



Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association **opposes SB 63**, which would establish a state forest commission and management plan:

- There is already a State Forest Action Plan with a comprehensive planning process and broader stakeholder and public input. The current process allows for every forestry, conservation, recreation, and sportsmen's organization to participate, rather than a selection of thirteen individuals.
- A comprehensive planning process that considers the balance of recreation, management, and wildlife habitat should consider the threats and needs of all DNR lands, not just Division of Forestry acreage. Natural resources issues occur statewide and planning for all public lands will ensure healthy and sustainable habitats.
- Natural resources planning should rely on science-based management and the experience of resource professionals. A majority of the members of this commission should be degreed forestry or wildlife professionals.

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association **supports SB 99**, which would create a study committee on invasive species:

- Invasive species is a top concern of woodland owners, affecting the economics and ecology of private and public lands statewide.
- No state agency has the statutory authority and there is currently no state funding to address invasive species issues.
- Invasive species impacts are expected to increase exponentially.

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association **opposes SB 104**, which would designate 13 wild areas on certain state forests:

- Indiana already has over 60% of public forests protected. Most of the 377,484 acres of forests under DNR ownership are off limits to timber management. These acres provide what SB 104 requests: "few permanent improvements or human habitations, the landscape is relatively natural, and the imprint of human activity is not predominant" and "opportunities for solitude or recreation."
- The acreages and boundaries of the specific wild areas are arbitrary, determined without consulting wildlife or forestry professionals, and without appropriate considerations for wildlife and other resource needs.

Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association (IFWOA) advocates for responsible forest conservation. We represent the almost 5 million acres of forest in Indiana, over 4 million acres privately owned.

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