

Division of Forestry
Summary and Division Response to Public Comments

April 1, 2008

Introduction

The Division of Forestry prepares Strategic Plans at three to five year intervals to direct our efforts in the coming years. The “IDNR Division of Forestry Strategic Plan 2005-07” was produced in 2005 soon after a change in administration. That plan expired at the end of 2007. Late in 2006 the Division began work toward the next strategic plan. A rough timeline for completion of the strategic plan is as follows:

Date	Activity	Purpose / Outcome
12/15/2006	Meeting with Indiana Forest Stewardship Committee	Identification of issues
01/30/07	Meeting with Division of Nature Preserves	Solicit DNP involvement in the DoF Strategic Plan
03/08/07	Meeting with DoF Forest Properties Personnel	Identification of issues
04/30/07	Meeting with Division of Fish and Wildlife	Solicit DFW involvement in the DoF Strategic Plan
05/04/07	Statewide news release	Announce DoF intention to prepare Strategic Plan and invite to public meetings
05/20/07	Statewide news release	Reminder of Strategic Plan public meetings
05/29/07	Public Meeting at Salamonie Reservoir	Inform public and solicit comments
05/30/07	Public Meeting at Indianapolis	Inform public and solicit comments
05/31/07	Public Meeting at Patoka Reservoir	Inform public and solicit comments
06/01/07 – 07/01/07	Public comment period	Received 42 comments
10/15/2007	Draft Strategic Plan posted on DoF web site	Solicit public comments through 12/01/07; Received additional 6 comments.
03/01/2008	“Final” Strategic Plan Submitted to Administration for review and approval	Administrative approval
04/01/2008	Strategic Plan posted on DoF web site	Inform the Public
04/11/2008	DoF response summary posted on DoF web site	Inform the Public
04/11/2008	Statewide news release	Announce completion of Strategic Plan
04/11/2008	Letter to commenters	Inform the Public

Notes from Public Meetings – May 29-31, 2007

The Division of Forestry, Properties Section held three public meetings: May 29, 2007 at Salamonie Reservoir, May 30 at Indianapolis and May 31 at Patoka Lake. State Forester John Seifert reported to attendees on the plans and accomplishments of the 2005-2007 strategic plan and on suggestions for the 2008-2013 plan. Attendees were given a copy of the 2005-2007 plan and a draft “discussion” copy of the new plan, along with a comment sheet. Attendees were asked to submit questions in writing and to submit comments on the comment sheet. Because most groups were small, questions were asked verbally to which responses were given by staff.

Attendance was low, with 7 at Salamonie, 22 at Indianapolis and 11 at Patoka (not counting DNR employees).

Verbal Comments

Several comments were given verbally and not entered on the comment sheet:

- Suggestion that we lower the campground rates for primitive sites from \$8 to \$4
- DoF needs to do a better job of notifying area users about hunting seasons on signs in areas
- DoF should utilize volunteer groups to help maintain trails, and we should advertise volunteer opportunities
- The project learning tree program is “great”
- DoF should have public meetings in areas without a gate fee, or include in our invitations or press releases that gate fees will be waived
- DoF should do a better job of advertising public meetings, including signs in campgrounds
- Nature preserves are “pretty good”
- DoF should designate “old growth” areas or areas in which no timber harvesting will occur and allow hikers to experience that condition – in addition to areas available on nature preserves, parks, and other public lands.

Written Comments

After the “discussion” draft was circulated and public meetings were announced, DoF began receiving comments. Comments received before this time were included in the list of “issues” in the discussion document. Written comments received after the public meeting process was initiated were numbered and recorded. As of July 10, 2007, a total of 42 written comments were received. In addition, a total of 167 copies of a form letter (#23) was received, including several multiple copies from the same individuals and 89 from residents outside the state of Indiana. Additionally, names of attendees and responders who entered an email or postal mailing address were entered into a mailing list file. Public meeting attendees were told that if they submitted a name and address, they would be placed on the mailing list and would receive updates on the plan.

Comments were incorporated into a draft plan which was posted on the Division of Forestry web site on October 15, 2007. That posting included the statement, “Comments may be sent to forestryinfo@dnr.IN.gov on or before December 1, 2007. Please indicate “State Forest Properties Strategic Plan” in the subject line of your e-mail.” Comments were taken until January 18, 2008. As of that date, six additional comments were received, (#43 - #48). Those comments were considered in the development of the final draft.

