

The Michigan Association of Timbermen is asking your help and assistance in contacting USDA Under Secretary Mark Rey (202-720-7173) today and strongly urges him to increase the funding for the Forest Service's FY 08 timber sale programs in the Lake States by \$10,000,000 over the current tentative. *The Forest Service is now dividing up the Omnibus bill funds for allocation to the field in the next week or so. National forests in California, Oregon, and Washington will gain major funding at the expense of the Lake States forests if our efforts are not successful!*

Here are some talking points for your information and to pass on to Sec. Rey.

- The 6 Lake States national forests have the public support, the capability, and the commitment to increase their sales program.
- These forests are can-do forests. They sold 306 million board feet of timber in FY 07.
- They have one of the lowest unit costs in the Nation.
- Their tentative 08 allocation is 17% below FY 07.
- Local communities and schools are directly impacted by these "fall downs" in the Forest Service timber sales program.

Please let me with feedback regarding your discussion with Sec Rey office regarding our request for increased funding in the lake states region. We will gladly share your efforts with our members in your districts.