



Summer/Fall 2002

Indiana Forests



The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance

IFA Files Suit Against DNR Over State Forest Logging

On July 15th, the Indiana Forest Alliance and Bloomington resident Joshua Martin filed the first lawsuit in the history of the state of Indiana to invoke the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (IEPA). The suit was brought against the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Division of Forestry (DoF) challenging the legality of the state forest timber sale program. The complaint is based on the defendants' failure to comply with the IEPA in authorizing both its state forest timber sale program and three specific sales. Two of the sales are located in Morgan-Monroe State Forest and one is in Yellowwood State Forest, near Bloomington.

Bryant Creek Lake Timber Sale, Morgan-Monroe

This sale is located across the lake from the popular Bryant Creek Shelter House. Abundant wildlife is found on this ridge in a very popular hiking and fishing location for families off Old St. Rd. 37.

Prather Lake Fire Salvage Sale, Morgan-Monroe

Logged only a decade ago, an arsonist burned this area in September 1999. Now the DoF wants to sell what's left. Due to its history of fire, this site contains fragile soils that should not bear heavy equipment. Its natural recovery from this disturbance has created unique micro-environments of decomposition and regeneration. Logging will only increase the dead fuel load, allow

the establishment of non-native invasive species and perpetuate an outmoded belief that our state forests are for tree-farming.

Scarce O' Fat Ridge Timber Sale, Yellowwood

This sale is in a sheltered tributary in the watershed of Lake Monroe and is between popular Scarce O' Fat trail which begins at the base of the Yellowwood Lake dam, and many quiet, forest homes on Sewell Rd.

"The state forests of Indiana are important and unique public lands that require sound management for the greatest good for the greatest number of people," said Martin, Coordinator of the Indiana Forest Alliance. "This suit is about enforcing our existing laws to ensure that science and public process are the foundation for major decisions affecting state forests."

The IEPA was passed by the Indiana state legislature in 1972 and modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act. It was passed in order to insure that state agencies fully consider the environmental impacts of their actions when making decisions. The law requires the preparation of environmental impact statements, consideration of alternatives, and other processes to ensure that certain goals are met in preserving the integrity of the environment and its productivity for future generations.

The Indiana Forest Alliance organized a state-wide "Call-In Day" to Governor Frank O'Bannon asking him to postpone the sales. Despite the tremendous

outcry that poured into the statehouse on that day, the sales went forward. However, efforts continue to organize public support to stop these sales.

Indiana's state forest comprise only .6% of the state land area and provide only 1% of the state's supply of timber, yet their potential for providing habitats of large blocks of interior forest for endangered species protection and other human benefits is great.

Unfortunately, these three sales have already been cut. However, this lawsuit remains relevant and critically important, as it challenges the legality of the entire timber sale program as it is now structured. Our next step is to defend the suit against a motion to dismiss, which the DNR filed in early September. Oral arguments will be heard on this motion by October 21. If you would like to make a donation to help us pursue this litigation, please send checks to the "Indiana Forest Alliance" with "Lawsuit" printed clearly on the memo line.

What you can do:

PLEASE take a few minutes of your time and call the following people today:

Governor Frank O'Bannon (317) 232-4567
DNR Director John Goss (317) 232-4020

Ask them to protect Indiana's state forests and end commercial logging.

Or contact the Indiana Forest Alliance at
(812) 332-4878

ifa@bloomington.in.us
www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa



Joshua Martin kneels on the stump of a tree that used to stand near Bryant Creek Lake, but was cut as part of one of the timber sales that IFA has challenged with legal action.

New Timber Sales

By Bridget Lee

Action alerts. Protests. Lawsuits. What will it take to put a damper on the DNR's apparent enthusiasm for selling our state forests? Despite the recently filed IEPA lawsuit, the DNR auctioned off logging rights to five tracts of state forest property on Tuesday, September 10. These tracts were located within Yellowwood, Morgan-Monroe, and Jackson-Washington State Forests, all known for vibrant fall colors and abundant wildlife populations.

Found in the rolling hills of southern Indiana, the two Jackson-Washington sales will directly affect the popular Knobstone Trail, a trail over sixty miles in length that offers sweeping views of the countryside. Unfortunately, future hikers may also be treated to sweeping views of stumps and the other tell tale signs of logging since the sales border and cross the trail.

However, views would not be the only threat to the recreational value and health of the forest. Home of the only thousand foot "peak" in Indiana, the rolling terrain of Jackson-Washington makes it highly susceptible to erosion, a problem commonly associated with logging.