Summary of Written Comments by Category

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Appropriateness of commercial timber harvest on state forests		
There should be no commercial timber cutting on public land	31	The enabling legislation specifically allows commercial timber cutting on state forest lands. Currently, no other DNR division harvests a significant amount of timber. “Preserve” is not mentioned in the DoF enabling legislation; “commercial” purpose and “enjoyment” are.
Preserve public forests for their own sake, not for commercial purpose or public enjoyment	32	
Manage state forests to provide ecosystem services: climate regulation, soil generation, pollination, pest control, seed dispersal, aesthetic values	35,40	We believe these forest values are included in our mission and addressed in various planning documents.
Old Growth Forests		
Do not reduce the area available to harvesting to increase “old growth”, that condition exists on national forest, parks land	8	The term “old growth” was not used in the plan. We currently do not have “old growth” forests on state land. I.B.2 proposes to designate 10% of forest acreage to develop into or maintain older forest. The “normal” maximum forest age is based on a rotation length of 80-100 years; our goal is to have 10% of our forest acreage in exceeding this.
Designate 10% of the forest as “preserves” to develop into old growth forest, with 90% available for sustainable timber harvest	37	
Define terms such as old growth, crop tree	47	
Manage each property with a core (10%) old growth surrounded by buffer (15%) extended rotation with remainder (75%) managed for diverse age groups, thereby supporting young forests with grouse to old growth with orchids.	37	Excellent concept which will be applied where appropriate. Unfortunately, many state forests are too small and fragmented to be managed as described; we will attempt to apply this at Morgan-Monroe / Yellowwood State Forest.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Reinstate the “old forest” areas	23,33,39	Old forest areas were designated in the early 1990’s and the designation remains. The name may be changed to be included in the High Conservation Value Forest.
Setting aside 10% of forest may result in remaining acreage being managed (harvested) more intensively	45	The installation of the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) system (I.A.2) will monitor growth and harvest levels at the property level
State Forest Harvest Level		
Do not increase logging on state forests; designate more areas in state parks as nature preserves	22	The harvest level will be limited to 14 MMBF annually or 60% of growth (I.A.1). This is a reduction from the previous plan of which stated an upper harvest limit of 17 MMBF or 69% of growth.
Reduce harvest levels from their exponential rise under previous plan, in light of rapidly degrading state of environment; too much focus on logging; do not promote aggressive logging	17, 18, 19,20,21,23, 24,25,26,27, 29;30,39,42	Designation of state parks is the responsibility of the Division of State Parks and beyond the control of DoF. We continue to work with the Division of Nature Preserves and anticipate designation of additional Nature Preserves.
Restricting harvest to 60% of net growth makes sense, but more important to reserve 10% or acres outside the timber base, then 60% of net from the base acreage	37	We agree. I.B.2. summarizes our intention to reserve 10% of acreage. The 60% of growth will be calculated from those acres available for timber harvest determined by the CFI system (I.A.2.)
Don’t agree with DoF “agenda” to maximize logging, elimination of old forest designation; public lands should not be used for commercial purposes that destroys ecological integrity, damages recreational use, contribute to global warming.	23,33	We are unaware of any DoF agenda to maximize logging or eliminate old forest designation. Ecological integrity, recreational use and carbon sequestration will be maintained within the proposed level of commercial use.
Smaller timber sales and longer rotations between cuts; consult with Pioneer Forest on sustainable forest management practices; eliminate use of clearcutting	19,20,24,25, 26,27,29,30, 39	Timber sale sizes and re-entry periods vary depending on location, site productivity, management designation and other factors. We are familiar with Pioneer Forest.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Concerned about frequent (20-year reentry) disturbance	38	We use uneven-aged system as the primary silvicultural system (I.A.3.) and rarely used clearcutting in the past.
High Conservation Value Forests / Ecosystem Protection		
We endorse your plan to identify and manage High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)	34	A process for designation and management of HCVF is a requirement of FSC certification. The FSC clearly defines a HCVF; the designation and management will be determined through an interdisciplinary effort involving public input.
Define HCVF and management thereof, and concerned about process for public input	45	
Provide habitat, ecosystem conditions not found on private land: connect old growth across the system; do not emphasize early successional habitat; encourage evolution into old growth; protect and restore interior forest conditions; restore roadless conditions; adopt a 500-year rotation; require precise delineation of riparian areas (perennial, intermittent, ephemeral) with full protection; do not encourage oaks	36	We will attempt to provide all habitat conditions possible on DoF land (I.B.2.). DoF lands are highly fragmented and currently contain no old growth. The “evolution into old growth” condition is occurring on some Nature Preserves and State Parks and is expected to occur on 10% of DoF forestland as specified in I.B.2. We will attempt to maintain the cover type distribution (including oaks and other types) at current levels. We know of no scientific justification for a 500-year rotation.
Locations of rare species must be identified and locations strictly protected; protect ecologically significant resources	36,42, 48	The Natural Heritage Database identifies locations of rare species (I.B.6.); that database is reviewed before management inventory begins and again before harvests. Significant ecological resources are avoided or protected.
Encourage native species and fight exotics manually, without use of toxic herbicides; less use of herbicides; not mass use of herbicides; no use of burning to control exotic species	18,19,20,23, 24,25,26,27, 29,30,31,39	We do encourage native species and fight exotics with the most effective and efficient means available; use of herbicides is limited to those approved by FSC. We use little if any prescribed fire to control exotics.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Increase efforts to control exotic invasive species, especially in timber harvest areas; determine presence and degree of infestation before harvest and treat if present	28,34	Addressed in I.A.6.
Nature Preserves and State Parks		
Need more nature preserves	18,19,20,23,24,25,26,27,29,30,31	We will continue to work with the Division of Nature Preserves to designate high quality sites as Nature Preserves. We do not anticipate any exchanges of land with State Parks; management of State Parks is under the control of that Division. We cooperate with Reservoirs on forest management which may result in more active management in the future.
Do not allow state parks and nature preserves to take land from state forests; explore opportunities to actively manage forests on some state parks and reservoirs	28,45	
Get some of Brown County State Park turned over to state forest, open to hunting	28	
Rigorously promote nature preserves through signage, programs, volunteerism	27	Management, interpretation and public use of Nature Preserves is under the control of Division of Nature Preserves.
Water Quality		
Protect state forest from nearby drainage of CAFO; consider outreach to landowners in state forest lake watersheds; establish laws to prohibit CAFOs, especially upstream from state forest recreational sites	3, 16,27	Regulation of CAFOs is outside the authority of DoF. Properties maintain a “neighbor” database and regularly communicate with neighbors on issues – properties are encouraged to include landowners in SF lake watersheds in that system (I.B.5. and III.A.4).
Dredge Yellowwood lake while the dam is being repaired	12	Lakes represent a small percentage (2,560 acres or approximately 1.7%) of State Forests but are extremely attractive to the recreating public. Lakes must be periodically maintained (II.A.3.) Yellowwood lake will be dredged and repairs made during 2008-2009.
Don’t rehabilitate filled-in reservoirs, but let them succeed to wetlands	37	
Consider effects of disturbing the soil in a logging plan	30	Although not addressed in the Strategic Plan, each tract management guide addresses soils; planning for harvest roads, trails and landings consider erosion, water quality and soil disturbance.
Recreation		

