

Date: August 20, 2018

To: Jason D. Dudich, Director  
Indiana State Budget Agency

From: Cameron F. Clark, Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Subject: Indiana Department of Natural Resources Agency Overview

It is my pleasure to submit our FY2020 and FY2021 budget request for consideration by the Indiana General Assembly and the State Budget Committee.

**Mission**

The mission of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) 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.

**Agency Functions**

Land Management consists of State Parks, Nature Preserves, Fish and Wildlife, Outdoor Recreation, Forestry, Land Acquisition and Engineering.

Regulatory Management consists of the Water, Entomology and Plant Pathology, Historic Preservation and Archeology, Reclamation and Oil and Gas.

Administrative consists of Law Enforcement, Legislative Affairs, Legal Counsel, Communications, Budget and Grants, Payroll, Management Information Systems, Internal Audit, Purchasing, Accounting, Fleet, Facilities, Asset Management, Safety and ADA Compliance and Human Resources.

IDNR has many programs and subprograms, many of which have a recreation, resource protection and/or public safety component. We also place a great deal of emphasis on our permitting, inspection, and licensing programs. Below is a list of the non-administrative IDNR divisions and a brief summary of responsibilities performed under each division.

Entomology and Plant Pathology

Staff inspect and license nursery stock; support and advise beekeepers and honey industry; inspect and certify international shipments of grain and plant stock; and, scout for exotic and invasive species.

### Fish & Wildlife

Manage the state's fish and wildlife through professional research, regulation of hunting, fishing and trapping, and restoration of rare species. The fish and wildlife division also stocks fish in public waters, offers hunting, fishing and wildlife watching on division properties, provides access to public lakes and rivers, and offers advice and incentives to landowners for development of wildlife habitat. Horseback riding, hiking, camping and even photography are some additional adventures to be found at Fish and Wildlife properties scattered throughout the State. Staff relies heavily on citizen input to design and apply professional wildlife practices to both public and private lands to improve habitat, promote wildlife management, and increase recreational opportunities.

### Forestry

Supports multiple uses: recreation, timber production, watershed protection, hunting, and healthy fish and wildlife populations. District Foresters can assist landowners with inspections and management plans tailored to satisfy individual forest stewardship objectives. State nurseries provide stock for landscaping, windbreaks, fire control, and other uses.

### Historic Preservation and Archaeology

Promotes the conservation of Indiana's cultural resources through public education efforts including sponsorship of Archaeology Month, Historic Preservation Month, the Underground Railroad Initiative and Historic Theater Initiative. Administers programs for protecting and preserving Indiana's prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and the valuable information that they contain. Serves as the central repository of archaeological records and reports for the state and also houses the state's official computerized database of archaeological site information.

### President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund - Land Acquisition

President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund is a way to buy more natural areas for future public use. The Harrison Trust uses proceeds from the Environmental License Plate (the eagle/sun plate) to buy land.

### Law Enforcement

Enforcement and education are combined to protect and encourage the wise use of Indiana's natural resources. Officers conduct hunter, boater, and snowmobile and trapper education. Specialty units use boats, snowmobiles and off road vehicles to respond to river rescue, underwater search and recovery, and natural disasters. In addition to enforcing State law, they are uniquely trained for investigations in homicides, boat accidents, wildlife forensics, and other environmental sciences.

### Nature Preserves

Identifies, protects, and manages assortment of natural areas in order to maintain viable examples of all of Indiana's natural communities. The same attention is applied to endangered, threatened, or rare species. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center is used to locate and keep track of Indiana's rarest plants, animals and natural communities.

### Oil & Gas

Regulates petroleum exploration, production and site closing activities, underground injection control, and geophysical surveying. Offers a variety of services to industry, public and other government entities including permit review, site inspections, water and soil sampling, well and pit location surveys and remediation of damage from abandoned well sites.

### Outdoor Recreation

A source of grant funding and assistance with master plans for park boards. Staff prepare and publish the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Streams and Trails section coordinates many of Indiana's trail projects including snowmobile and off-road vehicle trails, the Knobstone Trail, and Water Trails. The division also has GIS specialists, who maintain the Indiana Trails Inventory and assist with research and planning. A ready source of technical assistance for the development and support of outdoor activities. Includes Community Park planning; hiking and snowmobile trail development and maintenance; off road vehicle recreation; Rails-Trails assistance; and, advice for biking, canoeing, recreation grants and other forms of recreational planning.

### State Parks

There is no end of ways for visitors to enjoy and experience the wondrous variety of Indiana's natural features face-to-face. Ride or hike through a forest; romp on the Dunes of Lake Michigan; sail, boat or ski on a reservoir; re-live Indiana settlement life at Spring Mill; study nature with a Naturalist; enjoy a primitive camp; get a room at one of the Inns; meet the family for a picnic; or enjoy wildlife in the natural setting.

### Reclamation

Administers State and Federal programs for the surface mining of coal, clay, shale, or oil shale, and the restoration of lands disturbed for the extraction of these minerals. Permits and monitors active coal mines; designs and oversees construction projects restoring lands disturbed, but improperly reclaimed; responds to citizen inquiries; partners with private landowners, as well as larger citizen groups for other coal related mining and land restoration issues.

