



Great Lakes
**Timber
Professionals**
Association



Florence Sustainable Forestry
Conference
Wednesday, April 17, 2024



On a National Level, GLTPA coordinates with:

- **American Loggers Council (ALC)**
- **American Forest & Paper Association (AF & PA)**
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Association (CVSA)**
- **Forest Resource Association (FRA)**
- **Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC)**
- **Federal Timber Purchasers (FTP)**
- **Evergreen Forest County Group**

United States Capitol

Washington DC



Northern Long Eared & Tri-Colored Bats

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Listed NLEB as Endangered March 31, 2023, and proposed listing for the Tri-Colored September 13, 2022
- Interim Guidance was also issued March 31 and was scheduled to remain in place until April 1, 2024. On April 1, 2024, USFWS extended the interim guidance.
- April 1, 2024, A preview of the draft guidance was sent to stakeholders for review and comment with the hope of having final guidance done by the summer of 2024. The guidance includes conservation measures for the Tri-Colored Bat should it be listed.
- Please contact us at bat_tools@fws.gov to share any questions and substantive feedback.



European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) What Does It Mean?

- From AF & PA **“The U.S. pulp and paper industry is not linked to global deforestation and forest degradation.** As such, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – in its current form – **poses significant concerns for our country.**
- The rule presents severe compliance challenges, would disrupt sustainable supply chains, and imposes unwarranted and costly requirements for doing business with the E.U.
- We commend U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (TN) and Angus King (ME) for leading this bipartisan effort with 24 other Senators to address the challenges of EUDR. **It's vital the USTR pursue clarity on this regulation's requirements related to traceability, data reporting and country benchmarking.** This partnership is essential to protect the interests of our industry, our workers, and the American economy.



National Forest Road Hearing

- ▶ House Natural Resources Sub-Committee on Federal Lands Chair-Congressman Tom Tiffany
- ▶ Hearing May 13,th 2024 in Hayward Wisconsin.
- ▶ Regarding Use of National Forest Roads closed after forest management is completed.
- ▶ Should Roads remain Open for Public Use



Old Growth and Mature Forests

- Biden Administration issued Executive Order 14072 in April 2022, to define and effectively create special considerations for “old growth” and “mature forests” on federal lands, apparently striving to elevate a particular stage of forest succession above other, legally required multiple use purposes.
- To date there has been no single, coherent definition for “old growth” or “mature forests” however, the administration did proceed with a report which published that wildfire, insects, and diseases are the leading threats to “mature and old growth” forests. The report also noted “tree cutting” is a relatively minor threat” and “in general, management improved or maintained these stands.”



American Loggers Council

- Recent Article; “The Dismantling of the American Timber Industry”
- Highlights; In the past 15 months over 50 mills have been closed or taken other action to reduce production resulting in the loss of 10,000 or more jobs.
- According to the World Bank, the U.S. is now the leading global importer of softwood lumber from New Zealand and imports over \$40 billion in wood products from Canada, China, and Brazil.
- Over regulation, harvest restrictions, unfair trade practices, incessant litigation, and a failure to recognize the opportunity of forest-based feedstock to produce renewable energy.



Wisconsin State Organizations GLTPA Coordinates with:

- **Federal Sustainable Forestry Committee (FSFC)**
- **Trees for Tomorrow (TFT)**
- **WI Council on Forestry (COF)**
- **WI County Forest Association (WCFA)**
- **WI Towns Association (WTA)**
- **WI Oversize/Overweight Committee (OSOW)**
- **WI Freight Advisory Committee (WFAC)**
- **WI Transportation Stakeholders Taskforce (WTST)**
- **Local Road Improvement Discretionary Fund (LRIP)**
- **Multimodal Local Supplement Committee**
- **WI Wood Marketing Team (WWMT)**
- **WI Paper Council (WPC)**
- **Wood Industry Collaborative**





Agriculture Road Improvement Program ARIP

- Governor Evers Signed into Law July of 2023
- \$150 Million Applies to Local Roads Supporting AG and Forestry
- Provides for 90% State 10% Local match for Funding
- Industry Must Provide Supporting Documentation to Show Need
- Roads Must be Upgraded too All-Season Condition and May No Longer be Posted for Weight.
- First Round of Applications for \$50 Million was Due April 5th,2024
- The Second Round of Applications for \$100 Million Dollars Will Be Solicited Sometime in June or July.



