



The State of Indiana Forests 2017

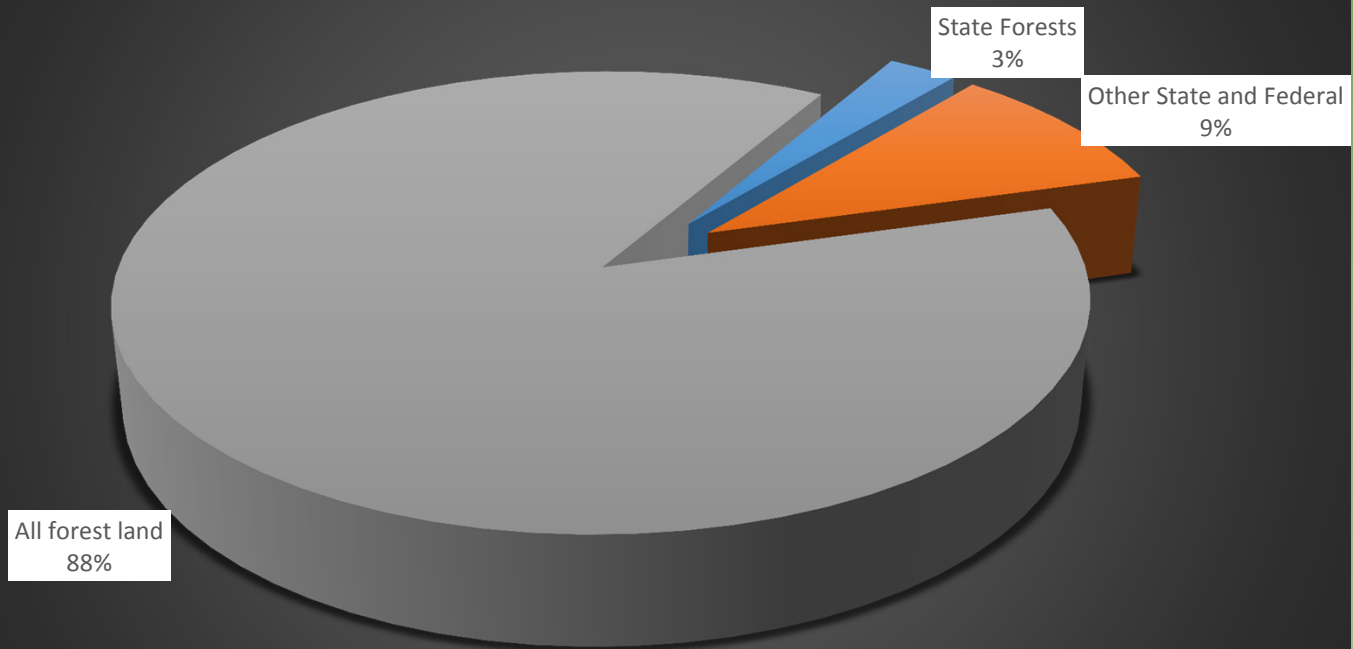
Dan Shaver, Forest Bank
