Indiana State Forest Strategic Direction 2020-2024
February 26 & 27, 2020

State Forest Open House Events:

1. Owen-Putnam
2. Clark/Deam (Clark)
3. Harrison-Crawford
4. Ferdinand-Pike (Ferdinand)
5. Martin
7. Jackson-Washington/Starve Hollow (Starve Hollow)
8. Salamonie River and Frances Slocum (Salamonie River)
9. Greene-Sullivan
10. Jasper-Pulaski
DoF 5 Year Strategic Planning Process

• Open Houses on all major properties February 26 & 27, this begins the planning process.
• Input from these meetings will help draft the next 5 year plan.
• Old plan will be amended with constituent input.
• First draft available for public comment June 2020.
• Final draft pending Executive Office approval summer 2020.
Emerging Issues

- How to manage forests to positively impact carbon storage?
- Is there a need for more recreational opportunities on State Forests and if so what type?
- Regenerating and maintaining oak forests.
- Invasive species.
- Threatened & Endangered species and forest management – (public and private)
- Is there a need for more State Forest land to meet future ecological needs?
- Better communications on DoF’s mission and activities
Emerging Issues

• Should we use more fire on the landscape?
• Should we do more tree planting – mitigate climate change?
• Overwhelming demand for private land assistance & services, how do we meet this need?
• Do we need a new 21st century private lands program (Classified Forest)?
• How do we increase urban tree canopy?
• Is an Indiana funded cost-share program (invasive, forest management, etc.) needed?
• Should the Division become self funding through access and service fees – state forests and private lands assistance?
Division’s Sections

- Private Forest Lands
- State Forests
- Nursery
- Urban Forestry
- Forest Resources
- Fire Resources
- Conservation Education
Private Lands

Classified Program Growth

Acres

Year

2021
2016
2011
2006
2001
1996
1991
1986
1981
1976
1971
1966
1961
1956
1951
1946
1941
1936
1931
1926
1921

0
100,000
200,000
300,000
400,000
500,000
600,000
700,000
800,000
900,000

Acres

Classified
About 23% of all private woodlands in the state are enrolled in this program.

Adding 10-12,000 new acres every year.
Important part of the 500,000+ acre DNR conservation portfolio

- 158,019 acres
- 15 State Forests
- 2 State Recreation Areas
- 30% of DNR land holdings
State Forest Mission

To manage, protect and conserve the timber, water, wildlife, soil and related forest resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, and to demonstrate proper forest management to Indiana landowners.

(IC 14-23-4-1) Legislative Intent

It is the public policy of Indiana to protect and conserve the timber, water resources, wildlife, and topsoil in the forests owned and operated by the division of forestry for the equal enjoyment and guaranteed use of future generations.

... by the employment of good husbandry, timber that has a substantial commercial value may be removed in a manner that benefits the growth of saplings and other trees by thinnings, improvement cuttings, and harvest processes ...
Forest Resource Stewardship

- Actively manage state forest holdings
  - 10 million board feet/year.
  - Continue forest restorations efforts (TSI, BMPs, etc)
- Maintain dual forest certification
- Promote oak
  - Oak shelterwoods
  - Group and patch-cut openings
  - Enrichment plantings and other tree planting opportunities
  - 1 million tree initiative
- Enhance invasive species management
- Continue forest research
  - Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment - HEE
- Climate change and carbon sequestering
  - Investigate opportunities
  - management adjustments
- Conserve and manage wildlife habitats, cultural resources and high conservation value areas.
State Forests

Land Ownerships and Acquisitions

- Acquire lands of strategic importance from willing sellers
- Identify non-essential lands for possible divestment
- Investigate lands for trade within the agency, private lands and NGOs
- Accelerate boundary line marking and resolution of land encroachments, et al.
State Forest Recreation

New and improve infrastructures
- Campgrounds
- Shelters
- Trails
- Gun run

Provide forest-based recreational opportunities
- Larger 2-3 bedroom cabins
- Expand rent a camp options
- Expand campgrounds

Improve security and fiscal position
- User fees
- Concession expansions
- Staffing
State Forests

Communications and Administration

- Improve interpretive programs
- Expand on communication tools
  - Newsletters
  - Open house events
  - Social media
  - Maps
  - Surveys
- Improve property signage
- Online access to administration items
- Expand on volunteer opportunities
Nursery Section

- 2.5 – 3.0 million seedlings are made available for sale each year
- Continue seed orchard expansion on State owned land
- Find alternative ways to process and lift seedlings to decrease our dependence on seasonal labor
- Educate the public while promoting tree planting
- Continue to build our Partnership with Department of Corrections (DoC).
Urban Forestry Section

• Assist Indiana cities, towns, and non-profits and encourage resident involvement in protecting, expanding, and improving our community forests with technical and financial assistance
• Promote the Tree City & Tree Campus programs
• Protect, enhance, and expand urban forests and related natural resources
• Improve the communication of urban forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Forest Resources Section

- FIA – Partially federally funded, covers entire state, covers all ownerships, 1 plot/6,000 acres, data updated annually, comprehensive report every 5 years

- CFI Properties – State forest properties, 1 plot/40 acres

- CFI Classified Forests – Private lands in classified forest and wildlands program, 1 plot/200 acres

- Annually measure approximately 200 FIA field plots, 500 Classified Forest plots, 800 Property plots
• Hardwood Economic Development

• Training and Technical Assistance
  • Coordinated training Provided technical assists covering a variety of forest industry topics
  • Domestic and international development
Fire Section

• Operational and Technical Assistance Delivery
  Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) and Fire Firefighter
  Property/Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP/FFP)
  equipment

• Rural/Volunteer Fire Department Assistance
  Refine fire training programs offered to rural/volunteer fire
  departments

• Training and Prevention Program Delivery
  Continue the “academy” style delivery of fire National
  Wildfire Coordinating Group courses
• Provide educators with training that will help them better prepare students for environmental stewardship.

• Provide educators the resources that will better prepare students for environmental stewardship.

• Establish mechanisms to make delivery of our programs and materials efficient and effective.

• Support the work of other local, state and national organizations that advance forestry education.