



January 4, 2018

Dear Sir / Madam:

On behalf of the Indiana State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), we write to you in response to the attack on the Department of Natural Resources from activists opposing timber management on the Yellowwood State Forest Back Country Area. The NWTF advocates for over 230,000 members, with nearly 6,000 of those residing in Indiana. We are stewards of wildlife, their habitats and functional ecologies, and support the use of science to determine the conservation and management practices of wildlife and habitat as per the North American Model of Conservation.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) have certified the management of the 158,300 acres of state forests managed by the Division of Forestry which includes the Yellowwood State Forest Backcountry Area. The FSC and the SFI represent independent 3rd party validation that Indiana's state forests are being managed sustainably for both fiber and wildlife. The Division of Forestry participates in a multiple-use forest management program and use 30 degreed foresters to accomplish their legislated goals of conserving resources for future generations. Through their work, they have been able to maintain a healthy environment and diverse wildlife.

The NWTF and our members are strong supporters of active forest management, which benefits wildlife and their habitats, and encourage these efforts by partnering with SFI and other active forest management advocates.

Unlike those who oppose timber harvest, the Department of Natural Resources is utilizing scientific research and analysis to determine the best approach for forest management and we support their multiple-use forest management program. We commend the forest management work of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and ask that you continue to support their efforts.

Sincerely,

Patrick McFadden
Indiana State Chapter President
National Wild Turkey Federation

National Wild Turkey Federation

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