

Timber Harvest Trends on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest



April 14, 2011

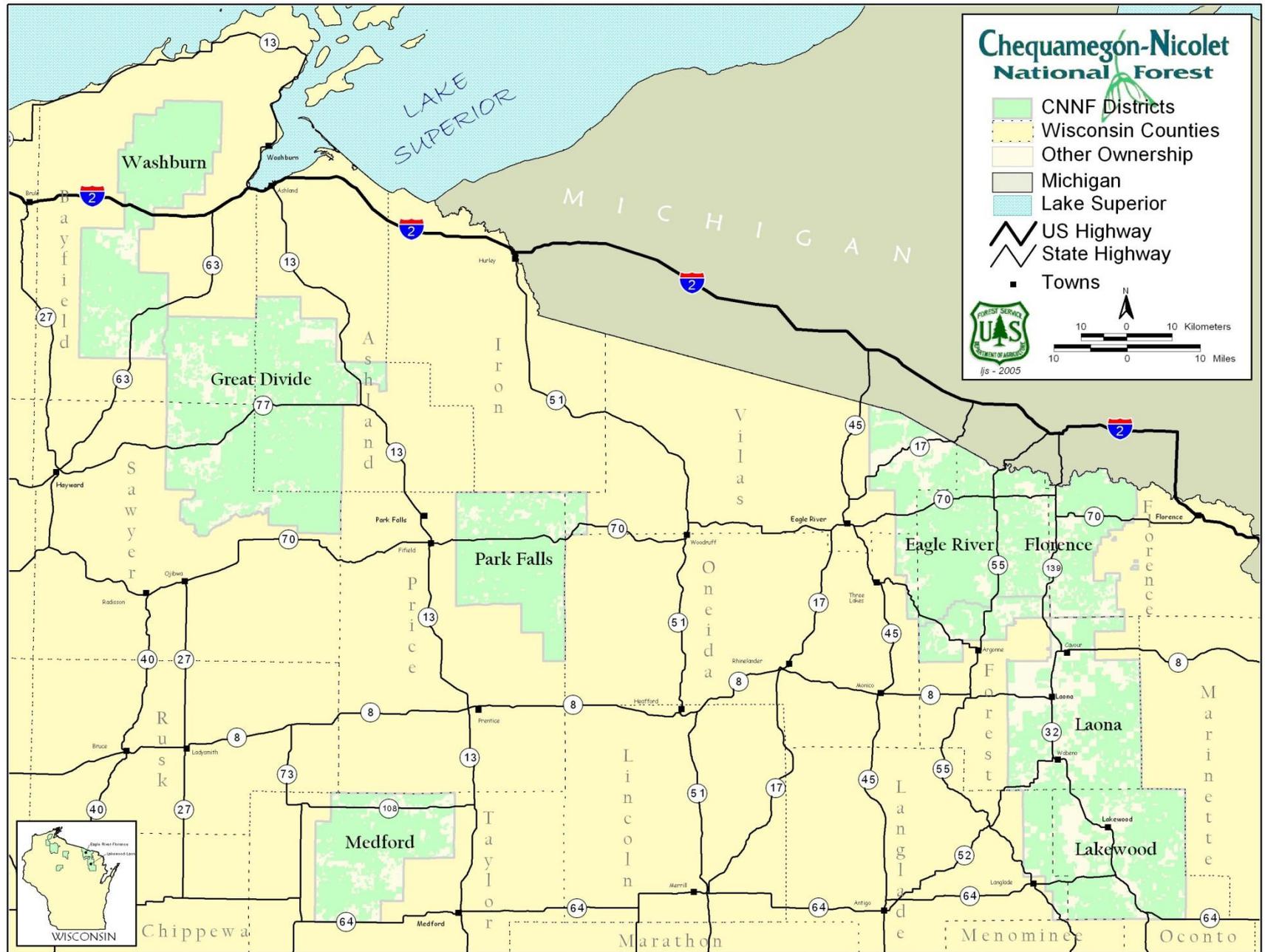
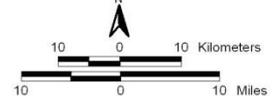
Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

