



Forestry Assistance

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-284-5606 | switzerj3@michigan.gov

The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is designed to support family forest owners in realizing the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of their forests. Conservation district foresters help family forest owners understand the value of actively managed forest resources. They also refer landowners to private sector professionals for management plan development, forest management, timber valuation, and harvests.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Nearly 50 percent of Michigan's 19 million acres of forestland is owned by non-industrial private forestland owners (family forest owners). Family forest owners contribute 64 percent of Michigan's timber supply. The forest products industry contributes more than \$20 billion to the state's economy annually with the potential to contribute much more.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Conducted 2,021 landowner site visits.
- Referred \$13.4 million in forest management projects for private landowners.
- Completed 68 risk assessments for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat system.
- Completed 74 American Tree Farm Inspections.
- Delivered 190 outreach events targeted to family forest owners, foresters, and loggers.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Outreach events	346	337	407	368	398	190
On-site visits to family forest owners	2,012	2,202	2,037	2,007	2,098	2,021
Service referrals to the private sector	837	735	864	1,070	1,129	1,107
Service referrals to the public sector	627	649	663	907	797	907
Service referrals for timber harvest	360	295	335	413	426	360
Estimated value of referrals (\$M)	8.4	9.8	10.1	9.7	11.9	13.4
Acres referred to Qualified Forest	81,875	80,851	77,224	55,409	167,883	71,381

2021 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase awareness and enrollment in Michigan’s Qualified Forest Program.
- Diversify program funding through external grants and partnership agreements.
- Finalize and implement a master plan that identifies strategic objectives for the next 10 years.
- Conduct 2,000 on-site visits to forest properties.
- Conduct 2,000 referrals to the public and private sectors.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Family forest owners
- Private sector professional foresters
- Michigan’s forest products industry
- Local units of government
- Conservation districts
- Forestry, wildlife, and conservation advocacy groups

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 93 (Soil Conservation Districts), as amended