Operations Manager

Allen Pursell,
Director of Forest
Conservation

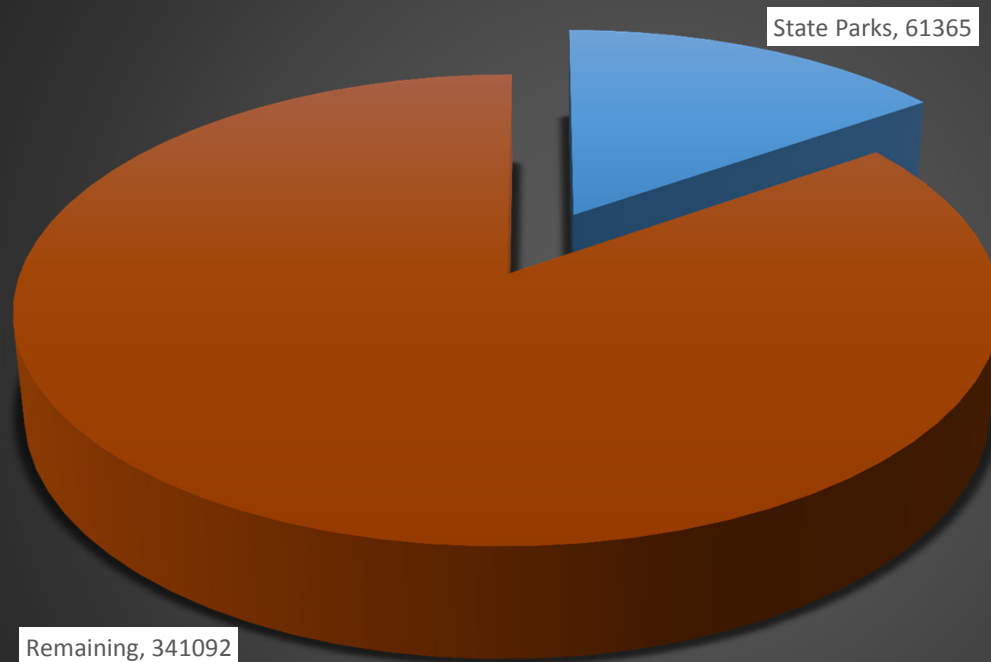
