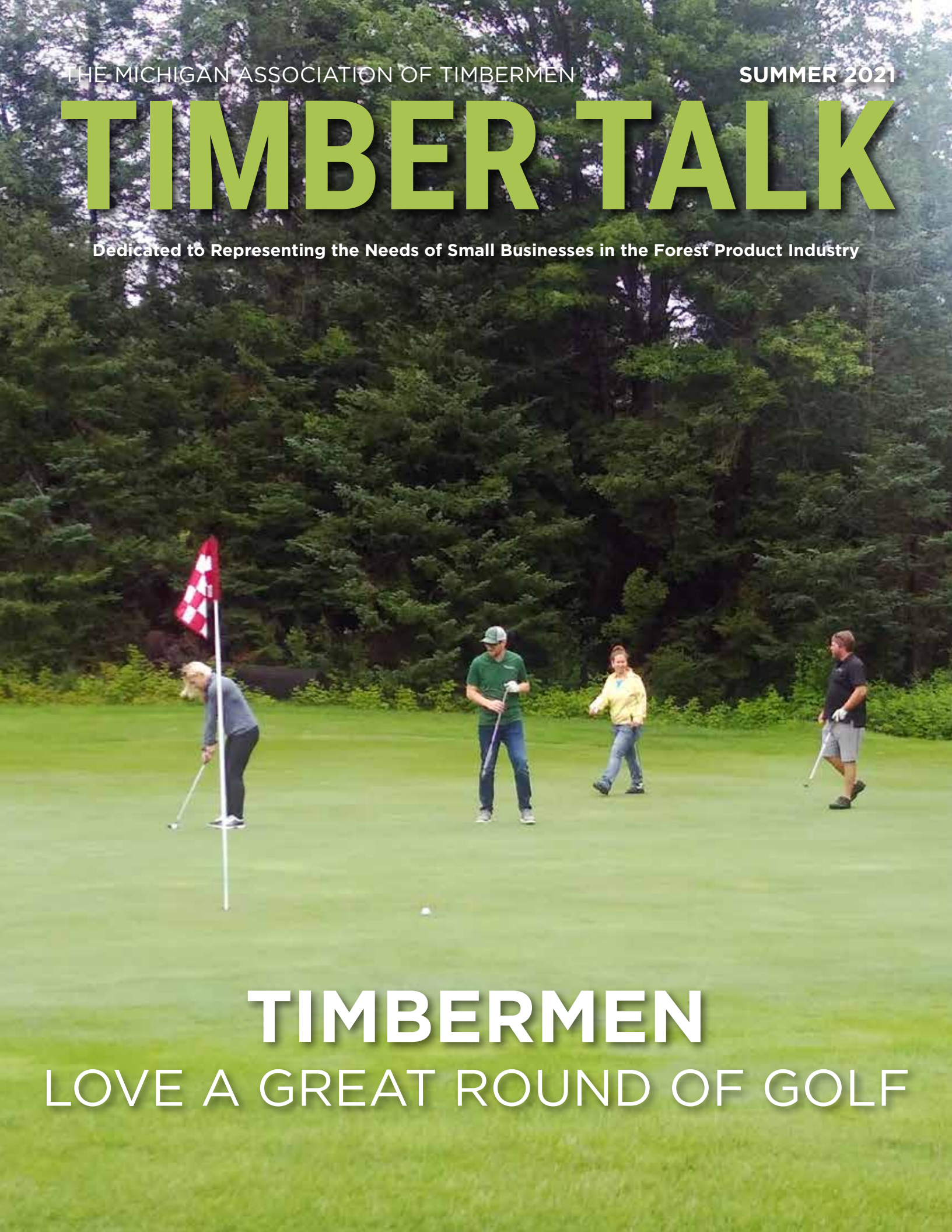


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- MAT endorses Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste. Marie as the Health Insurance Provider for association members.
- MAT retains KDA Consulting, a full service Lobbying firm, to assist with legislative issues.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Jason Wadaga, MAT Lobbyist

Legislature Completes K-12 Budget, Full Budget Likely Pushed to Fall

On the final day of June, the Michigan Legislature passed a record breaking \$17.1 billion K-12 budget, the largest in Michigan's history. They also appropriated money to clinics in Michigan that treat the catastrophically injured and set aside money for a lottery-style drawing for Michiganders who have, or will shortly receive, their COVID-19 vaccination.