-  CNNF Districts
-  Wisconsin Counties
-  Other Ownership
-  Michigan
-  Lake Superior
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  Towns



ljs - 2005



Factors Affecting Management of Timber on the CNNF



Early Management Focused on the Best Science and Public Values at the Time – Silviculture and the Production of Fiber



National Forest Management Act of 1976 – Leading to Comprehensive Forest Plans in the 1980's

Public response to intensive forest management on public lands – Bitterroot National Forest in Montana and Monongahela NF in West Virginia.

Shift from primarily forestry principles affecting national forests to a mix of values desired by the American public – timber products, access, fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, variety of recreational settings and experience, scenic values.

No one value trumped all of the others – national forests to be managed for optimal mix of “net public benefits.”

First generation of Forest Plans very contentious – appeals and lawsuits. Continues to be process by which the public debates “what national forests are for and how they are to be managed.”

- Two Forest Plans for CNNF
 - Original in 1986
 - Revision and combination in 2004



Chequamegon- Nicolet National Forests

2004 Land and Resource Management Plan



Major Needs for Change Based on:

1990 - Forest Service Chief's direction to Wisconsin Forests - establish a committee of scientific experts to address biological diversity and socioeconomic issues (driven by appeals of 1986 Plans).

Public comments during implementation of 1986 Plans

Monitoring and evaluation data collected for 10+ Years

Major Issues

- New Science Associated with Sustainable Forests
- Access and Recreation
- Timber Production
- ATV Use Disparity Between Chequamegon and Nicolet



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forests

R9-CN-FEIS-ROD

April 2004



Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests

Record of Decision

Final Environmental Impact Statement

*To accompany the 2004 Land and
Resource Management Plan*

ROD provides decisions and rationale by Regional Forester and is the basis for current and ongoing management of the CNNF.

Record of Decision - 2004

“My decision strikes a balance among competing interests, opinions and beliefs expressed by local governments and businesses, as well as local, regional, and national interest groups, scientists, and the general public.”

Record of Decision and Forest Plan guide the day-to-day operations and project-level decisions on the CNNF.



