

Winter 2005

Indiana Forests



The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance

JDNR AND DOF ARE NOT ABOVE THE LAW!!!

“State Logging to Quadruple.” This newspaper headline from mid-September was the first time I heard what Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Kyle Hupfer and State Forester Jack Seifert had in mind for our public lands. **Quadruple**, I thought, how could logging quadruple when our state forests are already severely fragmented and unsustainably harvested? Within a few days, I learned that not only is the DNR’s forest management plan ridiculous, it is also illegal. The plan violates the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (IEPA) [IC 13-12-4-1 et seq.], which requires public process and the preparation of a site-specific environmental assessment (EA) before implementing any decisions that may significantly impact the state’s public lands.

Following the state’s failure to discuss feasible alternatives to the plan, on September 24, IFA hand-delivered a notice of intent to sue to Hupfer and Seifert. We believe it is inexcusable that no amount of time was given for public comment. In fact, only a few organizations with vested interest were privy to the plan before its release (The Woodland Owners Association was asked to review and provide edits early this summer). Also, the DNR failed to adequately identify and assess any adverse environmental effects associated with such a drastic increase in logging, by providing an IEPA-mandated environmental impact statement (EIS). What about the possibility of harmful effects on watershed quality, soil erosion, rare and endangered animals and plants, invasive species, and intrinsic value?

We are especially concerned with planned timber sales in Harrison-Crawford State Forest, which contains a "Priority I" hiberna-

cula for the federally-endangered Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*. Currently 48% of all hibernating Indiana bat in existence winter in Indiana, 23% of which winter in three caves located in Harrison-Crawford SF. In addition, the DoF has yet to release the “Habitat Conservation Plan” for the Indiana bat which describes their plan to “protect” this endangered species while cutting the forests down around them. We expect these logging activities to result in the illegal “take” (direct and indirect killing) of some Indiana bats.

With the time and dedication of many lovely IFA volunteers and our amazing attorney, Mick Harrison, we compiled an 85-page complaint outlining ten counts of illegal activities by the DNR and DoF. In addition to the Indiana Forest Alliance, plaintiffs include several individuals and environmental protection organizations such as Protect Our Woods and Sassafras Audubon Society.

IFA’s ongoing lawsuit against the IDNR and DoF for other IEPA violations, filed in July 2002, will be back in court in February 2006, to address the State’s third attempt to dismiss this case. We need your support to win these cases and to protect Indiana’s state forests and their inhabitants from further exploitation. No one is above the law, especially not governmental agencies, and we plan to hold them fully accountable for their environmentally-irresponsible actions.



Ashley Mann is an IU student majoring in environmental management. Ashley been a volunteer with Indiana Forest Alliance for three years and can be reached at anmann@indiana.edu.



A tree marked for logging in Harrison-Crawford SF Compartment 28, Tract 8. Some areas marked are within 5 miles of one or more hibernacula of the federally-endangered Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis*.



Goldenseal, a rare plant species, was found in the Harrison-Crawford SF logging area. Environmental Assessments are required by law in order to provide a complete evaluation of rare and endangered species like Goldenseal.

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>What's going on with JFA?</i> | 2 |
| <i>Indiana's Dirty Secret</i> | 4 |
| <i>Get Active!</i> | 6 |
| <i>Forests & Bird Conservation</i> | 7 |
| <i>The DNR's Flawed Plan</i> | 8 |

Winter Greetings from the IFA office-

The past year has been a busy and eventful one. IFA has been extremely busy working to protect Indiana's public lands. The proposed Hoosier National Forest Management Plan activated folks from all over the state this spring and summer. IFA combined forces with Heartwood, Hoosier Environmental Council, Protect Our Woods, and Sassafras Audubon Society to generate massive public comment on the proposed plan. This effort culminated with a visit to the Bedford HNF office to hand deliver almost 500 written public comments supporting the "Conservationist's Alternative" for HNF (see www.indianaforestalliance.org). The final plan is expected out in January 2006.



DNR Director Kyle Hupfer, State Forester Jack Seifert, veteran forest activist Andy Mahler, and IFA Coordinator Joanna Sparks speak at the Forest Forum on October 25 at the Bloomington City Council Chambers.

