

* **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 through professional leadership, management, and education.

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. However, 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 and at the same time provides a source of revenue to the state and counties and provides local markets with a further source of building material. (IC 14-23-4-1)

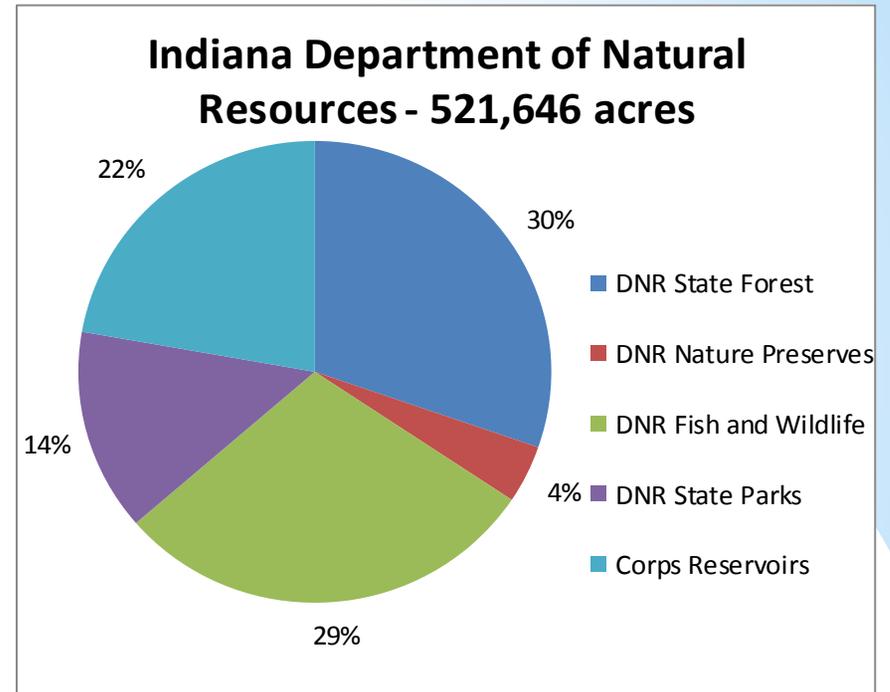
***Missions**

Vision of Property Section

We, the employees of the property section of the Division of Forestry, will demonstrate sound forest stewardship in our management of the Division's public forest lands. These lands will provide forest products, outdoor recreation, educational opportunities and other benefits, both tangible and intangible. We will conserve, protect, enhance and make available the varied forest resources of state forest properties for the present and future citizens of Indiana.

***Vision**

- * 158,000 acres
- * 30% of DNR land holdings
- * 13 Forests and 2 State recreation areas
- * Important **part** of the DNR conservation portfolio



* **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 Forest Certification standards
2. Produce certified wood product at current levels
 - a) 14 million Bd. ft./year (approx. 60% of growth)
3. Implement forest restoration measures (e.g. TSI)
4. Invasive Species BMPs- increase efforts
 - a) Tree of Heaven, bush honeysuckle, Autumn olive, stilt grass, Oriental bittersweet
5. Support 'Indiana Tree Project' million tree goal

* Forest Resource Stewardship

(Goal #1- Active Forest Management)

6. Maintain continuous forest inventory system
7. Older and early successional forest balance
 - a) Uneven and even aged silviculture
 - b) Balance goal: 10% older forest, 10% early successional
8. Continue forest research (HEE and other)
9. Carbon sequestration - investigate forest role and opportunities

* Forest Resource Stewardship

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

1. Develop & Implement a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
 - a) Indiana and Northern Long-eared bat
2. Property level wildlife habitat management plans
3. Identify and designate exemplary natural communities
 - a) e.g. 21 Nature Preserves, HCVFs
4. Provide for archaeological and cultural resource conservation
5. Conservation of ecologically significant resources
 - a) Heritage data base sites

