

September 28, 2020

# Indiana State Forest Strategic Direction 2020-2024

February 26 & 27, 2020

State Forest Open House Events:

1. Owen-Putnam
2. Clark/Deam (Clark)
3. Harrison-Crawford
4. Ferdinand-Pike (Ferdinand)
5. Martin
6. Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood (Morgan-Monroe)
7. Jackson-Washington/Starve Hollow (Starve Hollow)
8. Salamonie River and Frances Slocum (Salamonie River)
9. Greene-Sullivan
10. Jasper-Pulaski

## DoF 5 Year Strategic Planning Process

- Open Houses on all major properties February 26 & 27, this begins the planning process.
- Input from these meetings will help draft the next 5 year plan.
- Old plan will be amended with constituent input.
- First draft available for public comment June 2020.
- Final draft pending Executive Office approval summer 2020.

## Emerging Issues

- How to manage forests to positively impact carbon storage?
- Is there a need for more recreational opportunities on State Forests and if so what type?
- Regenerating and maintaining oak forests.
- Invasive species.
- Threatened & Endangered species and forest management – (public and private)
- Is there a need for more State Forest land to meet future ecological needs?
- Better communications on DoF's mission and activities

## Emerging Issues

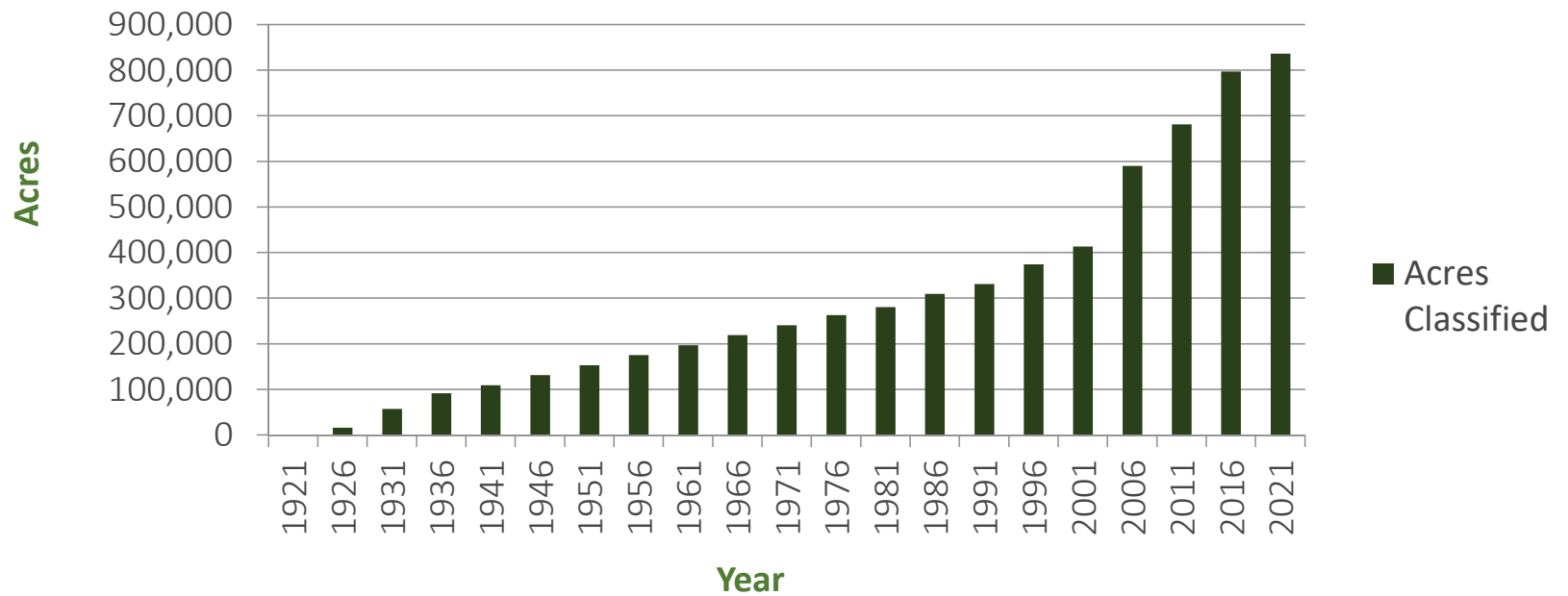
- Should we use more fire on the landscape?
- Should we do more tree planting – mitigate climate change?
- Overwhelming demand for private land assistance & services, how do we meet this need?
- Do we need a new 21<sup>st</sup> century private lands program (Classified Forest)?
- How do we increase urban tree canopy?
- Is an Indiana funded cost-share program (invasive, forest management, etc.) needed?
- Should the Division become self funding through access and service fees – state forests and private lands assistance?