Forest Land Area in Indiana



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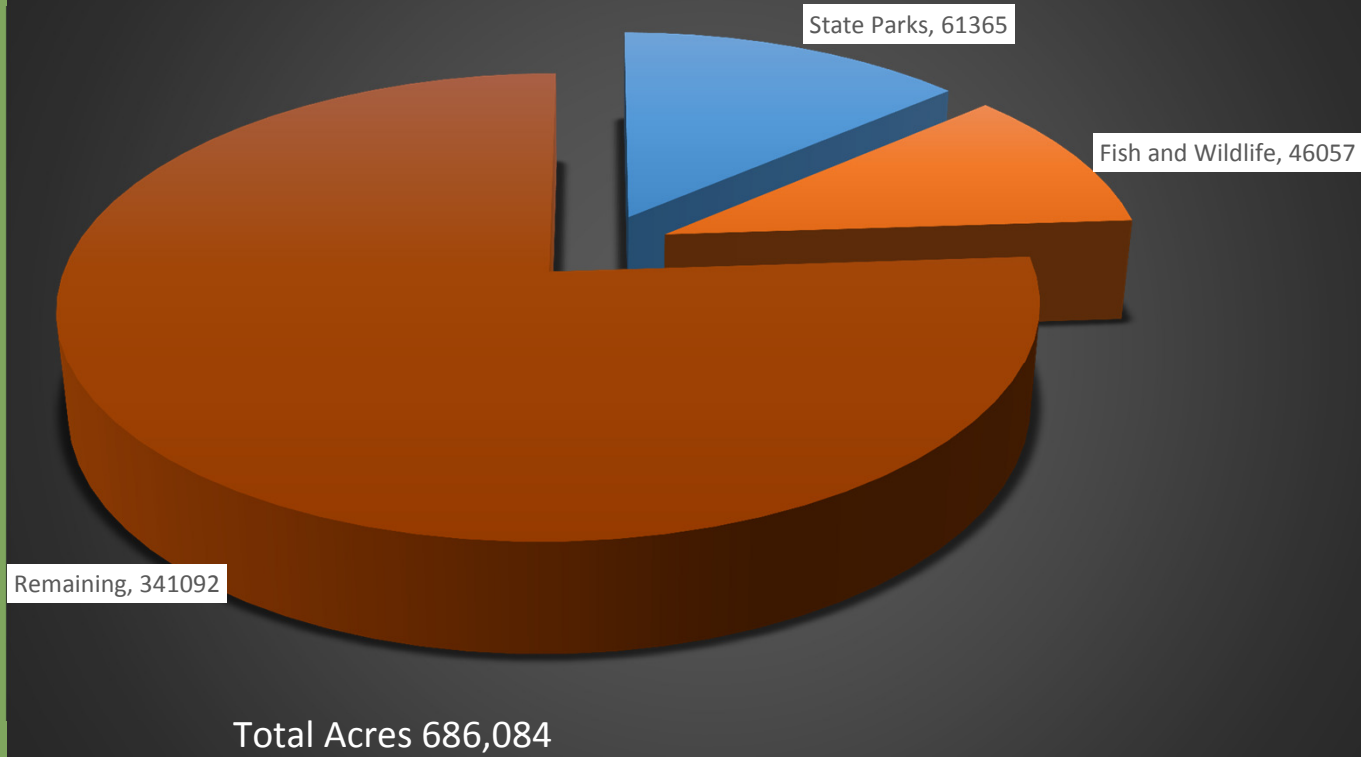


Federal and State forest lands

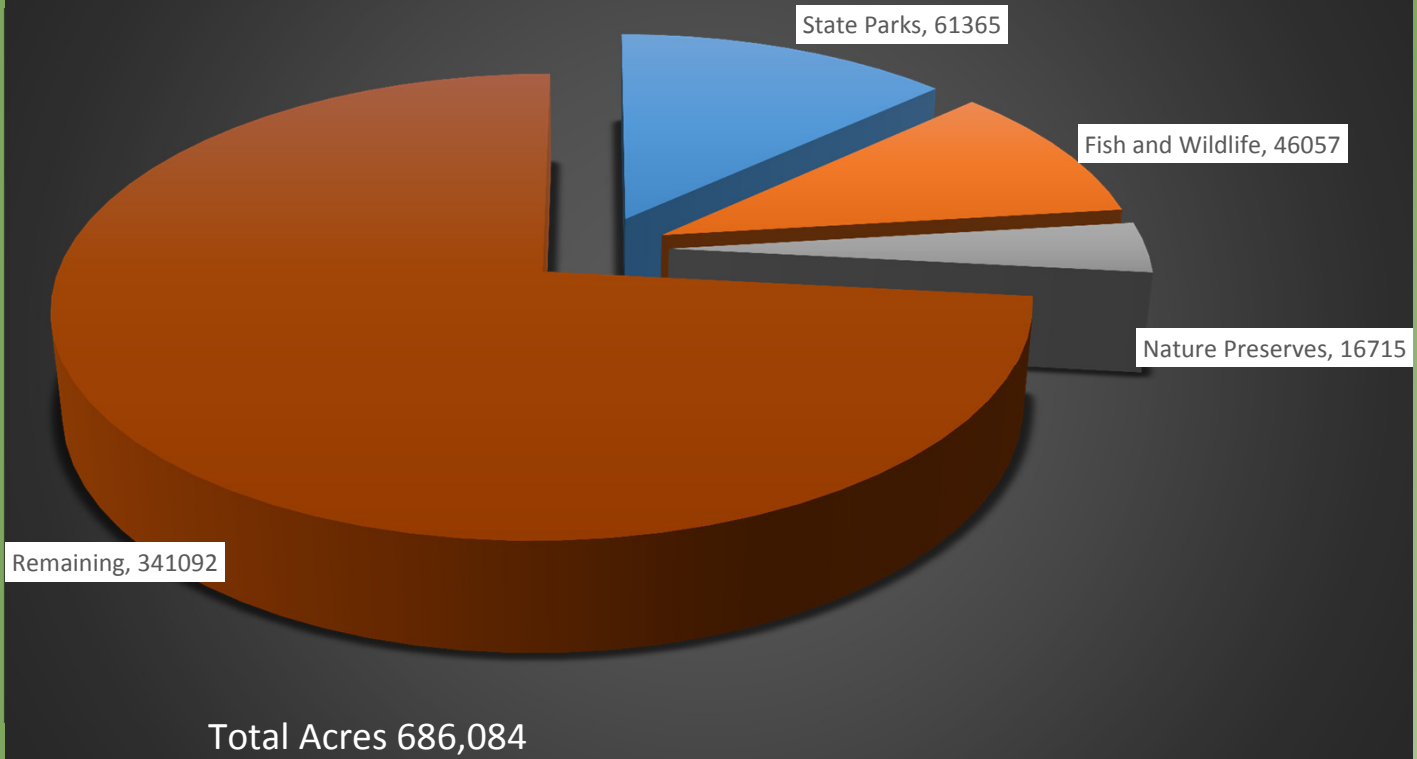


