

# \* Strategic Plan 2015-2019

Indiana State Forest  
and Recreation Areas



## DNR:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens ...

## Division of Forestry:

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.



\* Missions

## State Forest Mission:

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 ...  
(IC 14-23-4-1)

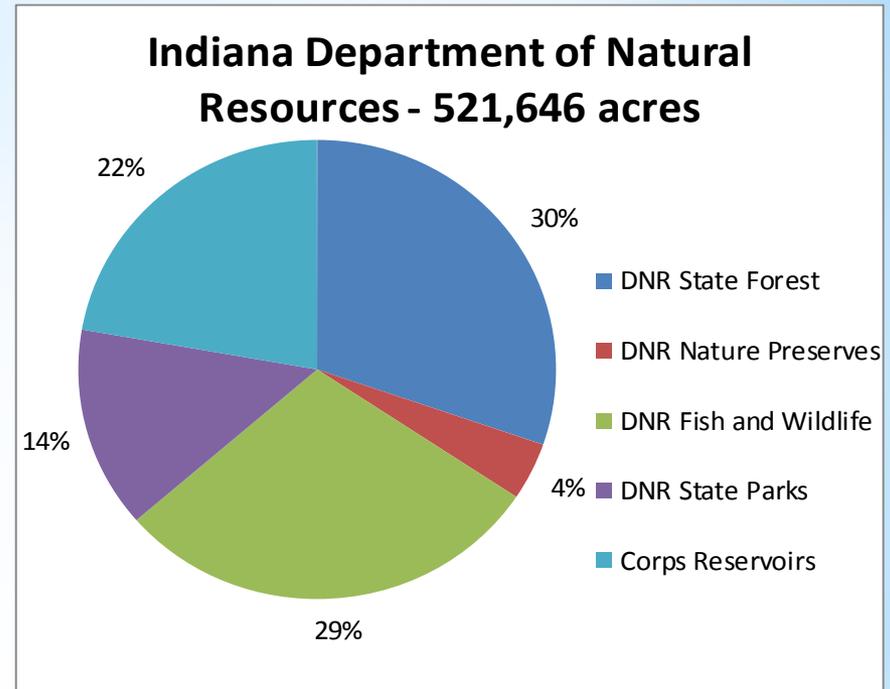
\* Missions

\* Important part of the 500,000+ acre DNR conservation portfolio

\* 158,000 acres

\* 30% of DNR land holdings

\* 13 Forests and 2 State recreation areas



\* **Overview**

- \* Forest Resource Stewardship
- \* Land Ownerships and Acquisitions
- \* State Forest Recreation
- \* Communications and Administration

**\* Strategic Goal Areas**

# \* Forest Resource Stewardship

(Goal #1- Active Forest Management)

1. Continue to meet or exceed Forest Certification standards
2. Manage to achieve habitat diversity and balance of older and early successional forest
  - a) Diversity goal: 10% older forest, 10% early successional
  - b) Utilize uneven and even aged silviculture
    - (single tree selection & regeneration harvest)
  - c) Ave. regeneration harvest 2013-14: 3.2 acres (6.7% of harvested area)
3. Managed harvests remain at current levels (14mmbf)
  - a) State Forests contain 1.15 billion board feet
  - b) State Forests growing at rate of 24.8 million bd. ft./yr
  - c) Harvest removes 14 million bd. ft.
  - d) After harvests net volume increase by 10.8 million bd.ft. annually

# \* Forest Resource Stewardship

(Goal #1- Active Forest Management)

4. Implement forest restoration measures
  - \* (e.g. Best Management Practices, timber stand improvements, tree planting, etc.)
5. Maintain continuous forest inventory system
6. Continue forest research
  - \* *Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment and other*  
*[www.heeforeststudy.org](http://www.heeforeststudy.org)*
7. Carbon sequestration - investigate forest role and opportunities
8. Implement Invasive Species BMP pilot program
9. Support 'Indiana Tree Project' goal to plant 1 million trees

# \* Forest Resource Stewardship

(Goal #2- Habitat, Cultural Resources,  
High conservation value areas)

1. Develop & Implement a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
  - a) Indiana and Northern Long-eared bat
2. Update property level wildlife habitat plans
3. Continue to identify and designate exemplary natural communities
  - a) Currently 21 State Forest Nature Preserves
  - b) Containing over 2,500 acres
4. Provide for archaeological and cultural resource conservation
5. Continue conservation of ecologically significant resources
  - a) Natural Heritage data base sites

