at 517-254-5887.*
Key Products (By Volume)

- Lumber (Grade, Dimension, Industrial), 34.0%
- Paper, 38.0%
- Composite Board, 15.7%
- Energy & Pellets, 8.0%
- Mulch, 2.6%
- Posts & Poles, 1.4%
- Veneer, 0.3%
Global Trade

- Michigan’s largest international export markets:
  - Canada
  - Mexico
  - China
- 53% of Michigan forest products exported to Canada in 2016
- Exports to China and Southeast Asia have fastest growth
Expanding Forest Industry

- Arauco making $400 million investment
- Expansion of current lumber mills
- Growth of new technologies
Our Tools Are Evolving

- Going paperless
- Inventory system uses tablets
- Software innovations
- Use of drones is being explored
Talk About Technology!

- Who remembers using this?
- GPS and even smartphone technology have taken its place
Challenges Going Forward

- Climate change is a concern
- Future of pulp and paper mills
- Availability of a skilled workforce
Building Public Trust

- Certified since 2005
- Forest Stewardship Council
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Engaging the Public

- Public information campaign based on research:
  - People want to ensure forests for future generations
  - Clean air and water are vital
  - Strong preference for wildlife habitat protection
TV and Ad Campaign

- Initial target audience: Residents 18-49 in southeast Michigan
- Campaign with TV, social media, news articles and digital ads September-January
- New promotions aimed at younger population segment begin in April
CAREFULLY MANAGED AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO MICHIGAN.
Another Challenge: Invasive Species

- Global trade can have a down side for forest health
  - Emerald Ash Borer
  - Beech Bark Disease
  - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Partners Become Crucial

- Fewer government employees at all levels
- Agencies working hand-in-hand
- States and provinces collaborate on Great Lakes Fire compact
Good Neighbor Authority

- Prepared 6,500 acres of timber sales for Michigan’s national forests in 2016-18
- Almost 11,000 acres per year expected by 2020
- Work jointly on forest health and wildlife habitat
T&E Species Partnerships

- Kirtland’s Warbler recovery
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake conservation agreement
- Northern Long-eared Bat habitat conservation plan
Community cooperation

- CISMAAs help in the fight against invasive species
- Local groups on the ground in individual communities
Adapting Forest Products Industry for Future Success

- Cross-laminated timber
- Bioproducts
- Nanotechnology

Metropol Parasol, in Seville, Spain
Poised for a Bright Future

- Adapting to meet challenges
- Partnering to accomplish goals
- Prepared for whatever is in store
Questions?