Important Decisions in Forest Plan Affecting Timber Availability

Allowable Sale Quantity – 1,310 MMBF in a decade

**Lands Suitable for Timber Production – 1,106,000
acres (80% of all lands)**

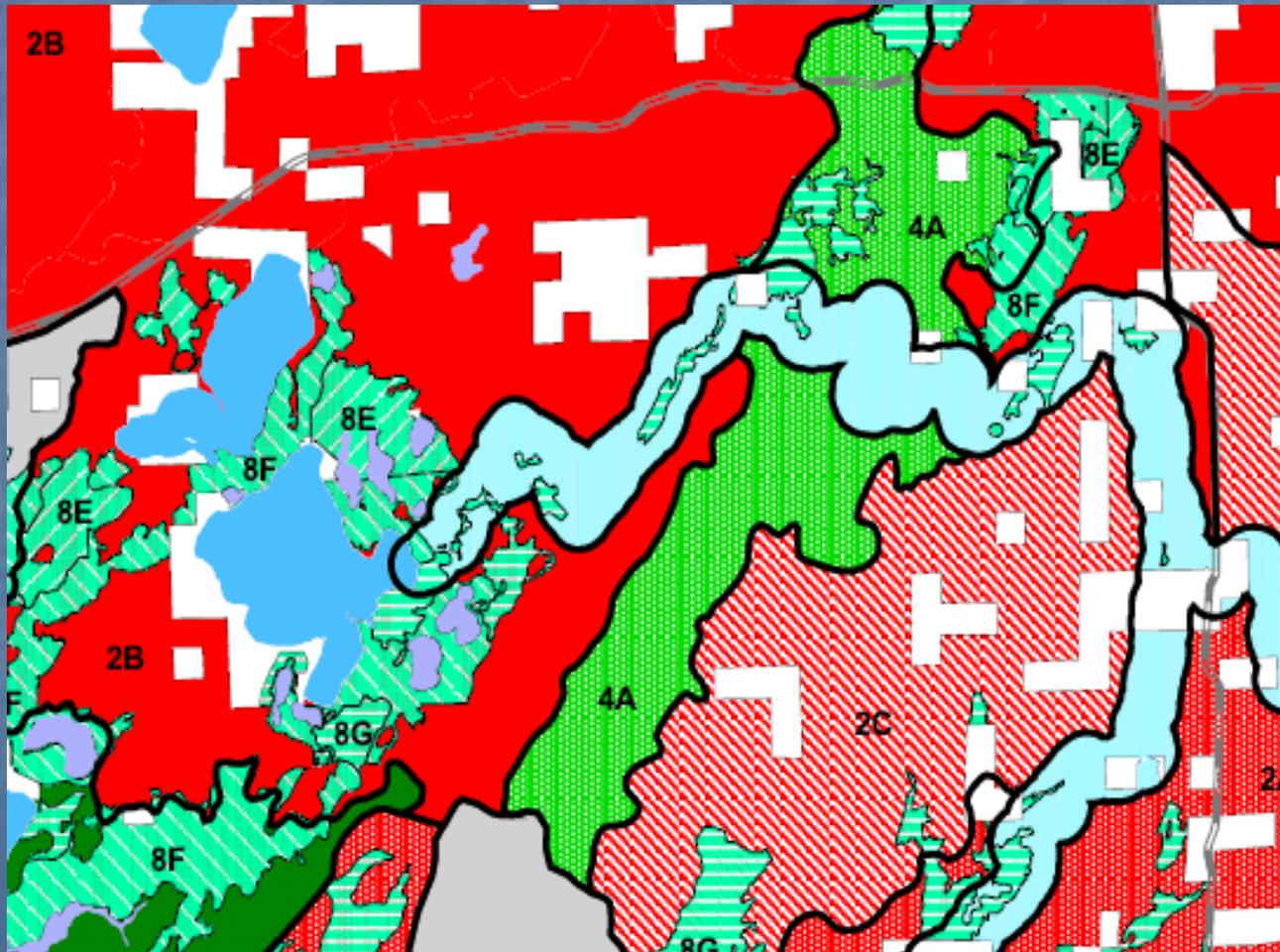
**“Zoning” decisions – identify future conditions and
allowable practices in specific areas**

“Standard” silvicultural practices.

Project-Level Planning and Decisions

- Specific actions occur after “project-level” analysis and decisions – “Northwest Howell, Phelps, Fishel, Long Rail, etc.
- Process driven by National Environmental Policy Act – NEPA – of 1970 signed by President Nixon.

Plan activities and desired conditions over a 5-10 year period based on Forest Plan guidance.



Project-Level Planning Trends

- Contentiousness of Forest Plan decisions spills over into project-level planning
- Appeals and litigation of project-level decisions has led to complex and time-consuming analyses
- Forest Service has prevailed in most cases, but has come at a cost of time and effort.

Other Selected Laws and Regulations

- Endangered Species Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Wilderness Act
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act
- Roadless Rule
- Travel Management Rule

Other Initiatives and Activities Affecting Management of CNNF

- Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy
- Sustainable Recreation Framework
- Invasive Species Concerns – Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, etc.

Federal/Local Budget Trends

Federal appropriations drive CNNF ability to plan and implement programs.

CNNF budget affected by overall budget for Forest Service and choices made on national priorities of Forest Service.

Fire program has become increasingly large part of national FS budget.

