

IDNR Forestry -Cooperative Forest Management Programs

2007 Program Highlights

Indiana's 3.8 million acres of privately owned forests account for 86% of all Indiana forestland. Private forests and their 150,000+ owners supply the vast majority of the timber and raw material used by Indiana's hardwood industries to produce the forest products and wood economy enjoyed by all Hoosiers. These forests also provide the primary habitat to many wildlife species and serve vital ecological functions to mitigate air and water pollution.

To promote forest sustainability, the Division of Forestry administers forest landowner assistance and incentive programs through its Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Program. The CFM Program also provides professional forestry services to a variety of other State landholding agencies.

The summary below highlights 2007 program activities.

Forest Landowner Assistance

The Division of Forestry's Cooperative Forest Management Program employs 24 degreeed, foresters and natural resource professionals, and a handful of foresters in training, to work with private landowners on a daily basis to improve the management on Indiana's 3.8 million acres of private, and family owned forestlands. As a public service, they advise landowners on techniques to insure long-term health and productivity of this important natural resource. They provide guidance on forests restoration plantings, timber stand improvement, cost share programs, timber harvesting and sales and a variety of other forest management topics. They also administer Classified Forest & Wildlands conservation agreements at a county level.

In 2007 these men and women covered an amazing 155,068 acres assisting 3,137 forest landowners. Below is a summary of the assistance provided during the year:

Activity	Number	Acres assisted
Landowners assisted	3,137	155,068
Management & restoration plans developed	2,323	189,864
Restoration Tree Plantings	188	3,030
Forest Improvement Projects	247	9,706
Timber sales coordinated	13	607 acres (w/1.3 million board feet)
Brief professional consultations	8,951	-
New Classified Forest & Wildlands enrolled	407	15,806
Outreach programs conducted	206	21,000+ attending

Forest Management Advice

The Division's professional forestry field staff provides Forest management and restoration guidance. In 2007 our 22 District Foresters and Assistant District Foresters and 6 seasonal assistants worked with 3,137 landowners to develop long range forest management plans and short-term restoration plans covering nearly 190,000 acres. These plans are tailored to landowner resource goals and the natural capabilities of their forests.

Forest Restoration Projects

CFM provided technical guidance to complete forest conservation projects on 12,736 acres, including the restoration and planting of new forests on 3,030 acres, and improvement of 9,706 acres of existing native forest. These project often received funding from the: Indiana Woodland Restoration Program, US Forest Service's Forestland Enhancement Program and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Conservation Reserve Program.

- **The Indiana Woodland Restoration Program (IWRP)** promotes the state's hardwood economy by aiding private landowners to plant new forest and improve the health of those already standing. Timber sales on State Forest Lands provide funding for the program. IWRP offers private landowners financial incentives through cost share grants to encourage forest management practices in their forestlands and related areas. Projects funded in 2007:

IWRP Restoration Activity	Funding	Acres	# of Projects
Tree Planting for Forest Restoration	\$10,125.00	42.50	5
Follow Up Weed Control	\$2,520.00	84.00	3
Timber Stand Improvement	\$166,791.70	5,621.97	88
Forest Health & Protection	\$3,271.25	489.0 (rods)	1
Invasive Plant Species Control	\$9,899.00	124.00	3
Totals	\$192,606.95	6,361.47	100

- **The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)** encourages active management by private landowners of their forested lands and related resources. FLEP provides federal cost share funding to promote forestry practices to establish, restore, protect, manage, maintain, and enhance the health and productivities of private forest lands.

IWRP Restoration Activity	Funding	Acres	# of Projects
Tree Planting for Forest Restoration	\$8,937.73	37.00	4
Timber Stand Improvement	\$56,227.77	2,219.00	33
Water Quality & Watershed Protection	\$2,715.20	219.00	4
Forest Health & Protection	\$2,978.42	470.00	2
Invasive Plant Species Control	\$23,963.17	548.00	20
Totals	\$94,822.29	3493.00	63

Timber Marketing

- Properly planned, marked and executed timber harvests are extremely important to the sustainability of Indiana's forests. Landowner requests for timber sale assistance is one of the most common requests received by District Foresters. The Division offers limited service in this area, preferring to provide technical guidance and steering landowners to private sector professional foresters for this work. In 2007 District Foresters coordinated 13 timber sales on 607 acres containing 1,334,000 board feet, with an estimated value near \$1/2 million.