Effects of erosion have been sited in several other logged areas, including Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood. More research is necessary, but it has been noted that lakes found within logged watersheds generally fill in at an unusually rapid rate. As human and animal populations depend upon groundwater for drinking, the issue is difficult to neglect.

And IFA is making it harder for the DNR to neglect its practices and those who are affected. With numerous phone calls from concerned citizens, and persistent monitoring of their "work" by forest activists, the DNR repeatedly heard the message: The majority of Indiana residents do NOT want their state forests logged by commercial interests. With hope, determination, and continuous voicing of opposition to the state forest timber program, this desire will one day become reality.

Indiana Forests

is brought to you by the

Indiana Forest Alliance

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The Indiana Forest Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the forests of the Hoosier state and promoting sustainable communities for its residents. Offices are located in the Bloomington Environmental Center at 116 1/2 S. College Ave. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m.

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IFA Flotilla Occupies Bryant Creek Lake

By David Haberman

On August 4th, Indiana Forest Alliance members assembled a flotilla on Bryant Creek Lake in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest to celebrate the lake's beauty and to protest the DNR's plan to log the hillside above the west shore of the lake. Although the day was hot, the protest was spirited and fun. The flotilla was comprised of thirteen canoes and kayaks featuring numerous signs and banners.

Activities included a game of hitting a colorful four-foot diameter beach ball around the lake with boat paddles. The timber sale in the watershed of Bryant Creek Lake is one of many on the DNR's schedule during a summer that has witnessed an unusually high number of commercial logging operations in our state forests.

Since governmental promises for more public input have not been fulfilled and the IFA has

exhausted all other means, a law suit was filed against the DNR in July, charging that they are in violation of the Indiana Environmental Policy Act. The Bryant Creek Lake sale is part of the IFA law suit.

The DNR appears to be getting desperate. Regarding this sale, their public relations director, Stephen Sellers, was quoted in the Herald Times as saying: "When you go out there a year from now, you will not be able to tell that any trees have been cut."

If only this were true! Despite public protests, the hillside above Bryant Creek Lake was cut. Skiddertrails now mar the watershed, leaving in their wake soil erosion and many dead and damaged trees. Members of the public are encouraged to visit the site to judge for themselves the truth of Sellers' claim.



IFA members enjoy a summer day floating on Bryant Creek Lake. Since then, the area on the west side of the lake has been logged by a private company who bid on the trees in July (see photo at left). Photo by Paul Martens

What's Happening on the Hoosier?

Forest Service Announces Plans to Log the Hoosier Again!

With a recent scoping notice, the Forest Service has announced plans to begin logging again on the Hoosier National Forest. The proposal includes a combination of clear-cutting and selective thinning in the German Ridge area near Tell City. The purpose of the logging, they say, will be to expedite the conversion of pine to oak-hickory stands.

The Forest Service proposed to log this particular area in the late 1990's. They withdrew the sale, however, when they found Indiana bats on site. They had failed to plan adequately around the presence of this endangered species, and were under pressure from Heartwood and others to withdraw the sale. Now, in anticipation that they will receive an incidental take permit to allow the killing of Indiana bats, they have announced that they are again planning to cut German Ridge.

Until this, there have been no timber sales in the Hoosier National Forest since 1996, when the Hickory Ridge sale was approved under the Salvage Rider.

Comments on the scoping notice are due October 9; please contact IFA for more information or join us for a hike of German Ridge on October 19. We will meet at 9:00 am at the IFA office.

FOREST WATCH

Illegal Road Threatens Hoosier National Forest and Lake Monroe

Along the shores of Lake Monroe lie two adjoining, gorgeous parcels of forested land totalling 92 acres. They are private inholdings in the Hoosier National Forest, near route 446. Before the creation of Lake Monroe, the United States bought and paid for the right to access this land. The landowner was provided just compensation for giving up their right to access the land across public land. At the request of the landowner, the Forest Service is now proposing to give away the United States' property right through granting a special use permit to build a road across the Hoosier National Forest, thereby facilitating the development of the Breedlove parcel.

Heartwood and the Indiana Forest Alliance are working to prevent this illegal road construction through legal, historical and ecological research about the land. Increasing development on the shores of Lake Monroe threatens the wild character of this area and the municipal water supply for Monroe County. We would like to stop this illegal permit

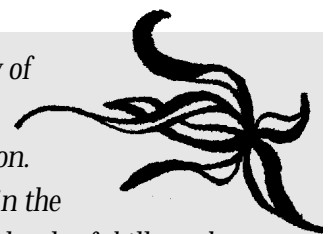
and work with the national forest and the landowner to find an alternative that is fair and preserves the land as native forest.

