

# Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry

## **State Forest Certification High Conservation Value Forests**

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) provides for the designation of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs). These are forest areas that receive added consideration of management activities in order to maintain or enhance conservation value attributes. These attributes may be of biological, ecological, or cultural significance. General information about HCVFs is available of the FSC web site.

Beginning in 2007, the Division of Forestry (DoF) designated 15 areas containing a total of 1,926.4 acres as HCVFs. All of these initial areas were dedicated Nature Preserves. Dedicated Nature Preserves are a logical choice for designation at HCVFs since the attributes that make them Nature Preserve quality are the same biological or ecological attributes sought for HCVFs. In 2010 the Division of Forestry added 2 additional areas for a current total of 2,427.1 acres in HCVFs. The Division of Nature Preserves web page ([dnr.in.gov](http://dnr.in.gov)) provides additional information on Dedicated Nature Preserves.

Under FSC standards, designation of areas as HCVFs does not preclude management activities. Management of HCVFs will be directed toward maintenance or enhancement of the condition for which the HCVF was designated.

Primary management responsibility of HCVFs that are also Dedicated Nature Preserves will be with the Division of Nature Preserves due to their expertise with botanical and ecological resources. DoF will have secondary management responsibility and will provide support and resources when possible. These are most likely to be HCV1, HCV2 and HCV3 type HCVFs (though not all HCV1, HCV2 and HCV3 areas will be Dedicated Nature Preserves).

Primary management responsibility of all other HCVFs will fall to DoF. This will include all 6 of the HCVFs types.

### **DESIGNATION OF HCVFs**

While DoF will continue to nominate Dedicated Nature Preserves as designated HCVFs, it will also consider nominations of areas for HCVFs from interested, knowledgeable individuals. Below is the process for nominating, reviewing and designating HCVFs.

#### ***Nomination***

Dedicated Nature Preserves will be nominated by DoF. The nomination process will consist of posting the Nature Preserve on the DoF website for public comment on the nomination as a HCVF.

Individuals may nominate areas for HCVF designation by sending a letter to **Brenda Huter, Certification Coordinator, Indiana Division of Forestry, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W296, Indianapolis, IN 46204; [bhuter@dnr.in.gov](mailto:bhuter@dnr.in.gov) ; 317-232-4105.** This letter should include location information of the proposed area – State Forest name,

legal description by Section, Township and Range, and County. It should also include a map of the proposed area that also includes identifiable landmarks for reference (roads, intersections, rivers/lakes). Also provided should be a brief description from the nominator of the important attributes of the proposed area that make it worthy of consideration for a HCVF. Nominators must provide contact information – name, address, phone number and email address – so DoF can contact them to gather more information or to clarify nominations.

### ***Public Comment***

Nominated areas will be placed on the DoF website for public comment for a minimum of 30 days. Comments should be specific to the area and, in particular, should contain information on the attributes of the area in terms of the criteria for the HCVF types. Comments will be reviewed by a designated review team.

In addition, as part of the Nature Preserve dedication process, proposed nature preserves go before a public meeting of the Natural Resources Commission where public comments are taken about proposals.

### ***Review Process***

A review process for a nomination will last up to 6 months, and will involve a team from DoF, and possibly other knowledgeable persons if needed. DoF may add experts with pertinent expertise to the review team depending on the nature of the criteria to be considered. These may be people from sister agencies or outside state government.

Members of the review team will perform an onsite visit of the nominated area. They will evaluate the nominated area against the criteria it is being nominated for, and in the context of other examples of the same type to determine if it warrants HCVF designation. They will review public comments, particularly in terms of gathering additional information on attributes of the nominated area.

### ***Designation Decision***

The review team will present the nomination and the results of its review to the State Forester. They will provide a recommendation regarding designation to the State Forester. The State Forester will have up to 60 days to make a final decision. He will give his decision to the review team.

Members of the review team will then post the designation decision of the DoF website along with a summary of comments received and a response to the comments.

For designated HCVFs, members of the review team will create a management strategy regarding the maintenance or enhancement of the attributes of the HCVFs, and monitoring of the areas. In the case of Dedicated Nature Preserves, the Master Plan for the Nature Preserve serves this function.