K-12 Budget Sent to Gov. Whitmer's Desk

The record setting K-12 budget marks a roughly 10% increase in spending over last year's budget and closes the funding gap between Michigan schools. Included in the budget was:

- \$8,700 per pupil foundation allowance
- \$168.5 million increase to preschools
- \$155 million for individual reading scholarships
- \$240 million for school psychologists, nurses, social workers and counselors
- \$145.5 million for retirement expenses for Michigan school districts.

Previously, Michigan schools were funded at different levels because of Proposal A which has caused a lot of frustration from some lawmakers the past few decades. That disparity has now been addressed under this budget.

Money Sets Aside Funds for Clinics Impacted by Auto No-fault Reform

While originally proposing \$10 million dollars for clinics in Michigan that are suffering financially from Michigan's auto no-fault law, both the House and Senate ultimately created a \$25 million pot of money for catastrophic brain injury clinics across the state.

The one caveat for the clinics, is that they must prove to the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) that they are indeed suffering financially. The clinics have claimed that the cuts they've taken from the no-fault reform law that took effect July 1, 2020, are forcing them out-of-business.

State Offering Prizes for Proof of COVID-19 Vaccine

Calling the program the "MI Shot to Win Sweepstakes", Governor Whitmer announced the state will be handing out \$5 million to Michigan citizens who have, or will shortly, get the COVID-19 vaccination. The money is part of a COVID grant the state received from the federal government and will be a "lottery style" raffle.

Under the program, \$1 million will be made available to those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination between December 1, 2020 and July 10, 2021. \$2 million will go to residents that have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination between December 1, 2020 and July 30, 2021. There will also be daily \$50,000 drawings for those who have received at least one dose of the vaccination and several \$55,000 college scholarships available to those who have received the vaccine.

The rest of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget could be finished in August but more than likely, September of this year 🍀



Jason Wadaga
MAT Lobbyist

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Brake Safety Week

This year's Brake Safety Week is scheduled for Aug. 22-28. During Brake Safety Week, commercial motor vehicle inspectors emphasize the importance of brake systems by conducting inspections and removing commercial motor vehicles found to have brake-related out-of-service violations from our roadways.

In addition inspectors will compile data on brake hoses/tubing, the focus area for this year's Brake Safety Week

Brake system and brake adjustment violations accounted for more vehicle violations than any other vehicle violation category, accounting for 38.6% of all vehicle out-of-service conditions, during last year's three-day International Roadcheck inspection and enforcement initiative.

For more information go to: <https://www.cvsa.org/news/2021/>

The dates for Brake Safety Week are shared in advance to remind motor carriers, drivers and commercial motor vehicle mechanics/technicians to proactively check and service their vehicles to ensure every commercial motor vehicle traveling on our roadways is safe, mechanically fit and compliant.

Working Together to Meet Your Insurance Needs



FEBRUARY 2022 - THE FACTS

WORKING TOGETHER WITH STATE TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

FMCSA Entry Level Driver Training

Regulation will become effective in February 2022. This regulation requires that 35 courses be taught in a classroom or online. The regulation also requires that specific Behind the Wheel training be provided. All this training must be completed prior to an individual being able to sit for their CDL exam. All Entry Level Driver Training Providers must be registered on the FMCSA training provider registry.

- TST will be an Entry Level Driver Theory Training Provider listed on the FMCSA Training Provider Registry as soon as the registry opens. The registry is set to open for providers to register in August 2021.
- Forestry Transportation businesses that have been and are able to be Behind the Wheel training providers should register on the FMCSA training provider registry site.
- Team Safe Trucking makes the Entry Level Driver Theory training program courses available through a State Educational Sponsorship for \$3,400 per year.
- States that become Team Safe Trucking State Sponsors can make the Entry Level Driver Theory Training Program available to all that need the program in their state.
- When a State is sponsored, Forestry Transportation businesses can use the Team Safe Trucking Entry Level Driver Theory Training program to provide the required Entry Level Driver Theory Training courses and can continue providing the second part of the Entry Level Driver Training Regulation and the Behind the Wheel training requirements.
- Team Safe Trucking chose to develop and provide the Entry Level Driver Theory program to States because forestry transportation businesses needed a solution to meet all the content that is required in the classroom training to train new drivers.
- Forestry Transportation Businesses who want to continue training their own new drivers can do so by becoming a Behind the Wheel training provider on the FMCSA training provider registry website.

