



MICHIGAN
FOREST
PRODUCTS
COUNCIL

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE APPROVES FUNDING FOR STATEWIDE FOREST BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) MONITORING

For Immediate Release

LANSING, Mich., USA, June 13, 2014 – Wednesday, the Michigan legislature approved much needed funding for a statewide best management practices monitoring program for Michigan's forests thanks to support from the Michigan Forest Products Council. The money appropriated will be used to develop a statewide comprehensive and statistically sound Forestry Water and Soil BMP monitoring program. The appropriation is for \$150,000.00 and the Michigan Forest Products Council is excited to continue to work with the Administration to ensure funding for a total of three years. The industry has been progressively and successfully implementing on the ground BMP's outlined in the Michigan Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land manual since 1995. The manual is a system of voluntary specifications, techniques and information regarding the protection of water and soils and information regarding environmental laws that are used by the forest industry in the harvest and growing of trees. Even though the BMP's have shown to be effectively implemented by the forest industry through self-monitoring of BMP's, the much needed funding will be used to expand that assessment. We fully expect the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to work with the forest products industry on the three year project. Meetings to outline the program are expected to begin by early July. The funding is in the 2015 budget and is expected to be signed by the governor.

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