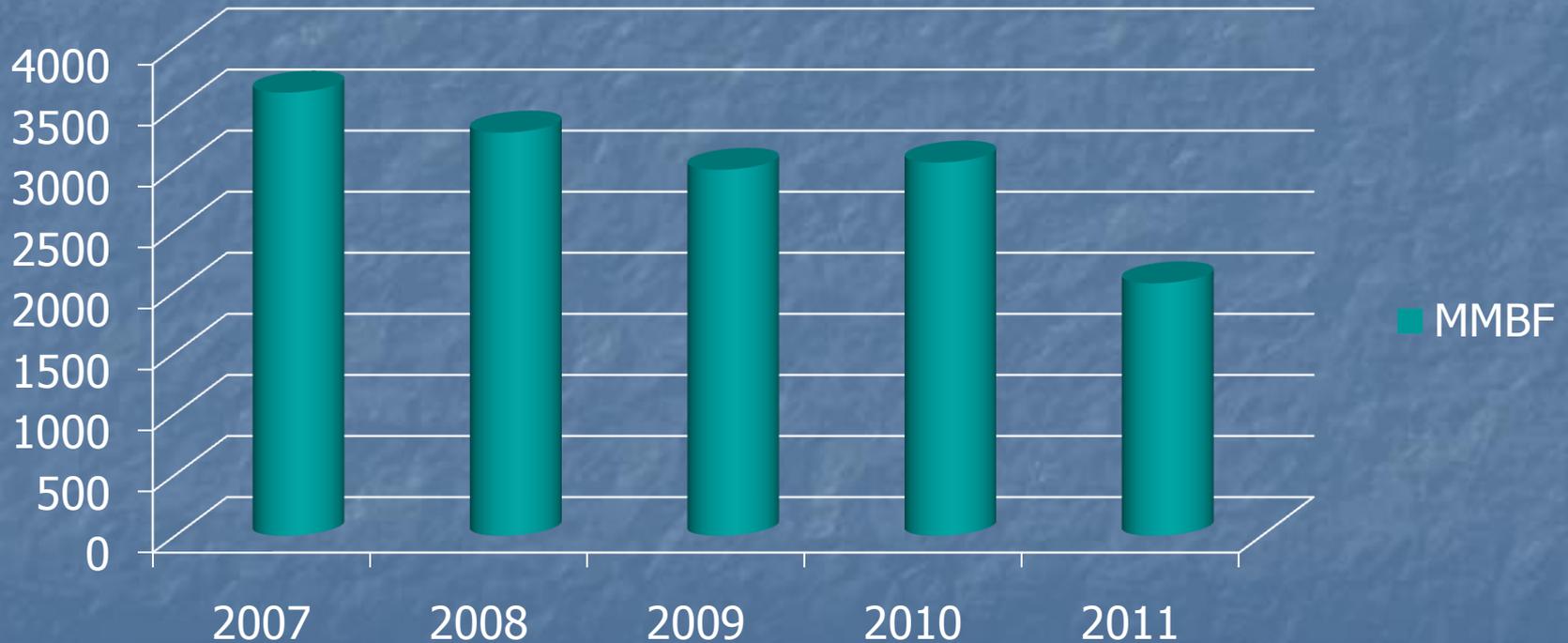
CNNF part of Eastern Region with 15 national forests.

In any year, hope to get reasonable share of regional allocation. Allocation to CNNF affects amount of "business" we can do.