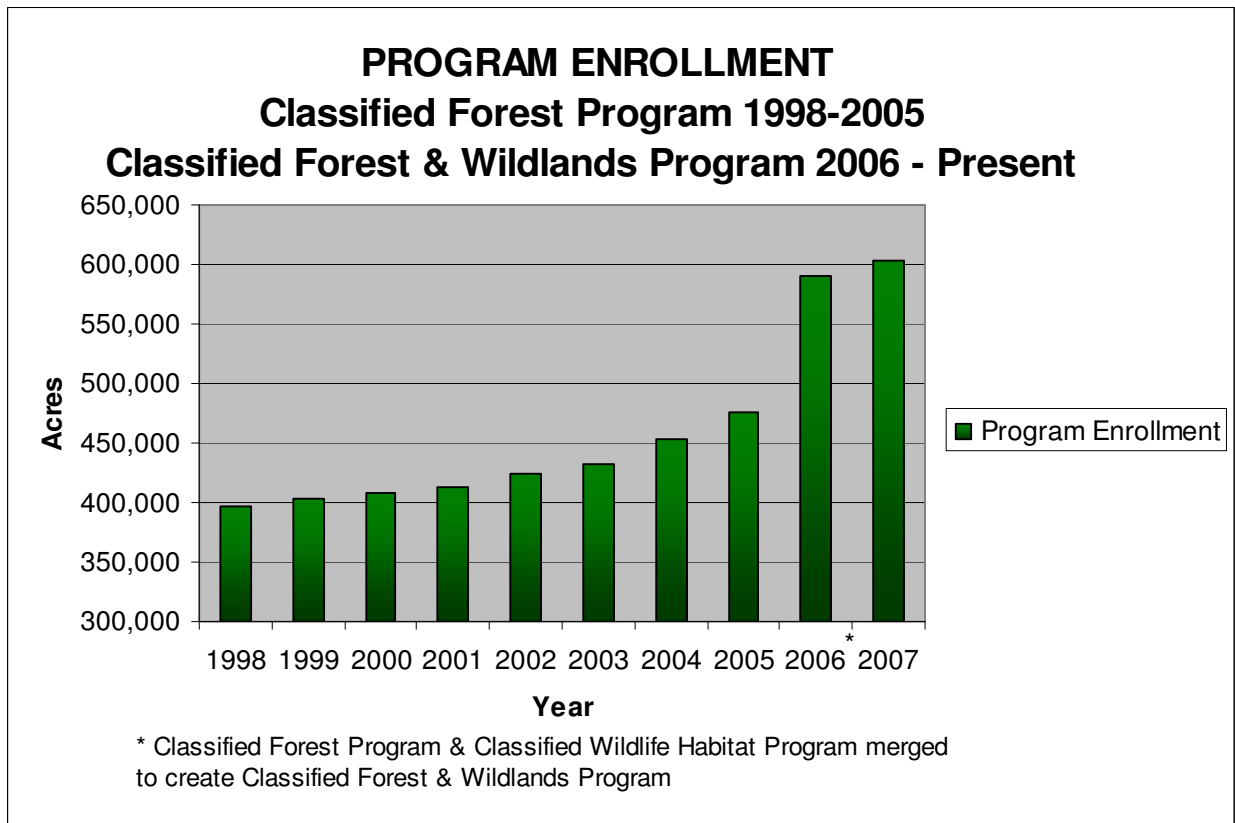
Forest Health Advice

- The health of Indiana's forest is threatened by the constant onslaught of insects, diseases and invasive species. The CFM program provided 279 forest health assists on 1,103 acres in 2007. Of common request was assistance to identify and advise owners on how to manage the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which has he long term

potential to change forest composition on a scale unseen since the Chestnut Blight of the early 1900's.

Classified Forest & Wildlands Conservation Agreements

- The Classified Forest & Wildlands (CFW) program is one of the longest standing and most successful forestland conservation programs in the country. The CFW program provides property tax incentives to landowners in return for a written, long-term commitment to retain their forests and to follow established forest management guidelines.
- In early 2007, the CFW program implemented its "Group Certification" awarded by the American Tree Farm System as meeting a comprehensive set of forest sustainability standards. This certification allows participating forest owners to enter the world market of 'green certified forest products'.
- At the end of 2007, enrollment reached 602,739 acres with 12,407 landowner participants (a net gain of 12,644 acres). The pace of new enrollment was down 35% from the past year. This is primarily attributed to newly increased penalties to withdraw from the program and uncertainty of property tax reform.



Forest Legacy

- In 2007 the *Forest Legacy* program protected a 1,362 acre tract on the Western edge of Lawrence County in partnership with Danzer Forestlands, DNR and the US Forest Service. The Danzer farm adjoins 960 acres of additional protected lands surrounding the beautiful and meandering Indian Creek. This public-private partnership helps keep working forests on the landscape and permanently protects important forests from development and conversion to non-forest uses. These lands will remain in private ownership, on the property tax roles and available for continued traditional forest uses. Resource management on these areas is guided by a written forest management plan.

Outreach

- Organized events and group presentations allow the Division of Forestry to deliver forest resource and management information in an efficient manner to focused audiences. In 2007 the private landowner assistance program participated in 267 outreach events reaching approximately 21,139 people.
- *Demonstration Forests* have been established at 22 locations in 21 Counties in a unique partnership with Indiana's premier private forest landowners. Eleven events were held at these locations to demonstrate forest stewardship and active management to neighbors, fellow forest owners, school groups and the general public.

Requests Served and Private Sector Promotion

- The Cooperative Forest Management program fulfilled 3,137 landowner requests for technical assistance covering 155,068 acres.
- An additional 8,951 brief professional consultations were provided to landowners and the public through phone calls, office appointments and similar requests.
- These services yielded 1,483 referrals to private sector forestry businesses and natural resource partners for services not fully available from the Division of Forestry (e.g. timber sale assistance, reforestation planting)

Saving Taxpayer Money and Improving Service

In 2007 three Forestry field offices were relocated to nearby State facilities or leases renegotiated saving approximately \$19,000 annually for the taxpayers of Indiana.

Ongoing customer satisfaction surveys continue to provide valuable feedback on just how good of job we are doing and where improvement is needed.

Overall Satisfaction With Service Provided						
	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	
Professionalism	85%	14%	<1%*	<1%*		
Promptness	81%	17%	2%	<1%*	<1%*	
Knowledgeable	86%	13%	<1%*	<1%*		
Usefulness	79%	19%	1%	1%		
Overall Service	83%	16%	1%	<1%*		
* represents a single landowner						
Likelihood of Using These Services Again					89% Very Likely	
Or Recommending Them to Other Landowners					10% Somewhat Likely	

To request private landowner assistance from the Division of Forestry contact your local District Forester or, contact the Division of Forestry state office at 317-232-4105. You can also find us at www.in.gov/dnr/forestry