Early this autumn the Division of Forestry (DoF) released its "IDNR, DoF, Strategic Plan 2005-2007". This preposterous management plan proposes a 400% increase in logging on all state forest properties and will open up state reservoir watersheds and some backcountry areas to logging, see Andy's article on pages 8-9 for complete details. IFA has responded to this outrageous plan by filing a lawsuit against the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Division of Forestry, the IDNR Director Kyle Hupfer, and DoF State Forester Jack Seifert due to their blatant disregard for the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (see page 1 for more details). IFA is building a statewide coalition of organizations and businesses who oppose this plan, currently this coalition represents over 30,000 Indiana citizens! See below for the statement of opposition, a list of coalition members, and info on how to add your group.

IFA members are busy monitoring proposed timber sales, doing scientific and legal research, tabling at events, building coalitions, hiking in the state forests, fundraising, educating the public, and much more in our efforts to protect YOUR public forests. Now is the time to get involved, and by all means renew your membership and/or give a generous year end donation to support IFA's important work to protect your public lands! Also, please see pages 5-6 for a list of volunteer opportunities and IFA's wish list. Best wishes from all of us to you for a happy and joyful winter season.

For the Forests,
Joanna Sparks, IFA Coordinator

Petition to Withdraw Forestry Strategic Plan

"We the undersigned organizations hereby call upon Governor Mitch Daniels and Director of IDNR Kyle Hupfer to immediately withdraw the "IDNR Division of Forestry Strategic Plan 2005-2007" and cease implementation of this plan. While we support many of the Plan's stated goals, many of the Plan's provisions are highly objectionable and clearly controversial. Further, we call for any new plan to initiate a transparent procedure that allows for adequate public involvement and environmental assessments for proposed projects affecting public forests. The people of the State of Indiana have a right to be involved in such far-reaching and fundamental decisions regarding the management of the State's public lands."

Coalition Members: Indiana Forest Alliance, Blue River Café, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Indiana Public Interest Research Group, No Sweat!, IU Progressive Faculty Committee, Sassafras Audubon Society, Roadblock Earth First!, Heartwood, Hoosier Environmental Council, Protect Our Rivers Now, Center for Sustainable Living, Friends of Yellowwood, Brown County Green Party, Indiana Green Party, Protect Our Woods, and the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

For more information on the coalition or to add your group, visit our website (www.indianaforestalliance.org) or email David at dhaberma@indiana.edu or Ashley at anmann@indiana.edu.

Indiana Forests

The newsletter of the

Indiana Forest Alliance

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The Indiana Forest Alliance is a non-profit state-wide network of groups and individuals dedicated to the long-term health and well-being of Indiana's native forests. We are volunteers working to provide accurate information to the people of Indiana and to involve them in efforts to protect and restore Indiana's forests. We seek to hold corporations and government agencies accountable for their actions. We attempt to improve forest policies in the state through advocacy using education, grassroots political organizing, nonviolent direct action, research, and litigation. We believe there should be no further commercial, industrial exploitation of public lands. We greatly support reducing the demand for wood and wood products and we promote responsible, sustainable, and profitable forest stewardship on private lands.

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We live on 11 acres in the Morgan Monroe State Forest. For as long as we can remember, hiking and being in the woods has been our favorite pastime. We hike almost daily, and remember to give praise and thanks for our forested area. For us, being in the woods is a form of worship.



The effects of past logging efforts are easy to observe. The woods surrounding our home do not appear to be healthy. There are many dead (non-mature) trees, and the diversity of trees appears to be dwindling. The undergrowth makes hiking impossible in many areas. This summer, we purchased 25 acres next to the Hoosier National Forest. The health of this forest is robust, due to the lack of logging in this area. Actually, the health of the two properties contrast as night and day.

Previously, it has been acceptable for us to "live with" the logging in our area under the DNR's past logging plan. The newly proposed logging plan is not acceptable to us. This is an issue we feel we can contribute to and do something about. Together, our voices have the potential to lead a movement, make a difference in the community, change the world.

There is so much more there than just the trees. It is a whole ecosystem, consisting of bacteria, plants, animals, insects, rotting matter, on and on. History has proven that whenever man steps in to manage/modify an ecosystem, there are always unexpected negative side effects. Recovery from the resulting negativity could take hundreds or thousands of years.

The state forest system is such a small percentage (about 1/2 of 1%) of the entire state. For the sake of ourselves and future generations, it should be allowed to return to nature. The DNR should turn its attention to restoring the forest to pre-settlement conditions. Let nature take its course, as a higher wisdom is at work. As we seek balance in our own lives, we also seek balance for the environment around us.

