



# SB 420: The Case for Establishing Old Forest Areas in State Forests

**1** Old Forests provide important ecosystem services and recreational opportunities.

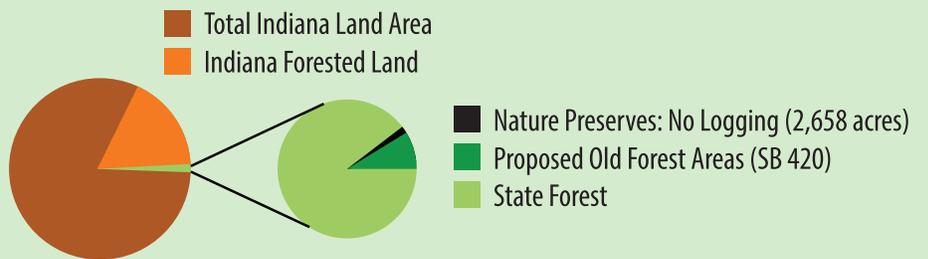


Old Forests prevent soil erosion on steep slopes, and protect water quality and endangered species. They serve as ecological reference areas.



They provide a true wilderness experience.

**2** 10% is a reasonable amount that reflects a multiple-use philosophy for our State Forests.

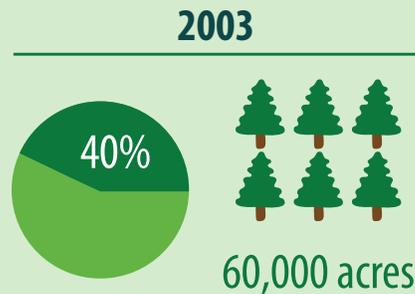


**3** DNR has already committed to maintain 10% of State Forests in an older forest condition as part of their "green" certification.



In 2005, the Division of Fish and Wildlife recommended that 10% be set aside from logging. To date, less than 3000 acres of Nature Preserves are no logging zones.

**4** In their certification audit, DOF said that Nature Preserves and Back Country Areas will be protected as Older Forest Areas. But BCAs are being logged.

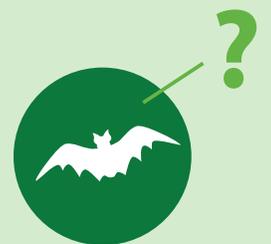


DNR had once designated 40% of the State Forests as no logging zones. These have since been eliminated.

**5** This bill is needed to provide citizens with certainty that portions of our State Forests will remain unlogged.



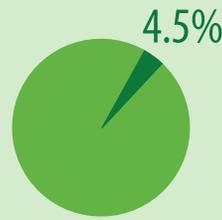
DOF has not stated that Older Forest Areas will be maintained without logging.



6

Setting aside 10% of State Forests as Old Forest will have little effect on the timber industry.

### Timber Sales



Data from the Division of Forestry indicates that State Forests are providing only 4.5 percent of the timber sold in Indiana each year.

7

Recreation fees can generate more dollars than logging for the DOF.



According to a 2014 Virginia Tech study, Minnesota's Boundary Waters generated \$1.3 million in user fees in one year. The funds were reinvested in maintaining the properties.

8

Local communities benefit more from the increased tourist dollars and higher property values than from logging.



A study showed that designated wilderness areas around Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest enhanced private property values by \$1.2 to \$2.2 million a year.

9

"The forest is where I found God most easily...let's use it [the forest] wisely and not just to pay bills."  
--Fr. Damian Schmelz, priest & old growth forest ecologist from the Indiana Academy of Science



The number of acres set aside from logging and open to recreation amounts to only 1/300th of an acre per Hoosier. Don't Hoosiers deserve a small amount of undisturbed areas to enjoy in their purest form?

**For more information and citations on all facts and figures stated here, contact the Indiana Forest Alliance, 317-602-3692.**