

An aerial photograph of a vast, forested landscape in Indiana. The terrain is hilly and covered in dense green trees. A winding river or stream flows through the middle of the scene. In the distance, there are some buildings and cleared areas, possibly a farm or a small town. The sky is bright and clear.

2020 Indiana Forest Action Plan Process

DNR

Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Brenda Huter

Forest Stewardship Coordinator

Indiana Division of Forestry

Two Part Process

- ▶ Statewide Assessment
- ▶ Statewide Strategy

- ▶ Deadline: June 2020

Statewide Assessment

- ▶ Sept 2018 Review forest issues - Stew. Mtg
- ▶ Oct/Nov 2018 Survey to rank forest issues
- ▶ Dec 2018 Analysis of survey results
- ▶ Jan-March 2019 Geospatial analysis
- ▶ June 2019 Draft assessment open for comment
- ▶ Aug 2019 Final draft available

Statewide Strategy

- ▶ Sept 2019 Strategy development- Stew. Mtg
- ▶ Jan 2020 Draft assessment open for comment
- ▶ April 2020 Final draft/submit to USFS

New for 2020

- ▶ Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) needs to be incorporated into Forest Action Plan
- ▶ National Priorities Section
 - ▶ Conserve working Forest Landscapes
 - ▶ Protect Forests from Harm
 - ▶ Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by dense, green forests interspersed with patches of cleared land, likely agricultural fields. A winding river or stream flows through the forested areas. In the distance, the terrain levels out into a valley with a light mist or haze hanging over it, suggesting a valley floor or a large body of water. The overall scene is a mix of natural forest and human-managed land.

Forest Issues

Brenda Huter
Forest Stewardship Coordinator
Indiana Division of Forestry

Issues Identified for 2010 Assessment

- ▶ Availability of land for public recreation
- ▶ Conservation and maintenance of soil & water resources
- ▶ Conservation of biodiversity (including plant & wildlife habitat)
- ▶ Conservation of forests that protect drinking water supplies
- ▶ Counterproductive government forest conservation related policies (including taxation, zoning, etc.)

Issues (continued)

- ▶ Forests not managed for carbon storage (carbon sequestration aspects not considered)
- ▶ Fragmentation and/or conversion of forests to another land use (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)
- ▶ High cost of forest ownership and low incentives to retain
- ▶ Inadequate public education about forests
- ▶ Inadequate youth education about forests
- ▶ Lack of active management on forests

Issues (continued)

- ▶ Lack of healthy woodlands and trees in urban areas, including city parks, street, and yard trees
- ▶ Over population of white-tailed deer
- ▶ Sustainable regeneration of oak woodlands
- ▶ Sustaining Indiana's forest product industry
- ▶ The control of forest fires (forest fire suppression)
- ▶ The loss of fire dependent plant communities and habitats (restoration of fire-adapted lands)

Issues (continued)

- ▶ The spread and control of invasive species.
- ▶ Other issues???