Due to an error the official comment period will remain open until November 6th on the Environmental Assessment. Let your opinion be heard or provide any important information to the Forest Service at either: (812) 275-5987 or r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us

Contact IFA if you would like to help us and the neighboring landowners work on this issue.

IFA meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6pm at the Bloomington Eco-Center, 116 1/2 S. College Ave. in Bloomington.

Now is an exciting time to be actively involved in the forest protection movement, and people with all levels of skills and experience are welcome at our meetings. If you can't make it to our regular meeting time, but would still like to volunteer, please let us know! There are plenty of ways to get involved, from entering new members into our database, to writing letters, to organizing projects or campaigns.



Heartwood Eastern Forest Planning Retreat, Morehead, KY

July 19-21, 2002

Heartwood Network Strengthens Local National Forest Planning

By Joshua Martin

On one of the most beautiful sun soaked weekends of the summer in Eastern Kentucky, over thirty grassroots forest activists from across the Eastern United States gathered under the Heartwood umbrella to put their heads together for national forest protection. Held on the gorgeous farm of Heartwood Council Member Michael Campbell, and bordering the Daniel Boone National Forest, this retreat focused on the revision of our local national forest's "Forest Plan."

The National Forest Management Act established a policy that every 10-15 years, each national forest must undergo a process to create a Land and Resource Management Plan, or Forest Plan, in full compliance with all federal environmental laws. This blueprint for the forests consists of everything from broad policy goals to standards and guidelines for achieving goals to specific prescriptions of allowable uses for every unit of the forest. This process can suffer from commercial and political pressures from industries that degrade the ecological integrity of the forest, and it is an important time for citizens to get themselves educated and organized to protect their local public land.

Across the Heartwood region on many individual forests, this process has begun simultaneously. Therefore, it was time for us to pull together and share knowledge, discuss strategies, and brainstorm new ideas. Jim Bensman and Mark Donham of Heartwood got us rolling on Saturday morning with overview information on the current status of planning on forests across the region, details of the important steps for citizen engagement, and the law and the regulations that are necessary or useful.

The conversation quickly became excited and provocative as common themes arose and personal experiences were shared. "How do we advocate for threatened and endangered species in the East? We need good scientific research. Management Indicator Species are important. How has your group communicated with mountain bikers and other recreation groups? How do we make a bureaucratic bog sexy and recognized as important for the public to jump into? The Forest Service did WHAT?" And then ideas became action. "Where can we compile all this legal and scientific research? I have an intern that can work on that. I'll write the letter to the regional forester." Combined with a lush spread of delicious food, many dips in the forest lake, and a moonlit night of

organic music from the Randy's, who came all the way from Bloomington, IN, the weekend was a success. Folks left feeling wiser, more connected, and revived. The plan revision process will take several years on each forest, and this network plans to continue to work together in solidarity and in chorus to protect Eastern forests. Contact your local grassroots forest protection group and ask how you can be involved!

Special thanks to Gwen Marshall for volunteering to scribe and Chris Schimoeller for gifted facilitation of our entire meeting and to Michael Campbell and all of Kentucky Heartwood for hosting the retreat.

Special thanks to the Natural Trails and Water Coalition for helping make it happen!

www.naturaltrails.org

Mark Your Calendars...

Upcoming Events!

October 19 Meet at the IFA office in Bloomington at 9:00 am to hike the site of the proposed German Ridge Timber Sale in the Hoosier National Forest. (See page 4)

October 27 I-69 Tour (See page 7)

October 29 Boise Day of Action

November 13 Staples Day of Action

Indianapolis Chapter of the Indiana Forest Alliance

Indianapolis area residents now have the opportunity to become active members of a new chapter of the Indiana Forest Alliance...

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of longtime IFA activist Donna McNeely, the Indianapolis Chapter is now having regular meetings and providing an opportunity for Central Indiana residents to take a more active role in protecting our forests!

For more information, e-mail: wildfire2@iquest.net

Bush Protest In South Bend

By Bridget Lee

Greeted by a gathering of roughly four hundred activists and protesters, President Bush may not have received the warm reception that he expected upon his arrival to South Bend, Indiana. Although he was not called upon to respond in person to anyone but his Republican dinner guests, the presence of those opposed to his decisions could not be easily ignored. Travelling hours to express their opinions, activist groups joined on the evening of September 5 included labor unions, peace and justice advocates, capital punishment opponents, and, of course, environmentalists.

In protest of Bush's new fire plan that would allow for increased logging of our western forests, one of the Indiana Forest Alliance's contributions, a huge banner, read "Keep America's Forests Beautiful...More Forests, Less Bush!". To add to the festivities, IFA volunteer Amy Clayton dressed as a tree, while Joshua Martin carried a paper axe and wore a George Bush mask for the protest march.