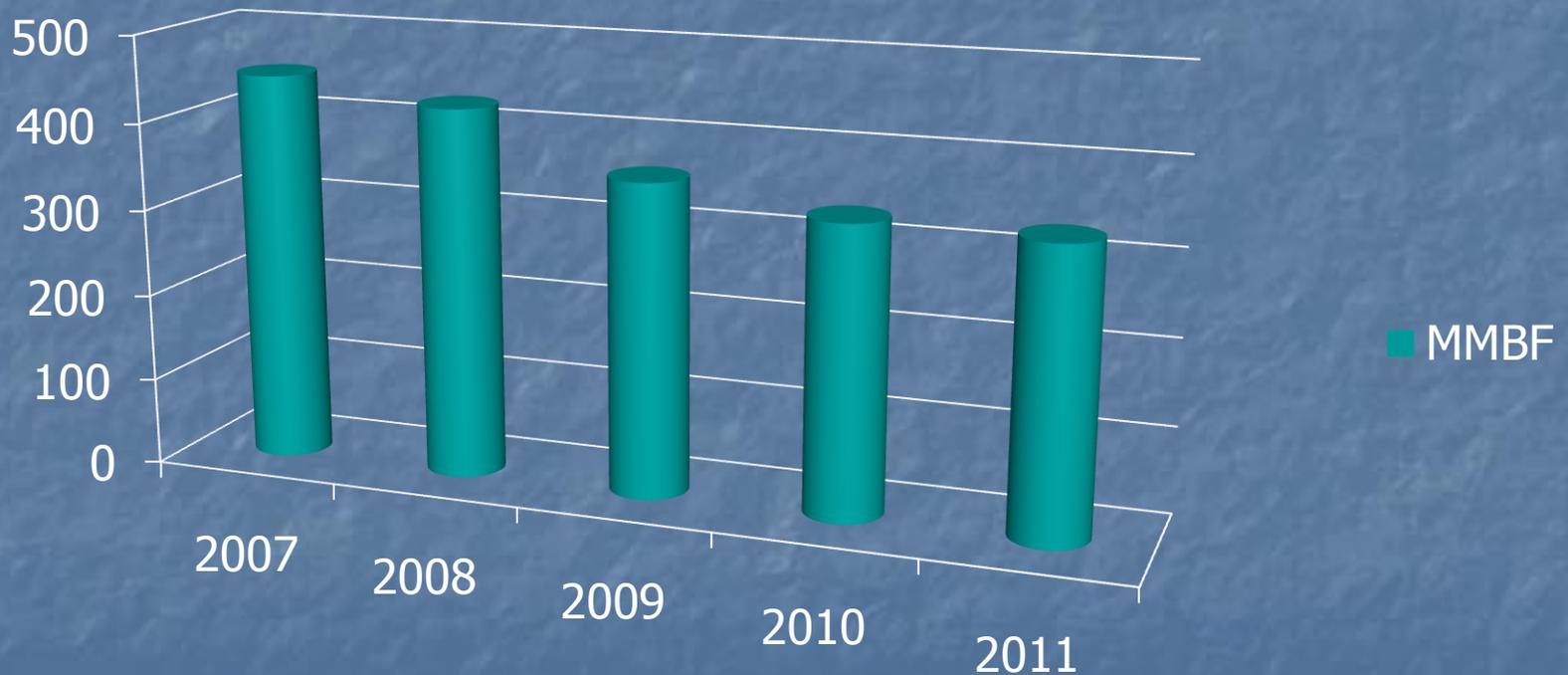
National Trends in Timber Targets for the Forest Service

