



PROTECT OUR WOODS

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NATION'S BEST FOREST PLAN STILL FLAWED

The Forest Service released a final version of its management plan for The Hoosier National Forest on April 8. Hailed as the nation's most progressive national forest plan, it is nevertheless plagued by contradictions.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Record of Decision emphasizes scientific biological management: Ecosystem management will be primary in our management activities. We will consider the ecosystem and biological diversity of all lands. We will identify and manage, maintain and restore ecosystems with special attention given to those not available elsewhere.

The conservation of biological diversity is a major goal of the Hoosier National Forest as is the integrity of forest ecosystems. Commodity and amenity uses are important and will continue where they do not detract from the achievement of these goals.

HALF THE FOREST FOR TIMBER

After such powerful commitment to forest preservation, the Plan surprisingly goes on to submit over half of the Hoosier National Forest to timber management, 97,232 acres. Only 62,000 acres would actually be cut, one third of the forest, called suitable timber land.

Though the cut would be lighter than on private timberland, 98% of the timber harvest would be by clearcuts of one to ten acres. 5,633 acres would be clearcut every ten years.

As a result, 11,266 to 12,600 acres of young forest (0-19 years old) will be maintained on 62,000 acres, 18%. This schedule will result in the entire 62,000 acres of suitable timberland being clearcut every 110 years. In addition, 340 miles of logging roads would be built on the same 62,000 acres, one mile of road for every 182 acres, 3.4 miles of road for every square mile of forest.

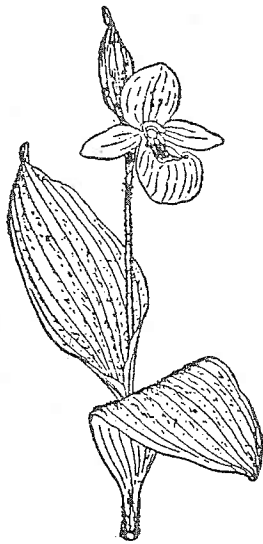
Thus half of the forest will be characterized by even-aged young managed stands interspersed with old growth cores and riparian corridors and heavily fragmented by clearcuts, maintained openings and roads. Large blocks of forest land in the Anderson River and Sam's Creek areas are committed to this kind of management.

The Forest Service justifies excepting half of the Forest from management for old growth forest interior by claiming a biological need for young forest edge habitat, still refusing to recognize that this is the common forest habitat in South Central Indiana, more than adequately provided on private lands.

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(Please send free bumper sticker) yes _____ no _____
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I own woods in _____ County (optional)
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 PROTECT OUR WOODS 100% cotton T-shirt specify S M L XL
 XXL \$12: (free with \$100 donation)

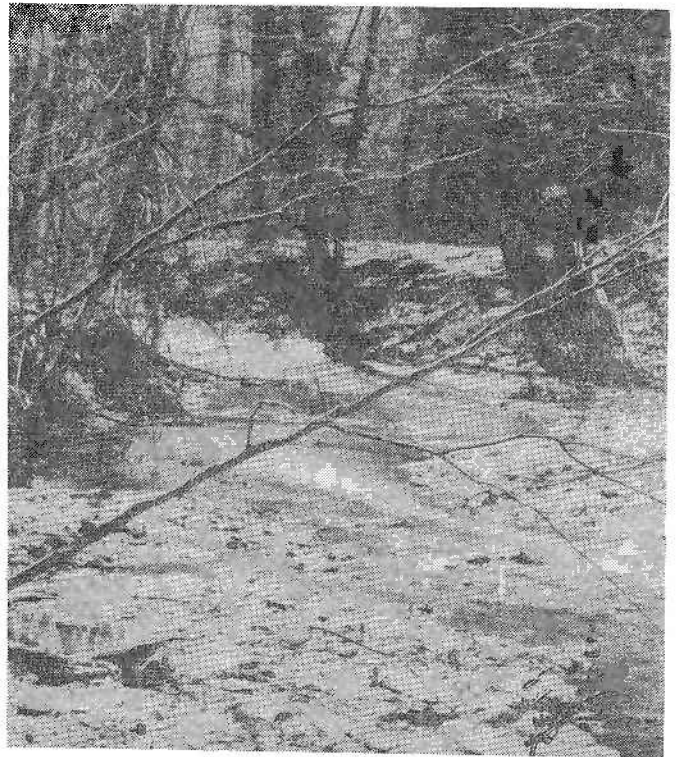
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JOBS AND INCOME?

They also continue to insist that logging the national forest will provide jobs and income for local communities. Nowhere do they directly address our analysis, which shows that Hoosier National Forest timber sales not only provide no additional jobs but also reduce local income. They claim that they will model good timber management for private landowners. But former Forest Supervisor Claude Ferguson points out that their clearcut management is not good forestry. Their own studies show that such management will not meet their goals, such as oak regeneration. The Hoosier Environmental Council has decided not to appeal this plan, because it comes so close to the Conservationist Alternative. Protect Our Woods will continue to push for no logging roads and no timber cutting on the National Forest. Our options include appeals and amendments to the Plan and to site-specific project decisions, also including acts of Congress.

PRAISE FOR FRANK VOYTAS

We believe that Supervisor Frank Voytas and his staff are in fact committed to good biological management of the Hoosier National Forest. We applaud them for their efforts. They have gone as far as the Regional and National Forest Service will let them. We expect them to look at our continuing struggle to improve forest management as their struggle also. Unfortunately, Frank and his team will not be here forever. National forest staff turnover is high.



Cope Hollow, Hoosier National Forest

New people will be running the Hoosier in less than ten years. What will their priorities be? Will they choose to exercise their right to build roads in roadless areas and plan salvage sales in forest interiors when natural forces like age, tornado, or gypsy moth begin to recreate old growth? Will they want to build an oil well on every five acres to keep private landowners from getting all the benefits from a major discovery? We need to be sure that the management plan gives us sure grounds to appeal such decisions, long after Frank Voytas and his staff have gone to bigger forests.

