

WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION SPRING ADMINISTRATORS MEETING

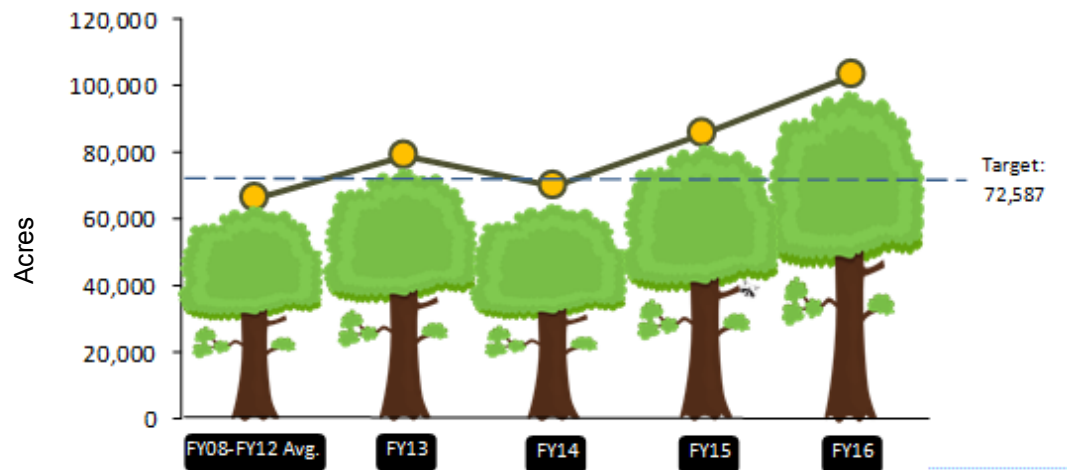
March 16, 2017

Fred Souba, Jr.
Chief State Forester



2016 Accomplishments

- Conservation Easements
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Private Lands Harvesting via Cooperating Foresters



