



An Invitation
to Share
a Vision
for
Forest
Conservation



If there's
one thing
we believe in,
it's the immense
value of a forest
left standing.

Imagine

More of our public, taxpayer-owned forests protected from logging. Greater understanding of the amazing diversity of Indiana's wildlife. And a pro-active plan for protecting urban forests in Indianapolis, before it's too late.

A science-based organization, the Indiana Forest Alliance is the leading voice for the protection of these precious gems: our native Indiana forests. IFA's mission is "to preserve and restore Indiana's native hardwood forest ecosystem for the enjoyment of all."

Why does it matter? Because our state government has increased commercial logging in taxpayer-owned forests by *fourfold* since 2002. Indiana's wilderness needs defending.

Indiana's state forests are irreplaceable. And they're in danger.

Right now, our own state government is treating state forests like agricultural fields for the fastest production of timber. They're cutting without regard for the natural life of a forest ecosystem, or for citizens' rights to wilderness recreation, and they're not being transparent about the full costs of logging.

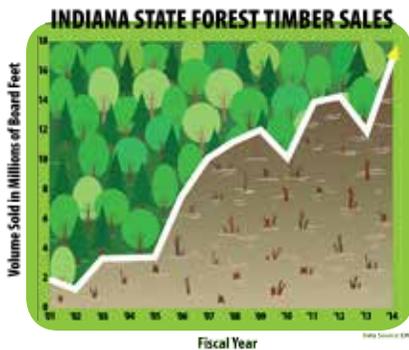
And in Indianapolis, there's no forward-thinking plan for protecting undeveloped forest tracts from the next high-rise or big box store.



Our Three-Pronged Plan

A gift to IFA will power these efforts:

1 State Forest Conservation.



Leveraging bipartisan support, IFA is pushing hard in the Indiana General Assembly for a law that would preserve more state forest from logging. The secret to success is proving why the DNR's current log-it-all policies are not in our best interest. IFA has invested two years of time in a watershed piece of research: an in-depth economic analysis of the state's logging program called "Concealed Costs, Hidden Values." The report drills down into questions such as: why our state forests are being logged at an unprecedented rate even when timber prices are low? What are specific ways that the state could generate revenue from our standing forests? Once placed in the hands of lawmakers, influencers and the media--through social media, and strategic in-person presentations--the report will alter the playing field for forest advocacy.

2 Documenting Forest Biodiversity.



IFA's Ecoblitz is a multi-year species inventory providing a comprehensive picture of the biological diversity in maturing hardwood forests on Indiana's public lands. No such inventory has been done before on state or national forest lands in Indiana. The Ecoblitz is establishing a biological value to the century-old stands that have returned to our state forests. Nine teams of scientists from 13 Indiana colleges and universities participated in this project. Preliminary results have found 21 rare or endangered animals in this forest among 3,131 species documented so far. This data prompted 240 scientists to speak out for forest protection in a letter to Governor Holcomb. IFA is preparing a final report from four years of study, which could identify up to 2,000 more species. In the next 18 months, IFA will expand the Ecoblitz to a site in the Hoosier National Forest.

3 Urban Forest Preservation.



Last year, IFA and our partners won a battle to save a rare stand of woods within Crown Hill Cemetery. If not for our intervention, this 15-acre old-growth forest would not be standing today. This major campaign showed us two things: 1) Indianapolis has no plan for pro-active forest preservation, and; 2) the public and the media respond energetically to pro-forest campaigns. With lead gifts from the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust, Amos Butler Audubon Society, and Ann M. & Chris Stack, IFA just launched a multi-phase urban forest preservation Initiative, called Forests for Indy, led by arborist Jerome Delbridge. We'll map and prioritize forests most vulnerable to development in Marion County, then organize neighbors to protect and preserve them, leaving a forest legacy.



What resources are needed to fully fund these conservation initiatives over the next three years?

The Costs

State Forest Conservation:
advocacy staff, marketing, outreach

\$400,000 (\$100,000 already raised)



Documenting Forest Biodiversity:
staff support, expert scientists, travel, marketing

\$300,000 (\$80,000 already raised)



Urban Forest Preservation:
staff support, expert scientists, marketing

\$270,000 (\$44,500 already raised)





Why Now?

With more support for our conservation agenda, the Indiana Forest Alliance is in a perfect position to capitalize on:

- the high visibility of last fall's campaign to save the Yellowwood Back Country Area from logging and the 5,000 contacts we generated to the Governor's office
- the growing bipartisan support for protecting state forests in the state legislature (10 Republican Senators and 13 Republican Representatives have joined all Democratic state legislators in supporting pro-forest legislation)
- the opportunity to expand our documentation of biological value in our state forests to a new forest
- the saving of Crown Hill Woods, demonstrating strong public support in Indianapolis for protection of urban forests

The Call to Action

The level of your financial support for conserving Indiana's forests equates exactly to the impact, visibility, expertise, and tenacity IFA can deploy in the name of wild nature.

Your support for any or all of these three conservation components will keep the forest preservation issue and the Indiana Forest Alliance in the public eye, in the media, at the statehouse and in the forests, using science-based advocacy to push for saving more of Indiana's forest heritage for the public good. You are invited to accompany us on our forest studies, to join us in talking with lawmakers, to attend our hikes, picnics, canoe trips, and other events, or join an action team. The level of your financial support for conserving Indiana's forests equates exactly to the impact, visibility, expertise, and tenacity IFA can deploy in the name of wild nature.

Gifts of cash and stock, named sponsorship of a staff position or project, and gifts in memoriam are ways you can contribute to the achievement of the vision for an Indiana where we value our forests left standing for ecological, economic and inspirational reasons.

Thank you for your consideration in partnering with IFA to enact this vision.

contact:

Indiana Forest Alliance
2123 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis IN 46202
317-602-3692
info@indianaforestalliance.org

