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PROTECT OUR WOODS

Fall 1992

Number 21

Deforestation Projects in the HNF Appealed

"Most forested lands in the state of Indiana are being fragmented in some manner and/or are in scattered tracts among farm fields. The Hoosier National Forest has the opportunity to maintain large trees and continuous forest habitats in a relatively remote condition." Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

In spite of the Hoosier National Forest's born-again commitment to continuous old growth forest, managers plan further fragmentation in the form of roads, wildlife openings and timber sales. Activists have responded with a round of appeals.

Eastside Pine Native Hardwood Restoration

711,000 board feet of pine will be clear-cut on 58 acres and thinned on another 67 acres in seven stands in Brown and Jackson Counties. Machine operations will continue until the year 2000. This below-cost timber sale is justified as removal of planted southern pine to hasten the slow natural conversion to native hardwoods that is already taking place.

This southern pine was planted more than 50 years ago on 26,000 acres of eroded farmland to restore soils for future hardwoods. The hardwoods are now growing up through the pines, and pine timber harvest will remove soil nutrients stored in those trees. If the pines are allowed to die and rot, these nutrients will fertilize the young hardwoods, as originally planned. Logging will also compact soils and create more forest openings and edges in a landscape dominated by private fields and

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Little Pigeon Creek

Photo by James Adler

Protecting Our Forest Rivers

The naturally forested streams that arise in the Hoosier uplands provide essential habitat for many species of wildlife, including humans, who depend on them for drainage and water supply. Forests are the planet's best water reservoirs and purification systems.

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Drawing by Peggy Sue Howard

NAME _____
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(Please send free bumper sticker) yes _____ no _____
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I own woods in _____ County (optional)
 Also Available: Bumper stickers \$1 (free with membership)
 Hoosier National Forest Map \$4 (free with \$30 donation)
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 XXL \$12: (free with \$100 donation)

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Christmas tree plantations. Besides clear-cuts up to ten acres, five log landings will be converted to permanent openings. Already, the Environmental Assessment states, "There is a higher percentage of edge habitat in this management area than in most of the forest." Logging will eliminate habitat for sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, pine warbler, cerulean warbler, and forest interior breeding birds.

In Protect Our Woods' appeal, Bob and Kathy Klawitter argue that this project conflicts with the no timber harvest management requested in our appeal of the Plan Amendment of 1991. The Chief of the Forest Service is required to answer our appeal before conflicting projects can be implemented. The Chief has ignored our appeal for more than a year. We have been guaranteed that the sale will not take place before our sale appeal is decided. Harry and Jeanette Hollis have also appealed this timber sale.

RACE has brought a lawsuit against the Forest Service for similar pine timber sales on the Shawnee. Chicago attorney Tom Boechel thinks both RACE and Protect Our Woods have excellent chances of succeeding in court.

Forest Openings

Libby Frey has appealed the Forest Openings Program for the entire Hoosier National Forest. Eight members of the HNF Network have appealed the 1992 Openings Program on the Brownstown District. Protect Our Woods has requested Intervenor status in both appeals.

More than 5,800 acres of forest openings are planned on the Hoosier, perhaps not including "Watchable Wildlife" openings such as the 65-acre opening cleared in 1991. Openings increase fragmentation of an already

heavily fragmented forest, reducing the amount of deep forest needed for successful reproduction by many declining forest birds. IU biologist Donald Whitehead reports that forest openings are worse than farm fields for interior breeding birds such as the woodthrush and Acadian Warbler.

Buzzards Roost Road

To promote tourism, the Forest Service wants to rebuild the Alton-Magnet road through Buzzards Roost and the Boone Creek dry forest restoration project along the Ohio River in Perry and Crawford Counties. This area contains many interesting plants, including nine plants of special concern to the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves. The high bluffs over the Ohio are historic habitat for the state-threatened native eastern woodrat. Eastern woodrat numbers are declining rapidly in the Midwest. Tim Maloney has appealed this road construction for Protect Our Woods and the Hoosier Environmental Council.