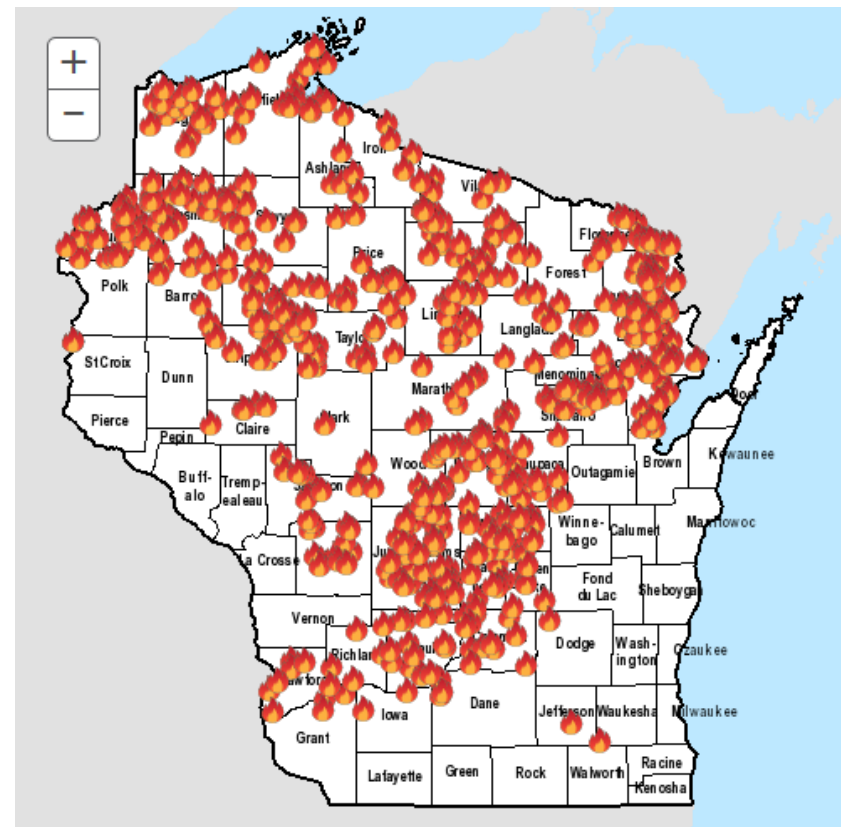
First GNA Harvested Tree

2016 Accomplishments

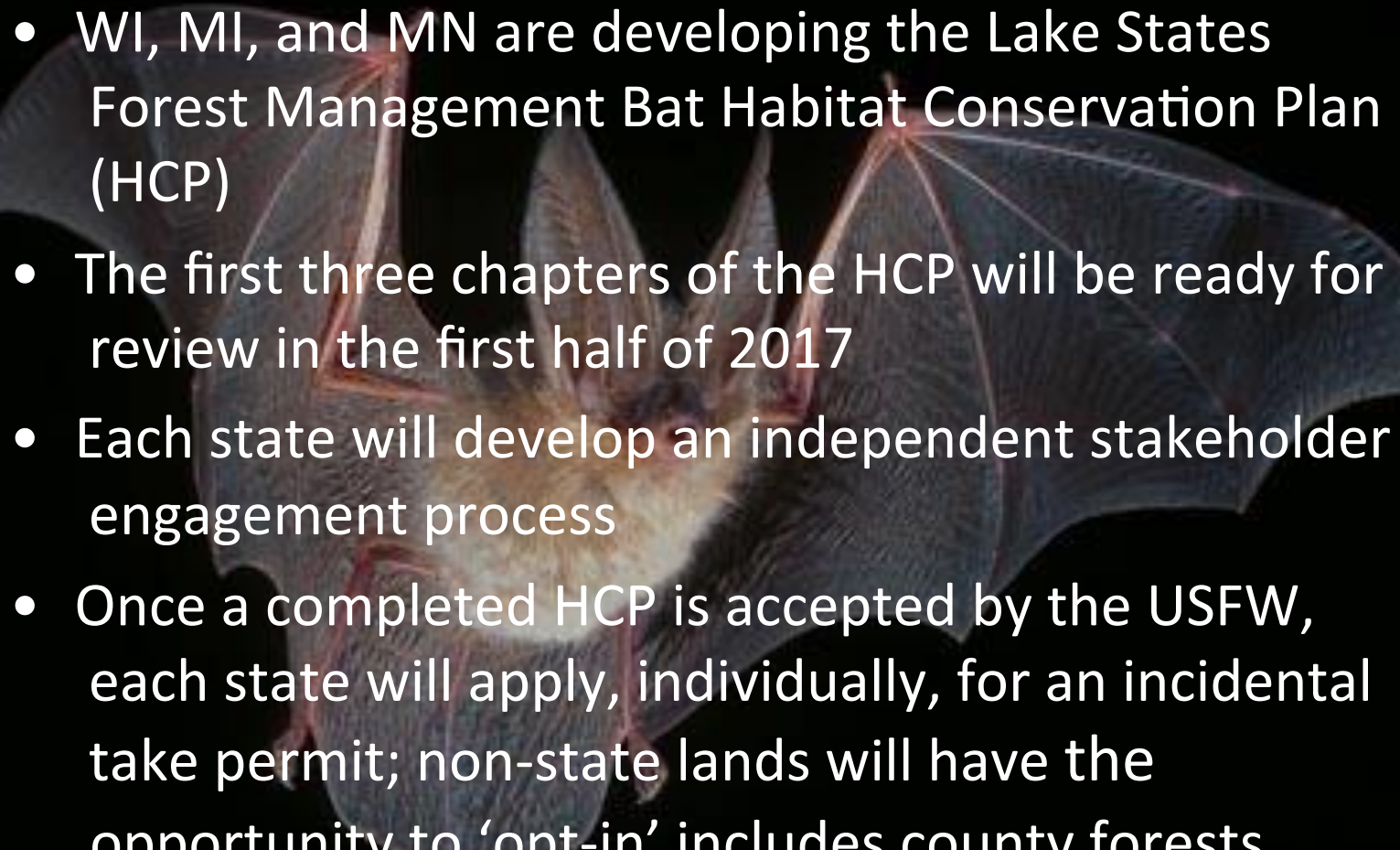
- Wildfire reporting system
- Fighting emerald ash borer



Location of 2016 Fires



Bat Habitat Conservation Plan

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- WI, MI, and MN are developing the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
 - The first three chapters of the HCP will be ready for review in the first half of 2017
 - Each state will develop an independent stakeholder engagement process
 - Once a completed HCP is accepted by the USFW, each state will apply, individually, for an incidental take permit; non-state lands will have the opportunity to 'opt-in' includes county forests.

