

DRAFT

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting

June 16, 2015 Training Center, Morgan-Monroe State Forest, IN

Attendees

City of Carmel: Daren Mindham

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Hoosier Hikers Council: Phil Wilcoxson, Bonnie Wilcoxson

Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters: Mike Warner

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Jennifer Boyle Warner

Indiana DNR, Entomology & Plant Pathology: Phil Marshall

Indiana DNR, Fish & Wildlife: Mitch Marcus

Indiana DNR, Forestry: Dan Ernst, Chris Gonso, Brenda Huter, John Seifert and Phil Wagner (retired)

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Raoul Moore, Robert Schaible

Indiana Forest Alliance: Mary Bookwalter, James Jean, Myke Lurtsema, Curt Mayfield, Jeff Stant, Sara Waters

Indiana Forestry Educational Foundations: Pete Halstead

Indiana Wildlife Federation: Erin Baird

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Brian Kruse

Private Forest Owner: Tom Hougham

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management: Steve Cotter

The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Chapter: Joe Tutterrow

US Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest: Mike Chaveas, Gary Dinkel and Judi Perez

All presentations posted on committee website.

Welcome & Introductions

John Seifert, State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

Moderated round table discussion of Division of Forestry strategic plan & fee changes

John Seifert, State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

PowerPoint Presentation: *Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee*

Dan Ernst, Assistant State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

PowerPoint Presentation: *Strategic Plan 2015-2019 Indiana State Forest and Recreation Areas*

Brenda Huter, Acting Assistant State Forester, IDNR – Division of Forestry

PowerPoint Presentation: *Strategic Plan 2015-2019 Private Lands Programs*

Moderated discussion session following presentations used “white board” sheets of paper posted on either side of the room where participants were invited to write “issues” or “questions” that were generated from the material presented. These items were then discussed and/or clarified and it was suggested that answers would be provided. These issues and questions are transcribed below.

Issues:

- Need for better, regular process of public participation for the high conservation value forest designation
- Are DoF wildlife management considerations being coordinated with SWAP planning @ DFW?
- There appears to be no accommodation for those who want remote wilderness experience
- Expand discussion on carbon
- Focus on BMPs created by Invasive Plant Advisory Committee esp. pretreatment of areas to be disturbed

Questions (*with DoF answers provided after the meeting in italics*):

- What is the process for public nomination of HCVFs?
The process can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-HighConservationValueForests.pdf>
- Jack mentioned on radio 2 public meetings on strategic plan, when/where?
Three meetings have been set, they are Sept 21 Indiana State Museum, Sept 22 Honeywell Center, Wabash and Sept 23 Cool Springs Education Center, Huntingburg, IN. All meetings are from 6:30 -8:30 pm.
- In FSC audits DoF commits to 10% HCVFs (15,000 acres) but when requested the DoF has not provided locations of these areas. When/how will the DoF publicize these areas? 21 nature preserves add up to fewer than 10%.
The 10% commitment noted in the 2014 FSC audit refers to the DoF Strategic Plan goal of “managing State Forests toward a long term balance in forest stand age

and structure with 10% of forest acreage in or developing older forest conditions as well as 10% in early successional forests (0-20 years old)". HCVF locations are posted on the DoF website. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-HighConservationValueForests.pdf>

- Most species of greatest conservation need in 2008 EA were interior forest species. Should more than 10% be set aside as HCVS to meet that need? Would HCVF be large enough for interior forest habitat?

The 2008 Environmental Assessment (EA)

http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests_EA.pdf details the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of forest management activities on species of conservation need found on state forests. Specifics on impacts to individual species or species-groups can be found there. Specific threats to species of conservation concern are also documented in the EA and were taken into account for the various impact assessments. Where the loss of high canopy threatens a particular species or species group, it is noted in the species assessment; however, the overwhelming general theme among our Midwestern forest species of conservation concern is that they are tolerant – and in many cases dependent - to at least occasional disturbance in high forest canopy. This is also supported by decade of research at the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment project, located on state forests and testing the impacts of forest management methods regularly used on state forests.

- What is your definition of older forest? In following, where are they located? FSC audits have been requesting them.

Older forests can be characterized as late seral stage forests. Areas currently managed for older forest (late seral) conditions include State Forest Backcountry Areas and dedicated State Forest Nature Preserves.

