



DATE: December 17, 2024

TO: Tom Hittle- Chair, Council on Forestry

FROM: Heather A. Berklund-Administrator, Division of Forestry

SUBJECT: Fiscal Years 2023-2024 ACT 166

Annually, as established by Wis. Stats. 28.025(3)(a), the Department submits a report to the Council on Forestry related to timber harvest levels. The report that covers fiscal years 2023-2024 is enclosed.

For fiscal years 2023-2024, the Department established a forest management harvest goal of 33,664 acres across all Department lands. As shown in the report, during this time period, the Department established 29,929 acres of timber sales (89%).

The remainder of the goal, 3,735 acres (11%), was deemed not ready for a timber sale. Typically, a timber sale is determined not to be currently viable because the stand is not silviculturally ready for harvest. This may occur for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Stand conditions are such that the originally identified date for management must be rescheduled for a future date
- Original data was inaccurate and required updating

Other reasons a timber sale is deferred for future management include:

- Stand is small/isolated and management can be deferred, while still maintaining silvicultural viability, to a future date to combine with other stands to make saleable
- Poor access/inaccessible, winter only/low volume/poor quality timber not desirable by the market

In the process of establishing the 29,929 acres, the Department evaluated a total of 38,216 acres to determine which stands were ready for harvest.

In closing, the Department prioritizes managing lands consistent with master plans, balancing social, ecological, and economic considerations of state land management while also maximizing the number of acres that are sustainably harvested in order to generate revenue for the State and support our important forest industry. We continue to work towards the harvest goal through our annual setting of priorities, work planning processes and by further refining our recon data. I welcome any questions you have on this report.