



PROTECT OUR WOODS

PROTECT OUR WOODS is now in its fourth year of existence. During that time we have earned a reputation for hard work, fairness, and new approaches to old problems. And we have been effective. We have established good working relationships with the press and the government, as well as with those in the timber industry who share our commitment to the protection of the native hardwood forest of Indiana, from such threats as oil and gas drilling, ORVs, and abusive clearcutting.

National Forest Action

Recently, with other Indiana conservation groups, we helped develop a comprehensive management plan for the Hoosier National Forest. Called The Conservationist's Alternative, this plan would eliminate below-cost timber sales, while permitting an annual timber harvest of 5.23 million board feet--primarily by single tree selection, demonstrating proper and profitable timber management for private woodland owners.

In a related action, PROTECT OUR WOODS has formally adopted a position opposing ALL timber harvest on the Hoosier National Forest as unfair, government-subsidized competition with private woodland owners. Questionnaire results from our members show overwhelming support for this position. (complete questionnaire results will be published in the next newsletter)

Enclosed you will find a brochure with more detailed information about both The Conservationist's Alternative and the PROTECT OUR WOODS Timber Advisory. Please read the brochure, then sign and send the enclosed post card, and share one with a friend. Feel free to make changes or add comments. A personal letter to Supervisor Voytas would be even better.

Illegal roadless area road



PROTECT OUR WOODS members survey new road in Mogan Ridge

In December of 1988, PROTECT OUR WOODS President Andy Mahler received a late night, long-distance call about a private, possibly illegal road recently built across National Forest property in Perry County. Part of the road follows an old, closed county road, but part is brand new. The road serves a new private development immediately adjacent to Mogan Ridge, the largest area of consolidated Forest Service ownership in the southern two-thirds of the Forest. The caller also said the Forest Service knew about the road and did nothing about it.

This is surprising news since that part of Mogan Ridge has been designated for roadless status at the negotiating sessions conducted by the Forest Service earlier in the year. Even more surprising was the identity of the late night caller. It was Ralph Miller, a former Forest Service Forester who had worked on the Tell City Ranger District of the Hoosier Forest, and had reason to know Mogan Ridge.

(continued next page)

LANDOWNER ALERT: LEGISLATURE MAY REPEAL TRIPLE DAMAGES FOR TIMBER THEFT

Indiana law gives landowners triple damages if a logger cuts trees on your property without your permission. If this law is repealed a logger on neighboring land can consult you about property lines, cut your trees anyway, and pay you market price for trees you didn't want to sell. Contact immediately your State Senator and Representative and Senator Vi Simpson who sponsored this bill. Senate 800-382-9467 House 800-382-9841

roadless area road

(continued from page one)

After many hours of research, both at the roadsite and at the Perry County Courthouse, members of PROTECT OUR WOODS, with assistance from the Hoosier Environmental Council's Jeff St. Clair, were able to substantially confirm Ralph's allegations.

The present road was built without a permit, without following standard Forest Service procedures and without any kind of public notification--and in an area of the Hoosier National Forest where the Forest Service had agreed not to build roads, pending approval of a new Management Plan.

Larry Martoglio, Tell City District Ranger when this road was built, has been transferred to the Ouachita National Forest.

Update

This Just In: The new Forest Service proposal for the Forest designates all of Mogan Ridge as roadless, but only if there is sufficient public support. Please send in your postcard or letter supporting the Conservationist's Alternative, and opposing new roads in Mogan Ridge.

Both Bald & Golden Eagles have been seen at Patoka.



According to Carol Groves, Patoka Lake Visitors Center Director,

The Tillery Hill and beach areas are favorite spots for the birds.

Oppose Tillery Hill

A recent poll of our members showed overwhelming opposition to Patoka Partners' current plan to develop Tillery Hill peninsula on Patoka Reservoir. As a result, the steering committee has adopted the following position:

Because it will diminish already limited public game and wildlife land, including prime eagle habitat;

Because it will further overcrowd Patoka Reservoir and endanger the public water supply;

Because it will damage the quiet rural character of the area with more people, traffic, noise, crime, pollution, and garbage;

Because it will raise taxes and the cost of living while providing mostly low-paying seasonal jobs;

And because it involves turning over condemned private lands to wealthy entrepreneurs;

We oppose the Patoka Partners' current plan to develop the Tillery Hill peninsula of Patoka Reservoir.

PROTECT OUR WOODS and the Hoosier Environmental Council have filed an appeal of the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) decision to accept the current proposal. The Indiana Sierra Club has also appealed. The NRC response to these appeals will be a major test of the Bayh administration's commitment to protection of public lands.

Three things you can do:

1. Write to Governor Evan Bayh, Statehouse, Indianapolis IN 46204
2. Help us pay for costly appeals with your extra contribution.
3. Write to us for petitions opposing the current proposal.

PROTECT OUR WOODS HUNTERS

The truth we tell about National Forest timber is so powerful that those who want massive clearcutting and cheap government timber have taken to lying to hunters about us. A group of PROTECT OUR WOODS hunters has organized to set the record straight, that PROTECT OUR WOODS and The Conservationist's Alternative support responsible hunting on the entire Hoosier National Forest.

Hunters Advisory Group
Tom Cave Bill Hill Bill Matthews Dick Thompson
David Crecelius Mark Hill Bob Klawitter Arthur McBride

For a copy of the PROTECT OUR WOODS Hunters Advisory, to add your name to our hunters group, or to arrange for a speaker for your hunting group, please contact: Bob Klawitter, RRI Box 268, Dubois IN 47527



COMMON SENSE TIMBERING

HELP!

We need your help in acquiring names and addresses of timber men who can remove trees for harvest in a way that is low impact and is respectful of the remaining forest. We are presently assembling an on-going reference service for people who want to sell their trees, but do not want their woods trashed in the process. If you would like to recommend the name of a conscientious timber harvester you know of, please send it to:

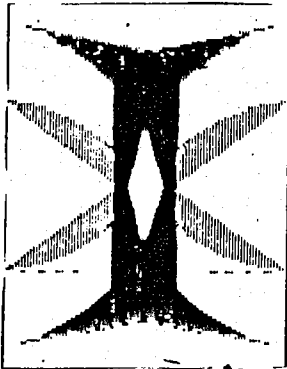
PROTECT OUR WOODS
c/o David Crecelius
Rt. 1 Box 22X
Milltown, IN 47145

Support PROTECT OUR WOODS

This year, we will be taking steps to insure the long-term survival of PROTECT OUR WOODS, first by incorporating not-for-profit, and then by applying for federal tax-exempt status.

We still depend almost entirely on your contributions. If you have ever donated \$5 or an equivalent amount in goods or services, then you are a member of PROTECT OUR WOODS. But now we are asking you to do more. Please vote with your dollars to support what we do on your behalf. Become a sustaining member, with an annual dues of \$5 for an individual, \$10 for a family or household, or \$25 for an organization. Donations above these amounts will also be appreciated. Dues will be payable March 1 of each year. If you have not contributed recently, please do.

Also contribute your letters, suggestions, criticism, photographs, drawings, and poetry, and watch local papers and other sources for stories and articles we may have missed.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

If you would like to be more active in PROTECT OUR WOODS, come to our meetings on the second friday of every month. Meetings start at 7pm. For location, call:

Keith Gibbons 723-2723 Dave Ort 678-2416
Maria Crecelius 365-2226 Paul East 843-5793

join PROTECT OUR WOODS

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____
(please send free bumper sticker _____)

Individual \$5 Household \$10 Organization \$25 Other _____

I own woods in _____ County.
(optional)

Also Available

Bumper stickers \$1
(free with membership)

Hoosier National Forest map \$4
(free with \$30 donation)

PROTECT OUR WOODS 100% cotton t-shirt grn & brn on tan, white, or yellow \$12
(free with \$100 donation)

David Roberson 12/15/48-10/28/88

The forest of Southern Indiana lost one of its best with the death of David Roberson, Crawford County tree planter, cabinet maker, wood planer, kiln dryer, druid, raconteur, veteran, visionary, dervish, and irreplaceable friend.

