

2010 Legislative & Agency Survey Results

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Survey Purpose & Categories

- Gather input for our legislators from a broad range of forest products industry related people
- Rank a list of issues :
 - most significant barriers to economic success
 - most hindering regulations
 - most concerning issues to survival and growth
 - most serious forest health issues

Survey Categories (cont.)

- List two items federal and state legislators should accomplish to improve forest products industry business climate
- List two items federal/state legislators could accomplish to improve forest health issues
- What can local government do to help you accomplish your goals

62 out of 136 Surveys Returned

31 Loggers & Truckers

- **Wisconsin – 10**
 - Florence – 3
 - Forest – 5
 - Marinette – 2
- **Michigan – 18**
 - Dickinson – 1
 - Iron – 14
 - Menominee - 1
 - Ontonagon - 1

21 Business owners/edc

- **Wisconsin – 16**
 - Florence – 7
 - Forest – 3
 - Langlade – 1
 - Marinette – 2
 - Price – 1
 - Outagamie - 2
- **Michigan – 5**
 - Dickinson – 2
 - Iron – 3

Barriers to Economic Success

Loggers & Truckers

- 1) High fuel cost
- 2) Lack of markets
- 3) High insurance costs
- 4) High energy costs

Business owners/edc

- 1) High fuel costs
- 2) Higher taxes and fees
- 3) High energy costs
- 4) Lack of stumpage

Most Hindering Regulations

Loggers & Truckers

- 1) Low timber harvest targets – nat'l forests
- 2) Transportation regulations
- 3) Invasive species regulations

Business owners/edc

- 1) Low timber harvest targets – nat'l forests
- 2) Transportation regulations
- 3) Forest certification regulations

Long-term Survival Concerns

Loggers & Truckers

- 1) Lower harvests on national forests
- 2) Competition from global suppliers
- 3) Forest health issues
- 4) Smaller private land parcel sizes

Business owners/edc

- 1) Lower harvests on national forests
- 2) Competition from global suppliers
- 3) Forest health issues
- 4) Smaller private land parcel sizes

Forest Health Concerns

Loggers & Truckers

- 1) Insect damage
- 2) Drought
- 3) Other tree diseases
- 4) Lack of forest management

Business owners/edc

- 1) Insect damage
- 2) Drought-tie
- 3) Other tree disease-tie
- 4) Deer over browsing

Written Comments for Legislators

- To improve business climate, majority listed need to increase timber harvests from National Forests
- **Nicolet cut volume data shows 34% harvest reduction from 1991-2000 versus 2001-2010**
- **CNNF cut volume data reveals 36% reduction**
- Respondents asked state legislators to work with federal govt. to increase national forest harvests
- Nat'l Forests must contribute jobs and raw materials to support rural northwoods economies

Written Comments for Legislators

- Low harvests on federal, state, county and private lands were also the top forest health issue:
- Inactively managed forests are more vulnerable to:
 - Insect damage
 - Disease
 - Drought
- Also fewer deer and faster salvage harvest sales

Written Comments for Legislators

- Other comments to improve business climate:
 - Lower business taxes
 - Tax incentives to support small business
 - Reduce excessive small business regulation
 - Lower fuel costs
 - Lower insurance rates for small business
 - Lower worker's comp rates for industry

Written Comments for Local Govt.

- Local Government can help industry survive by:
 - Adjusting weight restrictions on county/town roads
 - Improving road management/truck routes
 - Encouraging legislators to increase timber harvests
 - Helping businesses find capital for expansions
 - Supporting and promoting wood using businesses

Survey Summary Letter

- Mailed summary in letter to WI Federal and State legislators in region with copy to WI-DNR Secretary, Dept. of Commerce Secretary, Governor Walker and USFS Regional Forester in February
- Invited legislators/assistants to today's conference

IMPORTANT ISSUES BECAUSE.....

- WI houses \$17 Billion Forest Products Industry
- WI Forest Products Industry supports 66,000+ jobs

Closing....

- Legislative assistants here listening to concerns
- Contact me to receive complete survey results
- Mursau in session but working for:
 - Congressional hearing to increase nat'l forest harvests (with Congressman Ribble)
 - Lower worker's comp rates for loggers
 - Tax credits for biomass used as fuel
 - Higher load limits on state hwys and within 2 blocks
- Thank you to UW-Extension, Kathy Bednarski for tabulating full survey results