# Division's Sections

- Private Forest Lands
- State Forests
- Nursery
- Urban Forestry
- Forest Resources
- Fire Resources
- Conservation Education

## Classified Program Growth





# Private Lands

## Classified Forest & Wildlands Program **PROGRAM STATS**

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**834,585** Acres   **17,014** Tracts   **12,336** Landowners

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About 23% of all private woodlands in the state are enrolled in this program.

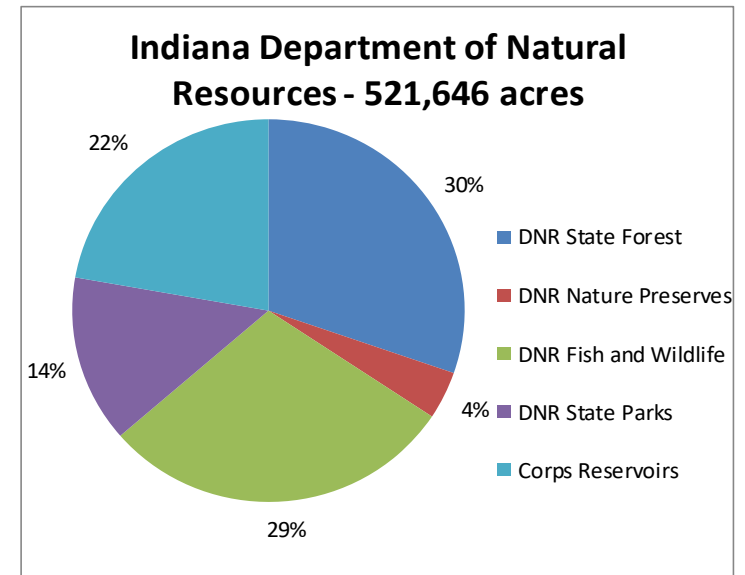
Adding 10-12,000 new acres every year.



# State Forests

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

- 158,019 acres
- 15 State Forests
- 2 State Recreation Areas
- 30% of DNR land holdings



## Overview



# State Forests

## State Forest Mission

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.

### (IC 14-23-4-1) Legislative Intent

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 ...