MMBF



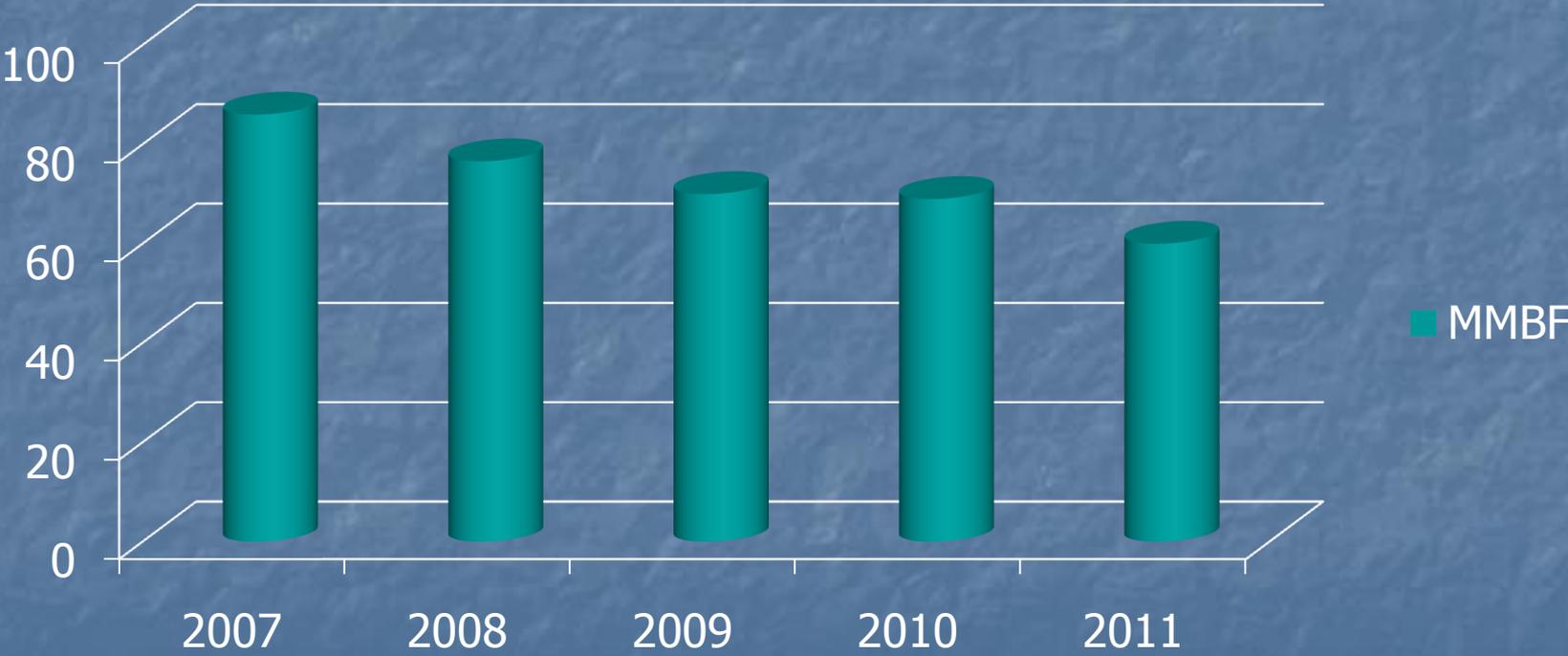
Eastern Region Trends in Timber Targets

MMBF



CNNF Trends in Timber Targets

MMBF



Current Position of the CNNF for Delivering Timber Program

“Shelf Stock” of NEPA-cleared volume – over 300 MMBF through appeals and litigation

Timber Sale preparation – place for catching up; still marking timber and preparing sales in the same year they are sold

Personnel Capacity – have lost a number of key personnel that work directly on or influence timber program; large capacity gap

Current Year Projection – have not been assigned final budget and target yet, but projecting around 60 MMBF of new sales.