States with ELDT Training

Mississippi ELDT

Administered by Mississippi
Logger Association

David S. Livingston
dlivingston.mla@gmail.com

Sponsored by Mississippi
Forestry Association.

Michigan ELDT

This program is being
administered by Michigan
Association of Timbermen

Michelle Sears
msears@timbermen.org

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Insurance, Mauck Insurance

Florida ELDT

Sponsored by Rayonler
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FLorida Forestry Association

Alan Shelby
Alan@FLForestry.org.

North Carolina ELDT

North Carolina SFI Grant administered
by the Carolina Logger Association

Ewell Smith
esmith@ncloggers.com and

North Carolina SFI

Will Reese
Will.Reese@canfor.com


South Carolina ELDT

Sponsored by the South
Carolina SFI SIC Grant

Administered by Forestry Association
of South Carolina

Cam Crawford, President & CEO,
4901 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212
ccrawford@scforestry.org

- Does your state have Driver training that meets FMCSA ELDT Regulations becoming effective in February 2022?
- How do you find Driver Trainers for Behind the Wheel training requirements?
- There have been reports of a shortage of Driver Trainers due to State Driver Trainer requirements.
- What programs are there in your state for drivers to become CDL Instructors?

Team Safe Trucking wants to encourage the following states (listed above) to market the ELDT training to Work Release Prison Programs, Veteran Training Programs, CDL Schools, State Motor Transportation Associations, Community Colleges and Forestry Transportation Businesses in your state. Encourage drivers who have CDL's to take the program if they did not attend a formal CDL school, so that they can be on a level playing field with DOT auditors, regulatory compliance and regulatory training requirements for CDL drivers. 



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LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT SEN. JOHN DAMOOSE

What’s your number one legislative priority?

My top legislative priority is to help restore common sense to our governmental process. The overwhelming amount of bureaucracy and unnecessary laws are amazing. We’ve seen some very old laws abused over the last year and need to be very deliberate in unwinding some of the sprawl and overreach that has developed over the last 100 years. No matter what area of society one looks at, Michigan is among the most regulated states in the country. We need to get our government out of the way of families and the businesses that drive our economy.

What’s the best part of your job?

By far my favorite part of this job is trying to bring people together – whether that means reaching across the aisle to work with other legislators where possible or bringing together a group of professionals to develop better solutions to our most pressing concerns, or helping bring factions of my own party together, this has always been a mission for me. We’ve already had a number of success stories in this regard, and I look forward to more.

What’s the biggest hidden gem in your district?

I truly believe my district is the most fascinating in Michigan. We range from the great resort towns of Emmet and Mackinac Counties, to vibrant cities like Cheboygan and Sault Ste. Marie. We have the bridge, the locks, and the islands – who could ask for more? Within that beautiful and adventuresome district, though, the real hidden gem is the hard working and resourceful people. We saw that last year – our people found ways to survive and thrive in a tremendously difficult environment. We fought to open up and get back to work and wouldn’t give in to the temptation to give up. We’re tough, hard-working, and resilient.

Who’s your modern day hero?

Through my film business, I’ve had the opportunity to interview some of my heroes – Medal of Honor recipients, Secretaries of Defense, and regular men and women dedicated to serving our nation. But, if



I had to pick just one, it would be Ronald Reagan. He was tough as nails in terms of policy but had a measure of grace and civility in the way he approached his work which is all too often missing in today’s world. He could stand at the Brandenburg Gates in Berlin, for instance, and demand with power that the Soviet Union “tear down this wall” – and he could likewise show incredible compassion and kindness, bringing people together like we saw in his response to the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Ronald Reagan was a true statesman. We need more people in government willing to learn from his model.

