



## PRESS RELEASE

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### COUNTY SPRING TIMBER AUCTION NETS \$405,000

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department sold 15 timber tracts to be harvested by area loggers for \$405,000 at the spring timber auction on March 31, 2017. The appraised value of the 15 timber tracts was \$261,000 with an average sale price of 143% of the appraised value.

“Crow Wing County manages 105,000 acres of land of which 72,500 acres is productive forest land,” stated Chris Pence, Environmental Services Division Manager. “Timber harvested in Crow Wing County is utilized in regional mills that produce various wood products such as paper, lumber, pallets and wood shims. In addition, woodchips from timber harvests are used for biomass fuel to produce energy.”

Revenues from the county’s timber auction cover forest management and related land management costs. Surplus funds are provided to schools, cities, and townships in the county to offset the local tax levy. Over the last 5 years, over \$880,000 has been distributed to school districts, townships and cities.

County forestlands are also managed to strict environmental standards established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®-C031953) certification standards. Both SFI and FSC require independent third-party auditing firms to evaluate the practices of an organization to certify that their standards are being met.

The SFI’s forest certification standard is based on principles that promote sustainable forest management, including measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Like SFI, FSC sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. By achieving and exceeding those standards for the last 8 years, Crow Wing County is able to ensure that the forestland is being sustainably managed for current and future generations.

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#### **Land Services Department**

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**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

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