Covering three city blocks, the line of protesters generated mostly positive feedback. While handing out flyers with information on public forest issues, IFA members found that people seemed both interested and concerned. Even motorists showed their support, as thumbs up, honking, and yells of agreement with the march were consistently seen and heard.

In addition, coalition building and networking between activist groups lead to a feeling of hope, as most attending the protest supported the political stances taken by other



A protester at South Bend

protesters. Even when Mandy Skinner of IFA had forest flyers refused by a group representing the carpenter's union, she considered it a learning experience and realized that IFA should be in communication with this union and others like it, as we all share the same goals for a bright and healthy future.

The exchange of information at the protest allowed activists to share goals and issues, and to show support for one another. Although the President remained out of sight and within the banquet hall, entertaining friends over two hundred and fifty dollar dinners, the spirit of the protest was not dampened. United by the desire to make a difference, IFA members and the majority of others left inspired and ready to get back to work maintaining and

strengthening the environmental and labor rights protections that the Bush administration has worked so hard to destroy.

IFA members display their "More Forests, Less Bush" banner in South Bend at a protest outside of President Bush's speaking engagement.



YOU CAN HELP STOP THE NEW-TERRAIN I-69! By Sandra Tokarski

The O'Bannon-Kernan Administration and the Indiana Department of Transportation INDOT want to build a new-terrain interstate highway between Evansville and Indianapolis. They are trying to ignore the Common Sense US41 and I-70 alternative in favor of an expensive and destructive new-terrain I-69.

Please write today! Tell INDOT that you DO NOT WANT A NEW-TERRAIN I-69.

Send your comments to:

Mike Grovak, Project Manager, Bernardin, Lochmueller & Associated, Inc, 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715 (If you have time, please send a copy to CARR as well. Thanks!)

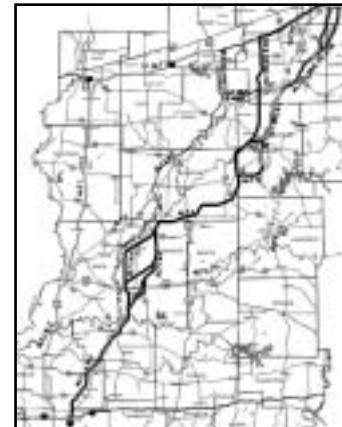
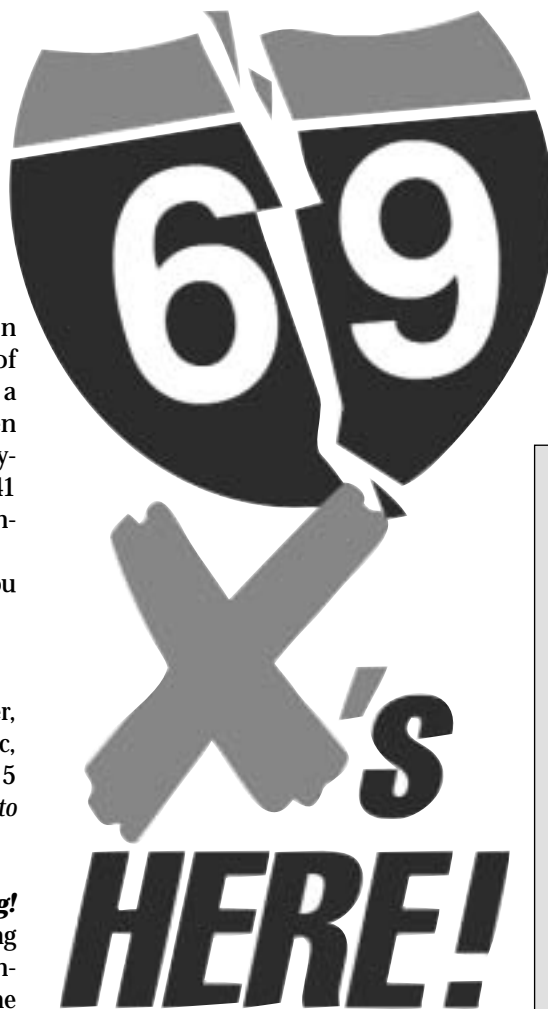
Comments do not have to be long!

A sentence or two is plenty. Submitting your comments will only take a few minutes, so please do it now. Here are some points that you can make: US 41/I-70 is the common sense alternative. It saves hundreds of millions of our scarce transportation tax dollars. It preserves thousands of acres of farmland and forest that a new-terrain highway would destroy.