Tax Law



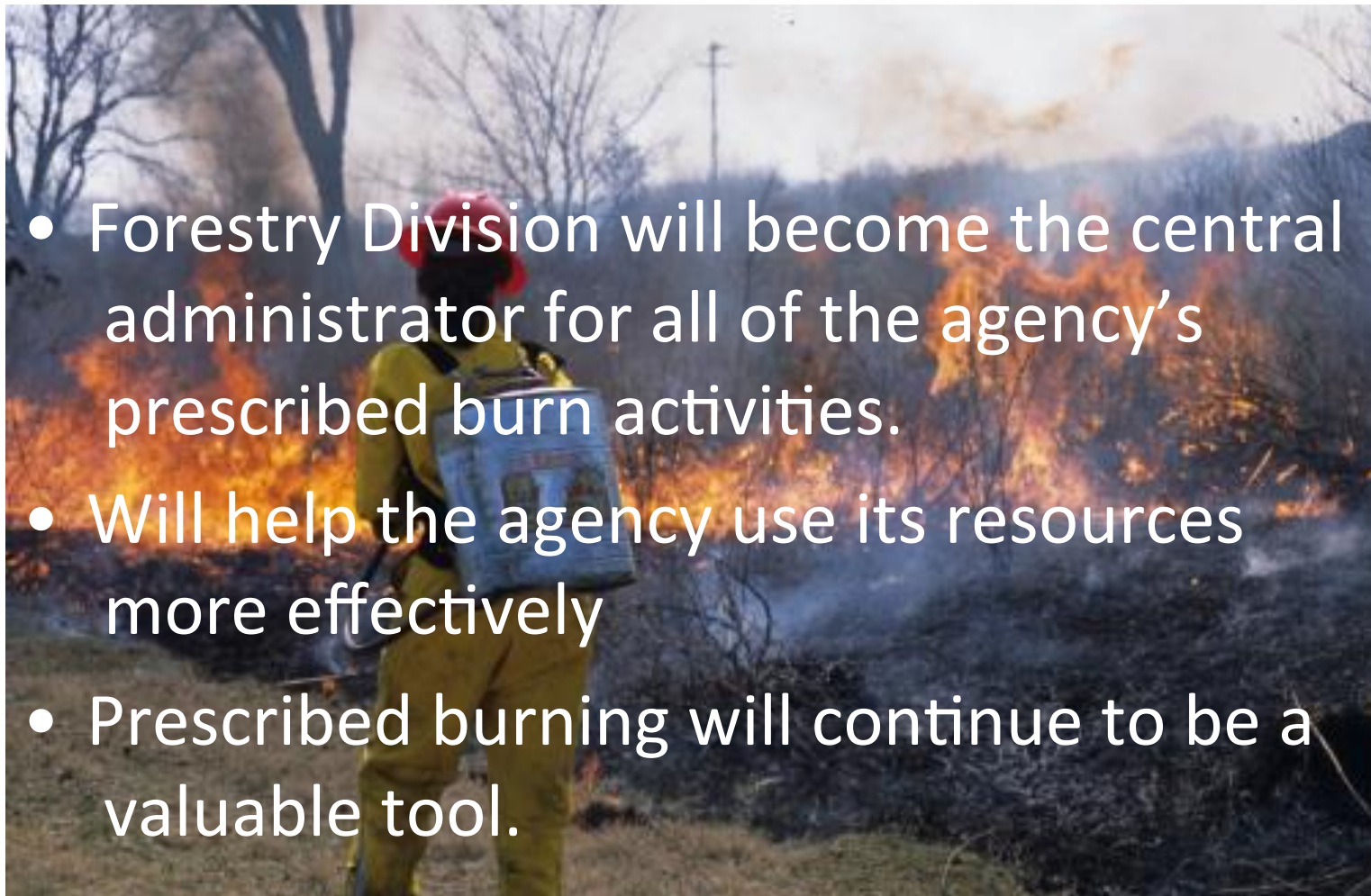
- All tax law work will be consolidated into fewer positions.
- Will free up our foresters and technicians to focus on high priority work.
- Will continue to ensure program requirements are satisfied and sound forestry is practiced.

Service to Private Landowners

- Creating a new position to develop and direct outreach campaigns and assistance to private woodland owners.
- Increasing the number of hours that our field foresters have available to assist private woodland owners.
- Increased investment will translate into greater landowner awareness and forest management .
- Will still be a resource for landowners on a wide range of forestry issues.



Prescribed Fire



- Forestry Division will become the central administrator for all of the agency's prescribed burn activities.
- Will help the agency use its resources more effectively
- Prescribed burning will continue to be a valuable tool.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

- Re-allocate 3 full-time equivalents (FTE) of staff time to coordinate and manage the GNA agreement.
- Provides liaison with the CNNF on the
 - GNA agreement and administrative functions
 - establishment and administration of timber sales.



Alignment – County Forests

- Every County will continue to have a liaison.
- No reduction of time standard commitments.
- May have new people working on your forest but will be coordinated through the Liaison.
- Working to minimize the number of people that will work on county forests.

Proposed Budget FY17-19

Division of Forestry

- Forestry Headquarters
- Mill Tax
- County Forest Timber Sales
 - Changes in advertising requirements
 - Change in timber sale reporting requirements



Thank You!

Questions?

WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES