



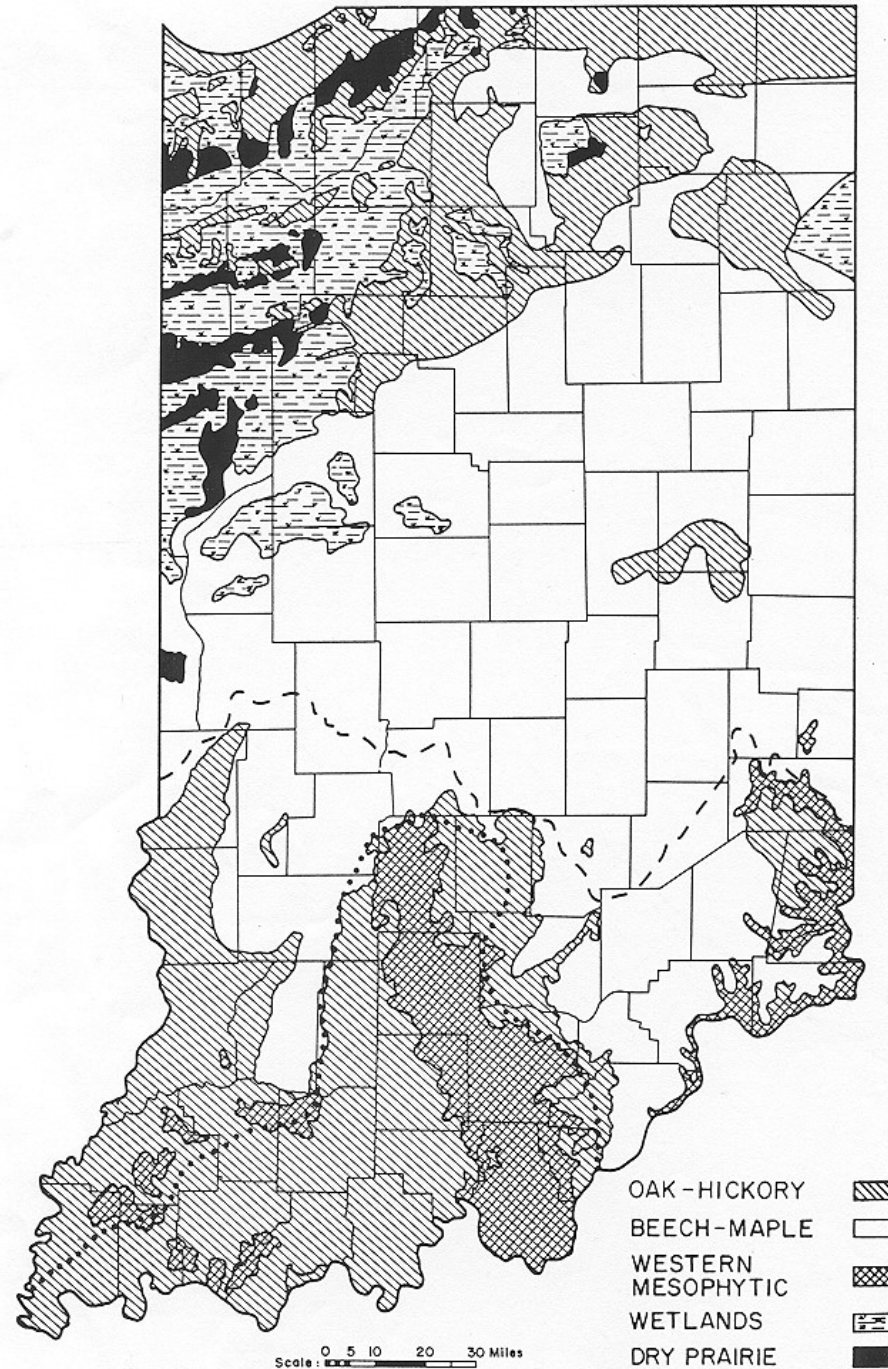
Indiana's Classified Forest & Wildlands Program
Celebrating 100 Years of
Private Lands Conservation

Brenda Huter, Forest Stewardship Coordinator



DIVISION OF
FORESTRY

In 1800, 19.8 million acres of Indiana's 22.4 million acres were forested. Indiana was once 85% forested!



Indiana's Forests Converted



Indiana's Forests Converted



DNR

Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



1875 - 1900

Indiana was
ranked #1 in the
nation in timber
production.



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“Indiana contains 22,403,502 acres. The Yearbook of Indiana for 1917 credits the state with 1,664,886 acres of timberland. This area had shrunk in 1920 to 1,387,248 acres - an average decrease of 92,456 acres. Our area of timber in 1920 was a little over 6% of our area...”

Charles Deam, 1922 Dept. of Conservation Annual Report

Deam later predicted that at this rate of clearing, Indiana would be treeless in 15 years.

Classified Forest Program 1921



Program authorized March 10, 1921.

Purpose: To encourage timber production and protect watersheds

Landowner incentive: Property tax reduction - \$1/acre

Size & shape: 3 acre minimum, any shape

Inspection: Any time

Classified Forest Program 1921

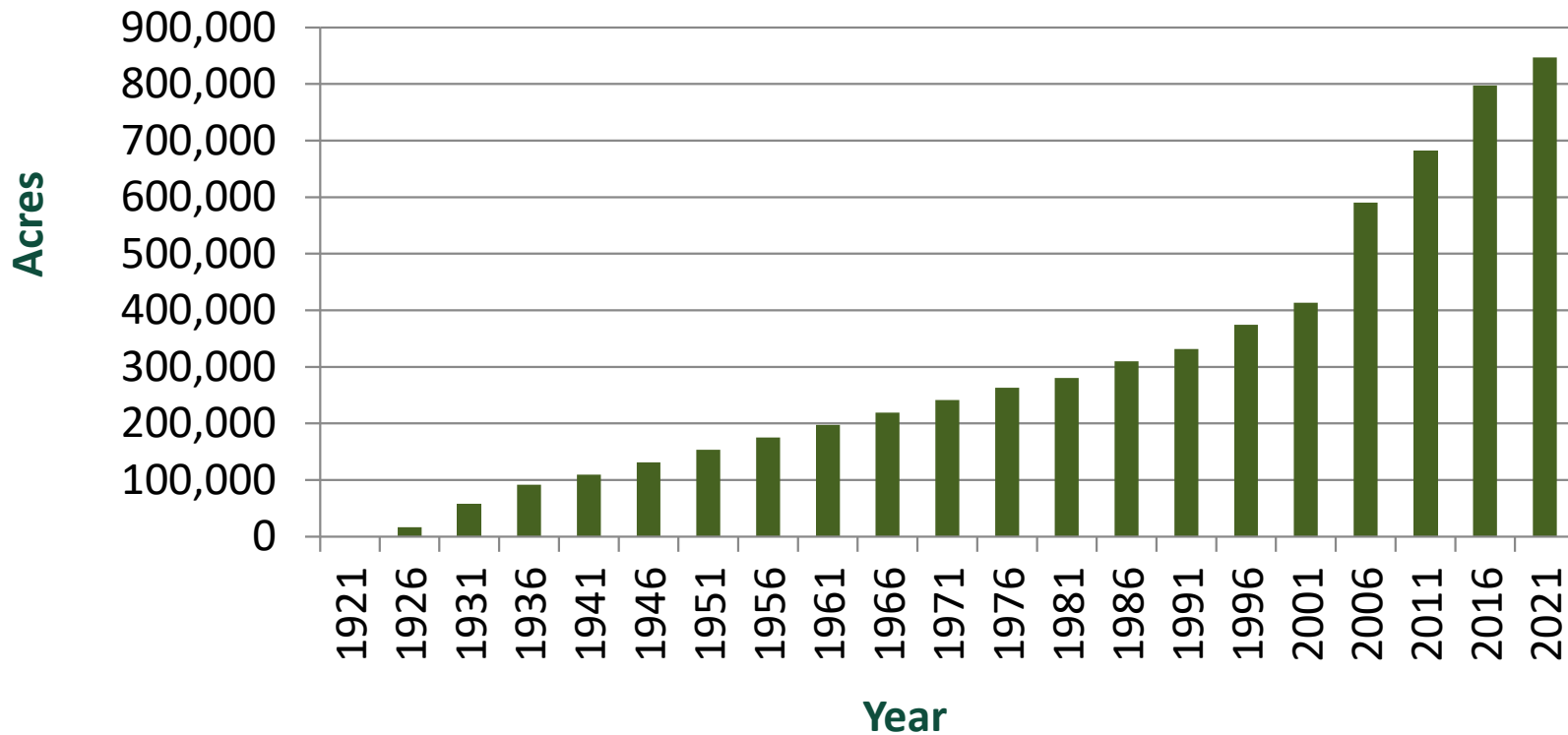


1938 Classified Forest – Marion County – containing oak, elm, hickory based on photo notes.

Annual Report: Required – false statements resulted in misdemeanor and fine up to \$250 (\$3,673 current), imprisonment in county jail/state farm for up to 6 months.

Landowner had 3 years to establish trees. Detailed definition of forest plantation and native forest based on trees per acre.

Classified Program Growth



Classified Program Growth - Education



FARM WOODLOTS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FARM BUSINESS

OUR WOODLOTS OFTEN PRODUCE \$ 6 PER ACRE ANNUALLY

GOOD PRACTICES


1. Exclusion of Grazing
2. Elimination of Fire
3. Removal of Weed Trees
4. Selective Cutting


Cut Cheap Timber Varieties
Allow Valuable Kinds to Grow

Practices such as this
produce 150 to 300 board
feet per Acre per year

PROFIT


THE DAWN OF OPPORTUNITY





A Mature Woodlot

FORESTRY



A Young Woodlot

JEFFERSON CO. FARM PROGRAM
160 ACRE FARM

Woodlot 40 Acres	Permanent Pasture 140 Acres
Cultivated Crops 80 Acres	


ROMONA GRANGE

BAD PRACTICES


1. Grazing
2. Fire
3. Removing Good Trees and Allowing
Weed Trees To Grow
4. Clean Cutting and Burning-followed
by Briers and Often Soil Erosion


Practices such as this
will show loss in Timber
and in Soil Fertility

LOSS



"A SOURCE OF INCOME"





"A LIABILITY"

1929 fair exhibit

Classified Program Growth - Resources



Law Change 2006



Merger created the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program adding 90,000 acres.

Property Tax Change

Changed how land was assessed.
Land assessed based on use.

Landowner must prove land being
used for agriculture (timber) to keep
lower ag assessment.

Land assessment changed to
excess residential.

Increase enrollment from an average
of 7,000 acres/ year to 21,000
acres/year.