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Upon graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science in 1994, John secured a job at the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach, Virginia. While there, he learned his craft working on the 700 Club television program, and ultimately wrote and produced a 2 hour documentary on the story of America called "Victory in Spite of All Terror," which marked the beginning of a career that would involve interviewing thousands of leaders from all walks of life and telling the story of the American character to millions of people through television special and online video.

In 1997, John co-authored a book with Dr. Bill Bright, the Founder and President of Campus Crusade for Christ. The book explored the founding principles of the United States and was ultimately hand-delivered to every member of the United States Congress.

After working with his family to launch several non-profit organizations and rekindle the venerated Religious Heritage of America Foundation, John and his father started 45 North Productions in the year 2000, with the expressed purpose of telling the stories of character, sacrifice and dedication that made America a great nation. In the course of the next twenty years, this pursuit would lead John to co-author and produce nine national television specials on all-American themes like Arlington National Cemetery, the Medal of Honor, Military Families, NASA, and many others. John and his father were contracted by the Department of Defense to produce the official documentary celebrating the opening of the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial, both of them having been in the very corridor of the

Pentagon when the plane struck 7 years earlier.

Throughout the years, 45 North Productions has produced dozens of high-profile tribute videos for leaders from all walks of life, and interviewed hundreds of the nation's top political, military and corporate leaders. From each of them - including two Presidents, numerous Secretaries of Defense and Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs, and dozens of U.S. Senators and Representatives, he learned lessons about leadership, government, and solid conservative principles that he now hopes to apply to the State Legislature in Michigan.

He wrote, directed and produced the three-part New American Road Series, commissioned by Ford Motor Company to tell the powerful story of what many believe is the quintessential American industry. For nearly 25 years, John has worked closely as an associate with the organization that runs the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. And in recent years, John has served as the Executive Director of Building America's Tomorrow - an organization that launched a series of initiatives dedicated to rebuilding America's manufacturing workforce and encouraging Career and Technical Education programs.

John and his wife Margo, the current Director of the Harbor Springs DDA and Member of the Harbor Springs School Board, reside in Harbor Springs, MI with their 4 children and are committed Christian believers whose top priorities in this life are to pour themselves into raising their children and help restore American society and the solid principles upon which we were founded. 🌿



TIMBERMEN GOLF OUTING 2021
CADILLAC, MI



Our first golf outing of 2021 in Cadillac, MI., was a huge success. The day started off with heavy rain and an extremely wet course. However, the outstanding maintenance crew at Lakewood on the Green was able to clear enough water off the course for everyone to play a round of golf which included ten teams of four.

Housler Sawmill won first place with a total score of 63 with Nelson Sawmill coming in second place with a score of 64. The longest put went to Mitch Beach, closest to the pin went to the Tree Hackers, women's longest drive went to Kalyn Bazuin, and men's longest drive went to Nelson Sawmill.

Lakewood on the Green has an amazing group of staff that helped make the day a hole-in-one. They allowed us to golf with the unfortunate weather, served us drinks throughout the day via the beer cart, and topped it off by making us a delicious lunch. We would like to thank Lakewood on the Green for their hospitality.

We would also like to thank all of our sponsors, AJD Forest Products, Steve's Tire, Housler Sawmill, Michigan Pallet, Weyerhaeuser, Welchland & Timber, Grand Traverse Diesel, Weber Bros. Sawmill, Biewer Forestry Management, Maeder Bros. Sawmill, Superior Insurance Agency, AIS, McCoy, Lutke Forest Products, Forest/Loggers/Mauck, MATSIF, Michigan Kenworth, Ponsse, CrossTrac, Rowleys Wholesale, and Roland Machinery.

In addition, we also want to thank Steve's Tire for being our lunch sponsor and Crazy Kat Signs for making and donating all the hole sponsor signs. Our next outing will be at the Nahma Golf Club in Nahma, MI. on Aug. 15, and hope to see many of you there as well. 🌲



BUILDING A FOREST FUTURE

By Bill Cook, MSU Extension Forester/Biologist, retired



You own some woods. Great! What do you want it to provide in ten years, or twenty years? The best way to get where you want the forest to go is with a professionally written forest management plan.

A small percentage of Michiganders own at least ten acres of woods. These family forests provide many goods and services that benefit everyone. One would think that taking good care of these forests is important.

