

MIFBI & REFORGE UPDATES

Mark Rudnicki, Ph.D.

Professor of Practice

Executive Director, Michigan Forest Biomaterials Initiative

**School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
Michigan Technological University**

My background

- University of Connecticut – Associate Professor
- Wind and Tree interactions/Tree biomechanics



Resilient Trees, Resilient Power

- Integrating biophysical, economic and social dimensions
- Funded by Utility Industry & USFS State and Private Forestry– Vegetation management of power distribution right-of-ways.

Development of MiFBI

- **10-03-13:** First Michigan Biomaterials Initiative Conference
– Traverse City
- **03-26-14:** First Meeting of MI Biomaterials Initiative
Steering Committee - Houghton
- **09-04-14:** Strategic Planning Meeting for Michigan
Biomaterials Initiative – East Lansing

MiFBI – recent developments

10-30-14: MI Biomaterials Initiative Organizational Model Development Workshop - Pellston

- Recommendation to add “Forest” to Name of Michigan Biomaterials Initiative
- Formation of Interim Board of Directors

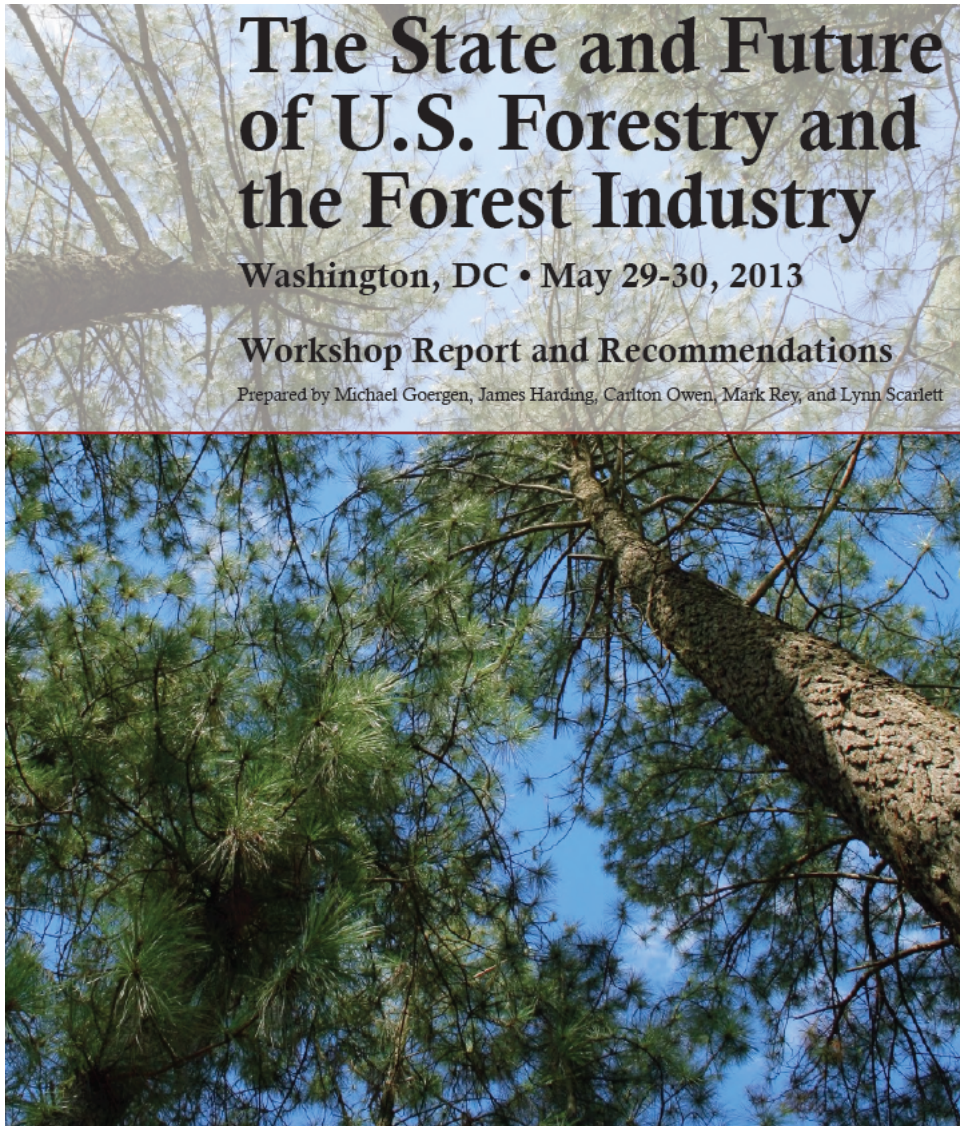
• **02-19-15:** MiFBI Workshop on Policy – Gaylord

• **03-04-15:** Visits with Michigan Congressional reps. in Washington D.C.