* Timber Sale Volume and Sale Prices The Past Eight Years

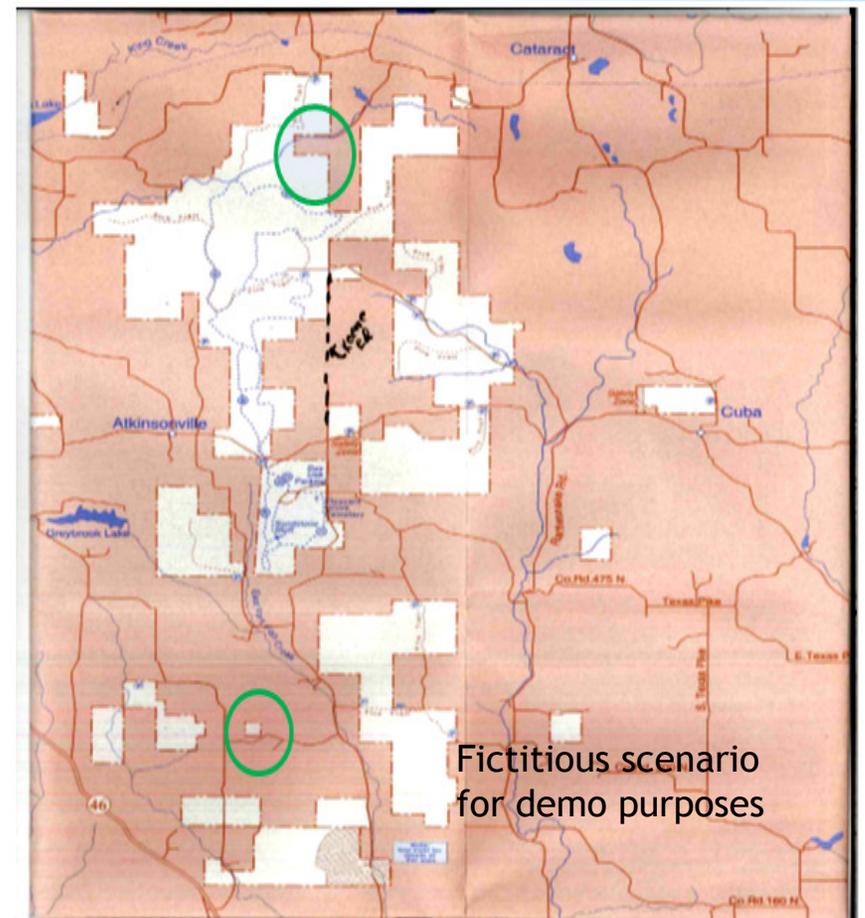
Fiscal Year	Volume Sold (Bd. Ft.)	Sale Prices
2006-2007	10,267,384	\$2,669,179
2007-2008	11,302,104	\$2,928,707
2008-2009	12,154,436	\$2,330,511
2009-2010	10,253,981	\$2,368,521
2010-2011	14,065,864	\$2,720,629
2011-2012	14,435,135	\$2,686,672
2012-2013	11,995,721	\$1,887,726
2013-2014	17,148,568	\$4,036,782

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. Secure infrastructure improvements funding
4. Review needs of all SF lakes
 - a) dams, fisheries, flood storage
5. Assess and improve shooting and archery ranges



*State Forest Recreation

(Goal #1- Improve recreation user experience)

6. Upgrade camping and infrastructure

e.g. Deam Lake STP, Greene Sullivan

7. Long distance trail enhancements

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

8. Improve State Forest outdoor learning centers, outreach and promotion of opportunities

9. Improve project administration and timeliness



* 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 & GSSF
3. Investigate small family cabin offering (2-3 bedroom)
4. Produce building materials in-house (DoF & DoC)
5. 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 Forest
2. Utilize **fees** to help support property improvements
 - a) DNR fees recently approved by NR Commission
 - b) Camping, firewood, entrance, shooting range, etal
3. **Staffing** 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 program
 - a. Deam Lake, Starve Hollow, MMSF
 - b. HCSF guide trail
2. Continue to seek input to improve operations, identify HCVFs
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. Quality workforce- Staff and train for high quality achievement
2. Realign, obtain and staff recreation areas to provide quality recreation experience
 - a) safe, clean family friendly facilities.
 - b) Guest service training
3. Expand volunteer opportunities
 - a) e.g. Adopt-a-trail, camp hosts, construction
4. Provide funding to deliver enhanced recreation & resource mgt programs
 - a) Fees, capital, preventative maintenance, operational

*** Input and Volunteers Welcome**

Thank You