

# Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy



Sustainable Forestry Conference

April 14, 2011

# Presentation Outline



- Where were we?
- Where are we now?
- What happens next?

Where  
We  
Were



Where  
We  
Are



The Way  
Forward

# Where We Were



- Separate planning and grant processes for DNR Cooperative Forestry Programs:
  - Urban and Community Forestry
  - Forest Stewardship
  - Forest Legacy
  - Forest Health
  - Wildfire Management

Where  
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The Way  
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# Where We Were



- Limited coordination across cooperative programs.
- Multiple grant application processes.

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# Where We Are



- Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy was completed on June 10, 2010.
- Accepted by USDA Forest Service.
- Is the basis for cooperative program competitive grant proposals, beginning with FY 2011.

Where  
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The Way  
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# Where We Are



- Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy is based upon 3 themes:
  - Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses (3 Issues).
  - Protect forests from threats (4 Issues).
  - Enhance public benefits from trees and forests (9 Issues).

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# Where We Are



Issues were identified for each theme.

- Discussion for each issue includes:
  - An Issue Description, which includes identified priority areas.
  - Strategies.
  - Required Resources.
  - Performance Measures.
- Issues may be applicable to multiple cooperative programs.

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# Where We Are



- Theme 1 issues to conserve and manage working forests :
  - Promote Sustainable Active Management of Private Forests.
  - Reduce Divestiture, Parcelization and Conversion of Private Forestlands.
  - Reduce the High Cost of Owning Private Forestland.

Where  
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# Where We Are



- Theme 2 issues to protect forests:
  - Maintain and Restore Aquatic Ecosystems and Watersheds.
  - Reduce Threats from Invasive Species, Pests and Disease.
  - Reduce Wildfire Risk and Improve Public Safety.
  - Reduce the Impact of Unmanaged Recreational Activities on Forest Resources.

Where  
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The Way  
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# Where We Are



- Theme 3 issues to enhance public benefits from forests:
  - Maintain Markets for Utilization of Forest Products.
  - Maintain Ecosystem Services from Private Forestlands.
  - Provide Effective Conservation Outreach for Private Forestlands.

Where  
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The Way  
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# Where We Are



- More theme 3 issues to enhance public benefits from forests:
  - Maintain Community Quality of Life and Economic Resiliency.
  - Maintain Forested Ecosystems for Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat.
  - Maintain and Enhance Access to Recreational Activities on Private Forestlands.

Where  
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# Where We Are



- The Strategy is in sync with current DNR priorities:
  - An Emphasis on Customer Service
  - Strong Support of the Recreation Passport
  - Increase Participation in Outdoor Recreation and Stop the Decline in Hunting and Fishing Participation
  - Foster the Growth of Michigan's Natural Resource-Based Economy

Where  
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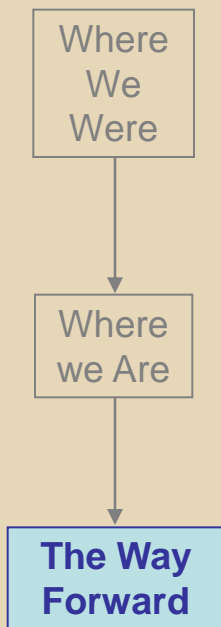
Where  
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The Way  
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# The Way Forward



- A competitive allocation process has been designed to:
  - Provide greater program integration in the allocation of funds to partners; and
  - To improve operational efficiencies by reducing duplicated review procedures.
- Proposals must be linked to the Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy.



# The Way Forward



- Funding authorities included in the competitive allocation for the Northeastern Area include:
  - Urban and Community Forestry.
  - Forest Stewardship.
  - Forest Fire.
  - Forest Health.

Where  
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**The Way  
Forward**

# The Way Forward



- FY 2011 proposals are currently in the Competitive Allocation Review Process.
  - 16 proposals from MI DNR and 7 partners for projects totaling \$7.7M
- Much uncertainty due to the lack of a Federal budget.

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# The Way Forward



- Look for FY 2012 proposal process in summer 2011 – timing is also budget dependent.

