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

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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
Thank you!

Questions?