• **03-12-15:** MiFBI Board Formulates “REFORGE Michigan” to Secure Base Funding from State

• **03-16-14:** Visits with State Legislators in Lansing

STRATEGIC PLAN



Topical Areas for addressing critical issues for Michigan Forest Biomaterials

Key Issues
Objectives
Strategies

New version forthcoming

MiFBI

Michigan Forest Biomaterials Initiative

- Current (interim) Board:

- Edward Becker – Friction and Wear Solutions, LLC
- David DeYoe – Resource Trends Consultant
- Jake Hayrynen – JM Longyear
- Richard Kobe – Michigan State University
- Lori Phalen – Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
- Terry Sharik (Chair) Michigan Technological University

- Current (interim) Staff:

- Mark Rudnicki – Michigan Technological University

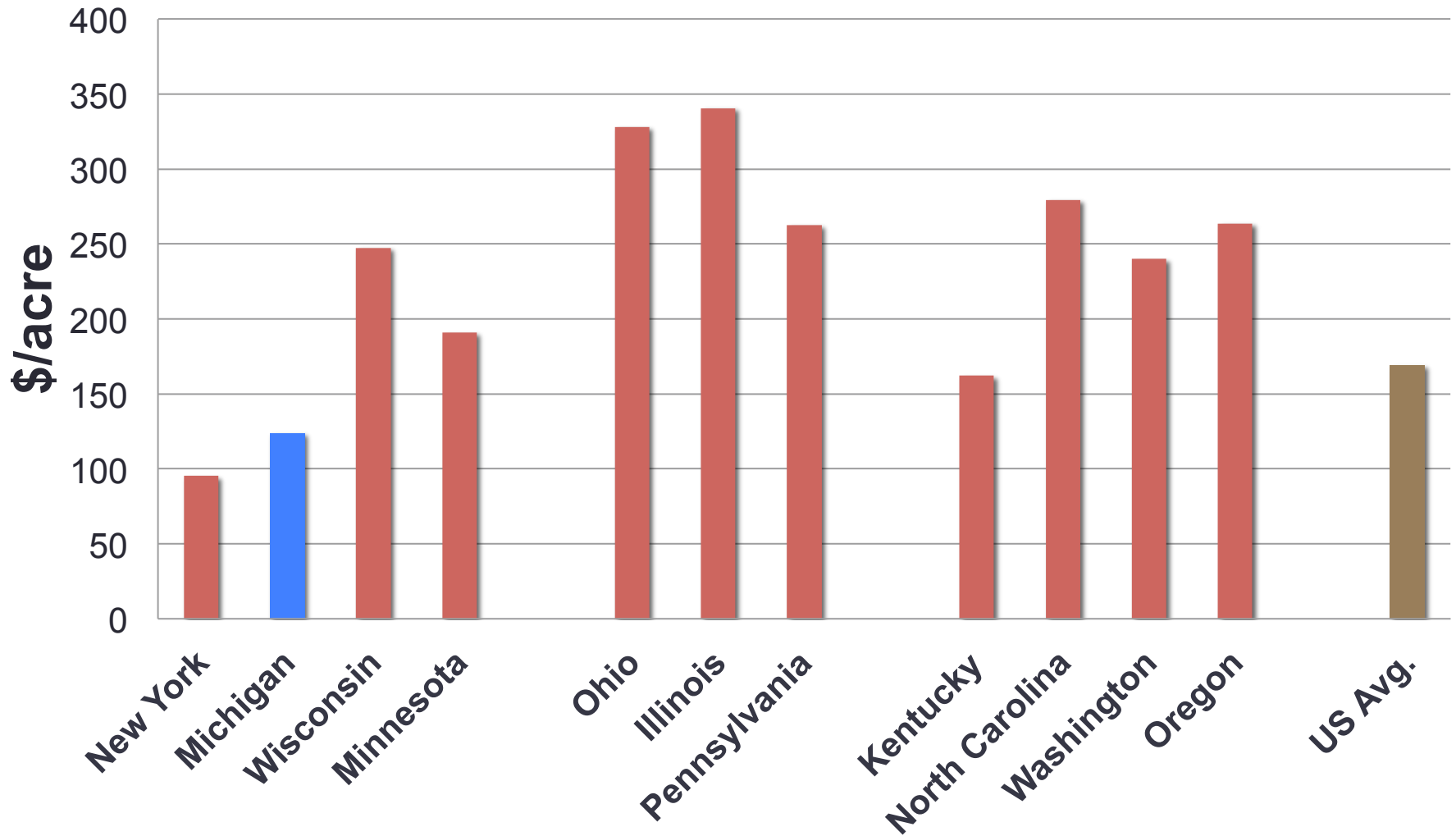
REFORGE

MICHIGAN



A plan to support, diversify, and expand
Michigan's forest products industry.

Value of Wood Products Industry (no pulp and paper) per acre of Timberland (Data - American Wood Council)



REFORGE

REnewable FORest materials for a Green Economy

- Proposal from MiFBI for line item funding from the State of Michigan.
- Request 3-5 million for industry identified problems to be addressed by university/industry partnership (GREEN)
- Competitive funds available to Universities across the state. Ideal for applied projects/ leveraging federal funds

Partnerships

Research on industry identified needs—similar to project GREEN.

Industry-University-Government partnerships have been successful for agricultural commodities in Michigan.

Established partnerships can effectively leverage additional federal and private investments.

Growth

Surplus in sustainably grown forests presents opportunity.

Michigan forests are currently growing at twice the sustainable harvesting rate.

Forest utilization has and will continue to be compatible with recreation and tourism.

Markets

Forest products industry can be the centerpiece of Michigan's green economy.

Pure Michigan, let's add the value here.

Wood products create revenue today and can provide climate benefits by storing carbon.

Regions

Focus on industry growth appropriate to Michigan's regions.

Rural, agro-forest, and urban landscapes can all produce wood products.

Strategic investment in the wood products industry can support local communities.

MiFBI proposal of REFORGE

Michigan Legislators were very receptive of our initial communication of REFORGE

Rep. Dianda

Rep. Bumstead

Rep. Rendon

Rep. McBroom

Rep. Kivela

Rep. Johnson

Rep. Jenkins

Sen. Green

Sen. Casperson

Thank you.

MTU Forest Biomaterials

- Find us on twitter:
- @MTUBiomaterials

Michigan Tech Univ developing research and leading initiatives to grow, produce and recycle forest based biomaterials for a resilient and verdant future.