- Is 10% of our limited forestland really sufficient for evaluating what an 'old forest' is actually doing as a viable ecosystem?

Collectively a much larger percentage of DNR lands are in or moving towards older (late seral) forest conditions. We are working to have 10% older forest because it helps ensure a variety of age classes are available system-wide, especially among under-represented stand types (like early-successional and older forest), not because we are evaluating whether it's a viable ecosystem.

- Does not China now have an opportunity to grow its own forests? The Shandong peninsula was denuded in 1128AD (I think). How do exports to developing countries help small Indiana/small town mill owners? Are they sawn here or shipped as logs?

I am afraid this question is beyond the scope of the Division of Forestry.

- In reference to the “code” please clarify at the expense of ____
*Here is the Indiana Code related to private lands fees:
 IC 14-23-1-1 Duties of Department
 Sec. 1. The department shall do the following: ...
 (12) Examine private forest land:
 (A) upon the request of; and
 (B) at the expense of;
 the owner for the purposes of advising the owner on the proper methods of forest management.*
- How do you enforce the collection of fees?
The primary fees which we have issues with payment are self-registration camping at State Forests and Horse Tags which are required to ride horses on DNR properties. Property staff spot check and/or make rounds through the campgrounds checking campers for payment of camping fees. During these rounds the campers in horseman campgrounds are checked to see if they have valid horse tags. Conservation officers also periodically spot check for horse tags and campers.
- Would fees be grandfathered in regarding classified forests?
Grandfathering existing Classified tracts (no administrative fee charged) is one option. Another option being discussed is having a period of time where currently enrolled land could be withdrawn from the program with no penalties. All land remaining in the program would pay the administrative. At this time, we have not determined all the possible options. The discussion will continue into 2016. But the code does require the Division of Forestry to recover costs for private lands assistance.

Roundtable Reports

Hoosier Hikers Council: Phil Wilcoxson

Hoosier Hikers Council builds and maintains trails mainly in Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. They are using motion detectors to gather information on trail use and estimate 20-22,000 users of M-M & YWSF.

Indiana Forest Alliance: Jeff Stant, Mary Bookwalter

IFA is supporting wild areas. They are coordinating the Ecoblitz that is a 3 year project.

IDNR – Division of Fish & Wildlife: Mitch Marcus

Fish & Wildlife is working with forestry on an NRCS RCPP grant proposal, tracking a black bear and involved in surveillance for avian influenza. The final State Wildlife Action Plan ("SWAP") needs to be submitted by October.

Hoosier National Forest: Gary Dinkle, Mike Chaveas

HNF is selling a certain amount of timber. It is half pine and half hardwoods. Fire transfer is going to happen this year.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Brian Kruse

NRCS will be hosting the central states forest soils workshop in October in southern Indiana. They are working on a "Joint Chiefs" proposal with the US Forest Service and others.

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management: Steve Cotter

SICIM is working to get county-level CWMA type groups started in southern Indiana.

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

HEC is focusing on clean energy, water quality and sustainable ag. They are also involved in supporting efforts to create a greenway instead of a reservoir near Mounds State Park. HEC has their annual "Greening the Statehouse" event at the University of Indy in November.

Private Landowner: Tom Hougham

The Indiana Academy of Science is doing a Bioblitz on his property.

IDNR- Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology: Phil Marshall

There is no TCD in trees in Indiana. The division is working on a pollinator protection plan and monitoring the potential listing of monarch butterfly as threatened and endangered. They are also involved in the invasives reporting site: <https://www.eddmaps.org/indiana/>

Indiana Wildlife Federation: Erin Baird

Barb retired as executive director and is now conservation policy director. Erin has been promoted to executive director.

Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters: Mike Warner

Consultant forester price report is coming out in the Woodland Steward. The chapter is also participating in the national meeting of consulting foresters.

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Raoul Moore

IFOWA's annual meeting will be November 7-8, 2014 at Turkey Run State Park.

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterrow

TNC is trying to bring Atterbury into large landscape efforts and looking at wind farm funding. They are also supporting the Healthy Rivers Initiative and Bicentennial Nature Trust.

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association: Raoul Moore
IFOWA's annual meeting will be held in Jasper.

Please send recommended changes to these draft meeting notes to the Indiana Division of Forestry via email.