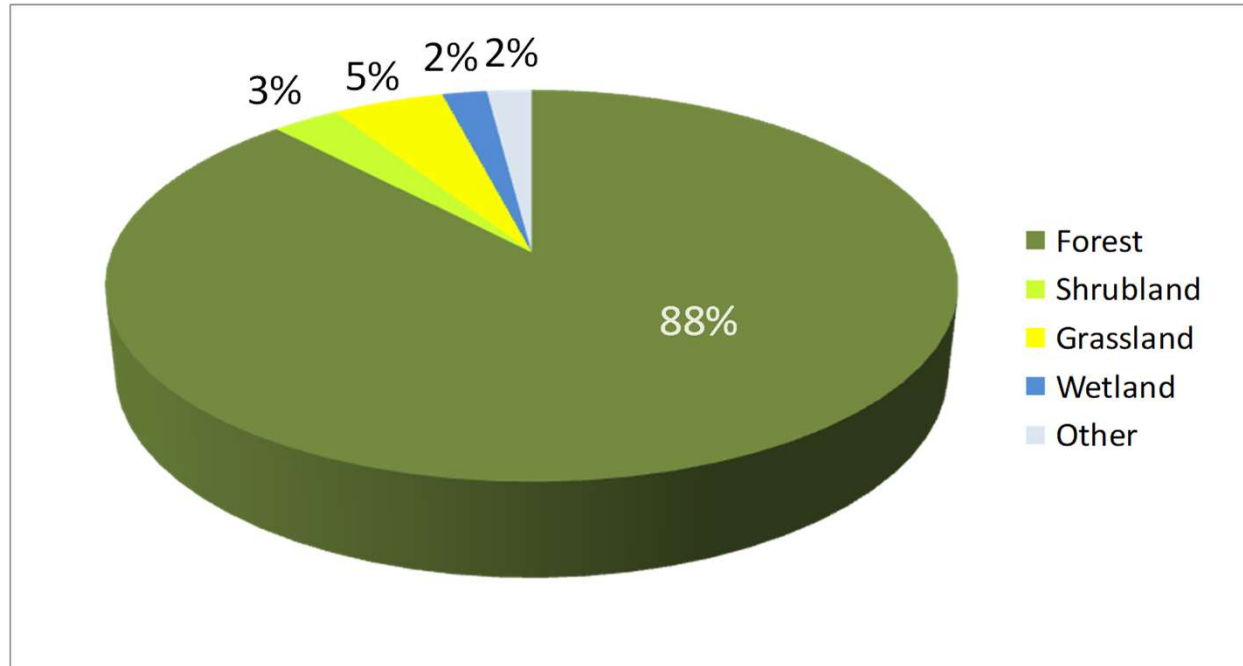
Excess Residential:
\$1,000+/ acre

Agricultural woodland:
\$258/ acre

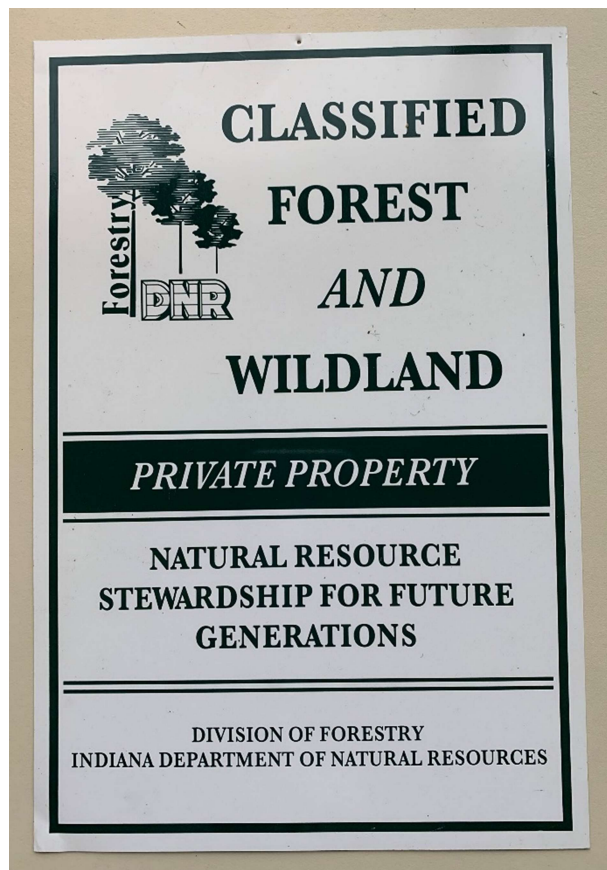
Classified Forest & Wildlands:
\$14.43/ acre

Classified Forest & Wildlands Program 1921

846,865 Acres **17,308** Tracts **12,566** Landowners



Classified Forest & Wildlands Program



Landowner incentive: Property tax reduction - \$14.33/acre assessment. Changes annually for inflation

Size & shape: 10 acre minimum

Inspection: 7 years or when requested

Management plan required

Expanded habitats and simplified definitions

Increased withdrawal penalties

No jail time or fines for missed annual reports

Classified Forest & Wildlands

Getting things done

On average 1/3 of Classified landowners report doing management in any given year:

- Grape vine control
- Invasive species control
- Wildlife food plot
- Creating wildlife brush piles
- Trail work

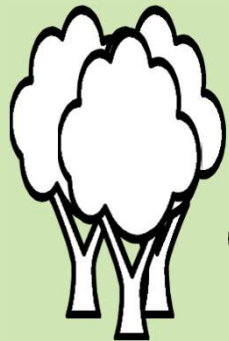


Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

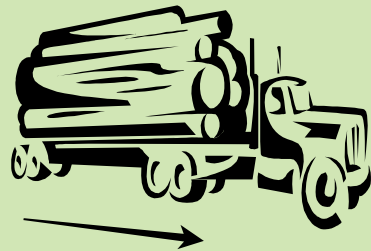


Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group

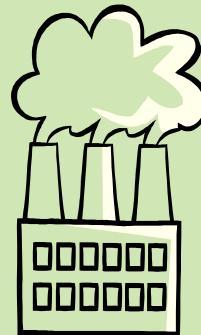
472,265 acres; 9,351 tracts;
6,954 landowners



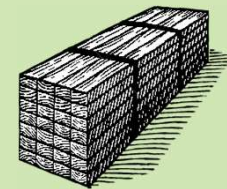
**Certified
Forest**



**Certified
Timber
Buyer**



**Certified
Mill**



**Certified
Lumber**



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FORESTRY

CFW Online Database

www.INForestryX.com

INFRMS
Indiana Forest Resource Management System

Home
Login

Comments or questions about this site? Send email to: DNRForestry@dnr.in.gov
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Celebrating the Centennial



Special centennial signs.

Recognition of tracts enrolled in 1921.

State Senate resolution (fall).

Field days.

Outdoor Indiana

Historical Highway Sign (apply 2021)

The next 100 Years...

Help us shape the future classified program & Indiana's private forests.

- Carbon markets?
- Multilevel program based on management?
- Your idea?



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