Where  
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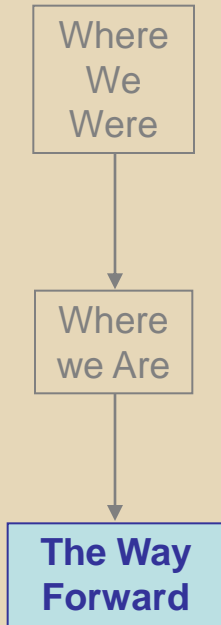
**The Way  
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# The Way Forward



## What can be done to promote Sustainable Active Management of Private Forests?



- Fill vacant Forest Stewardship Coordinator position in 2011
- Two private lands foresters in the Upper Peninsula.
- Partnership for grant to fund consultant forester assistance to private landowners.

# The Way Forward

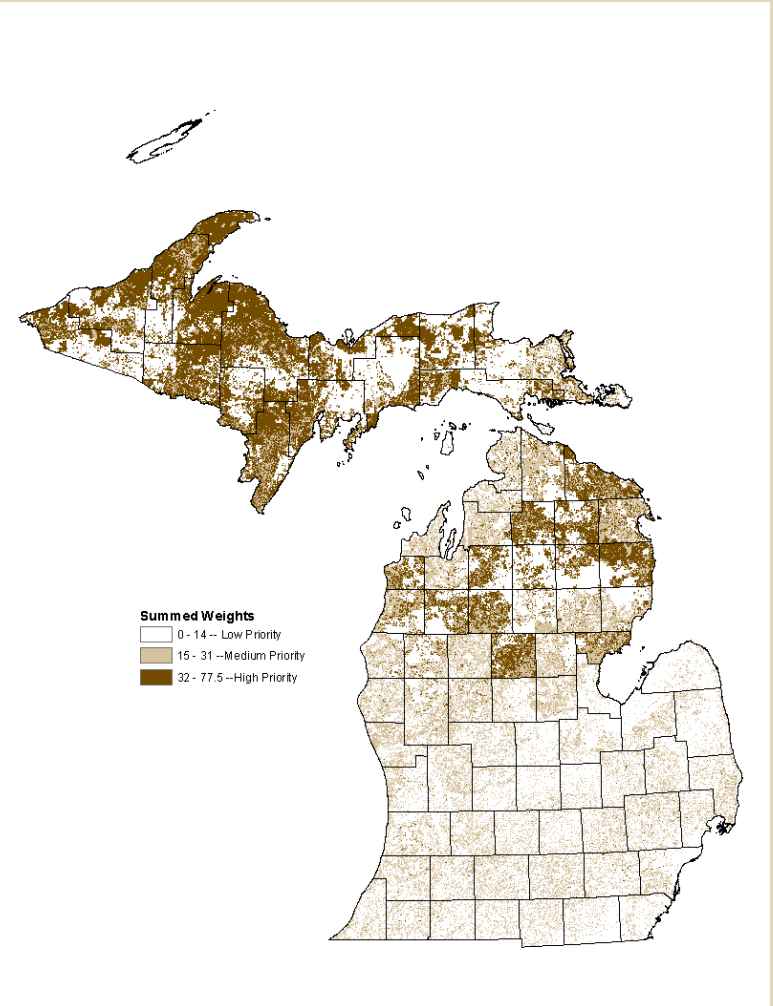


## Priority Areas to Promote Sustainable Active Management of Private Forests

Where We Were

Where we Are

The Way Forward



# The Way Forward



## What can be done to Reduce Divestiture, Parcelization and Conversion of Private Forestlands?

- Work with partners for acquisition of working forest conservation easements.