The Draft EIS shows that INDOT's preferred routes for I-69 are on average about \$600 million, or 65%, more expensive to construct than US 41/I-70, and eight times more expensive to maintain every year. Indiana is in a budget crisis. Gasoline taxes have been raised this year to address what is already a shortfall in funds to maintain Indiana's roads and build needed transportation projects across the state.

Over 120,000 Hoosiers have signed petitions and letters, and a dozen major newspapers across the state have editorialized, against a new-terrain route and in favor of US 41/I-70.

Indiana has lost over one million acres of farmland since 1990. A new-terrain I-69 will destroy thousands of acres of farmland in the actual right of way, and many more acres will be lost to sprawl development.



NINE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP THE NEW -TERRAIN I-69!

1. Sign the CARR petition. If you'd like a petition for your friends and neighbors to sign, call 812-825-9555 or 1-800-515-6936.
2. Join CARR. Fill out a membership brochure and give it or mail it to us.
3. Write comments (or just write a letter) expressing your opposition to any of new terrain alternatives. This does not need to be long or technical. A few sentences is fine and will take only a few minutes. Mail them to:

Mike Grovak

**Project Manager, Bernardin,
Lochmueller & Associated, Inc
6200 Vogel Rd, Evansville, IN 47715**

(If you have time, send a copy to CARR as well. Thanks!)

4. Contact your legislators to oppose the future increases in gas tax and wasting much of Indiana's federal transportation funding to pay for this multi-billion dollar new-terrain highway.
5. Put a bumper sticker on your car.
6. Put a sign in your yard.
7. Write and call the Governor, and tell him you oppose the new terrain routes. **Governor Frank O'Bannon (317-232-4567) The Statehouse, Rm. 206, Indianapolis, IN 46204**
8. Volunteer your time or make a financial donation to the various organizations fighting to stop the new terrain alternatives (CARR, ELPC, HEC).
9. Talk to your neighbors and friends. Urge them to do what they can to help.

A new-terrain I-69 will have devastating effects on rural Southwest Indiana. Communities will be divided, farms will be split and local roads will be cut off, slowing emergency vehicle response time and lengthening school bus travel times. Large tracts of forest will be split and opened up for sprawl development.

For more information contact:

CARR Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads, Inc., PO Box 54, Stanford, IN 47463. 812-825-9555 or 800-515-6936 carr@carri69.org

LETTERS ARE BEST, but you can also call 877-INDY-EVN or email from INDOT's website: www.i69indyevn.org

PROTEST TOUR OF ROUTES

The COUNT US group, organized by the tireless John L. Smith, is planning a tour of the new terrain I-69 routes that will end with a gathering in Indianapolis. This will be a major event to demonstrate (once again) that the citizens of Southwest Indiana do not want a new terrain I-69.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th FOR THE I-69 TOUR!

For information and updates on the Tour, contact John Smith at www.i69.org, www.countus.got, www.carri69.org

Saving the White Oaks

The following is an excerpt from The Education of Little Tree by Forrest Carter (University of New Mexico Press, 1976). It is a story that Little Tree's Cherokee Grandmother tells him to teach him about the life of the forest. May it also teach us!

Granma's Pa was called Brown Hawk. She said his understanding was deep. He could feel the tree-thought. Once, she said, when she was a little girl, her Pa was troubled and said the white oaks on the mountain near them were excited and scared.

He spent much time on the mountain, walking among the oaks. They were of much beauty, tall and straight. They weren't selfish, allowing ground for sumac and persimmon, and hickory and chestnut to feed the wild things. Not being selfish gave them much spirit and the spirit was strong.

Granma said her Pa got so worried about the oaks that he would walk amongst them at night, for he knew something was wrong. Then, early one morning, as the sun broke the mountain ridge, Brown Hawk watched while lumbermen moved through the white oaks, marking and figuring how to cut all of them down.

When they left, Brown Hawk said, the white oaks commenced to cry. And he could not sleep. So he watched the lumbermen. They built a road up to the mountain over which to bring their wagons. Granma said her Pa talked to the Cherokees and they determined to save the white oaks.

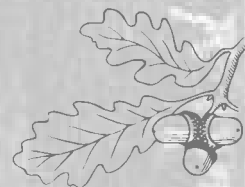
She said at night, when the lumbermen would leave and go back to the settlement, the Cherokees would dig up the road,

hacking deep trenches across it. The women and children helped. The next morning, the lumbermen came back and spent all day fixing the road. But that night, the Cherokees dug it up again. This went on for the next two days and nights; then the lumbermen put up guards on the road with guns. But they could not guard all the road, and the Cherokees dug trenches where they could.

