2017 was a big year for the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program. With the recording of a revised application that added acres to a tract in Monroe County, the total land in the program topped 800,000 acres.

The program began in 1921 when, after decades of clearing land for agriculture and to supply construction materials for Indiana’s growing cities, there was a concern that Indiana would become a treeless state. The program mission was to bring forest back to the Hoosier State. There are now around 4 million acres of privately owned forest in Indiana, and the Classified Forest & Wildlands program is one of the top private land conservation programs in the nation.