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Interested in horse trails, need more horse trails; need horse trails on all properties (Morgan Monroe); proper design multi use trails will support horses, hikers	5, 10, 11, 12,31	We have an extensive system of horse trails, many in need of expensive maintenance and repair. Many users ask for hiking or biking trails without horses. II.B.3 proposes to develop a system-wide recreation plan that provides all feasible recreational opportunities at appropriate levels.
Increase maintenance (hardening) of horse trails	7,29	
Do not construct additional horse trails	7,29	
Need better maintenance of existing horse trails (control erosion, close down some trails); limit horse use to dry conditions or harden trails; eliminate illegal horse trails	28	
Work collaboratively in the management and development of horse trails, work with volunteer groups	7	Although not specifically addressed in the Strategic Plan, we work extensively with volunteer groups on development and management of multi-use (horse) trails and hiking/biking trails.
Increase development of mountain bike trails, especially Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood	7,19,20,24,25,26,27,29,31	Addressed in II.A.4. and II.B.3.
Increase construction of hiking trails	7,18,19,20,24,25,26,27,29,31	
Utilize volunteer groups on hiking, horse (and other) trails	7, 29	We work extensively with volunteer groups on development and management of multi-use (horse) trails and hiking/biking trails.
More “effective” management of recreation on state forests; plan and create hiking and mountain bike trails	19,20, 23 ,24,25,26,27,33	We believe our management of recreation is “effective” within legal and fiscal constraints. Additional trails addressed in II.A.4 and II.B.3.
Create more opportunities for volunteering and cultural programs in recreation areas, in cooperation with national forests	27	These opportunities will be addressed in the plan proposed in II.B.3.
Create additional shooting ranges on state forests; increase recreational use on state forests	28,29	

