

LEGISLATIVE & AGENCY ISSUES SURVEY RESULTS
Business Owners & Economic Development results

1. Circle what profession(s) best describes you?

Business Owner—7 Economic Development—1 Entrepreneur—2
Pulp & Paper—4 Sawmill—2 Utility—2
Land Management Company—3

2. What state is your business/agency located in?

WI—13 MI—7

County WI

Florence—7
Forest—3
Langlade—1
Marinette—2
Price—1

County MI

Dickinson—2
Iron (MI) - 3
Outagamie—2

31states & 315 counties—1

3. Rank the following issues: #1 is the most significant barrier to economic success for the Forest Products Industry down to #12 being the least significant barrier.

ISSUE	RATE	ISSUE	RATE
High energy costs	4.7	Foreign competition	5.6
High fuel costs	2.4	Lack of capital for new equipment	5.9
High workers comp rates	5.4	Lack of stumpage for sale	4.9
Lack of markets for lumber/products	4.8	Higher taxes and fees	4.2
Lack of markets for pulpwood/logs	6.4	Higher insurance costs	6.4
Lack of qualified labor force	6.9		
<i>Other:*</i>			
Over- regulation		USDA Forest Service	
Stumpage rates			

4. Rank the following issues: #1 is the most hindering regulation down to #8 being the least hindering regulation.

ISSUE	RATE	ISSUE	RATE
Air quality regulations	5.9	Water permitting regulations	4.4
Transportation regulations	2.9	Invasive species regulations	4.9
Forest certification regulations	4.1	Biomass harvesting regulations	5.6
Low timber harvest targets- nat'l forests	1.9		
<i>Other:*</i>			
All of these issues are adding more cost at the logger's expense.			

* Grayed areas represent "other" ideas. Typically one vote per idea.

5. Rank the following items: #1 is the most concerning long term issue to the survival and growth of the Forest Products Industry down to #10 being the least concerning.

ISSUE	RATE	ISSUE	RATE
Shrinking workforce	5.2	Untrained workforce	6.2
Forest health issues	3.7	Smaller private land parcel sizes	4.6
Lower harvests on national forests	2.6	Competition from global suppliers	3.6
Continuing loss of railroad services	5.1	Climate change issues	7.7
Poor forest regeneration due to deer	4.8		
<i>Other:</i>			
Need to cut more national forests.		Remove Federal control of timberland.	
Lack of public support for forestry			

6. Rank the following items: #1 is the most serious forest health issue down to #10 being the least serious forest health issue.

ISSUE	RATE	ISSUE	RATE
Insect damage	2.6	Climate change	7.9
Drought	3.2	Lack of forest management	4.3
Deer over browsing	3.7	Competition from exotic plants	5.3
Other tree diseases	3.2	Recreational access	7.1
Soil compaction	7.0		
<i>Other:</i>			
Nutrient loss due to biomass production		EAB	
Government involvement			

*Grayed areas represent "other" ideas. Typically one vote per idea.

7. Which two items should your federal legislators accomplish in order to most improve the business climate for the Forest products Industry?

- Increase insect & disease R&D/funding. Find a cure or mitigation.
- Stop spending. Lower taxes
- Remove federal control of forest land.
- Bring Fed land to ASQ levels of harvest. Increase weight limits on federal Highways. Stop the BCAP program.
- More wood available from National Forest. Sensible alternate fuel (biomass) legislation.
- Incentives for start-ups of new businesses, biofuels. Less regulation that inhibit business.
- Increase harvest levels from the USFS.
- Improve their process of creating incentive programs, so as not to harm existing business to start new business.
- Timber availability from National Forest. Reduce workman's comp.
- Open fed land.
- Federal timber availability! Improved transportation issues. e.g. Haul weights, etc.

7. Which two items should your federal legislators accomplish in order to most improve the business climate for the Forest products Industry? (continued)

- Foreign competition, better forest management—Federal government. Operating cost.
- Open up National Forest to cutting and managed like it should be.
- Less regulation in transportation of forest products. Tax incentives that support small business.
- Allow federal forest to be logged for both profit and a sustainable forest.
- Open National forests to more harvesting.

8. Which two items should your state legislators accomplish in order to most improve the business climate for the Forest Products Industry?

- Promote and provide forest management including mechanisms for enhancing forestry health.
- Stop spending. Lower taxes.
- Take the national forest areas away from the federal government.
- Educate population that forestry is the best solution.
- Truck haul weights & bridge improvements. Insurance regulations.
- Renaissance zones for new business. More lower cost stumpage (state timber). At least up to annual harvest targets.
- Increase harvest volume from MI state forests to sustainable levels.
- Workman's comp issues.
- Cut taxes.
- Federal timber availability! Improved transportation issues. e.g. Haul weights, etc.
- Low interest loans for the logger. Not just the Farmer. Trucking rates, Insurance.
- Quit buying land. Taking out of the rotation of being cut. Manage deer population properly.
- Do not increase deer herd.

9. Which two items should your federal legislators accomplish in order to most improve forest health issues?

- Increase insect & disease. R&D/funding. Find a cure or mitigation.
- Stop spending. Lower taxes.
- Get federal land to ASQ level. Do not allow cap & trade.
- More wood from National Forest. Reduce fire danger, improve growth. Biomass management plan to produce/make available low value products available from Federal lands.
- Sustainably manage/harvest more federal timber. Promote/support new industry to utilize dying timber. Beach, ash.
- Have a shorter reaction time to accomplish salvage operations. Be proactive with forest management activities.
- Aggressively manage National Forest.
- Federal timber availability! Improved transportation issues. e.g. Haul weights, etc.
- Manage the National Forest and do I care about the tree huggers?
- Micro manage federal forest. According to local circumstances.

Increase harvest targets on National forests.

10. Which two items should your state legislators accomplish in order to most improve forest health issues?

- Provide expertise and inspection at all forests, public and private.
- Stop spending. Lower taxes.
- Improve process of bidding for state/county stumpage.
- Fully staff forester position. Invasive species control.
- Sustainably manage/harvest more federal timber. Promote/support new industry to utilize dying timber. Beach, ash.
- Educate the public about good Forest Management creates healthy forest. Increase harvest levels on MI State forest.

10. Which two items should your state legislators accomplish in order to most improve forest health issues? (continued)

- Work more with the loggers. Meeting and work with the Federal to open up the National Forest.
- Raise clean water standards, for businesses. Manage deer according to local conditions—not state wide CWD.
- Federal timber availability! Improved transportation issues. e.g. Haul weights, etc.
- Do not increase deer herd in Wisconsin. Please stop giving in to pressure from hunters!

11. What can your local government do to help you accomplish your goals?

- Advise and act as a clearing house in directing or promoting forestry health (Liaison) with state and fed officials and programs.
- Stop spending. Lower taxes.
- Provide resources to help with grants for business improvement projects.
- Reduce tax.
- Support & promote new and existing wood using facilities.
- Improve truck routes. Help small business people get capital.
- Mind their own business.
- Work with the Federal to open up the National Forest.
- More incentives for good forest practices. Private & business.
- Federal timber availability! Improved transportation issues. e.g. Haul weights, etc.