Where  
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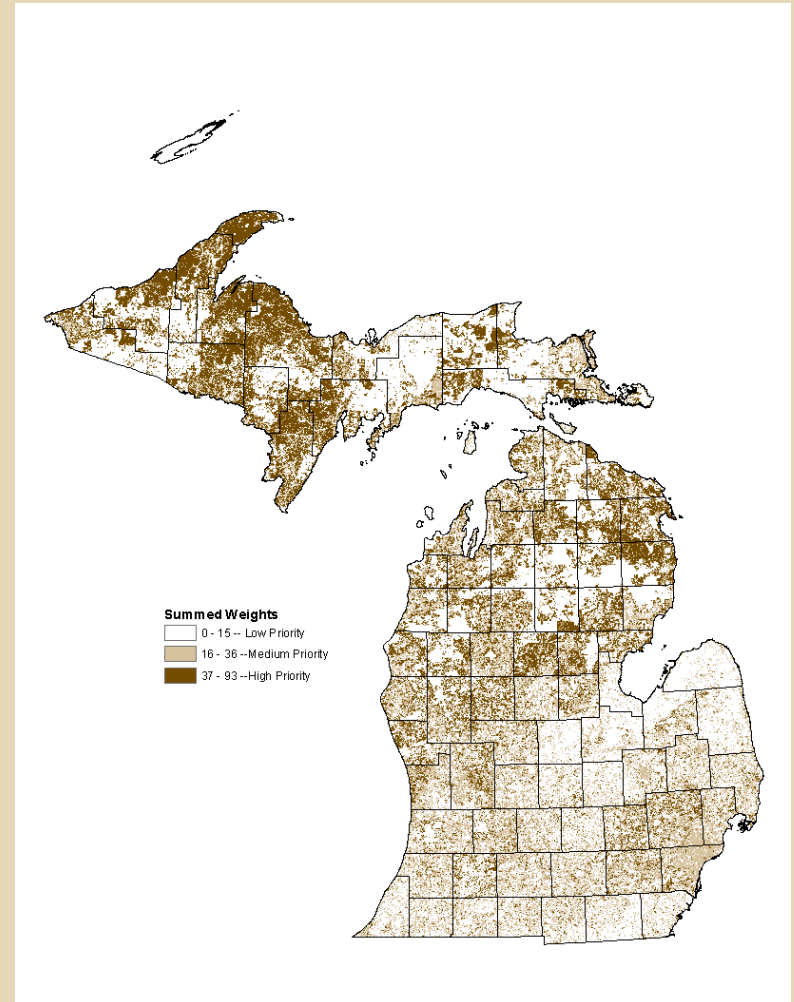
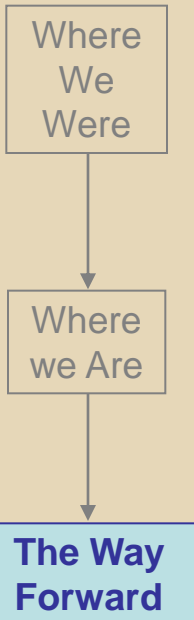
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# The Way Forward



Priority Areas to Reduce Divestiture, Parcelization and Conversion of Private Forestlands



# The Way Forward

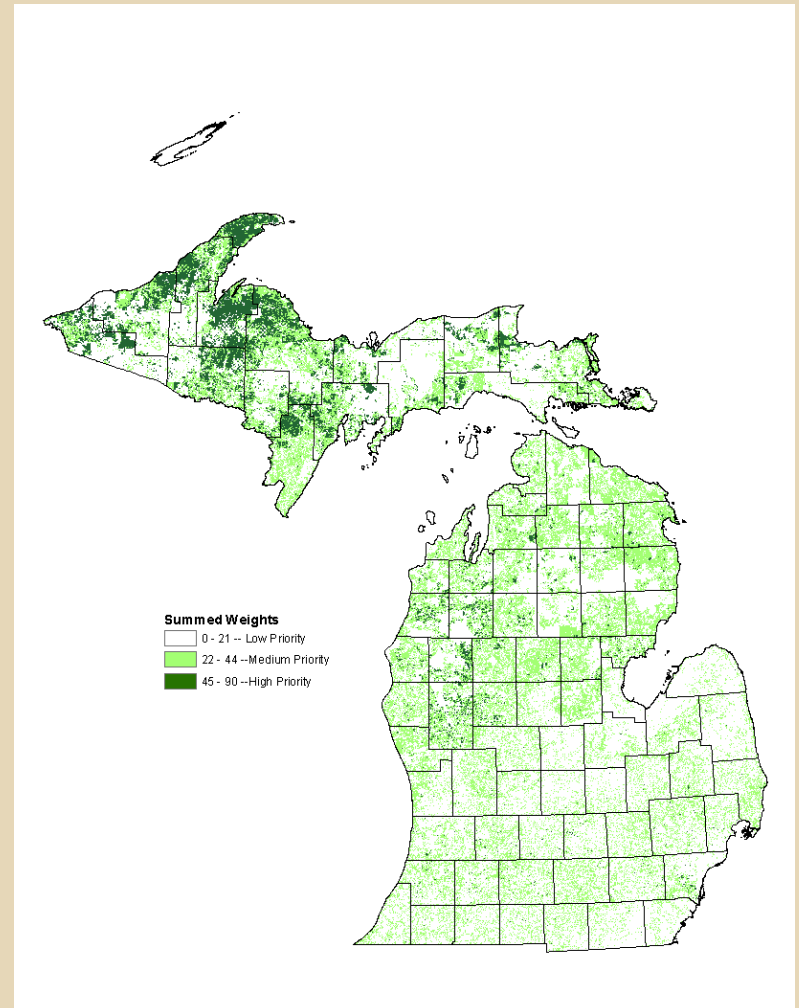


Priority areas  
for providing  
incentives to  
private  
landowners to  
maintain  
forestland