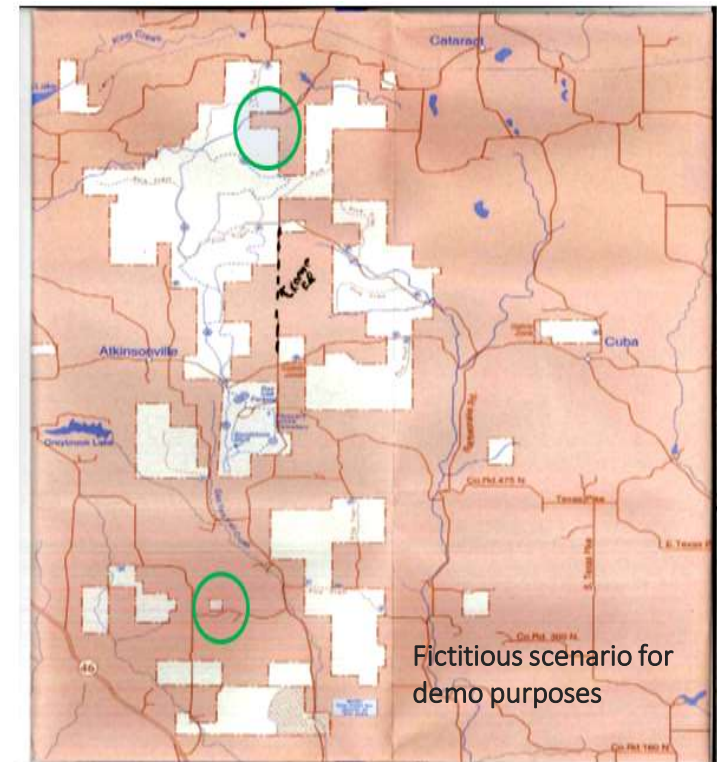
# Mission

# Forest Resource Stewardship

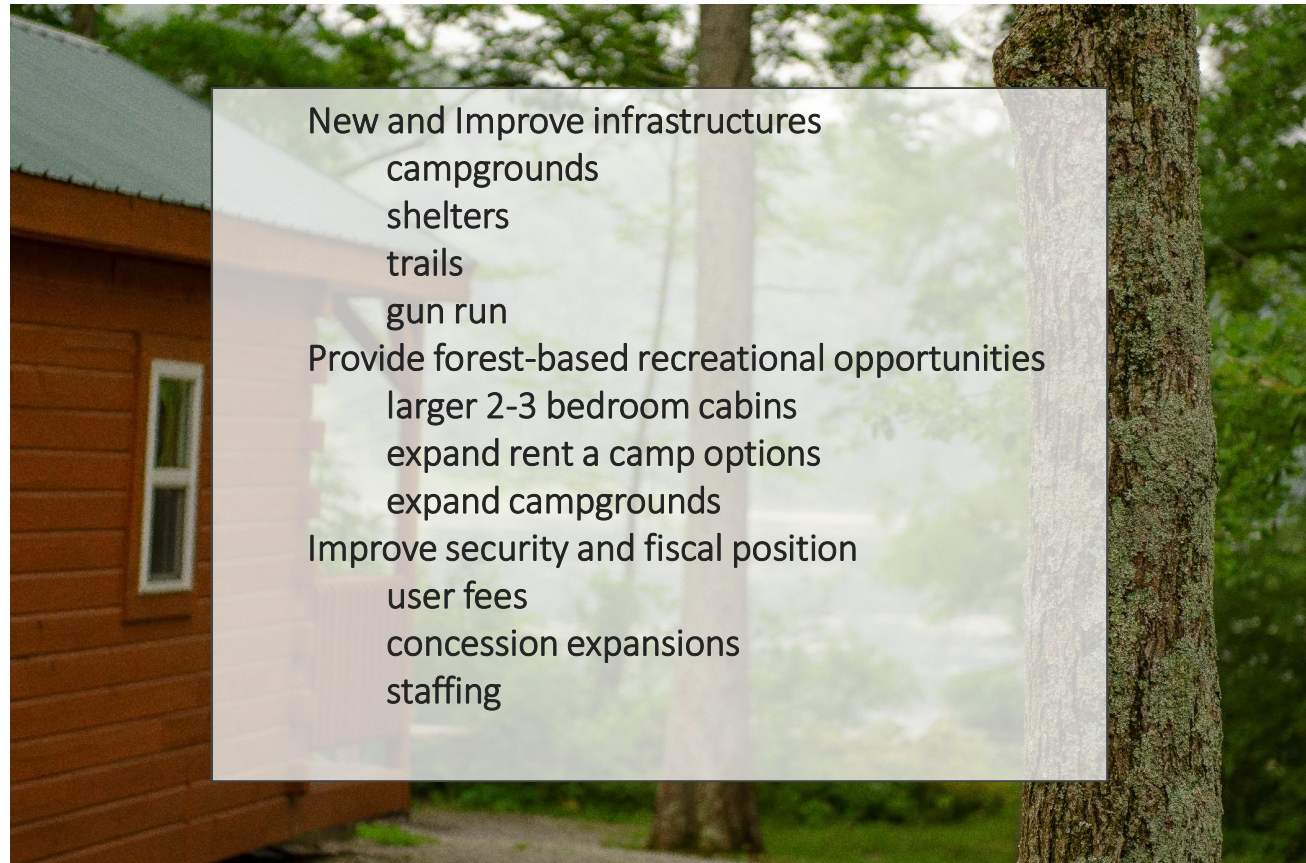
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- Actively manage state forest holdings
    - 10 million board feet/year.
    - Continue forest restorations efforts (TSI, BMPs, etc)
  - Maintain dual forest certification
  - Promote oak
    - Oak shelterwoods
    - Group and patch-cut openings
    - Enrichment plantings and other tree planting opportunities
    - 1 million tree initiative
  - Enhance invasive species management
  - Continue forest research
    - Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment - HEE
  - Climate change and carbon sequestering
    - Investigate opportunities
    - management adjustments
  - Conserve and manage wildlife habitats, cultural resources and high conservation value areas.

