



Survey of MN. Consulting Foresters

Sponsored by the
Minnesota Forest Resource Council

Purpose of Survey:

- Address a Legislative mandate
- Assess the current consulting capacity
- Provide information on Family Forests (FFL)
- Assess the efficacy of tax incentive programs
- Identify opportunities for sustainable mgmt.
- Offer recommendations to Policymakers

Methodology of Survey:

- Designed by Masconomo Forestry & MFRC
- Follow up to 2006 survey
- Population of interest: MACF & MFA list
- 42 Surveys sent out – 36 responses
- **86% response rate for survey**

Background on Consultants

- 21% in business < 5 years
- 14% in business > 30 years
- Ave. years as consultant: 15.1
- 25% work less than half-time
- 79% of workload is family forest (FFL)
- Work on average of 3010 a/yr. (150-16,000)
- Capacity has **increased 20%** since 2006

Stewardship Acreage

- 85% of consultants write plans
- 14 plans/business written
- 148 acres/plan
- 2000 acres/yr./business
- **Total: >79,000 acres/yr.**

Wood Sales by Consultants

- 80% set up timber harvests
- Ave. of 7 sales per business/annum
- Ave. sale size is 52 acres
- >250,000 cords/year set up by consultants
(assumes 20 cds./a)

Other Services Provided

- 44% conduct planting
- Ave plantings: 11 acres
- 56% conduct other services for FFL:
(TSI, Invasives control, trail design, damage appraisals are most common)

Opportunities

- 41% plan expansion
- Wildlife habitat projects: 56%
- Restoration work 44%
- Sawtimber markets: 40%
- Biomass markets: 40%

Tax Program Survey

- SFIA & 2-c have helped business: **85%**
- Plans written for these programs: **89%**
- Apply for 2-c: **52%**; Apply for SFIA: **37%**
- New plans: **84%** (16% updated)
- Reductions in DNR PFM program have helped business: **65%**
- 32% of consultants indicate that other cost share programs have helped business

Discussion

- Consulting capacity has increased 20% in past 6 years – 55% in past 15 years.
- Consultants write > 500 stewardship plans/yr
- For every 2 plans written – 1 harvest is set up.
- Consultants reach > 115,000 acres of Family Forests annually (1.1 million/decade)
- Tax programs have increased stewardship on private lands



Recommendations:

- Strengthen SFIA/2-c tax programs.
(stable funding, outreach, cooperation)
- “Privatization” of stewardship program works.
- Examine market opportunities in forestry
(wildlife incentives, restoration, sawtimber)
- Bring consultants into policy loop
(MFRC, SFEC, MFA,)

Thank you !

Peter Bundy
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