Total Acres 686,084

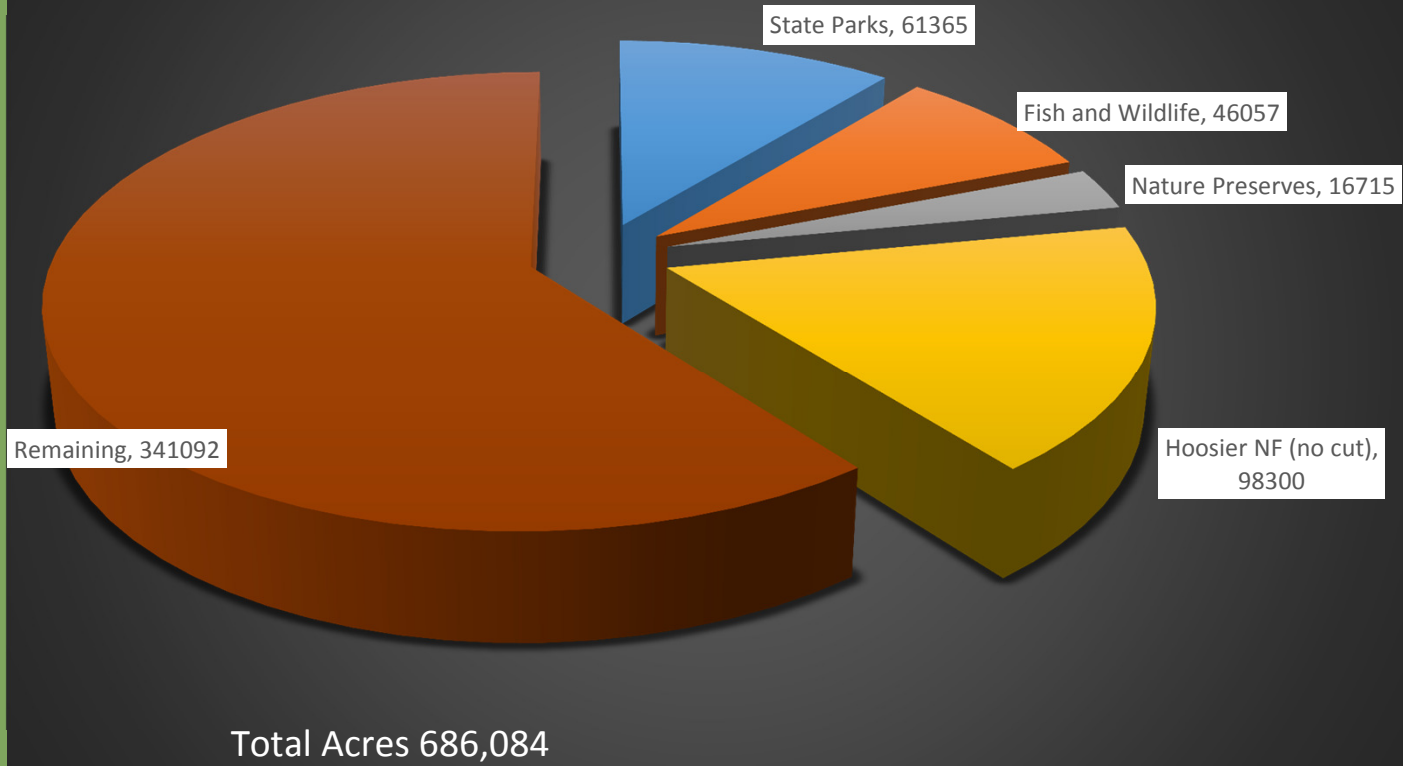
Federal and State forest lands



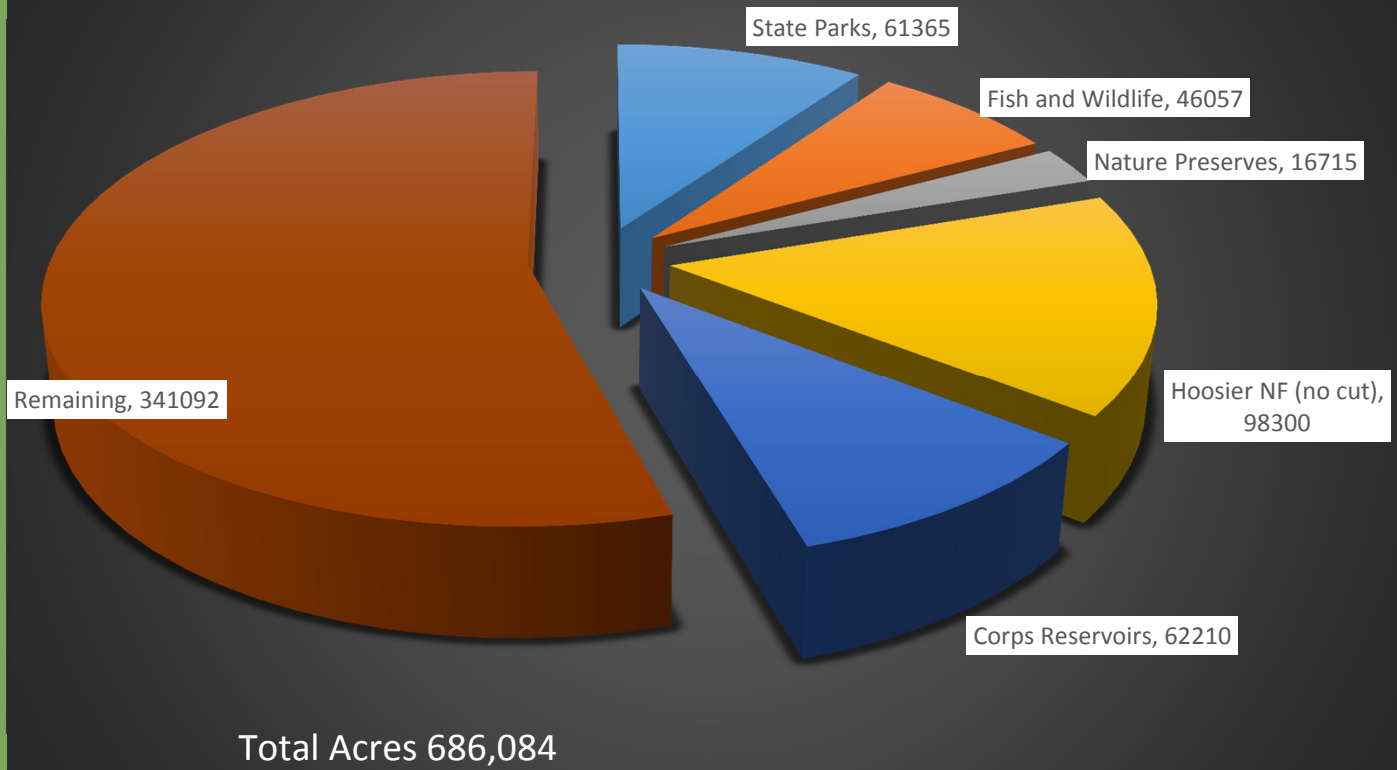
Federal and State forest lands



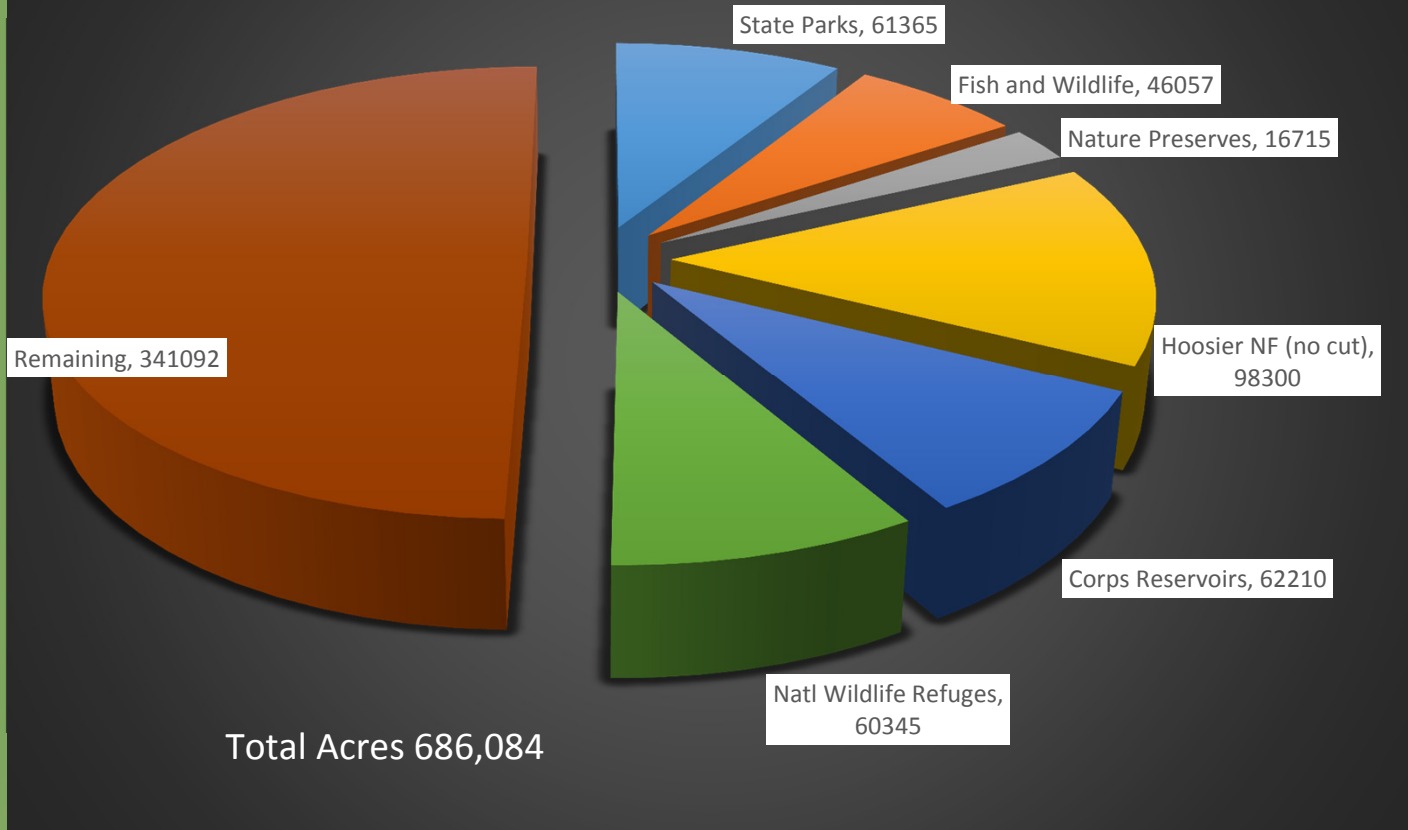
Federal and State forest lands



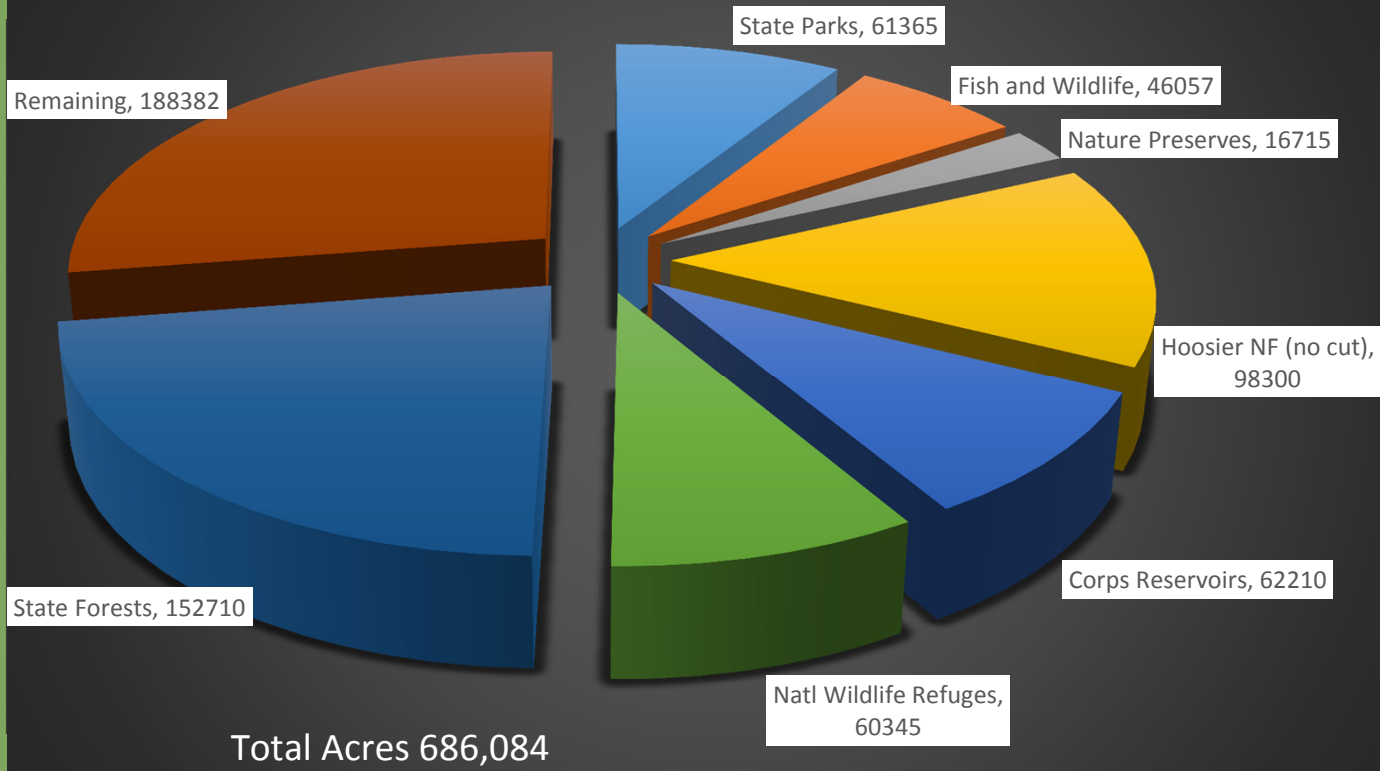