## Land Ownerships and Acquisitions

- Acquire lands of strategic importance from willing sellers
- Identify non-essential lands for possible divestment
- Investigate lands for trade within the agency, private lands and NGOs
- Accelerate boundary line marking and resolution of land encroachments, et al.



# State Forest Recreation



New and Improve infrastructures

- campgrounds

- shelters

- trails

- gun run

Provide forest-based recreational opportunities

- larger 2-3 bedroom cabins

- expand rent a camp options

- expand campgrounds

Improve security and fiscal position

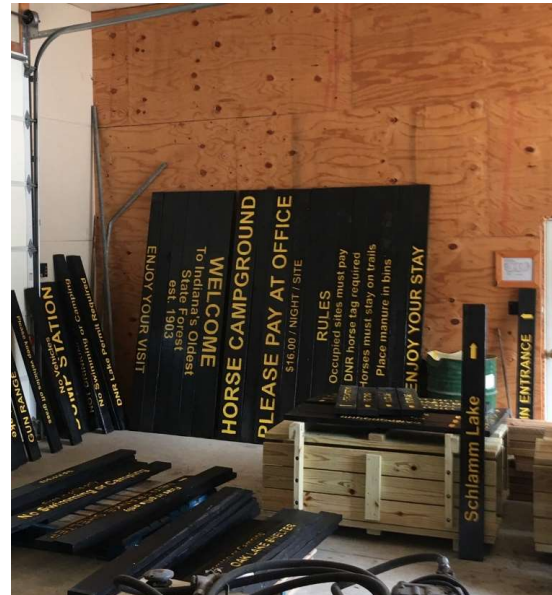
- user fees

- concession expansions

- staffing

## Communications and Administration

- Improve interpretive programs
- Expand on communication tools
  - Newsletters
  - Open house events
  - Social media
  - Maps
  - Surveys
- Improve property signage
- Online access to administration items
- Expand on volunteer opportunities





# Nursery Section

- 2.5 – 3.0 million seedlings are made available for sale each year
- Continue seed orchard expansion on State owned land
- Find alternative ways to process and lift seedlings to decrease our dependence on seasonal labor
- Educate the public while promoting tree planting
- Continue to build our Partnership with Department of Corrections (DoC).



# Urban Forestry Section

- Assist Indiana cities, towns, and non-profits and encourage resident involvement in protecting, expanding, and improving our community forests with technical and financial assistance
- Promote the Tree City & Tree Campus programs
- Protect, enhance, and expand urban forests and related natural resources
- Improve the communication of urban forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs)





# Forest Resources Section

- FIA - Partially federally funded, covers entire state, covers all ownerships, 1 plot/6,000 acres, data updated annually, comprehensive report every 5 years
- CFI Properties - State forest properties, 1 plot/40 acres
- CFI Classified Forests -Private lands in classified forest and wildlands program, 1 plot/200 acres
- Annually measure approximately 200 FIA field plots, 500 Classified Forest plots, 800 Property plots



# Forest Resources Section

- Hardwood Economic Development
- Training and Technical Assistance
  - Coordinated training Provided technical assists covering a variety of forest industry topics
  - Domestic and international development



# Fire Section

- Operational and Technical Assistance Delivery
  - Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) and Fire Firefighter Property/Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP/FFP) equipment
- Rural/Volunteer Fire Department Assistance
  - Refine fire training programs offered to rural/volunteer fire departments
- Training and Prevention Program Delivery
  - Continue the “academy” style delivery of fire National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses



# Conservation Education

- Provide educators with training that will help them better prepare students for environmental stewardship.
- Provide educators the resources that will better prepare students for environmental stewardship.
- Establish mechanisms to make delivery of our programs and materials efficient and effective.
- Support the work of other local, state and national organizations that advance forestry education.