Volume Under Contract

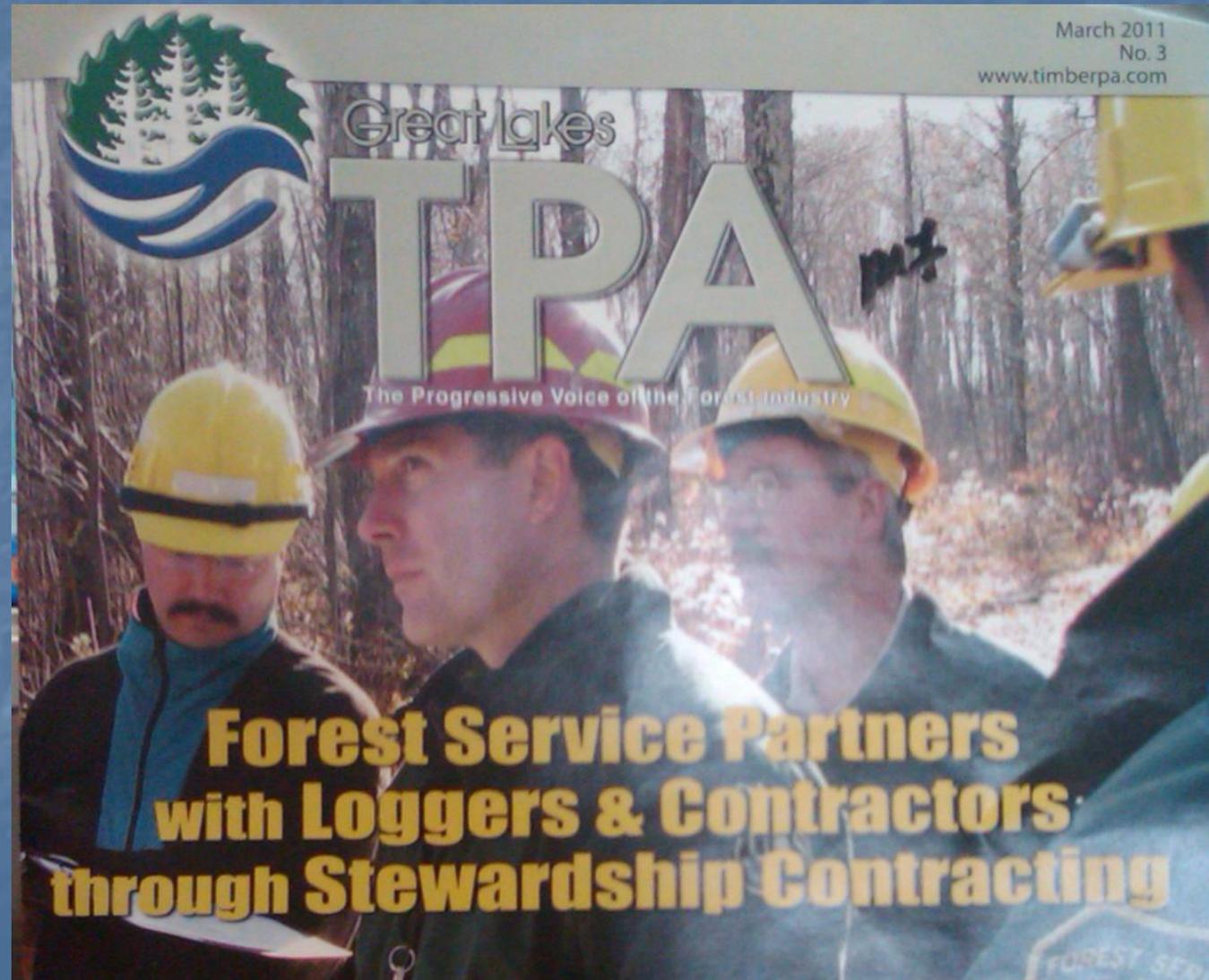
Chequamegon-Nicolet N.F. Volume Under Contract

as of 3/31/11

District	Volume Under Contract MBF
Medford - Park Falls	15,960.59
Great Divide	14,888.27
Eagle River - Florence	38,865.73
Lakewood - Laona	24,960.34
Washburn	11,386.72
Forest Total	106,061.65

Stewardship Contracting

Having some success here; allows us to stretch the appropriated funds we receive.



Issues/Trends We are Watching Closely

**Invasive Species and Native Pests/Diseases –
Annosum Root Rot, Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy
Moth, Understory NNIS**

Marketability of “biomass” products

**Court Ruling in Oregon on Storm Water Permits for
Logging Roads**

**Risks/consequences associated with not being
able to harvest at rotation age**

Final Thoughts

National Forests continue to attempt to balance local and national interests.

National forest management driven by national laws, regulations, and budgets.

Local managers engage local public and governments to understand local desires and values.

In an ever increasingly complicated world with pluralistic views, expect national forests to be the place where some value conflicts are played out.





Photo by Tom Crow