Wisconsin Council on Forestry U.S. Forest Service Report November 18, 2021

General Status – Pandemic Response

Office buildings remain closed to public use but continue to provide public service virtually. Current guidance on agency "return to work" suggests that phasing into full office occupation will be happening sometime in the January – March 2022 period.

Most non-field going employees on CNNF remain in telework status. Normal field operations continue with appropriate mitigation measures.

Timber Program - FY21

Planned Accomplishments

135 MMBF Sold (up to 75 MMBF of Storm Salvage)

95 MMBF Sold by Forest Service (60 MMBF Storm Salvage)

40 MMBF Sold by State of Wisconsin GNA

Actual Accomplishments

FS Volume Sold – 128.4 MMBF

Green - 70.3 MMBF

Salvage - 58.1 MMBF

GNA Volume Sold - 26.0 MMBF

Green - 17.2 MMBF

Salvage – 8.8 MMBF

Total CNNF Volume Sold - 154.5 MMBF

Timber Program FY22

Planned Accomplishments

FS Sold Volume - 105 MMBF

Green - 80 MMBF

Salvage – 25 MMBF

GNA Sold Volume - 45 MMBF

Green – 40 MMBF

Salvage – 5 MMBF

Total CNNF Volume - 150 MMBF

Forest Health

The programmatic Environmental Assessment on Oak Wilt Management on the CNNF is in the required pre-decisional 45-day objection period until December 10th. If no objections, project will be cleared. If objection(s) received, they will be addressed prior to a final decision. Forest health flights occurred this summer.

Key summary points

- Multiple new oak wilt sites on the Lakewood Laona (southern Forest, eastern Langlade, and northern Oconto counties) district that were follow up surveyed and treated by district staff
- Two possible new oak wilt sites on Great Divide (Ashland and Sawyer Counties) district that were followed up with on the ground surveys by district staff and found to be two-lined chestnut borer.
- Multiple locations for spruce budworm defoliation especially on Eagle River -Florence, Lakewood - Laona, and Medford – Park Falls districts.
- Oak wilt on-the-ground surveys and treatment activities were conducted on LKLN, GD, and the Washburn RD districts in FY21.

There were no detections of widespread EAB defoliations of ash species on the forest and there are no confirmed EAB detections on the Forest other than four trees at the Rhinelander administrative site which is part of a larger infestation site in the city..