# \* Timber Sale Volume and Sale Prices The Past Eight Years

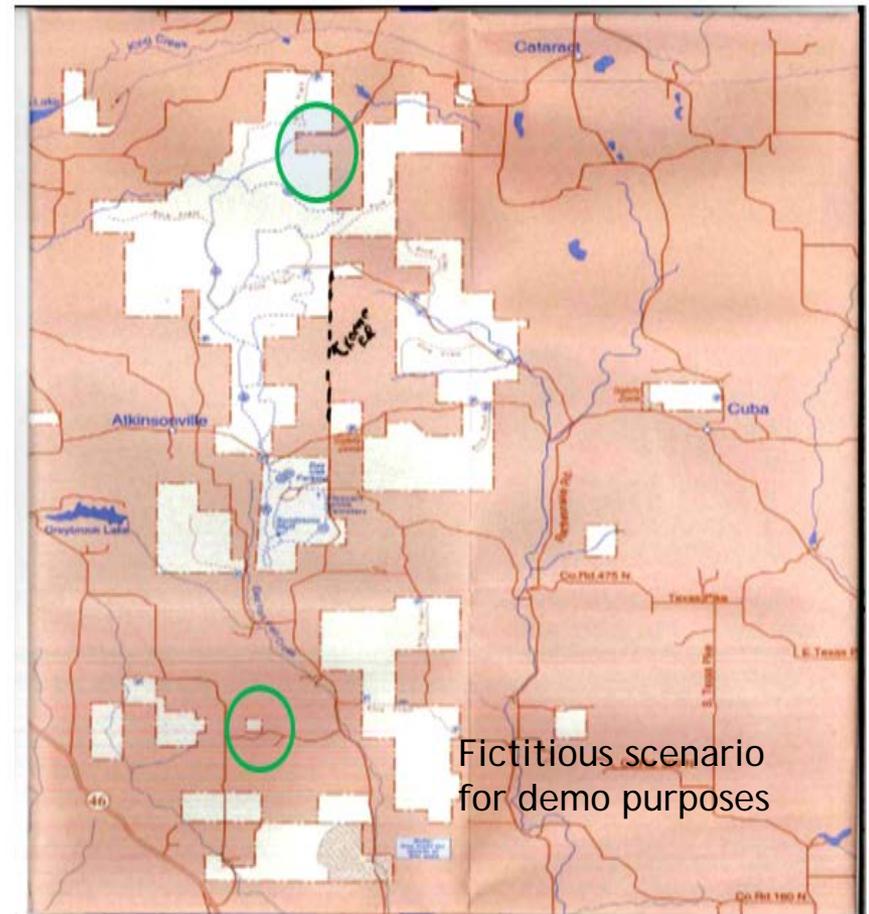
Fiscal Year	Volume Sold (Bd. Ft.)	Sale Prices
2006-2007	10,267,384	\$2,669,179
2007-2008	11,302,104	\$2,928,707
2008-2009	12,154,436	\$2,330,511
2009-2010	10,253,981	\$2,368,521
2010-2011	14,065,864	\$2,720,629
2011-2012	14,435,135	\$2,686,672
2012-2013	11,995,721	\$1,887,726
2013-2014	17,148,568	\$4,036,782

The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan maintains current managed harvest levels.

# \* Land Ownership and Acquisitions

(Goal #1- Conserve important lands through strategic acquisitions, natural resource and boundary management)

1. **Acquire** lands of strategic importance from willing sellers- (1,500 acre goal)
2. Identify non-essential lands for possible **divestment**
3. Investigate lands for **trade** within the agency, private lands and NGOs
4. Accelerate **boundary line** marking and resolution of land encroachments, etal



# \*State Forest Recreation

(Goal #1- Improve recreation user experience)

1. Develop system wide recreation plan
2. Identify Forests with greatest potential for improved recreation opportunities
3. Review needs of all State Forest lakes
  - a) dams, fisheries, flood storage
4. Assess and improve shooting and archery ranges



# \*State Forest Recreation

(Goal #1- Improve recreation user experience)

5. Upgrade **camping facilities** and infrastructure

e.g. Deam Lake Wastewater Plant,  
Greene Sullivan campgrounds



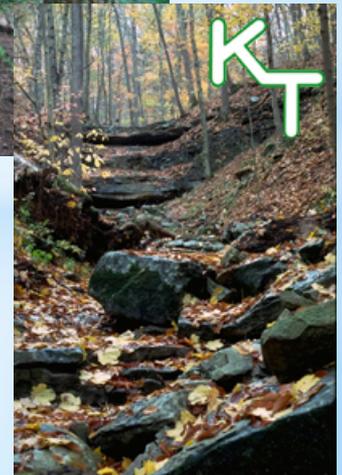
6. Long distance **trail enhancements**

e.g. Knobstone, Deam-Clark  
connector, bike trails



7. Improve State Forest outdoor **learning centers and outreach**

8. Secure funding and improve project administration



# \* State Forest Recreation

(Goal #2- State Forest Cabin Project)