Indiana's Dirty Little Secret

Last week, while teaching my Introduction to Business class, the subject of logging on public forests came up for discussion. "But these lands are supposed to be protected!" Yes, I answered. Most of the students were appalled to find that logging is allowed on state forestlands by those put in charge of protecting them. But the fact that they are regularly sold to commercial loggers is one of Indiana's dirtiest little secrets.

Now, in a brazen move that stands to even further erode the public's trust, Governor Mitch Daniels, DNR Director Kyle Hupfer and State Forester Jack Seifert announced plans to increase logging by nearly 500 percent on state forestlands. The reason? For the dubious purpose of raising state revenue.

While raising money for our fiscally ailing state government is a worthy goal, cutting down our public forests is not the way to do it. Other communities, including New York City, long ago realized that the costs of cutting down state forestlands far outweighed any perceived financial benefits. Unsustainable logging puts at risk much needed public services like drinking water purification and flood control, and it cuts down on nature-based tourism. Finally, in the whole scheme of things, is an additional \$3-\$5 million a year, compared to the billions in our annual state budget, really worth destroying our most valuable public assets?

What about our Man Mitch? Although his plan acknowledges that Indiana's standing state forests are important inputs to our economy by saying, "there is no better protector of Indiana's watersheds," the Governor still plans to cut them down.

What New York City and other municipalities found is that the revenues from increased logging on public lands are ultimately outweighed by the enormous costs that they incur.

For example, increased logging on public lands will cost taxpayers in the form of more expenses for water purification plants, an increase in water runoff into our communities and a burden to our sewage treatment facilities, loss of biodiversity, and loss of tourism dollars. In other words, we lose twice: the public trees and all the amenities and services they provide for us, and the tax dollars.

"We lose twice: the public trees and all the amenities and services they provide for us, and the tax dollars."

Can this Man Mitch be serious? As a fiscal conservative he should certainly know better. Governor Daniels should take the example of his colleague Jim Leach (R-Iowa), one of the co-sponsors of the National Forest Protection Act, who has supported plans to end commercial logging on national forests. The reason? Just about every forest in the National Forest System loses money from logging operations.

Then what is going on? Can the few private interests who stand to benefit from this plan have Mitch's ear more than the multitude of taxpayers who have, for all the reasons outlined above, repeatedly asked for more protection for public forestlands, not less? And why, in a move



that rivals that of the I-69 debacle introduced by the last administration, have the Governor and the DNR managers made this decision without allowing any public input?

All Hoosiers should be alarmed and ready to stop these new plans for increased logging in the Indiana's State Forests: hunters who care about wildlife habitat, businesses who depend on tourism dollars, parents who want their children to have fresh water to drink and air to breathe, and finally, taxpayers who are tired of being swindled.



Karyn Moskowitz is a partner in the Bloomington-based GreenFire Consulting Group, Inc., working to integrate environmental, economic and social concerns. Karyn is also an Adjunct Faculty in Business at Ivy Tech Community College and works with Protect Our Woods. She can be reached at karyn@greenfireconsulting.com.

Hello to all Friends of the Forest,

Did you know our newsletter is printed on 100% post consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper? That mean it's **actually recycled paper**, unlike most of the "recycled" paper out there! PCW paper costs a bit more, but we think it's worth it. It's not like we've got extra money to throw around, far from it! But we simply have to do what's best for the forests.

Speaking of forests and plants and other green things...as unabashed tree huggers, it's easy for us to concentrate on doing everything we possibly can to stop the destruction of the forests, and not think about other things like raising money to pay for legal fees and newsletters! But guess what? The green stuff-- as in dinero, moola, coin, cashola -- comes in pretty handy when it comes to protecting other green things, like forests and plants. We realize not everyone can come to meetings and volunteer time, but you can do **A LOT** to protect the forests right at home. If you're already an IFA member, thank you (and please consider an additional donation)! If you're not a member, **please join IFA today! It's easy.** Just fill out the form below and mail it in. Be sure to include some of the green...for the sake of all green things!

YOUR SUPPORT TRULY MAKES A DIFFERENCE! Thanks again,

The IFA Green Team

Support the Indiana Forest Alliance!

The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance is mailed to over 300 people and businesses throughout Indiana who are concerned about their public forests. We need your support to continue our efforts in the fight for our state's beautiful forests.

We must be a voice for the forests and help stop commercial logging on public lands. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you.

