

Council on Forestry's Timber Supply Sub-Committee Briefing June 21, 2012

The purpose of the Timber Supply Sub-Committee was to:

- A. Identify timber production gaps that exist from all landowner groups
- B. Provide data as to "Why there is less timber on the market"
- C. Identify land use gaps occurring over time
- D. Provide the numbers to support the identification of land use gaps
- E. Report the findings to the Council on Forestry

Methodology Used:

The committee determined that the best approach to answer its charge included examining 8 key criteria¹. This approach proved useful because it identified the richness of, and gaps in, the available data. Data was collected from multiple sources including the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Forest Service, Commissioner of public lands, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The WDNR records provided data on county, state, and tax law land- both industrial and private.

Results:

Once the best available data was received, it was consolidated in a spreadsheet by each landowner group. To more readily identify periodic trends, the data was subsequently graphed for each group. These graphs appear in the attachment. Key points are summarized below.

Major Findings:

- A. Considering removals on Wisconsin public lands (by percent), all public lands combined show a gradual increase from the period 2005- 2010. County lands show the highest percentage of removals followed by state and federal lands respectively.
- B. Reported removals for Wisconsin state lands show a sharp increase beginning in 2008. The increased resources and timber sales for this classification was likely the result of legislative action.
- C. Sawtimber volume/acre held steady for non-tax law lands between 2005 and 2009 before showing a slight decrease in 2010. Tax law lands show a slightly different trend over the same period- increasing from 2005-2007 before decreasing slightly in 2008. Importantly, tax law lands show a significant increase in sawtimber sales from 2010 to the most recent data in 2011.
- D. The steadiest decline in timber removals occurred on Federal Lands.

¹ The criteria identified included the following: are all landowner groups identified, the actual harvest data in a historical timeline, is all the data needed available, who can provide the data to satisfy the requirements of the sub-committee, is a twenty year time period practical, what impact does the logging sector have on supply, what is past, present, and future mill demand, and what impact has policy had on timber supply.