Attracting New Markets

- ▶ New Markets are Bypassing the Great Lakes Region. Why?
- ▶ The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is perusing an approach to address where hangups are to attract new wood consumers.
- ▶ Two issues identified are the length of time to get permits and a growing concern regarding forested land being deforested for other purposes which may lead to fiber availability issues. How much is and will be converted and how much conversion can be tolerated before it impacts sustainable forest management.



WI Senate Bill 399

- More Debate to Come
- From Senator Felzkowski, “Senate Bill 999 was written as a viable solution to expand recreational access for motorized vehicles, providing new opportunities for hunters, anglers, and recreational vehicle enthusiasts.”
- The only other alternative to expand recreational vehicle use from the Senators perspective, is utilization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to purchase more public land spending millions of taxpayer dollars placing more land in government control, which removes it from county and municipal tax rolls in perpetuity.



Michigan State Organizations GLTPA Coordinates with:

- **County Road Association of MI (CRA)**
- **Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA)**
- **MI Farm Bureau (MFB)**
- **MI Dept of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB)**
- **Eastern Upper Peninsula Transit Authority (EUPTA)**
- **MI Townships Association (MTA)**
- **MI Association of Timbermen (MAT)**
- **MI Forest Products Council (MFPC)**
- **MI Assoc. of Timbermen Self Insured Fund (MATSIF)**
- **MI Operating Engineers (MOE)**
- **Sustainable Resource Institute (SRI)**
- **Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)**





Extending the Michigan/Wisconsin IFTA Agreement

- Original Agreement is for 30 Air Miles
- Soon After it Went Into Effect it Was Discovered That it DID NOT Cover Deliveries to Billerud Escanaba as Originally Intended.
- February 20th, 2024, A House Transportation Hearing was Held to Extend the Agreement to 50 Miles. HB 5378-5379
- Passed Out of Committee Unanimously.
- Expected to Pass When the House Reconvenes After Easter Recess and Spring Break



MI PSC Temporarily Extends Life for Cadillac and Lincoln Biomass Consumers

- MI PSC rejected a request from Consumers Energy seeking to early termination with the Cadillac and Lincoln biomass plants.
- PSC basically stated that solar, storage and market prices could not meet the reliability needed to provide customers with affordable, dependable energy.
- Closure of these consumers would be detrimental to the continued recovery of Kirtland's Warbler as material harvested to maintain their habitat was consumed by these facilities. Additionally, several logging companies would be negatively impacted as well as the MDNR Forestry Budget.



Category “E” Road Funding

- Critical Roads for Economic Development Act passed into law in 1987 containing \$5 million slated for use by County Road Commissions using a formula based on having 34% or more commercial forest land within their boundaries. The fund includes counties having national lakeshore and national parks as well.
- The fund has never been adjusted for inflation. Had this been done the current amount should be closer to \$15 million.
- Seasonal Roads are critical for forestry as is the funding to maintain them. GLTPA is researching funding alternatives which do not involve PA 51.



Education, Education, Education

- ALC Develops a Four Segment Video Series Promoting Loggers and the Benefits of Logging.
- ALC Annual Washington DC Fly-Inn April 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2024
- Let the Sawdust Fly with Peter Wood aired the last Wednesday of Every Month.
- Beleaf it Or Not with Bill Cook and Georgia Peterson is a fun filled educational series of programs in existence for several years.
- All podcasts can be found at gltpa.org under the “Resources” tab, then click on media.




More Education

- ▶ Log A Load for Kids events are a great beginning to start generating interest in forest management and career opportunities.
- ▶ From there the St. John Education Fund has been instrumental in providing bus funding to give children the opportunity to attend Trees For Tomorrow. Funded; Shawano 144 students, Craig Montessori, Mil. 44 students, Rogers Street Academy, Mil. 35 students, Tamarack Waldorf, Mil., 24 students and more on the way.
- ▶ Discover Media Works Discover Wisconsin non-branded episode in development for debut at the 2024 EXPO in Green Bay.



EXPO Education, Exposure to Forestry Professionals

- GLTPA provides high school students with an opportunity to attend the EXPO at no cost to speak with and learn from forestry professionals about careers and opportunities at no cost.



*"Do not go where the path may lead, go
instead where there is no path and leave
a trail."*

RALPH WALDO EMERSON