## DESIGNATED HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

### **Clark State Forest**

***White Oak Nature Preserve***                      HCV2                      143.1 acres

white oak/mixed oak and hickory forest

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – control of noxious weeds, minimal disturbance and development.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves (DNP) and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

***Virginia Pine-Chestnut Oak Nature Preserve***                      HCV2                      23.6 acres

Native Virginia pine and chestnut oak forest

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – control of noxious weeds, minimal disturbance and development.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

***Alum Cave Hollow Nature Preserve***                      HCV2                      142 acres

Siltstone cliffs, mesic, dry-mesic, and dry upland forests with native Virginia pine forest

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – control of noxious weeds, minimal disturbance and development.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

### **Harrison-Crawford State Forest**

***Post Oak - Cedar Nature Preserve***                      HCV1 & HCV2                      266 acres

Dry upland forest, mesic upland forest; glades; rare plants

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; control of noxious weeds, minimal disturbance and development.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

***Scout Mountain Nature Preserve***                      HCV1                      40 acres

Mixed mesophytic forest with beech maple and oak-hickory types; cave – *Myotis sodalis hibernacula*

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development. Construction of barriers to limit cave access is prescribed.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

***Leavenworth Barrens Nature Preserve*** HCV1 & HCV2 761.3 acres  
Dry upland forest, mesic upland forest; glades; barrens; rare plants  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Bat Wing Cave Nature Preserve*** HCV1 10 acres  
Cave – *Myotis sodalis hibernacula*  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development. Construction of barriers to limit cave access is prescribed. Additional buffer zone with management limitations outside the actual preserve covers 71 acres of adjoining forest.  
Joint management by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DFW, DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Charles C. Deam Nature Preserve*** HCV1 & HCV2 258.9 acres  
Floodplain forest, talus slopes, limestone cliffs, sandstone cliffs, upland forests, rare plants and animals  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DFW, DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

**Jackson-Washington State Forest**

***Indian Bitter Nature Preserve*** HCV1 35 acres  
Dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, cucumber magnolia  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – remove competing vegetation around cucumber magnolia.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Knobstone Glades Nature Preserve*** HCV2 60 acres  
Siltstone glades; xeric, dry and dry-mesic upland forest  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

**Martin State Forest**

***Henshaw Bend Nature Preserve*** HCV2 77 acres  
High quality mesic upland forest, river bluffs  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Tank Spring Nature Preserve*** HCV2 60 acres  
Mesic upland forest, sandstone cliffs, prominent spring  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – prescribed burning; minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

**Morgan-Monroe State Forest**

***Scout Ridge Nature Preserve*** HCV2 14.5 acres  
Old growth beech maple forest  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Sweedy Hollow Nature Preserve*** HCV2 150.1 acres  
Mesic, dry-mesic and dry upland forest; mesic floodplain forest; sandstone cliff communities  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

***Low Gap Nature Preserve*** HCV2 320 acres  
Mesic, dry-mesic and dry upland forest  
Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.  
Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.  
Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.  
No known public comments received.

**Yellowwood State Forest**

***Crooked Creek Nature Preserve*** HCV1 35 acres  
Yellowwood tree; mesic and dry-mesic forest

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

***Miller Ridge Nature Preserve***

HCV1

30.6 acres

Yellowwood tree; mesic, dry-mesic and dry upland forest

Prescribed management to enhance or maintain described in Master Plan – minimal disturbance and development; control of noxious weeds.

Joint management by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DNP and DoF.

No known public comments received.

**DECLINED HCVF NOMINATIONS**

**Morgan-Monroe State Forest**

***Back Country HCVF***

No type designated

3,104 acres

Mesic, dry-mesic and dry upland forest

No management prescription provided

Management by the Division of Forestry.

Monitoring will be performed through periodic inspection by DoF.

One known public comment received it was in opposition to the designation. The comment recommended these designations originate with the DNP. The nomination was rejected. Subsequently, the Low Gap Nature Preserve was dedicated, and then designated a HCVF.