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Do not maximize the numbers of people who use state lands, but maintain the secluded nature of state forests; leave modern recreational opportunities to the state parks	28,37	
Increased opportunities for herb gathering, wildlife observation	31	
Acquire additional state forest in Sugar Creek valley in west-central IN for scenic, recreational and ecological values	34	Addressed in II.B.2
Acquire additional lands in SE Harrison county	34	
We support the goal of expanding the state forest system	35	
No ATVs in the state forests	37	Currently, recreational ATV use is not allowed in State Forests. This opportunity is available on Division of Outdoor Recreation lands.
Information and education		
Advertise the history of Osage-orange and its uses	3	These issues will be addressed by the Special Programs Section. See Conservation Education Goals 1-4.
Better use of signs on state forests to advise users of upcoming meetings, hunting seasons	3	
Develop (or work with other agencies to develop) sustainable demonstration projects: sustainable logging including horse logging, growing mushrooms, medicinal plants, non-destructive activities that can generate income for private landowners	19,20,23,24,25,26,27,29,31	
Educate the public on global warming	27	
Develop extensive cooperative programs with teachers to promote awareness of Indiana's natural environment	27	
Have field days on properties	28	Properties routinely schedule field days as staff time allows and will be encouraged to continue to do so. Field days are frequently part of Property Open House events.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Comment periods for each timber sale	29	Beginning January, 2008, all tract management guides (document that describes a tract and management to be applied, including timber harvest) is posted on the DoF web site for a minimum 30-day comment period. The process for public input is summarized in the State Forest web page. DoF public input process meets or exceeds state requirements and those of forest certifying organizations.
Develop and use web site to inform the public about what is being cut and why to facilitate educated public input	37	
Skeptical about DoF plan for meaningful public input; current public input process is poor at best	38,39	
Increased opportunities for environmental education	31	Will be address by the Special Programs Section. See Conservation Education Goals 1-4.
Survey the public about user fees	37	Addressed in V.B.1.
Develop a better model to attract public to open meetings – county fairs, state fair exhibit, earth day, etc.	37	Better attendance at public meetings, open houses, etc. is desirable. See III.B.1-3.
Hold meetings with ACRES in Allen Co	41	
Clarify wording in III.A.1 related to informing users about funding sources	47	III.A.1 and III.B reworded. The process for public input is summarized in the State Forest web page.
Clearly define side boards to public input being accepted by DoF	47	
Fish and Wildlife		
More aggressive logging to create early successional wildlife habitat (grouse)	1	I.A.1 and I.B.2 describe the DoF level of logging and management of early successional habitat.
Institute logging moratoriums during bird nesting season	19,20,23,24, 25,26,27,29, 39	DoF instituted a trial nesting season logging moratorium on Morgan-Monroe / Yellowwood SF. We are unable to find evidence that such restrictions have a positive effect on bird populations. The wildlife habitat specialist will monitor this issue.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Complete the Indiana bat HCP and create critical habitat around maternal areas and hibernacula	19,20, 23 ,24,25,26,27,29	Addressed in IV.2. The Draft HCP was delivered to the USFWS in October, 2007; we intend to complete and implement the plan as soon as possible. Creation of “critical habitat” is beyond the authority of DoF.
Create management plan for all endangered plants and animals, including the timber rattlesnake; enhance the timber rattlesnake population in Brown and Perry Counties	19,20,21, 23 ,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31	The DoF looks to the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Nature Preserves for expertise in these issues. Additionally, the State Forest Environmental Assessment (I.A.7) will address forest management effects on all endangered species.
Each state forest should develop wildlife habitat plan, including T&E species; manage for biodiversity on a statewide level	34,37	We agree. This is addressed in IV.3 and is a major responsibility of the DoF wildlife specialist.
DoF should take more time studying plants and wildlife before logging	23 , 29	DoF field foresters take considerable time evaluating conditions before logging begins. Procedure Manual sections D, E and G (available on the State Forest web page) summarize some of the steps. Additional “studying” is done through research projects, cooperative agreements and through the Divisions of Nature Preserves and Fish and Wildlife.
DoF needs to hire a wildlife biologist	23 , 29	A wildlife biologist was employed during 2007. Fiscal realities and state government requirements limit possibilities for additional personnel.
DoF needs to hire an ecologist; or conservation biologist	29, 34	
Open lands on state forests should be managed for upland game hunting (food plots)	28	Open lands and management for upland game species is the responsibility of Division of Fish and Wildlife. Some open lands are retained on DoF lands, but most are forested sites that are reforested as time, budgets and weather conditions allow.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Conduct annual fish surveys, and provide information to the public; data on wildlife populations – deer and small game- available to the public	28	These issues are primarily the responsibility of the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Nature Preserves. DoF participates in a long-term experiment evaluating the effects of timber management on many of these species. These comments will be forwarded to the appropriate divisions
Monitor numerous species, including raptors, warblers, irregular nesting birds, Yellowwood, Goldenseal, and Ginseng to determine success of the objectives.	37	
Consider reintroducing extirpated species into Indiana (river otter, eagles, black bear)	28	Responsibility of Division of Fish and Wildlife. Comments will be forwarded to that division.
Alter forest management practices to create sustainable habitat for canopy dependant songbirds; focus more on songbird habitat management and less on game species	29,37	Forest management practices are designed to maintain habitat for the entire array of forest inhabitants, including canopy dependent songbirds. DoF focus in on the range of habitat conditions.
We support plans to develop stand level guidelines for cavity trees, down dead wood and other habitat elements; encourage training of field staff in inventory of these attributes	34	Stand level wildlife habitat guidelines have been developed and will be implemented early in 2008. Field personnel are trained in the inventory of snags, cavity trees in all forests and inventory of down dead wood in regeneration openings. The wildlife habitat guideline will be finalized as a procedure manual section and added to the State Forests web page.
Inventory and management of down dead wood is excessive and time consuming	45	
Control nuisance wildlife (deer)	37	All state forests are open to deer hunting according to the seasons and limits set by Division of Fish and Wildlife. That division has the authority to control nuisance wildlife.
No timber harvesting within 1-5 miles of Wyandotte Cave; do an assessment of Indiana bat summer maternity habitat needs	39	We will complete and implement the Indiana bat HCP (IV.2.)
Administrative Procedures, Organization		
Support the use of DOC labor	8	DoF will continue to use DOC labor.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Consider wind power to run offices; consider bio-fuel	10,39	Although not specifically addressed in the Strategic Plan, DoF will consider alternatives as facilities are remodeled or upgraded.
Employ a public relations specialist	16	Fiscal realities and state government requirements limit the addition of personnel at this time.
Work with Forestry schools (Purdue), FFA, 4-H to promote and educate future foresters	16	Not specifically addressed, but field personnel are encouraged to work with future foresters when opportunities occur.
Abide by IEPA, site specific analysis, public review of sales; do a better job of inviting meaningful public participation: management proposals - comment period - analysis of impacts - range of alternatives – modify - appeals process	19,20,23,24, 25,26,27,29, 30,39,40,42	Objective I.A.7 added to conduct a system-wide Environmental Assessment. Site specific analyses are completed in the tract inventory and management guide process. Beginning January 2008, all management guides are posted on the State Forests web site, available for a minimum 30-day comment period. The document “Submitting a Public Comment” on the State Forests web page outlines the public input process.
Don’t reduce management personnel if it will negatively impact how properties are managed; consolidation of personnel could create more strain and reduce level of services	28,45	DoF administration will monitor strain on personnel and level of services and adjust annual property goals accordingly.
Don’t pursue green certification unless the land is currently being mismanaged	28	DoF State Forests have already achieved certification through FSC and SFI. If lands were determined to be “mismanaged”, certification would have been withheld or corrective actions prescribed.
Establish an “oversight board” with authority to govern DoF policies	31	The state legislature is the “oversight board” with this authority.
We support training of property staff on principles of certification, sustainability, species of concern	34,37,39	These objectives will remain in the Strategic Plan, V.A.3-4.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Change from volume or acre driven targets to results driven, with result being species viability and landscape level and climate concerns	40	State government sets metrics by which agencies are judged. Volume and acres are readily measurable and within the control of various agencies. With only 3% of the forests in the State under the direct control of DoF, overall results in species viability, landscape level effects and climate is beyond our control. We must focus on those parts of these larger issues which we can address. If all landowners worldwide do their part, collectively these results driven targets will be met.
Implement a continuous forest inventory system to improve data on growth and harvest	28	Identified in I.A.2, and more fully explained in the Special Programs Section, Forest Resource Information Program, Goal 1.
Look for opportunities to expand forest ownership, develop partnerships with public and private landowners to connect a biodiversity preserve; maximize climate moderating effects, minimize disturbances	40	Existing land acquisition priorities are to acquire key inholdings, access, sites with special features. Additionally, II. B.2 identifies the desire to acquire an additional state forest. I.A.4 states that 35% of proceeds of timber sales will go into land acquisition. We use partnerships where possible. I.B. 5 states our desire to cooperate with adjacent landowners to address landscape scale issues.
Uncomfortable with establishment of large, long-term research area at Harrison-Crawford SF	45	Property personnel will be involved in decision to install additional research areas; property performance goals will be adjusted as necessary.
September 2007 draft includes specific language Harrison-Crawford SF; SF unable to comply with current staffing	45,46	I.B.4 reworded to apply to archaeological research in general terms
Funding		
Increase horse trail permits to \$7.50 - \$10 daily, \$40-\$50 annually	7,29	Recreational fees are established by the Natural Resources Commission.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Fees for recreational use that present a high risk for invasive plant introduction should be calculated, including cost of detection and treatment	34	The DoF will propose fee changes to the Commission in 2009.
Increase user fees for out-of-state horses	12	
Do not add (or increase) user fees for recreation	16	
Reduce fees for primitive camping to \$5	41	
Do not implement hunting leases on public land, but utilize hunting license fees	28	All hunting license fees go to Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement. None of these funds goes to DoF.
Pay for ecosystem services through the General Fund, not through timber sale revenue	35	General funds are limited.
Don't "cash in" on carbon credits unless actions are taken to sequester additional carbon	37	We agree. Any attempt to "cash in" on carbon credits would be limited to reforestation efforts and to growth in excess of harvest and mortality.
Concern about temptation to increase harvest level in future to 100%, 200% of growth to meet needs for funds.	38	The current strategic plan covers the period from 2008-2013. Harvest levels during this period will be limited as outlined in this plan. Future plans will have more accurate growth and mortality information and will be scrutinized by professional staff within and outside DoF in addition to public review.
Create a "transaction fee" for commercial timber sale to fund land acquisition, BMP rewards, management, ecosystem integrity, viability of IN forest resources	40	This is visionary approach that needs further discussion before implementation. A transaction fee on state timber sales is not necessary – all the income received goes to the items listed. A transaction fee on timber sales from private land would be an additional tax.
General		
No objection to the plan; well thought-out, science based plan with good use of funds generated	2, 8, 43	Thanks for your participation.
No comment at this time, mailing list only	4, 9, 13, 15	