Granma said it was a hard struggle and they grew very tired. Then one day, as the lumbermen were working on the road, a giant white oak fell across a wagon. It killed two mules and smashed the wagon. She said it was a fine, healthy white oak and had no reason to fall, but it did.

The lumbermen gave up trying to build the road. Spring rains set in and they never came back. Granma said the moon waxed full, and they held a celebration in the great stand of white oaks.

They danced in the full yellow moon, and the white oaks sang and touched their branches together, and touched the Cherokee. Granma said they sang a death chant for the white oak who had given his life to save others, and she said the feeling was so strong that it almost picked her up off the mountain.



Effects of logging on breeding success of Acadian Flycatchers

By Donald Winslow,

Yesterday evening a friend and I took a walk up a dry streambed at IU's Research and Teaching Preserve at Moore's Creek. We heard a few migrant birds calling—Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanagers, both species that breed in the woods of southern Indiana. We heard the water-drop calls of Swainson's Thrushes, who summered further north and are on their way to the Neotropics for the winter months. Then we heard the sharp, two-syllable song of a male Acadian Flycatcher, singing over the streambed where he likely defended his territory for the last few months. He's finished with the breeding season now, preparing to make the long journey south.

My colleagues and I have studied the breeding ecology of Acadian Flycatchers and other migrant birds in southern Indiana forests for the last decade. As part of this program, I employed a crew of seasonal birdwatchers to monitor breeding success in Yellowwood State Forest. My motivation to undertake this study stemmed from the large body of research on the effects of forest fragmentation and habitat edges on avian nesting success.

Many researchers have found that levels of nest predation by various predators are higher in forest fragments surrounded by agricultural land than in large, contiguous blocks of forest. Also, birds breeding in fragmented forests suffer higher levels of brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds—who lay their eggs in the nests of other birds for the host birds to raise. But it is not as clear the extent to which nest success decreases with internal fragmentation—such as the roads, logyards, and timbercuts that result from logging on state forests. Some studies have found negative effects of habitat edges on breeding success, but the results have not been consistent and there has been relatively little attention given to understanding the underlying mechanisms.

For these reasons we are not able to predict with certainty when edge effects on nesting success will occur, or the magnitude of effects. My goal is to investigate the mechanisms of edge effects, so the public and decision makers can anticipate the results of various policy options. Because there is an ongoing timber program with little public oversight on state forests, it was

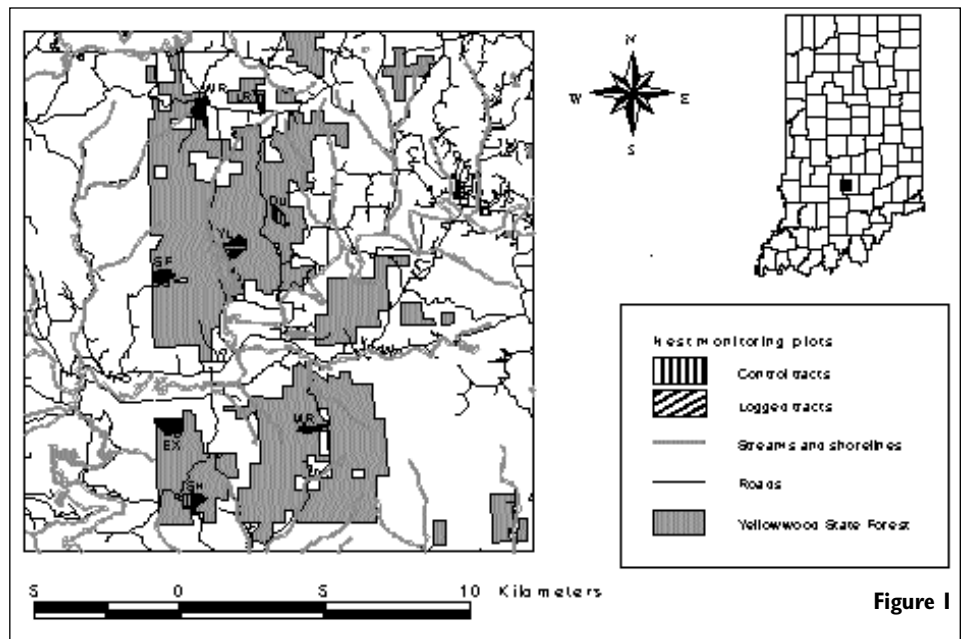


Figure 1

possible for me to employ an experimental approach in this study.