For some, letting “nature take its course” seems the best route. Unfortunately, nature does not “know best” and there are many alien pressures on natural systems, such as exotic species, deer damage, disturbed ecologies, and climate change. The definition of “nature” and “natural” can be bandied about for hours.

The better question is “What should that forest look like in the future?”

Following a forest management plan will help secure the future that a forestowner envisions. Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying; “The best way to predict the future is to create it”.

The idea of a forest management plan is fairly simple. What sort of forest do you have? What would you like it to be? How can you make that vision happen?

These are easy questions to ask but the answers can be challenging for many forestowners. That’s where hiring a professional forester can help.

Some, maybe a quarter, of forestowners take this first step in learning more about their woodlands through hiring a forester, or another natural resource professional, to help them manage that resource.

Management plans will cost several hundreds of dollars and will be valid for at least a decade. They’re flexible. It’s your plan and your woods. Unless you’ve locked the woodland into a property tax abatement contract, a forestowner doesn’t have to follow the plan, although it’s probably a good set of ideas. But, even under a property tax contract, there is some flexibility.

It’s easy for a forester to inventory a forest and describe what’s there, including some good maps. Hopefully, the forester will explain the inventory in plain English.

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At this point, a forester will ask many questions, and offer various possibilities and alternatives. You'll need to provide some direction for the forester. Armed with that knowledge, the forester can proceed to write a plan that takes your forest from where it is, to where you want it to be.

This process can be terribly rewarding, and a lot of fun. Over the years, the right forester will become a valued family friend.

A management plan includes all the descriptive information, such as the owner names, addresses, legal description, and those sorts of things.

The inventory will be a critical part of the plan, containing items such as cords and boards, timber monetary values, stand maps, soil types and woodland recommendations, habitat conditions, history, rare plants and animals, forest health threats, presence of exotic species, and more.

The trees have monetary value separate from the land. This is an asset that should be measured and recorded even if a management plan is never

written. Timber volumes and values, at the date of acquisition, will be very important for any future timber sale income tax calculations.

Yes, most management plans will involve cutting trees, and usually generating revenue. They're just big plants (plus a bit of human attribution). However, a forester will help explain how management (which really is more than just cutting) can deliberately move towards obtaining the sort of forest values important to the owner. Forests consist of a set of dynamic processes. Forests continually change. Doing nothing with a woodland sets a trajectory that might not be what the uninitiated will enjoy.

Trees create the structure that builds the forest habitat wherein everything else lives and functions. Understanding where a forest exists in a successional pathway yields huge insights for many applications, such as wildlife habitat and water quality.

Management practices might incorporate newer issues such as forest certification, carbon sequestration, exotic eradication, and climate change strategies.



Each stand, or distinct area, will have its own descriptors, as well as the desired future conditions. For example, a 45-year-old quaking aspen stand may be scheduled for a clearcut. This will regenerate the aspen, creating important habitat features for game birds and an entire suite of “young forest” wildlife species.

Thinking of schedules, the plan should have a table that identifies recommended practices and the dates of when they should occur. This is a quick and easy reference tool, related to definitions and descriptions elsewhere in the plan.

A convenient checklist of potential plan criteria can be found by browsing “Michigan commercial forest program” or “NRCS forest management program”. The Qualified Forest Program website also has an

excellent checklist.

Implementing a plan often benefits from the assistance of a consulting forester. There are many cost-share programs for various practices (including the costs of a management plan) from several agencies, such as the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service, Tree Farm Program, DNR Forest Stewardship Program, and a couple of property tax programs. Becoming a member of the Michigan Forest Association will help share ideas, successes, and failures.

Some County Conservation Districts employ foresters that serve to guide a forestowner through the process of acquiring information and assistance. That’s a free service. So, why not? 🌳



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First and foremost, when the logging industry is successful, all other sectors of the forest products industry succeed. Without a healthy and stable logging and trucking industry the rest of the supply chain is compromised as well as public and private forest management efforts. That is why all sectors of the timber and forest products industry need to be partners with the American Loggers Council.