Upcoming Events

Outdoor Adventures unlimited, the new **Protect Our Woods** hiking and exploration club, was organized to encourage members as well as non-members to get out and enjoy those natural areas we are trying to protect. For a brochure with the monthly outing descriptions, please inquire at **Protect Our Woods, c/o Dave Ort, RR1, French Lick, IN 47432.**

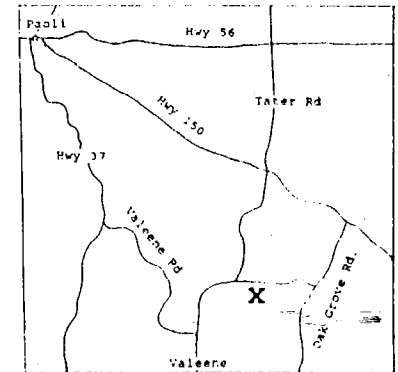
Here is what the club has planned for the coming months:

April 29-30 Canon the Blue (Milltown to Rothrock) Dave Ort 678-2416
Wildflowers and mushrooms abound alongside the river in April. The stretch of river between Milltown and Rothrock has a variety of canoe water from moderately challenging white water to easy going drift, passing through terrain sometimes steep and spectacular and other times rolling and thickly wooded. We'll pull out and eat, sharing around the picnics we've all packed and immerse ourselves in luscious **SPRING TIME** at its peak. 8am at Cave Country Canoe Livery (rentals available there).

May 6 Carnes Mill Carol Groves 338-2306
In the 1840's a naturally occurring tunnel was utilized in the construction of a mill race to power Carnes Mill. We will hike into the area amidst scenic cliffs and some of the most diverse and lush vegetative cover Southern Indiana has to offer, including rare wildflowers, profuse fern stands, hemlock trees and other flora. If the Little Blue River is not too high, we will wade across the dam and explore the other side of the river too. Carol Groves has agreed to lead the expedition and to share her knowledge of this very special area. Time permitting, we may then drive the 5 mile distance over to Messmer's Ridge and explore the bluffs, large rock shelters, and famous Angle Wing Arch of that area. Meet 9am at the Grantsburg Post Office and bring a sack lunch.

June 17-18 Wyandotte Woods Adventure Trail Dave Ort 678-2416
On this two day hike we will pass through the Harrison-Crawford State Forest, camping along the way at the overnight shelter provided there. We will reach the Ohio River on Sunday and walk along the steep banks till we get to the parking area near where the Blue River empties into the Ohio and where some of our cars will await us to shuttle us back to our starting point.
Meet at 9am at the Property Office near Pine Lake and the Fire Tower.

ANNUAL PROTECT OUR WOODS PICNIC MEETING MAY 13
This year we will meet in the Lick Creek Settlement (Little Africa) area of the Hoosier National Forest for our annual gathering to elect officers, discuss strategies, and enjoy the woods. Bring food, drink, family, friends! Meeting 11am, Picnic 12pm. Call Maria and Dave Crecelius for more information: 812/365-2226



PROTECT OUR WOODS Picnic Meeting

3rd National Forest Activist Powwow April 7-9 Davy Crockett National Forest
Texas Committee on National Resources 5934 Royal Ln. #223 Dallas TX 75230

FOREST ROAD SHOW March 18 & 19

Roger Featherstone with Alaskan folksinger Grace Stoltz will bring Earth First!'s forest road show to Bloomington. Saturday, March 18, 7pm: "Wilderness: why what we have isn't enough." Sunday, March 19, 2pm: Two Australian movies, Peacock's War and Blowpipes and Bulldozers, IU's Jordan Hall Atrium, E. Third and Faculty Lane. For information: 339-3235.

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