### Water

The Division of Water is a regulatory and public information agency, having diverse responsibilities associated with the evaluation of Indiana's water resources, and development near Indiana's waterways and lakes. Regulatory responsibilities include floodway construction, floodplain hazard analysis, lakebed and shoreline alteration, dam safety, conservancy districts, water use, and water well construction. The Division provides useful public information related to water availability throughout Indiana, water use, and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Supplies a vast array of water resource information for individual citizens, industry, environmental groups, and government agencies; primarily responsible for programs including floodway construction, dam safety, flood hazard planning, flood plain regulations, conservancy districts, and water well construction.

## **Accomplishments**

IDNR has had many noteworthy accomplishments in the current biennium. The agency continues to utilize a mixture of state, federal, and private contributions to undertake a variety of projects. Some of those accomplishments are highlighted below.

### Nature Preserves turns 50

In 1967, the Indiana Legislature passed the Nature Preserves Act, which created the Division of Nature Preserves to manage the Act. The Act created a structure for protecting the most widely and evenly distributed system of state-significant public properties in Indiana. Starting with the dedication of Pine Hills Nature Preserve in Montgomery County in 1969, there are now 287 dedicated nature preserves in the state. Such nature preserves are owned by 45 different entities, including the DNR Divisions of Nature Preserves, Forestry, State Parks, and Fish & Wildlife, as well as land trusts, city and county park departments, and colleges and universities. Some of the newest include:

- Ravinia Seeps Spring Nature Preserve in Morgan County. The 52.4 acre site contains a valley filled with gravel, sand, and other outwash deposited at the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age through the action of meltwaters, which formed a Northern wetlands complex at the extreme southern limit of the range in Indiana.
- Pond ‘Lil Nature Preserve in LaGrange County. The 94.67 acre nature preserve includes swamp and upland woods, and a prairie restoration that protect the watershed of the pond. Fauna of interest includes nest sites for sandhill crane and star-nose mole (state special concern) as well as Eastern massasauga (state endangered) rattlesnake. An ADA-accessible trail circles the pond and a trail runs along the northern portion of the preserve.
- Hollow Nature Preserve in Brown County. The site contains one of the best examples of relatively undisturbed mesic upland forest in that region of the state, characterized by Northern red oak, white ash, American beech, and sugar maple. Its diverse understory contains wildflowers and ferns. Special-concern worm-eating warblers occur at this site, as do broad-winged hawk, hooded warbler, and black-and-white warbler. The nature preserve is located within the buffer of a research core area of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE). It will continue to be studied by HEE scientists during the course of the 100-year study.
- Calumet Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County. The 119 acre site contains the largest sedge meadow and wet prairie natural community complex in Indiana, and provides habitat for associated rare plants and animals.
- Outbrook Ravine Nature Preserve in Clark and Scott counties. The 519 acre preserve encompasses a large, rugged area with a range of high-quality forest community types (mesic through dry), including the most northwestern extension of naturally occurring Virginia pine. The Knobstone Trail, Indiana’s long-distance trail, traverses the site.
- Dewey Hickman Nature Preserve in Harrison County. The preserve comprises 125 acres southwest of Corydon. The preserve is named as a memorial to the superintendent of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was located where O’Bannon State Park is now. Indian Creek runs along a portion of the preserve, which consists of a variety of forested natural community types. Its bird species include the state-special-concern

species hooded warbler, sharp-shinned hawk and red-shouldered hawk, as well as the state-endangered cerulean warbler. Noteworthy plant species include the state-rare Eastern bloodleaf.

- Mary Gray Nature Preserve in Fayette County. The preserve is a 37.99 acre portion of the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. The site is included in Alton Lindsey's "Natural Areas in Indiana." Research is being conducted at the preserve by bird banding during the spring and fall migration of the Northern saw-whet owl and ruby-throated hummingbirds. A turtle population research project has been in progress since 1985.

#### Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

- A state program that inventories Indiana's unique natural areas, including locations of rare and endangered plants and animals, fragile habitats and uncommon ecological and geological features, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center (INHDC) formed as a collaborative project between the State, The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Energy Association. The center provides an objective, scientific basis for making conservation decisions about unique environmental resources. The INHDC has recorded the locations of more than 18,000 occurrences of rare or endangered species, more than 1,000 occurrences of high-quality natural communities, and more than 800 significant natural areas. These include records for 80 globally critically imperiled species. This information has resulted in many places receiving protection through Indiana's system of nature preserves, which encompasses 284 properties totaling more than 53,000 acres. Companies and consultants also use INHDC data when planning projects in order to avoid sensitive and rare species and sites.