The American Loggers Council is primarily comprised of 30 state associations. The average annual dues from these organizations is \$5,000 per year. Aside from the national representation and the “strength in numbers” an example of the return on investment can be demonstrated by the value of the ALC Truck Rebate Program. This program provides a direct monetary benefit annually of approximately \$500,000 for the loggers and truckers that are members of state associations participating in the program. To learn more about the ALC Truck Rebate program visit www.americanloggers.com/rebates. These truck rebates range from \$2,000-\$4000 depending on the manufacturer and model. One \$4,000 truck rebate nearly pays for the average state association ALC annual dues and is typically 10 times the state association membership dues paid individually by loggers and truckers.


The American Loggers Council was instrumental in securing the \$200 million Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH). Based on simple math each timber producing state would receive approximately \$5 million for loggers and truckers that qualify. This is a return on investment for the states that are members of the American Loggers Council, based on annual dues average of \$5,000, of 1000%!

The American timber industry is more than just loggers and truckers – it takes equipment manu-

facturers, insurance services, fuel vendors, parts suppliers, tire companies, financial institutions, other associations, landowners and land managers. Working together the timber industry can be more effective and successful.

In order to broaden the partnerships and support, the American Loggers Council has developed the Associate Membership category that will allow for membership opportunities for manufacturers, timber consumers, suppliers, other organizations and landowners at various levels. To learn more, and become an Associate Member of the American Loggers Council, visit the American Loggers Council website at www.amloggers.com or by e-mail at scott.dane@amloggers.com

Additionally, the American Loggers Council has a logger / trucker individual membership option if you are not a member of a state association, or in a state that does not have a state association. These levels of membership range from \$100-\$400 per year. However, the American Loggers Council supports our state association members and encourages all loggers and truckers to become members of their state associations.

All business investment must be weighed against the return on that investment. The American Loggers Council has proven that the Return on Investment of membership, support and sponsorship provides a direct positive impact to loggers and truckers, and the timber industry as a whole. Join today and invest where it makes a difference. 



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USDA ANNOUNCES PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR TIMBER HARVESTERS AND HAULERS

Farm Service Agency Will Begin Accepting Applications on July 22

WASHINGTON, July 20, 2021 —

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH) is administered by FSA in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized this critical assistance for the timber industry. Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% during the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2020, compared to the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply.

"USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative promised to get financial assistance to a broad-

er set of producers and today's announcement delivers on that promise," said Secretary Vilsack. "On top of the existing challenges associated with natural disasters and trade, the pandemic caused a major disruption for loggers and timber haulers including lack of access to wood processing mills. This industry plays a critical role in our nation's economy and we are proud to support these hard-working loggers and truckers as they get back on track."

"Like many facets of the agriculture industry, the logging industry has experienced its share of financial hardships throughout the pandemic," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "We're happy to work with the U.S. Forest Service to develop this new program to provide critically needed support."

"We've heard from loggers and truckers whose livelihoods were significantly impacted this past year by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are pleased that USDA can help alleviate some of the financial burden," said Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen. "I encourage those logging and log-hauling businesses hardest hit by the pandemic to learn more about the assistance offered through this new program."





Program Details

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

- Cutting timber.
- Transporting timber.
- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.).

Payments will be based on the applicant's gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 1, 2020, multiplied by 80%. FSA will issue an initial payment equal to the lesser of the calculated payment amount or \$2,000 as applications are approved. A second payment will be made after the signup period has ended based upon remaining PATHH funds.

The maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive directly is \$125,000.

Applying for Assistance

Loggers and truckers can apply for PATHH beginning on July 22 by completing form FSA-1118, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program application, and certifying to their gross revenue for 2019 and 2020 on the application. Additional documentation may be required. Visit farmers.gov/pathh for more information on how to apply.

Applications can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. To find a local FSA office, loggers and truckers can visit farmers.gov/service-locator. They can also call 877-

508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

FSA will host a stakeholder webinar on Wednesday, July 21 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Interested participants must register for the webinar.

As USDA looks to long-term solutions to build back a better food system, the Department is committed to delivering financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers and businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions.

Since USDA rolled out the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative in March, the Department has announced over \$7 billion in assistance to producers and agriculture entities. For more details, please visit www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. 🌳



To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



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