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More Information

Indiana Forest Alliance relocated its office to 2123 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis. The nonprofit group had formerly been located at 112 N. Walnut St., Suite 600. For more about the group, go to indianaforestalliance.org.

In an effort to be closer to Indiana legislators and to take its message across more of Indiana, the Indiana Forest Alliance has moved its offices from Bloomington to Indianapolis.

The Indiana Forest Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide advocacy group that was founded in 1996 in Bloomington.

“The folks in Monroe County were the ones who formed the Indiana Forest Alliance back in the 1990s,” said Jeff Stant, executive director of the group. “We are always going to have a strong base of support there.”

But Stant and others with the alliance believe that being a “hop, skip and a jump” from the Statehouse and the governor’s office is essential to getting their message out about their main mission, which is to preserve the long-term health and well-being of Indiana’s forests. The main focus of the group right now is the state’s public forests. To that end, the Indiana Forest Alliance has a campaign to create 13 state wild areas that would be protected from logging. These would be located in the state forests.

“We got to the point that we realized that this issue of management of our state forests, it has to be made a state issue,” Stant said.

“They’re public forests. They are the public’s forests.”

Stant believes that decreasing the amount of logging in state forests is essential and that his group must work quickly to educate more Hoosiers about the amount of logging on state land. “That issue is one that we think can only be won when people across the state wake up to this issue,” he said, adding that having an office near the state capitol is essential to that purpose. “It doesn’t mean we’re leaving our base behind in Brown County and Bloomington,” Stant said. “We have several board members who are from the Bloomington area or live in Bloomington. Most of our board will always be from southern Indiana.”

Stant believes the move to Indianapolis will help the Indiana Forest Alliance broaden its base. He’s hopeful there will be more people from central and northern Indiana drawn to the issue. “We need to be very close to the Statehouse,” he said. “We need to develop relationships with more of the legislators in the Statehouse.”

Even so, Stant and the group still has ties to Monroe and Brown counties especially. “If we’re going to realize the vision of what the founders of this organization had, we need to move to the capital city. But we will not forget our roots.”