



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
& POLICY CENTER

Sunfish Timber Sale Update

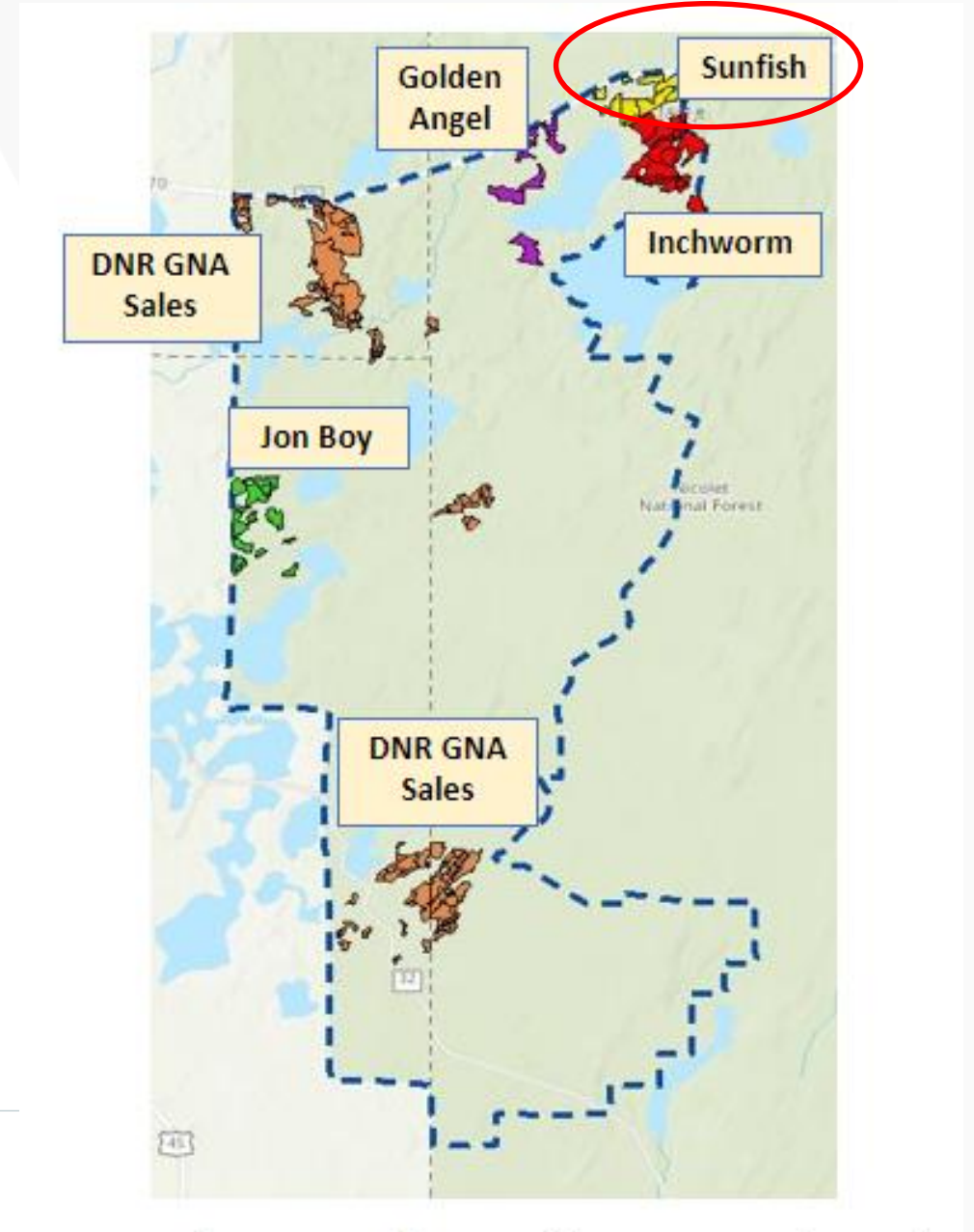
Fourmile Project in the Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest

- * Satellite imagery
- * Site visit photos as of February 6, 9-10, 2024

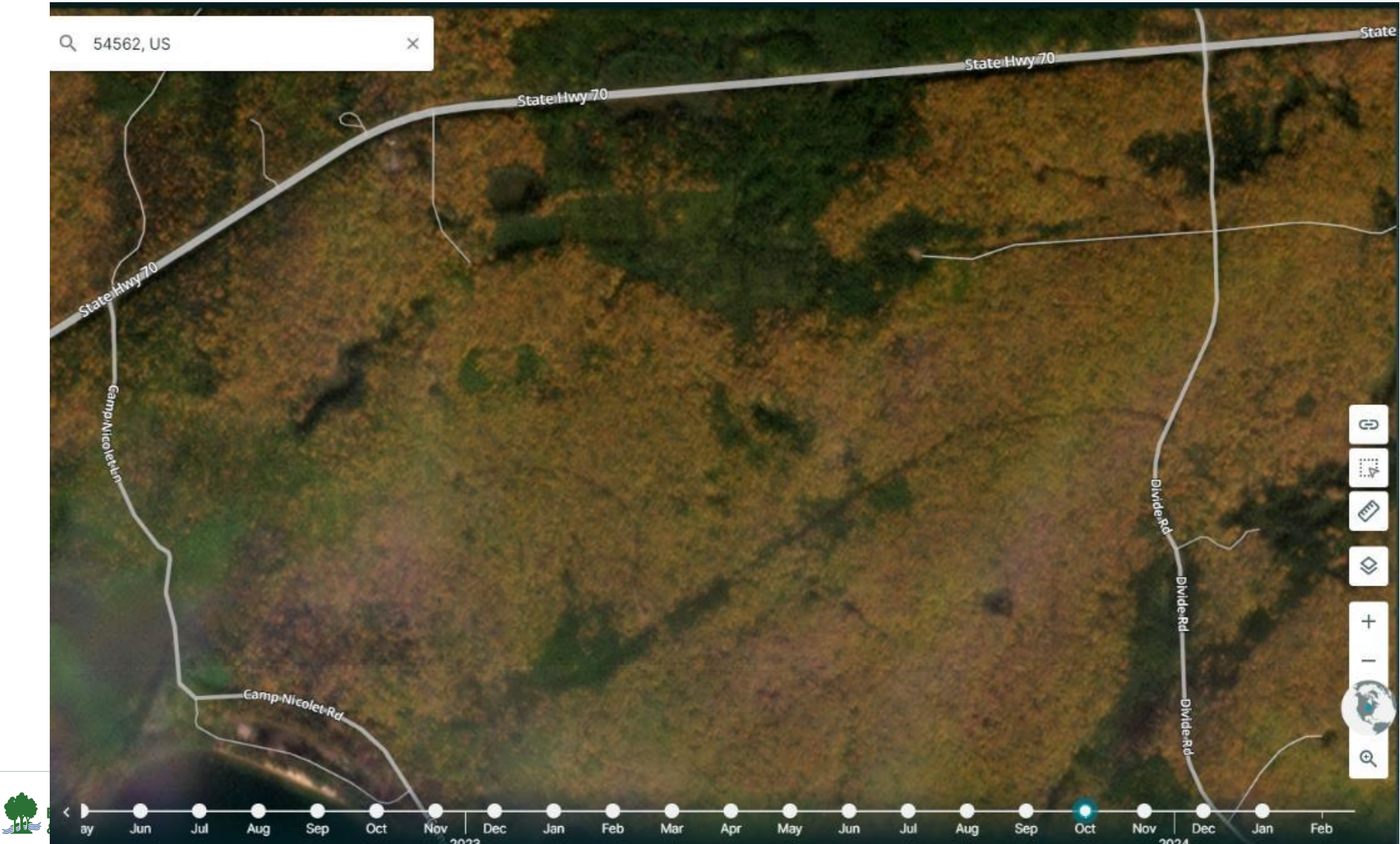
Site visit and satellite imagery reveals logging of mature and old-growth trees occurring during thawed ground conditions.