1. Continue camping cabin project with Dept. of Corrections (6-12 cabins/yr)
2. Expand cabin offering to other State Forests
  - Now at Deam Lake, Starve Hollow & Greene Sullivan State Forests
3. Investigate small family cabin offering (2-3 bedroom)
4. Produce building materials in-house
5. Improve on-line cabin reservation system



# \* State Forest Recreation

(Goal #3- Improve facility security and recreation fiscal position)

1. Expand fee use areas and entrance pass system to other State Forests
2. Utilize fees to help support property improvements
  - a) DNR fees recently approved by NR Commission
    - \* Camping, firewood, entrance, shooting range, etal
3. Staff to achieve quality recreational experiences
  - a) Cleanliness, security, guest services (e.g. interpretive)

# \* Communications & Administration

(Goal #1- provide outreach, educational and public input opportunities)



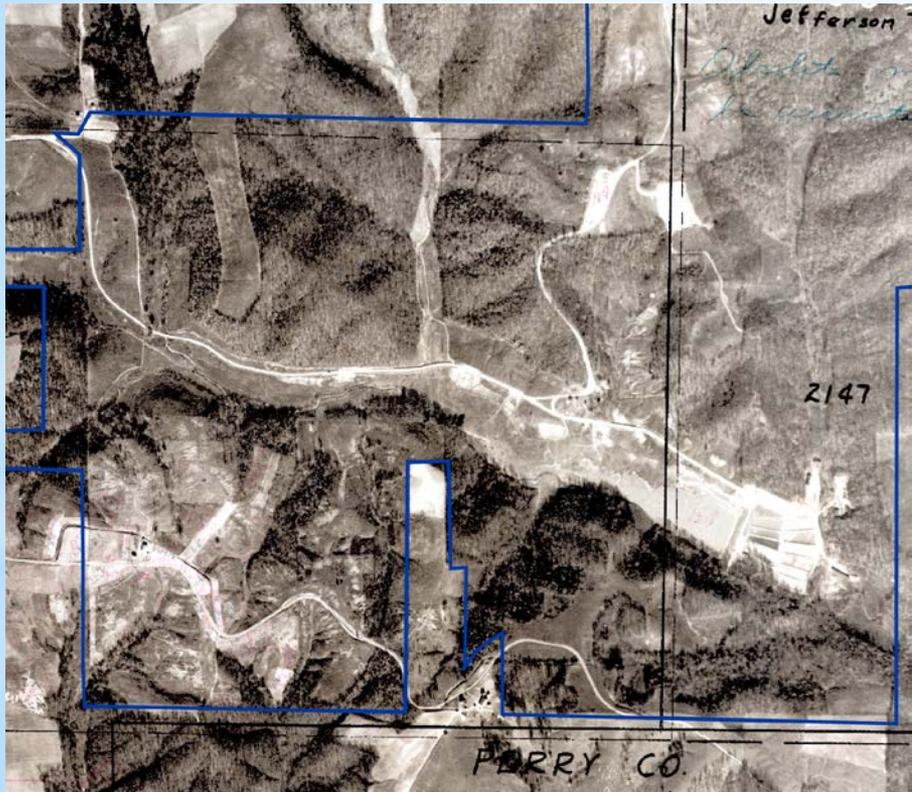
1. Improve interpretive programs
  - a. Deam Lake, Starve Hollow, Morgan Monroe State Forests
  - b. e.g. Harrison Crawford State Forest interpretive trail
2. Continue to seek input to improve operations, identify and manage HCVMs
3. Provide for on-line access to admin items
4. Obtain/conduct property user/visitor surveys
5. Continue open house and outreach events
6. Improve communication tools
  - a) web, newsletters, maps, etc.

# \* Communications & Administration

(Goal #2- Improve processes and structure for efficiency and effectiveness)

1. Expand volunteer opportunities
  - a) e.g. Adopt-a-trail, camp hosts, construction
2. Quality workforce- Staff and train for high quality achievement
3. Realign, obtain and staff recreation areas to provide quality recreation experience
  - a) safe, clean, family friendly facilities.
  - b) Guest service training
4. Provide funding to deliver enhanced recreation & resource mgt programs
  - a) Fees, capital, preventative maintenance, operational

# \* Thank You



Ferdinand State Forest  
(Entrance Area)  
1937 and 2012