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Informative meeting, like the area, thanks for the information	6, 14	
Mission statement is cumbersome	16	The mission statement was reworded and accurately states the complex DoF mission in only 33 words.
Mission should include “wildlife diversity and protection”	38	
Analyze the value of state forests as carbon sinks; state forests should not contribute to but should help reduce global warming	23, 27	A harvest level less than net growth will not contribute to but will help reduce global warming. Harvested timber converted to durable, long-lasting products (furniture) will help reduce global warming more than short use products or fuel.
Develop a long-term vision that supports the economy and native species	24	Our vision statement mentions forest products along with demonstration, recreation, education, and conservation of forest resources.
Report to the public where proceeds of timber sales go	27	I.A.4 outlines our proposed expenditure of timber sale proceeds; annual reports summarize each year’s accomplishments
Determine and report on uses and destination of wood from state forest harvests	27	We lose control of forest products once they leave the site. Our Special Programs Sections Forest Resource Information program gathers data on sawmill outputs, prepares economic analysis and generates a variety of reports on the forest products sector of Indiana’s economy.
Acquire land to increase state forest system, concentrating on available parcels adjacent to existing lands	27	This is a major goal of our land acquisition program. See I.A.4.
Don’t pursue carbon credits if it results in restrictions – keep things simple	28	We are in the early stages of investigating opportunities and will defer any decisions until costs and benefits are more fully understood.
Don’t take the time to contact Indian tribes	28	Forest certification requires this; contact was already made.
We are concerned about: lack of specifics in the plan, orientation toward forest products, lack of professional review of the plan, limited mention of non-game species, harvesting methods	35	We agree that the May “Discussion Draft” lacked specifics and was more a compilation of issues and ideas than a plan. The October draft published on the DoF web site had the level of specifics required of a strategic plan.

