

...asks our state legislators to consider the changes outlined in this paper when deciding on bills relevant to the management of Indiana's state forests.

Issues Related to

INDIANA'S STATE FORESTS

Conservation and A Public Voice

A WHITE PAPER REPORT

December, 2018

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Mature Forests Protect Against Climate Change

Conclusions

This paper details how the current approach of “logging nearly all of our state forests for their own good” does not represent the interests of a majority of Hoosiers and discounts the greater public good that our forests can provide.

Currently, unnecessary risks are being taken in managing this precious long-term resource in the face of climate uncertainty and differing scientific opinions.





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Some key points in this paper are...

- **Our State Forests offer woodland experiences that State Parks and Nature Preserves do not.**
- **Older growth forests free from timber harvest provide resilient ecosystems for species diversity and survival.**
- **Road building within state forests to serve current industrial scale logging operations disrupts the forest ecosystem.**
- **Logging detracts from homeowner satisfaction and job seekers who desire to recreate in undisturbed woodlands.**
- **Our highly valued and few long distance trails are being drastically altered by logging operations.**
- **Other states have more inclusive public input and detailed planning for each of their forest tracts.**
- **Appropriate public comment opportunities need to be provided so the views of many Hoosiers, who seek a more balanced forest management policy, can be heard.**

A copy of this full paper can be obtained from the League of Women Voters of Indiana.

To download the paper, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ybz4ecmg> or to our Website at LWVIN.org > Advocacies