We measured nest success and cowbird parasitism levels in eight tracts in Yellowwood in 1995 and 1996 (Figure 1). The DNR marked timber sales at four of these tracts, which were cut in between the two breeding seasons. The other four tracts were close to rotation age but remained uncut during that time and thus served as controls. The results show an interesting pattern, but not one that is straightforward to interpret.

Overall success rate of Acadian Flycatcher nests increased from 1995 to 1996 at control sites, but was similar at treatment sites before and after logging (Figure 2). Cowbird parasitism decreased from 1995 to 1996 at control sites, but was similar at treatment sites before and after logging (Figure 3). Bootstrap analysis indicates statistically significant interaction effects of condition (treatment or control) and year on both nest success and brood parasitism. If factors responsible for between-year variation

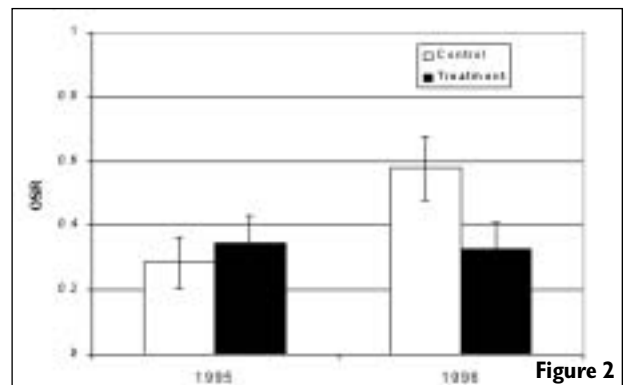


Figure 2

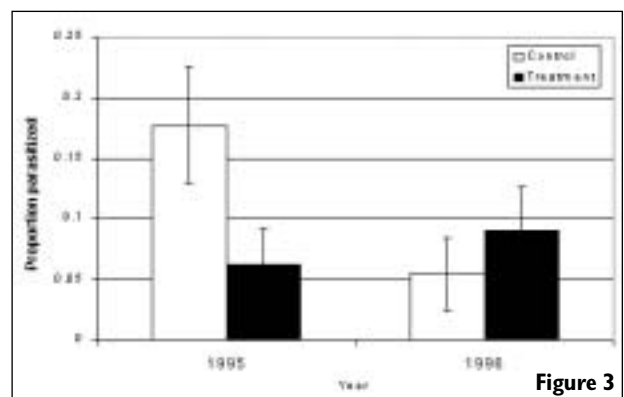


Figure 3

operated similarly at all sites, this suggests that logging decreased breeding success at the treatment sites relative to that at the control sites. However, it is also possible that site-specific factors at one or more control sites influenced the results.

By Mandy Skinner

EASTERN FORESTS

**A week of workshops,
tree-climbing, campfires and
good food in Southern Indiana**

When you think of direct action for the forests, do you think of Indiana?

Historically speaking, in the environmental movement, the eastern forests have been seen as a sacrifice zone - already devastated, and not worth worrying much about. Meanwhile, the Pacific Northwest has been a hotbed of environmental activism and direct action aimed at stopping the logging of the remaining old-growth forests in that area. When images of tree-sits and blockades make their way into the media, it's traditionally been a safe bet to assume that the action is in California, Oregon, or Washington state.

While actions in the Pacific NW and the magnificent forests they are working to protect have captured the mainstream's imagination and shaped public perception of environmental activism, groups from the Midwest and the Eastern US have been working to stop National and State Forest logging and rejuvenate ecosystems in our own neck of the woods. We know that the temperate hardwood forests of this half of the country hold immense value and we envision the restoration of the biodiversity of this region through connecting many of the fragmented pieces. Here in Indiana, the over eight month long tree-sit in Yellowwood State Forest last year helped get the word out about the impacts of logging on our state forests and sparked serious and much-needed debate and dialogue.

Earlier this summer, from May 28th-June 3rd, an historic gathering took place in the beautiful forests of southern Indiana - the first ever Eastern Forests Direct Action Camp. Activists poured in from all over the region, and some from farther off, to share stories of successes and setbacks and to offer skills and support for future actions. The energy of about 100 people coming together with a love for the forests and a desire for social and environmental justice was deeply inspiring and rejuvenating.

The idea of the camp was a long time coming. Its goal was to strengthen organizing for meaningful forest protection in this region, through networking with each other and teaching the skills needed to plan direct action. The camp focused on several arenas of action:

National campaigns that have been putting pressure on Staples and Boise Cascade to carry tree-free and higher content post-consumer recycled paper and to stop logging old-growth forests for paper...

Legislative action, including extending the process of public comment, finding endangered species, and filing lawsuits, all of which can slow down timber sales and hopefully stop them outright and, finally...