Comment	Comment #	Division Response
Timber sale proceeds to counties: 50% to fire departments with max of \$1000, remaining at county's discretion	44	Wording corrected to follow IC14-23-4-5&6
Check funding sources and improve wording in Background section	45	We believe the funding sources are correct; the background section reworded or reorganized.
Account for the statement that 7 program directions results in only 5 goals.	45,47	Statement was corrected. Some of the goals may include more than one program direction.
Explain why plan is for 5-year period, priorities for Goals; clearly define the time period covered in the plan	47	The DoF chose the 5-year time period to coincide with the overall DNR planning period. The time period for this plan is calendar years 2008 through 2012.
Do more prescribed burning to manage oak	28	Our draft HCP calls for increased use of prescribed fire and increased emphasis on maintenance of oak-hickory forests.
Consider permits for mushroom production	7,29	This idea needs further discussion before implementation
Add a goal to specify cooperation with adjacent landowners (especially DNR) to address landscape scale issues	47	Objective I.B5 added to specifically address this issue.
Acquisition of additional state forest mentioned twice, please clarify	45, 47	Duplicate reference was deleted.
Correct or clarify the statement about closed canopy forests and biological diversity, even aged management for the Indiana bat	47	Wording clarified. The HCP will provide a more complete description of forest management for the Indiana bat.
Insert information by state forest on % by age class	47	This information currently not available. The CFI system (I.A.2) is designed to provide this information by state forest.