Fourmile timber sales

- Sunfish is the first timber sale, and furthest advanced.
- Sunfish: Interior hardwood. Mature / old-growth forest with old-growth characteristics.
- “GNA Sales” = God Neighbor Sales administered by WDNR under USFS contract, to maximize logging.

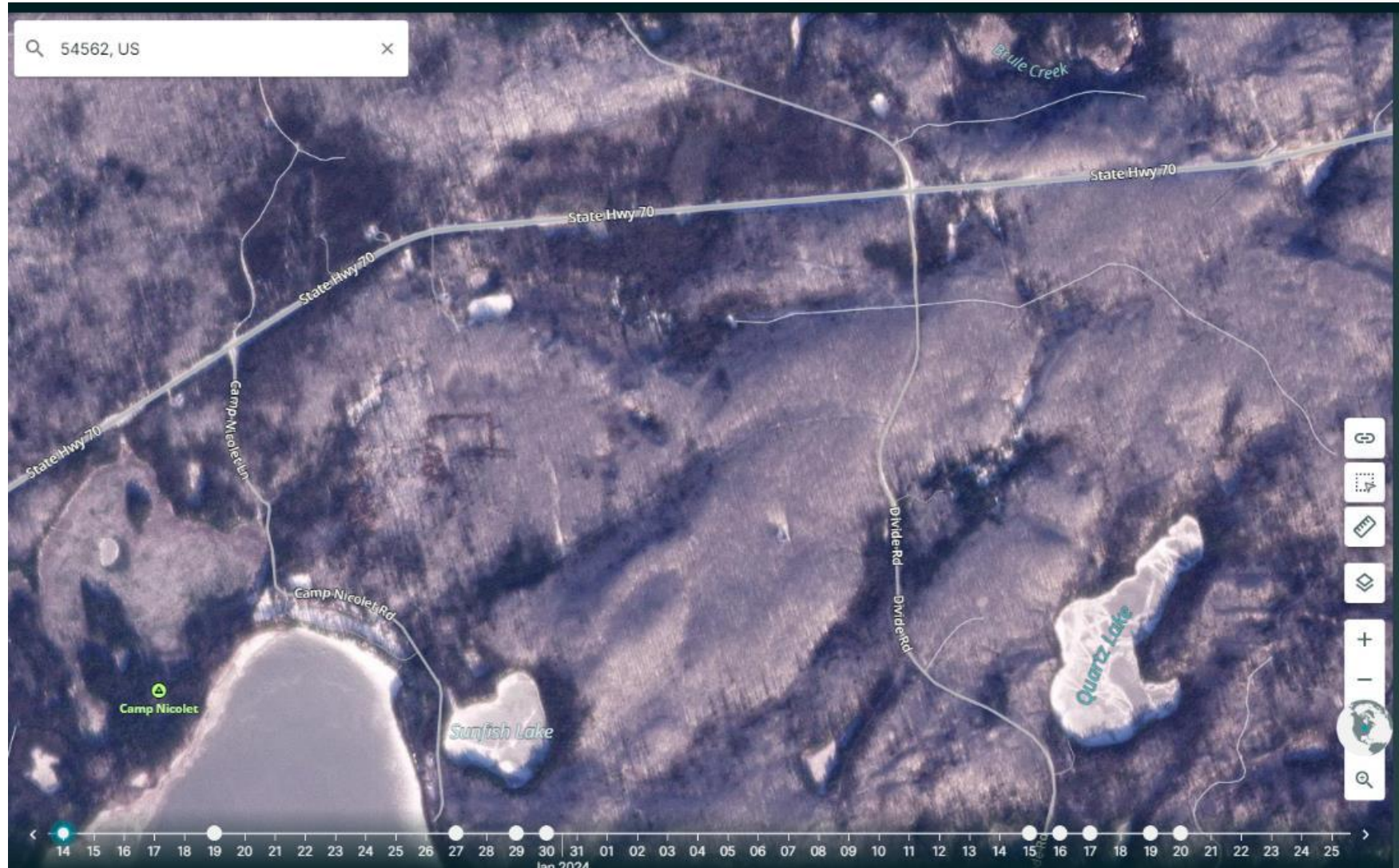


Sunfish Sale, October 2023



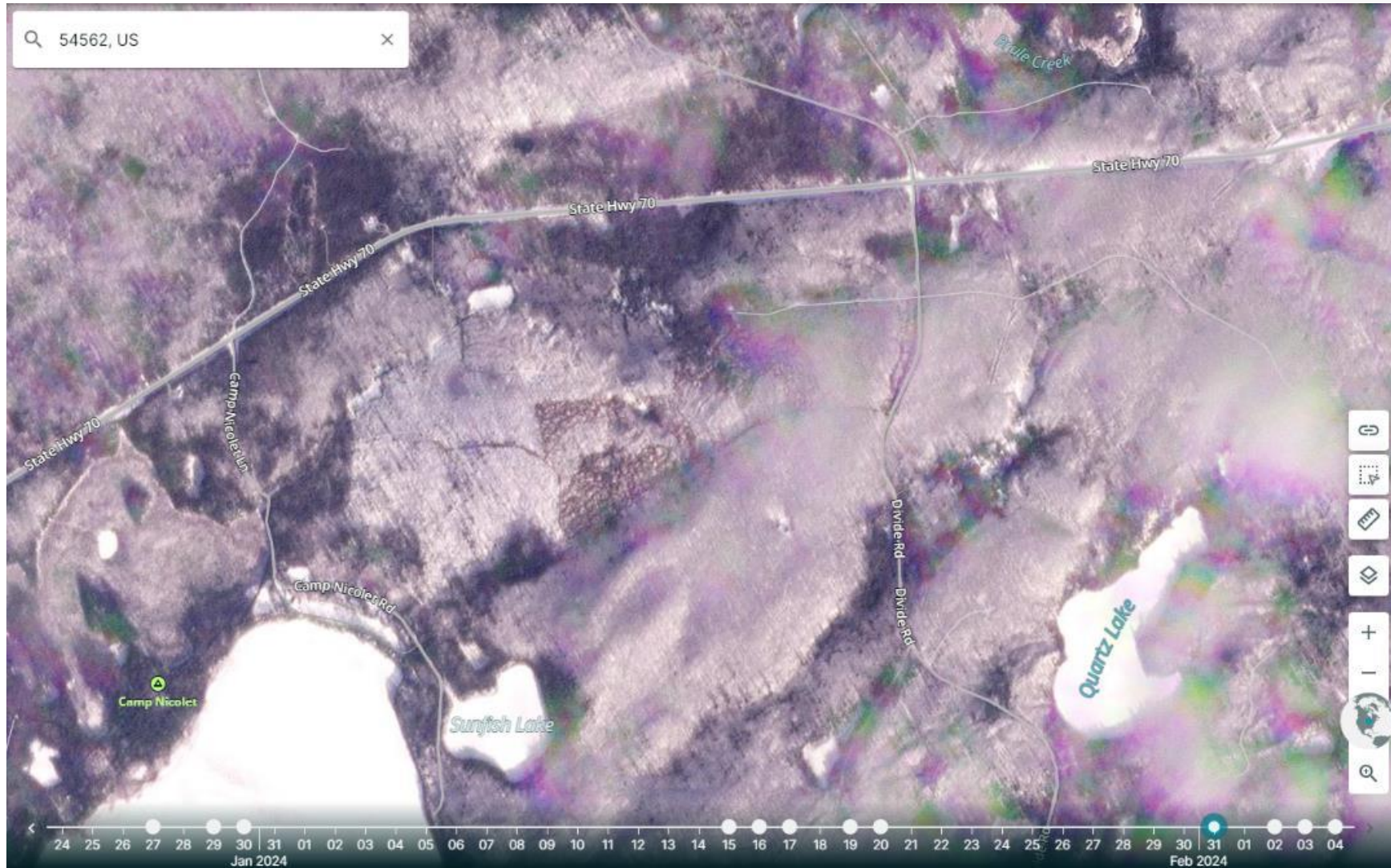
Sunfish Sale, December 27, 2023

Min: 27F, average 31F, high: 37F



Sunfish Timber Sale, January 31, 2024

Min: 30F, average 34F, high: 44F



Sunfish Timber Sale, February 2, 2024

Min: 22F, average 29F, high: 42F



Sunfish Timber Sale, February 7, 2024

Min: 31F, average 39F, high: 45F



Photo taken on February 6, 2024 at Fourmile logging road, at Divide Road



Photo taken on February 6, 2024 at Fourmile, Divide Road



Many cut trees exceed proposed USFS old-growth definition, by diameter

Table 17.—Eastern Region old-growth community types, corresponding FIA forest types, and large tree diameter and density and stand age minima

Old-growth Type	FIA Forest Type Code	Tree Diameter (inches)	Trees per acre	Stand Age
Beech maple basswood	805	16	10	141
Northern hardwood	520, 801, 802, 809	16	10	141
Dry oak	162, 163, 165, 167, 182, 184, 404, 405, 501, 502, 506, 507, 509, 510, 513, 515	16	20	101
Mesic northern oak	503, 504, 505, 511, 512, 516	20	5	161
Wetland hardwood	701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709	18	10	121