Targeted, non-violent direct actions such as tree-sits and blockades that can physically stop trees from being cut when all other efforts have failed. Direct action in the forest takes careful planning, knowledge of risks, and complete dedication for those who choose to put their bodies between the trees and the



bulldozers and chainsaws. It is not an action to be chosen lightly, but it becomes necessary when trees are still falling and our forests are still being partitioned off and sold to the highest bidder.

We started out the week with a sequence of trainings, cycling through workshops on tree-climbing, blockades, and organizing. An outstanding group of experienced tree-climbers, including Ruckus Camp trainers and alums, spent the week in the woods setting up platforms and

climbing stations. Activists were taught the basics of climbing safety and gained practical, hands-on knowledge. Those who wanted to even had the option of spending a night on one of the several platforms that were up in the treetops. As the week progressed we learned how to effectively organize a campaign. We learned how to work with the media, especially the importance of educating ourselves and staying on message during actions to ensure that the facts and the important concepts are conveyed, not just the sensationalism of the action.

We learned peace-keeping tactics and the principles of non-violence to be able to de-escalate tense situations. A full-day medic training was offered. We learned about communicating with radios, and how to quickly and cheaply make large banners and the best ways to hang them. A workshop on bio-diesel cars was spontaneously created when a woman who drove to the camp in one offered to explain how it worked. We learned about being stealthy in the forests. We discussed what it means to live in a security culture, because many activists are faced with surveillance and intimidation, even physical threats, for organizing. We learned about our legal rights and the court systems. The week culminated with a live action, a mock scenario that attempted to pull together what we'd learned.

The camp was also a lesson in community living. The success of the whole week depended on a steady supply of volunteer labor: filling water jugs and filtering water from a nearby spring, preparing meals, washing dishes, doing security shifts. We all pitched in. Lots of delicious food was donated and the makeshift field kitchen kept us well-fed. A tent city was set up in a field that was lit by thousands of fireflies every night. We gathered around the campfire to sing songs and learn from each other, hearing from longtime forest activists such as Mike Roselle and musicians such as Danny Dolinger. We finally matched faces with names and voices that we had only seen or heard over e-mails or telephone calls. We strengthened our commitment to forest protection, renewed visions for the future, and shaped new ones. We discussed what direct action means to each of us, respected diverse opinions, learned from our mistakes, and planned ways to work together over the coming year throughout the region.

Plans are in the works for another camp next summer--

Until next time

EASTERN FORESTS RISE UP!

Help!

Support the Indiana Forest Alliance

The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance is mailed to over 700 people throughout Indiana who are concerned about their public forests. It is also distributed at a variety of public events.

Thanks to your financial support, this newsletter almost funds itself. If you would like to stay informed about forest issues in Indiana, consider contributing a small amount (even \$1-\$5 will help!) for printing and mailing. If you do not want to continue receiving this newsletter, please email, call or send us a postcard to let us know. If you DO want to continue receiving Indiana Forests, but can't afford to contribute financially, please use it to stay informed and active about the important issues within our state and communities.

IFA has been doing many amazing things this year to protect and return the wild forests of Indiana. We have been doing a tremendous amount with many hours of volunteer work. We need your support to continue this effort and ensure that nature has a defense against our society's destructive tendencies. Please send in your support and renew your membership or start today! Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support and please contact us with any concerns or issues you wish to be addressed.

Yes!

I want to help with the efforts of the Indiana Forest Alliance.

At this time, I am able to subscribe at the membership level of:

\$10 \$50 \$100 Other

I want to know about volunteering

Name _____

Address _____

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Please make checks payable to: **Indiana Forest Alliance**

IFA is still selling t-shirts!

Long sleeved shirts are \$13 and short sleeved shirts are \$10, plus \$3 per shirt for shipping.
Call IFA to order!

Stop Logging Yellowwood! and Stop Logging State Forests! Bumperstickers Available

Show your support and spread the word about calling your legislators. Call IFA or stop by the office to pick up yours today!

IFA Presentations ...

Coming to a town near you!

The Indiana Forest Alliance would like to thank Woody Widlund for his generous recent donation, which will enable us to purchase technology equipment which will allow us to travel around the state giving educational presentations to various schools and organizations. The presentations, given by IFA volunteers, will include material on Indiana's public forests, how they are impacted by commercial extraction, and what you can do to help protect them for future generation. If you would like us to give a presentation to your school, business, or other organization, please call us at (812) 332-4878.

Indiana Forest Alliance

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Bloomington, IN 47402

www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa

Printed on 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

Indiana Forests

Summer/Fall

2002

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