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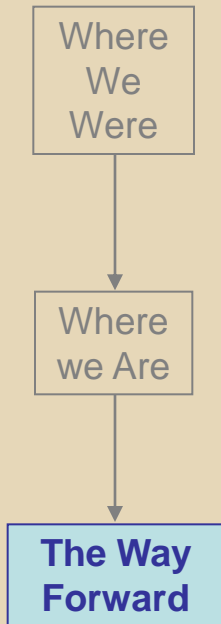
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# The Way Forward



## 2010 Northern Great Lakes Forest Project, Working Forest Conservation Easement



- Partners included USFS, TNC, several Michigan-based foundations and Forestland Group, LLC.
- Connected 247,806 acres of land from Gogebic County to Chippewa County
- \$16.1 million in funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- \$9.45 million from the USFS Forest Legacy Program

# The Way Forward



## What can be done to maintain Markets for Utilization of Forest Products?

- Fill vacant Utilization and Marketing Specialist position in 2011.
- A contributor to the Mascoma biofuels project in Chippewa County. \$23.5 million in funding from State of Michigan.

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# The Way Forward

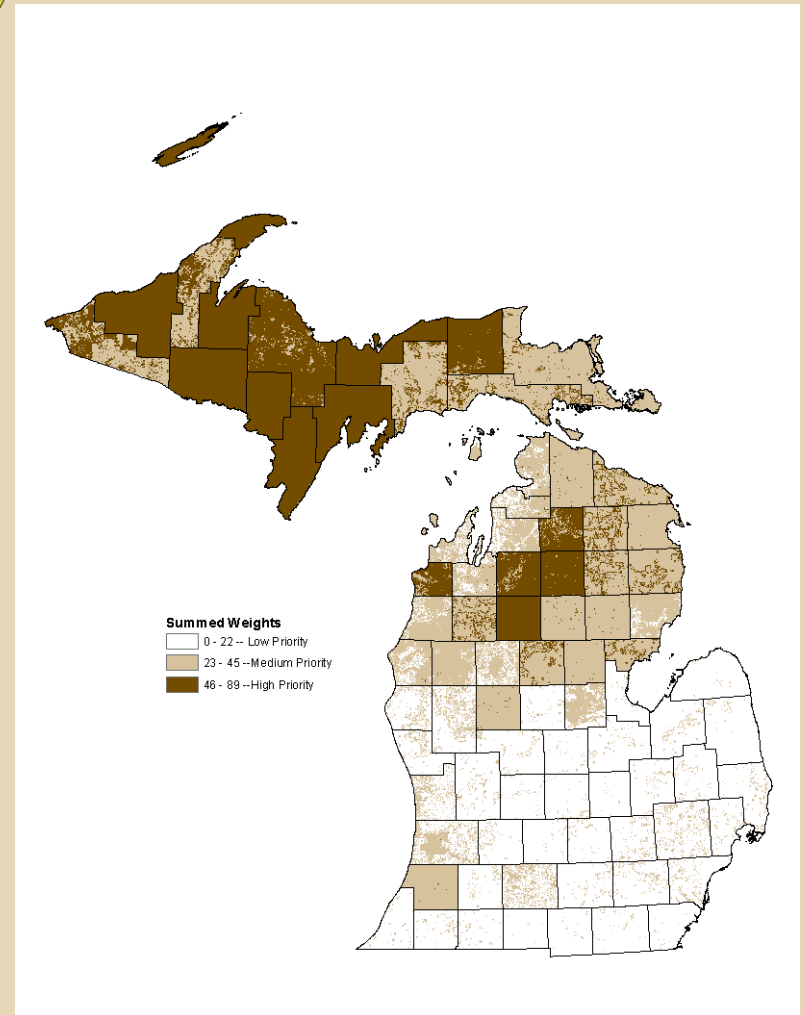


## Priority Areas to Maintain Markets for Utilization of Forest Products

Where We Were

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The Way Forward





# The Way Forward



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Thank you!



Questions?