

## **Timber and Allowable Sale Quantity**

### ***Key Message:***

The Forest will continue to be a significant contributor of forest products to support the timber industry and contribute to the economic sustainability of local communities while meeting ecological restoration, spatial pattern and forest age class goals. Timber harvest methods will be designed to contribute toward increased restoration of important components of healthy ecological systems. The allowable sale quantity level is the result of achieving the desired conditions objectives within Management Area direction. The vegetative objectives are also largely responsible for determining the number of acres treated, the type of harvest treatment, and how and to what species harvested stands are regenerated.

### ***The Plan:***

- ✓ uses timber harvest as the primary tool for accomplishing vegetative objectives
- ✓ establishes the allowable sale quantity in the Revised Plan at 580 million board feet for the first decade of Plan implementation
- ✓ classifies 459,313 acres as suitable for timber production
- ✓ provides for steady and predictable supplies of forest products from the Chippewa National Forest
- ✓ ensures that a mix of forest products by species and size are available to local mills
- ✓ provides for a non-declining even flow of timber

### ***Changes from the 1986 Plan:***

The 1986 Plan focused on outputs (what the land could produce). The Revised Plans focus on outputs (what we leave on the land). The ASQ in the 1986 was 790 MMBF/decade. The emphasis on clearcutting is reduced from 70% in the 1986 Plan to 38% in the first decade of implementation for the Revised Plan.

### ***Changes from the Proposed Plan:***

The allowable sale quantity for the first decade increased from 500 million board feet to 580 million board feet. Between the Draft and the Final Plan we continued to develop and ground-truth the timber harvest model. We found some constraints or reductions in volume projections that appeared to duplicate factors already accounted for in the yield tables. We also compared projected model yields with a sample of yields actually attained through timber sales. We found that actual yields from most recent harvests and those projected in the yield tables matched well and decided to remove a correction factor that was applied prior to release of the Draft Plan. The ASQ in the Revised Plan more accurately reflects the actual outputs that will result from the acres treated.

The acres treated increased by 1,489 acres per year in the first decade and the amount of clearcutting was reduced to 38% of the total acres harvested. Selection cuts, partial harvest and thinning treatments increased to 52% of the total acres harvested, an increase of approximately 16% over the Draft Plan. The changes in acres treated and in the mix of harvest methods better meet vegetation age class and composition objectives; maintain desired spatial patterns and the critical habitat they provide and meet projected timber volumes. Current age class distributions on the Chippewa are skewed toward the youngest age classes. Vegetation objectives generally call for more acres in older age classes. Utilizing partial harvest methods enables the Forest to treat more acres for increased health, reduced fuel loads and increased growth and vigor while moving towards vegetation objectives for an older, more structurally diverse forest. The Final Environmental Impact Statement analysis displays these outputs and the environmental effects for the selected alternative.

<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Revised Plan</b>	<b>1986 Plan</b>	<b>Proposed Plan (DEIS)</b>
<b>Allowable Sale Quantity (volume Per decade)</b>	580 MMBF	790 MMBF	500 MMBF
<b>Acres of land suitable for timber management</b>	459,313	479,032	461,013
<b>Percentage of Clearcutting</b>	38%	69%	59%