



Indiana's Forest Action Plan: SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis of Indiana's Forestlands

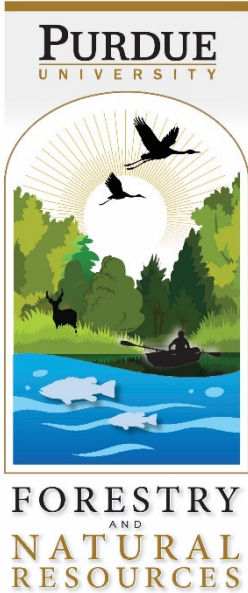
**Lenny Farlee, Extension Forester
&
Robert Wagner, Professor & Dept. Head**

*Forest Stewardship Committee Meeting
Morgan Monroe State Forest
September 27, 2017*



Strengths (Forestland & Management)

- ❖ **Growing forestland base**
- ❖ **Growing wood inventory**
- ❖ **Public forestland with diversity of management approaches**
- ❖ **Professional forestry assistance available to private landowners**



Strengths (Economy & Research)

- ❖ **High economic impact of wood products sector – Leader in Indiana ag sector**
- ❖ **Highly integrated primary and secondary hardwood products industry**
- ❖ **Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE)**
- ❖ **Purdue FNR education, research, extension**



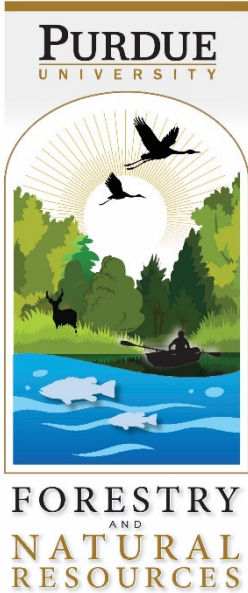
Weaknesses (Forestland)

- ❖ **Low levels of active planning and management on private lands**
- ❖ **Small parcel size and high fragmentation; particularly northern IN**
- ❖ **Unbalanced age class distribution – under-represented in both old and young forests**
- ❖ **High deer populations impacting forest regeneration**
- ❖ **Poor regeneration of oak-hickory forests**
- ❖ **High invasive-weed populations**



Weaknesses (Markets & Workforce)

- ❖ **Limited markets for small-diameter and low-quality wood**
- ❖ **No “Checkoff Program” to fund hardwood products marketing, advertising, and research**
- ❖ **Declining DNR workforce/budget for private forestland management assistance**



Opportunities (Land & Public Relations)

- ❖ **Increase/improve forest management on private lands**
- ❖ **Increase connection among existing forest blocks**
- ❖ **Citizen-science programs increasing public understanding of forests and forestry**
- ❖ **Anti-Nature Deficit Disorder - connecting young people to forests**



Opportunities (Markets & Research)

- ❖ **Wood widely recognized as “Green Material” of the 21st Century**
- ❖ **Tall wood buildings movement**
- ❖ **New markets for small diameter/ low quality wood products**
- ❖ **New “Hardwood Products Checkoff” Program**
- ❖ **Replicated/expanded HEE**
- ❖ **Better research collaboration across Central Hardwood Forest Region**



Threats (Biological & Public)

- ❖ **Increasing invasive/exotic pests**
- ❖ **Deer population management difficulties**
- ❖ **Increasingly complex management**
- ❖ **Continued inability to restore oak regeneration**
- ❖ **Increasing weather amplitudes and resulting forest stress events**
- ❖ **Continued public disconnect from forests and forestry**
- ❖ **Declining public support and funding for natural resources agencies**



FORESTRY
AND
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Thank you!

Questions?