Conifer northern hardwood	104, 105, 401	16	10	141
Northern pine	101, 102, 103	12	20	101
Montane spruce	121, 123, 124, 128, 129	15	10	141
Sub-boreal spruce/fir	122, 125	12	10	141
Other	All others	14	10	101

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/mature-and-old-growth-forests-tech.pdf>

February 10, 2024 Visit to Sunfish Timber Sale, Fourmile Project, CNNF



February 10, 2024 Visit to Sunfish Timber Sale, Fourmile Project, CNNF



February 10, 2024 Visit to Sunfish Timber Sale, Fourmile Project, CNNF

Heavy equipment operated on soft ground, causing soil damage, compaction.

Images do not always reflect rut depth.



Sunfish Log Piles Reveal Mature and Old-Growth Harvesting

- This tree was over 140 years old, sprouted back in the 19th century.
- Each pin represents 10 years of growth rings.
- They go back to 1920, with another 35-50 rings in the center.
- Diameter was measured at 19+”.
- There were many similar and larger logs.
- More accurate estimating is needed for more measurements, with species.
- Conclusion: Independent post-mortem study is needed.



Sunfish Log Piles Reveal Mature and Old-Growth Harvesting

Forest Service prioritizing pulp markets over mature and old-growth conservation.

We have a climate crisis and need MOG trees and forests.



A sample of the many MOG Log Piles of Fourmile, Sunfish Sale



Sunfish Sale, Stand 016-10



Chequamegon - Nicolet National Forest
Eagle River - Florence Ranger District

Fourmile Project

Proposed
Vegetation Activities

Map 1 of 3

Harvest Treatment	Forest Type
Argonne Farm Woodlot Study	Aspen
Argonne Cutting Methods Study	Balsam Fir
Argonne MOSS Study	Hardwoods
Coppice; Clearcut	Hemlock
Selection; Improvement	Jack Pine
Pre-commercial Thin; Thin	Oak
Partial & Overstory Removal	Paper Birch
Salvage; Sanitation	Red Pine
Shelterwood	Spruce
Restoration Thin; Restoration	White Pine
	999-99 Comp-Stand label
	Trail Maintenance

Project Boundary
District Boundary
Wilderness
National Forest System Land
Lake
River
Highway
Road
Woods Road
Trail

0 0.5 1 Miles

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor assumes any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, completeness or utility of these geospatial data or maps. These geospatial data and maps are not legal documents and are not intended to be used to determine title, ownership, legal descriptions or boundaries, legal jurisdiction or access or use restrictions. The data are dynamic and may change without notification. The user is responsible to verify the limitations and to use the data or maps accordingly. For more information, contact the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest at 715-362-1300. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Map date: 20200211



Fourmile Timber Sales