#### Reclamation projects receive recognition

- A Reclamation project in southwest Indiana received the highest regional award by the federal Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The project fixed dangerous highwalls and an eroding gob pile at Sugar Ridge Fish & Wildlife Area in Pike County, enhancing water quality and wildlife habitat on the formerly surface-mined land. Excess water from a flooded underground mine near the site complicated the effort.
- A southern Indiana coal mine earned the National Mine Reclamation Award from the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) for rehabilitating land after surface mining. The Wild Boar Mine in Lynnville, owned by Peabody Energy, was nominated for the award by the DNR Division of Reclamation. The project removed dangerous highwalls and restored streams and a unique wildlife habitat built by shallow-water areas enhanced by structures made from large rocks and trees salvaged during mining.

#### Fish and Wildlife team earns regional award

- A program to monitor the health of a deer population threatened by disease earned the agency honors from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) when it selected Indiana's bovine tuberculosis surveillance team as recipient of its annual Excellence in Conservation award. The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife set a goal of collecting roughly 2,000 samples from deer in all of Franklin County and parts of Dearborn and Fayette counties. Samples had to be collected from deer volunteered by hunters. No deer tested positive for bovine tuberculosis.

### Forestry receives sustainability re-certifications

- Division of Forestry received sustainable forest re-certifications from two third-party organizations: Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C012858) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program. For the 11th year, the Division of Forestry has passed the gold standard for third-party certification for sustainable forest management. Both North American and international certifying bodies evaluated the entire forest management program, which included wildlife species, water quality, recreation, harvesting and overall diversity of the program.
- The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) also re-certified the division for its forest-industry chain of custody program, a designation it's earned every year since 2009. This program, which assists small businesses, allows manufacturers of wood products to guarantee to their customers that the wood use in making cabinets, furniture, moldings, veneers and other products was harvested sustainably. It also means that, by controlling the chain of custody of the timber, the producer verifies that only certified wood has entered the manufacturing process.

### Division of Communications won four awards at the Association for Conservation Information conference.

- The Outdoor Indiana 2018 calendar won second place in the calendar category.
- Frank Oliver's photo of Skamania Steelhead was awarded third place in photography.
- Nick Werner's 737 and Counting article in OI nabbed second place in the Magazine Destination, Historical or Cultural Article
- The Outdoor Indiana magazine took third place in the magazine category.

### State Parks dedicate facilities

- Ouabache dedicated the Kunkel Lake Beach. The new facility offers 12,400 square feet of beach and is 215 feet long. The beach was built to provide a water feature for campers and local residents as an alternative to an aging and minimally used pool.
- McCormick's Creek dedicated the Centennial Cabin. The 1,400-square-foot, two-story log cabin is surrounded by forest and overlooks McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve. The cabin emphasizes the importance of partnerships as most of the funding resulted from the generosity of the Luetkemeier family who has a tradition of vacationing at the park.
- Spring Mill dedicated the Red Cross Cabin.

### GIS recognitions

- Division of Water received the 2018 Excellence in GIS Award (State/Federal category) for its Zone A Floodplain Project. The digital mapping project created a statewide data layer that provide detailed floodplain information for every major stream in Indiana not covered by Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) published by FEMA. The project modeled and mapped more than 18,000 miles of stream. The project will benefit floodplain management in Indiana, improving safety and economic planning. It's

available through the Indiana Floodplain Information Portal (INFIP), and as an ArcGIS service.

- A software firm, Esri, presented the DNR with a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award. The SAG Award recognizes organizations that are using GIS to solve some of the world's toughest challenges. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS gathers, manages and analyzes data, organizing it into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. Each of DNR's land-management and regulatory divisions contributes to its GIS program. Using data and analyses stewarded by agency staff throughout the state, dozens of map layers and online map applications are available for internal and public use. Public applications include interactive maps of DNR properties, outdoor recreation activities, flood risk, invasive species, historic structures and state-owned lands and parcels.

### **Objectives for the next Biennium**

During the current biennium, IDNR has reviewed programs and related business practices to reduce operational costs yet provide services required by law and those services our customers expect. We continue to hold public meetings, conduct surveys, and listen to public opinion. It is important our customers understand the purpose and benefits of IDNR. We will continue to seek out new partners, sponsorships, donations, volunteerism, and/or other forms of support from individuals, foundations, corporations, non-profit organizations, and other entities to enhance our existing programs and to provide the best possible quality in our future programming. We will also continue to review our organizational structure in order to obtain increased efficiencies and streamline processes.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

IDNR has four key agency performance indicators which are reported by the respective divisions, and then rolled up into a target number for the agency.

#### Recreational Revenue Growth

Measures the revenue generated from various recreational activities offered by DNR like hunting and fishing licenses, park passes and boat and bicycle rentals.

#### Licenses Sold

Measures the number of hunting and fishing licenses DNR sold.

#### Permitting Efficiency

Measures the percent of total average deadline days DNR used to issue a permit (by Division).

#### Cost per additional acre to protect

Measures the dollars spent per each additional acre purchased while also demonstrating DNR's ability to leverage outside help to reduce the amount of state dollars spent.

Thank you for your continued support of the IDNR. I look forward to working with the Indiana General Assembly and the staff of the State Budget Agency as you consider IDNR's budget request for the 2020-2021 biennium.

Respectfully,

Cameron F. Clark, Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources