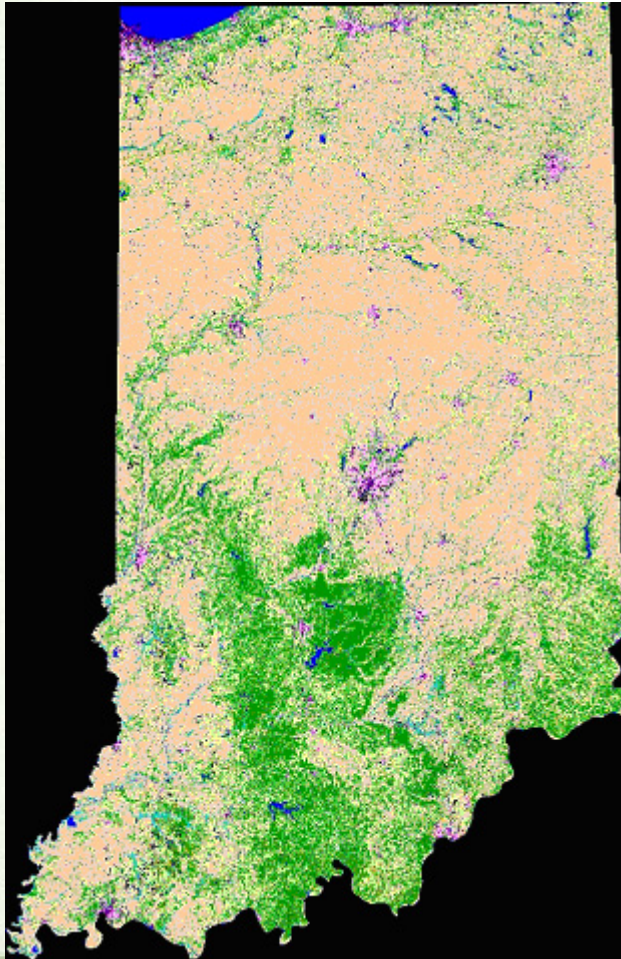


Protecting Indiana's Forests



State of our Forestlands

Indiana Land Cover Map



Change in Forest Cover

Presettlement

- 20 million acres

Today

4.75 million
acres (1,800
acres old growth)

Total Indiana land area:
23 million acres

Indiana Forests

- 4.75 million acres of forestland today
 - 4.2% increase from 2003 to 2008
 - 1.6% decline from 2007 to 2008
- 782,000 acres of public forestland
- Oak-hickory forest types are largest Indiana forest component
- About 4% of state's land area dedicated to public outdoor lands

Notable Public Forest Lands

- Hoosier National Forest
- Yellowwood, Morgan-Monroe, Clark, Harrison-Crawford, Jackson-Washington State Forests
- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge
- Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge



Why protect forests?



- Produce oxygen, capture carbon
- Protect water quality
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Provide outdoor recreation
- Provide wood products, jobs

Storing Carbon

Estimated 300 million metric tons of carbon stored in Indiana Forests

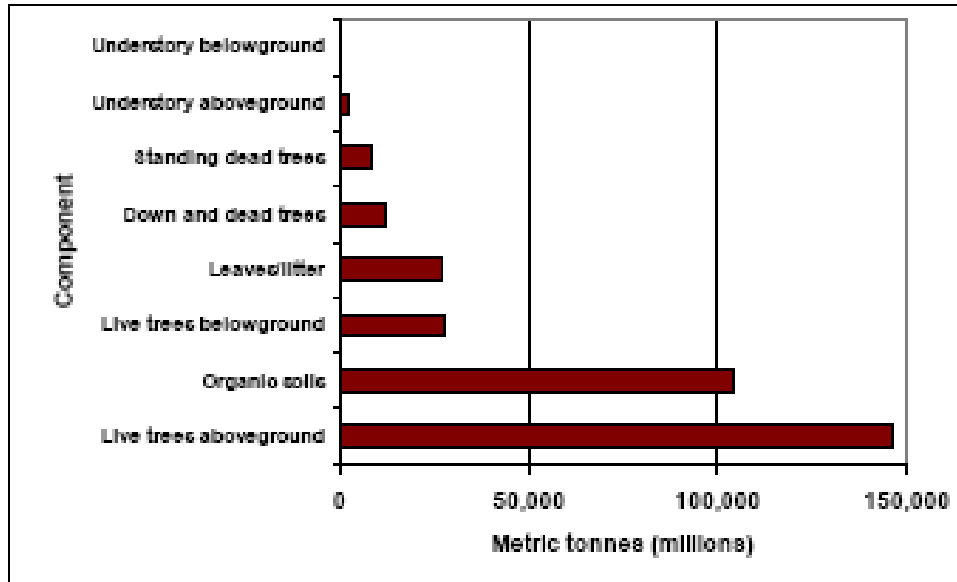


Figure 5. – Forest land carbon stocks by component, 2002-2006.

Strategies for Forest Conservation

- Conserving private forests
 - Improved stewardship
 - Protect from conversion
 - Classified wildlands program
 - Land trusts
 - Forest Legacy
 - Acquire for public forest
- Public forests
 - Emphasize ecosystem protection, outdoor recreation



Protecting unique state forest lands



- DNR plan to log 3,000 acre backcountry area at Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests backcountry area
- No logging since 1981
- Less than 2 % of total state forest area
- Valuable outdoor recreation resource and future old forest habitat

Forest Funding Needs

- Forest Landowner stewardship education
- Public forest acquisition
 - Indiana Heritage Trust



Legislative Action

- Bill to protect Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest backcountry area
- Budget Appropriations Needed
 - For 2011: Line item appropriation for Indiana Heritage Trust of at least \$2 million a year



Learn more

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