Frequently asked questions about the Harlow Hardwood Timber Sale.

How many trees are being cut and what will the forest look like after?

Most of the timber sale will remove about ¼ to 1/3 of the trees, which means the majority of the trees will be left standing. The sale unit (8) along the Jedi Trail will have about 2/3^{rds} of the trees cut. Within a few years, most of the harvested areas will be barely noticeable other than seeing a few stumps. The unit along Jedi Trail will have many young trees sprouting from root sprouts and stump sprouts.

How was this Timber Sale Approved?

The Harlow Hardwood Timber Sale was approved though the Michigan DNR Compartment Review prosses, which considers diverse values and public comment to manage state lands for the citizens of the state. This area was reviewed in 2017 it will be reviewed again in 2027. See link below for more information about public input into state forest planning and the compartment review process.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136 79237 81036---,00.html

How long will the sale be active?

The sale will be active until early March of this winter and will likely be continued next winter.

What effects will I see while the sale is being cut?

You may see log trucks especially during the week. You may hear equipment working. You also may see equipment working near the jedi trail, and the trail to top of the world. Equipment will also be visible from the parking area for cabins 4 and 5. It is encouraged to hike on other trails during the week from the hours of 6 am-5 pm.

Where will the harvested wood go what will get made from it?

Small wood and wood with rot will get typically get made into paper used to print magazines and advertisements; there are mills in Escanaba and the Iron Mountain area that produce these papers. Aspen may be used for paper or to produce OSB much like the 4 by 8 sheets that can be bought at lumber yards. The closest OSB mill is in northern Dickenson county. The hardwood logs will be sawn or peeled for veneer and used to make flooring, cabinetry, and furniture. The main sawmill that will be cutting these logs is in Munising.

What will the timber sale benefit and /or hurt?

The harvest will benefit many species of wildlife by improving habitat and providing forage particularly for whitetail deer which winter in the area. You may notice an increase of deer activity around the harvest as it is ongoing; this will continue for a few years as deer feed on the fresh growth. The harvest will also benefit forest health by increasing the vigor of the remaining trees. The cut will also give space for young trees to grow. The harvest may provide ground disturbance that could allow invasive plant species to move in. The DNR will monitor the area and remove invasive species as they are found.

What else should I know?

The sale has been designed to minimize the effect on recreation and the scenic values of the area. Many trees were left, both for aesthetics and wildlife benefits, in the Units (7, 8) being managed for aspen and mixed hardwood. The sale treatments are only on one side of trails and pathways with specifications for slash removal within 20 feet of the trail. This will keep trails clear and will remove some snags that may have had potential to fall into the trails in the next few years. All areas being cut in this sale are second growth forests, the hardwood stands were cut within the last 30 years. The aspen stands are in areas surrounded by other cuts but have not been cut recently. There are many areas in this block of state ownership that we manage for old growth forest or as high-quality examples of various ecosystems. All the harvests of this sale mimic natural processes. The aspen harvest mimics wildfire with the trees being left representing ones that would typically survive a surface fire. The hardwood selection harvests mimic the periodic windthrow and death of individual trees that is common in this area.



