

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
402 West Washington Street Room W296  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
(317) 232-4105

April 15, 2019

Dear Forest Conservation & Stewardship Partners,

As many of you already know, the Division of Forestry is updating the 2010 Statewide Forest Assessment & Strategy. The updated document will be known as the 2020 Forest Action Plan and it will, among other things, provide strategic direction to address threats to all Indiana's forests based on conditions and trends consistent with national priorities. This process, which will be completed in June 2020, will create a 10-year strategic plan for all, approximately 5 million acres, of Indiana's forests that enables the leveraging of partner resources toward landscape-scale forest conservation and desired future conditions. This should not be confused with the Division's 5-year strategic planning effort (IDNR Division of Forestry Strategic Direction 2020-2025) for the approximately 150,000 in the State Forest system.

During the past two meetings of the Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee we have coordinated with and gathered input from stakeholders on this document and process. This letter outlines the process going forward and asks for your assistance. Like the majority of other states in the Northeastern Area, Indiana has decided to combine the assessment and strategy into a single document with the following timeline:

April – June 2019 – Solicit input from partners  
July – September 2019 – Compile draft  
October – December 2019 – Draft release for review and comment by stakeholders  
January – March 2020 – Incorporate feedback and comment into final draft  
April – June 2020 – Final draft release

Updating the Forest Action Plan will again be a major topic at the next meeting of the Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee which is expected to take place after the draft is released in early October 2019. That meeting may move from our traditional location at Morgan-Monroe State Forest to accommodate more participants or we may host multiple regional meetings. Either way, notice will be provided at least one month prior and we expect to send save-the-dates out sooner.

Most importantly, as mentioned above, we are requesting your assistance now on a few things. As soon as possible, and with a deadline of June 30, 2019 your organization is requested to send (via email is preferred) to the Division of Forestry the following materials, in order of importance:

- 1.) A copy of your organization's most recent strategic plan – PDF or working web link is fine
- 2.) Your organization's priority forest areas – GIS shape file (zip folder) highly preferred
- 3.) Any statewide or regional plans that you think should be incorporated into the Indiana Forest Action Plan, besides the State Wildlife Action Plan (this is already being done) – web link preferred
- 4.) Any multi-state areas that are a priority - GIS shape file (zip folder) highly preferred, please also include description describing resource concern, species of concern or out of state partners
- 5.) Any other information you'd like to see included in the Forest Action Plan – PDFs of published peer-reviewed research or accessible links to complete documents are preferred over general suggestions

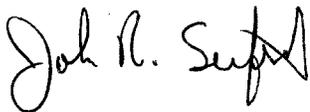
The materials above can be sent to the Division of Forestry's [forestryinfo@dnr.in.gov](mailto:forestryinfo@dnr.in.gov) email address with "Forest Action Plan" in the subject line. Organizations can also subscribe to updates about the Forest Action Plan by emailing the same address. Also, updates will be posted online here: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/5436.htm>.

It is with your assistance and cooperation that the Forest Action Plan will be an effective guide to leveraging our scarce resources for Indiana forest conservation in the coming ten years. If you review the 2010 Statewide Forest Assessment: [https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Assessment\\_6\\_2010.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Assessment_6_2010.pdf) and Strategy: [https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Strategy\\_6\\_2010.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Strategy_6_2010.pdf), you'll see that, as a community, we've made great progress in many areas over the last ten years but we have much work still to do. As always, we'll accomplish the most by working together.

This process may adapt as we go forward and there will likely be additional opportunities for your input and involvement. Thank you for your time, participation and partnership in this endeavor!

Sincerely,

John R. Seifert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Seifert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Indiana State Forester