Commenter Names and Affiliation

Response No.	FirstName	LastName	Affiliation
1	J. Bradley	Thurston	
2	John P.	Froman	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
3	Robert and Leslie	Patterson	
4	Edward R.	Crago	
5	Rita	DeBard	
6	Gary and Susan	Hunter	
7	Clarke	Kahlo	
8	Jim	Steen	
9	Tom	Tremain	
10	Karen	Humphreys	
11	Stacy Riggs	Lowe	Indiana Trail Riders Assn
12	Chris	Riehl	
13	Ray	Moistner	IHLA
14	Paul	Arlinghaus	Hoosier Mountian Bike Assn
15	Richard and Sue	Vernier	
16	Judi	Brown	
17	Ruben Yves	Ryan	
18	Ryan	Camp	
19	Sylvia	Andrews	
20	Heather	Stephens	
21		Anonymous	
22	Doug	Fredback	
23	Dex	Conaway	
23	Josh	Jackson	
23	Robin	Larsen	
23	Catherine	Rountree	
23	Carol	Showalters	
23	Kevin	Strunk	
23	Linda	Swihart	
23	Janet	Tippin	
23	Stephen	Witwer	
24	Ginelle	Heller	
25	Greg	Buck	Campaign for Sustainable Economics
26	Meg	Shaw	The Butler Collegian
27	Rock	Emmert	
28		Anonymous	
29	Drew	Laird	Indiana Forest Alliance
30	Terrie	Ursey	
31	Terry R.	Ursey	

32	Linda	Greene	
33	David	Dilworth	
34	Allen	Pursell	The Nature Conservancy
35	Richard	Vernier	The Evansville Audubon Society
36	Steve	Kirchbaum	Heartwood
37	Tom	Hougham	
38	Keith	Dunlap	Indiana Karst Conservancy
39	Forest	Gras	
40	Andy	Mahler	
41	Dick	Loney	
42	Lori	Lewis	
43	Rey	Kitchkumme	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
44	Jim	Lauck	DNR DoF
45	Wayne	Werne	DNR DoF
46	Dwayne	Sieg	DNR DoF
47	Katie	Smith	DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife
48	John	Bacone	DNR Division of Nature Preserves