IFA Wish List

100% PCW recycled white & colored paper (8.5 x 11)
CD drive/burner & CDRWs
1 month DSL service—\$32
1 month rent—\$200
1 year non-profit bulk mail permit—\$75
Answering machine
* We are also planning on holding a silent auction, so we are in great need of any items that can be auctioned (art work, antiques, etc.)

Yes! I want to help with the efforts of the Indiana Forest Alliance. I am able to subscribe at the annual membership level of:

\$25 Name _____
 \$50 Address _____
 \$100 _____
 \$_____ Phone _____
Email _____

I would like to receive no mailings.

Stop Logging Yellowwood! and Stop Logging Indiana State Forests! bumper stickers free with any donation amount.

Get your IFA t-shirt:

Short Sleeve \$10 XL_____ M_____

Winter Special: Free t-shirt for donations of \$50 or more!



Get Active!

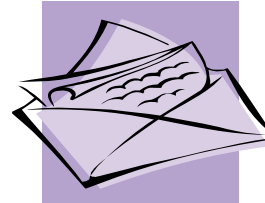


Volunteer Opportunities

- Attend the next IFA meeting – February 6th and 20th at 6pm in the Monroe County Public Library, Room 1B. We meet the first and third Monday of each month at the MCPL.
- Come on a hike – IFA leads state forest hikes on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1pm. We will meet at Bloomingfoods East on Third Street at 12:30 to carpool.
- Join an IFA committee:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Timber Sale Monitors (all state forests) | Legal/Science Research Team |
| Fundraising | Coalition Building |
| Publicity/Media | Newsletter & Website Content |
- Help plan an IFA benefit or event. Musicians and entertainers are needed also.
- Membership/Fundraising developer
- Monthly hike/Adopt-A-Trail coordinator

* Email anmann@indiana.edu or ifa@kiva.net *



Write a Letter!

Please take action to send the message that we want to stop commercial logging and protect the health of our state forests, which already constitute less than 1% of Indiana's land. Write a letter to Governor Mitch Daniels, DNR Director Kyle Hupfer, or State Forester Jack Seifert today!

We believe that the DNR should:

- § Fully comply with the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (IEPA) by performing site-specific Environmental Impact Statements with public input before each timber sale.
- § Complete comprehensive wildlife surveys in each of the state forests to better gauge the impact of logging on endangered species and wildlife habitat.
- § Create management plans for each state forest with public input.
- § Strengthen Best Management Practices (BMPs) to better protect steep slopes and soil erosion, and uniformly enforce BMP compliance.
- § Comply with the Endangered Species Act.

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However you can help protect Indiana's public forests – Do it! **GET INVOLVED TODAY!**
Visit www.indianaforestalliance.org to join INforestnews, the IFA email alerts list.



New State Forest Plan Undermines Bird Conservation Efforts

The new management plan for Indiana State Forests will have a major impact on forest conditions in Indiana. A large part of the Daniels administration justification for increasing timber harvest by up to 500% is that it is necessary to improve the health and welfare of forest wildlife in the state. The forest plan includes an associated white paper which focuses on wildlife health (particularly bird species) in our state forests and, on the surface, seems to promote more intensive logging and more even-aged (clear-cut) timbering as a necessary step toward increasing the diversity of bird life. In reality, these recommendations by the State Biologists do not agree with the stated bird conservation goals of the largest bird conservation bodies in North America.

Major initiatives to help the declining populations of North American bird species have been introduced in the last 10-15 years. Among those initiatives, perhaps the largest and most important is Partners In Flight. This is a working group of biologists and land managers that has created integrated and comprehensive conservation methods and goals for all identified physiographic areas of North America. Partners In Flight is sponsored and supported by federal and state government agencies (including the IDNR) and industry groups, as well as, environmental and conservation groups like National Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy.

In 2000, Partners In Flight issued a comprehensive conservation plan for the area known as the Interior Low Plateaus. (The Partner's In Flight Bird Conservation Report for The Interior Low Plateaus is available in electronic form at http://www.blm.gov/wildlife/pl_14sum.htm). This area includes most of southern Indiana and nearly all of Indiana's State Forest land. The

recommendations for southern Indiana focuses almost entirely on helping populations of neo-tropical migratory birds that need large tracts of mature, unfragmented, closed canopy forest to breed and increase their declining numbers. Among these species are the Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush and Wood Thrush. According to this report, "Forest bird species within the Interior Low Plateaus cannot be considered secure without an increase in both mature hardwood forest acreage and the average forest patch size."

The report recommends that 30 areas of unfragmented, hardwood forest sites of a minimum of 7,500 acres be maintained north of the Ohio river in Indiana and Illinois. The report goes on to say, "In the Interior Low Plateaus, the highest forest acreage remains in the Western Highland Rim and the Shawnee Hills. Although the Shawnee Hills subdivision is heavily forested in Illinois and Indiana, these forests are highly fragmented and may be at the threshold of no longer supporting source populations for most vulnerable mature forest species." It is clear that a 300-500% increase in timbering will result in the shrinkage and further fragmentation of these critical stands of mature forest regardless of harvesting techniques.

Unlike the Partners In Flight conservation recommendations, the wildlife report issued in conjunction with the State Forest Plan suggests that management of forest properties be shifted to scrubland and early-successional bird species. Several studies are cited as justification for this shift. It should be noted that these studies have generally focused on game bird species such as the Ruffed Grouse. Most of which are maintaining their numbers in other parts of their range, or are associated with trends for the north-

eastern U.S. where heavy regeneration of forests has significantly reduced early-successional and scrub habitat.

Even if, as the wildlife report claims, a shift to even-aged and mixed logging approach could increase habitat types on State Forest land, there is no way that this approach can work with a simultaneous increase in total logging of 4 to 5 times the current levels. Perhaps in recognition of this possibility, the report also admits that "restoration (of younger forest habitat types) should not be at the expense of developing future old-growth conditions in many areas where mid-successional stands now dominate."

It is true that many bird species across the broad range of habitat associations are experiencing declines (grassland birds, boreal birds, etc). It is not appropriate, however, to manage for all of these species on our state's hardwood forest land, particularly when some of the most highly threatened species such as the Cerulean Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler are in critical need of the identified stands of mature forest that already exist or are in the process of growing on our State Forest properties. Management of our State Forests must take the larger picture of North American bird health and diversity into account. A plan to increase species diversity cannot succeed at the expense of eliminating the critical, quality habitat of our state's mature hardwood forest stands which are crucial to some of the most threatened bird species in North America.



Mike Clarke has many interests including wildlife, natural history, birding, and bird conservation. Mike has been on the Sassafras Audubon Board of Directors for three years and can be reached at [miclarke@bloomington.in.us](mailto:miclark@bloomington.in.us).

Flawed Plan

The recently released IDNR, DIVISION OF FORESTRY, STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-07 (the Plan) proposes to dramatically increase both the number and the size of clearcuts in the State Forests; to increase by 400% the total volume of timber cut, from 3.4 million board feet to 17 million board feet; to eliminate the practice of conducting best management practices audits after every timber sale; and, for so-called salvage sales, to eliminate competitive bidding in the awarding of logging contracts.

It further proposes logging the watersheds around reservoirs that provide drinking water for large numbers of Hoosiers; this despite the fact that the Plan acknowledges on page 2 that, “water is indisputably cleaner where forest cover protects watersheds.” In addition, the new Plan proposes to eliminate DNR forestry consultations for more than half of all private woodland owners, even as it acknowledges that, “Elimination of services will reduce the management undertaken... and place these tracts at increased risk.” (p.3)

No Assessment of Harm
Sadly, no serious attempt was made to assess the potential harms associated with the dramatic increase in logging, the road building, and other disturbances required to implement this substantial departure from past practice. The Plan’s evaluation of potential negative “Environmental/Social Impacts,” is contained in two brief sentences: “Some environmental groups will view an increase in state

forest timber sales as a negative environmental impact,” and, “The negative aspect of increasing state forest timber sales will be the increased presence of timber harvesting activities and short-term reduction in aesthetics of harvested areas.” (p.13) That’s it. There is no mention of soil erosion, invasive exotic species, harm to water quality, destruction of habitat for wildlife, impacts on endangered species, or other readily anticipatable effects of a fivefold increase in state forest logging.

Public Excluded

As bad as the Strategic Plan’s pro

“It is important to remember that public forests do not belong to the government but to the people...”

visions are, worse still is the fact that it was prepared in just three weeks without any attempt to involve the public. Instead, select groups with a vested interest in State Forest management were invited to closed-door meetings to help draft the plan. This suggests a disdain for democratic process and a disregard for the first rule of forest management which is that the forest manager should first seek to understand the wishes of the landowner before making any management prescription.

According to census data, 75% of our population now lives in cities and suburbs. For most Americans

and most Hoosiers, the public forests are the only forests they will ever own. A recent study by researchers from Purdue University’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources found that, 55.9% of respondents oppose logging on public land. This is consistent with other polls from Indiana and elsewhere showing three out of four respondents supporting an end to commercial logging in public forests altogether. Polling data further suggest that the desire for greater protection for public forests is the majority opinion not just in cities and suburbs, but in rural and forested areas as well.

Missed Opportunity

The real shame here is not the harmful provisions of the Plan, or the undemocratic way in which it was prepared, but in the missed opportunity it represents. There is an emerging consensus among those concerned about the well being of forests in the Hoosier state that the greatest threat to Indiana’s forests comes from forest conversion, development and fragmentation, including new home, business and road construction. That is why timber industry representatives have joined the overwhelming majority of Hoosiers in opposing the new terrain I69 highway proposal.

There is also widespread agreement that the State must do more to protect forests on private land which represent 85% of forest acreage and provide 95% of the wood used by the timber industry.

There is more than enough land

Flawed Plan (continued)

and timber in private ownership to supply the needs of our state's important timber industry, and with management assistance most private land could produce both higher quality and greater quantities of timber, which would result in increased income for private woodland owners. Sadly, provisions in the Plan for better management for the State's private forests are overshadowed by the highly unpopular and controversial proposal to dramatically increase logging in the State Forests.

Involve the Public

The Division of Forestry and the Department of Natural Resources should involve the public in an open and inclusive conversation about how to move forward on a forest protection agenda that includes greater assistance to private woodland owners, additional acquisition of public land, and funding for research, that would enjoy substantial public support. Instead, they have put forward a proposal that has already engendered divisiveness and controversy and squandered the opportunity to seek consensus on those areas of substantial agreement.

Protect Public Forests

The state's public forests should be managed to supply the public benefits not readily available from private land, including watershed protection, habitat for forest wildlife, recreation and other non-destructive public uses.

It is important to remember that public forests do not belong to the government but to the people, and people have a right to expect that their wishes will be taken into consideration in developing a management plan for public land.



Andy Mahler has been involved in forest protection efforts in Indiana for twenty years and has been active with Heartwood, Indiana Forest Alliance, and Protect Our Woods. Andy lives in Paoli, Indiana, adjacent to the Hoosier National Forest, and can be reached at 812.723.2430 or by email at andy@blueriver.net.

Season After Season

Season after season
Sitting upon my porch
Watching these scenes pass before me
Steward to this measured plot
Cut by alleyway and picket fence
I watch my Urban Oasis
Defend her wild grasses growing tall beneath
adolescent tree lines
And pray that it may flourish

Sitting in the Spring
I'm excited by the sight of early buds
Those of Tulip and Apple - Tiny pink torches
A reminder of seasonal love

Blossoming with the warmth, fading come fall
In how many days I've walked beneath her
blooms
Deeply breathing musky, sweet scents
Lifted by the promise of a return to warmth
Hope renewed

Celebrated in the heat of summer
Roaming forgotten railways
Overcome by Honeysuckle & Russian Olive
I secretly smile at how sweetly they strangle
out adversaries
Indiana's Forest Land infiltrating
Where whispering winds hold silent the setting
sun

Here too I've felt the bittersweet chill of Au-
tumn's descent
Seen Falls fierce winds ripping these limbs
bare
Reds & yellows spiraling down as if in a dance
Marking each leaf's fall from grace
Rebirth resembling death

Only long limbs etched in white remain
Against Winter's star studded skies
Moon goddess casting an eerie glow
On all that passes beneath her shadow

unknown to the fool who walks with eyes cast
down
My Urban Oasis remains solely my own
Her details held in unmentioned memories
Like a love affair ending too soon
As I realize that this measured plot shall re-
main
Long after I've moved on
And only time will tell of measured change
Or a return to greatness

Indiana Forests

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To find upcoming events and much more, visit our website:
www.indianaforestalliance.org

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself."
- Edward Abbey

Help Save Paper!

Are you tired of junk mail? Reduce paper waste while removing yourself from mailing lists. Send the form below to The DMA Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.

| |
|---|
| Name: _____ |
| Address: _____ |
| City: _____ |
| State: _____ |
| Please remove me from mailing lists. Thank you. |
| Signature _____ |
| Date: _____ |