Federal and State forest lands



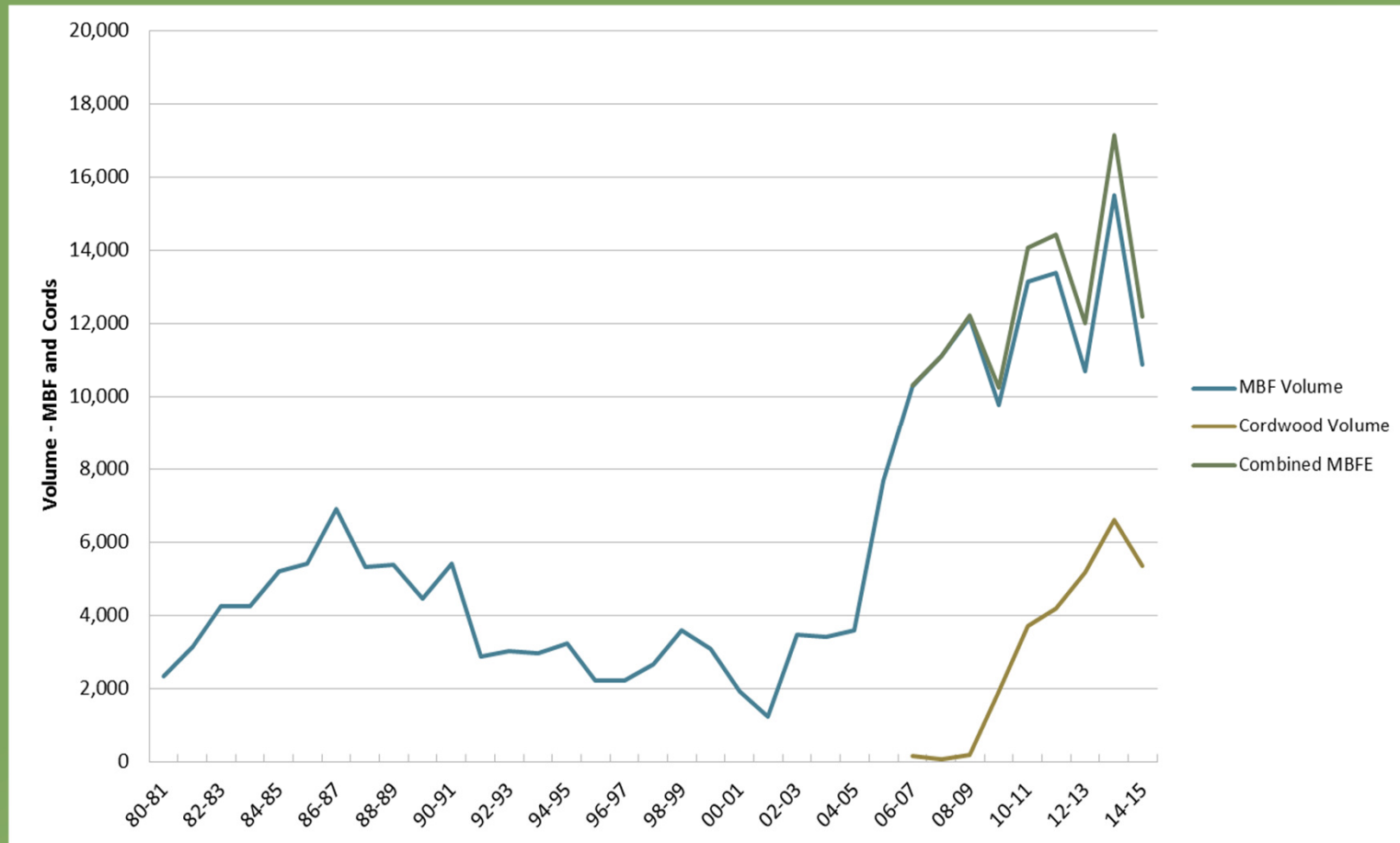
Federal and State forest lands



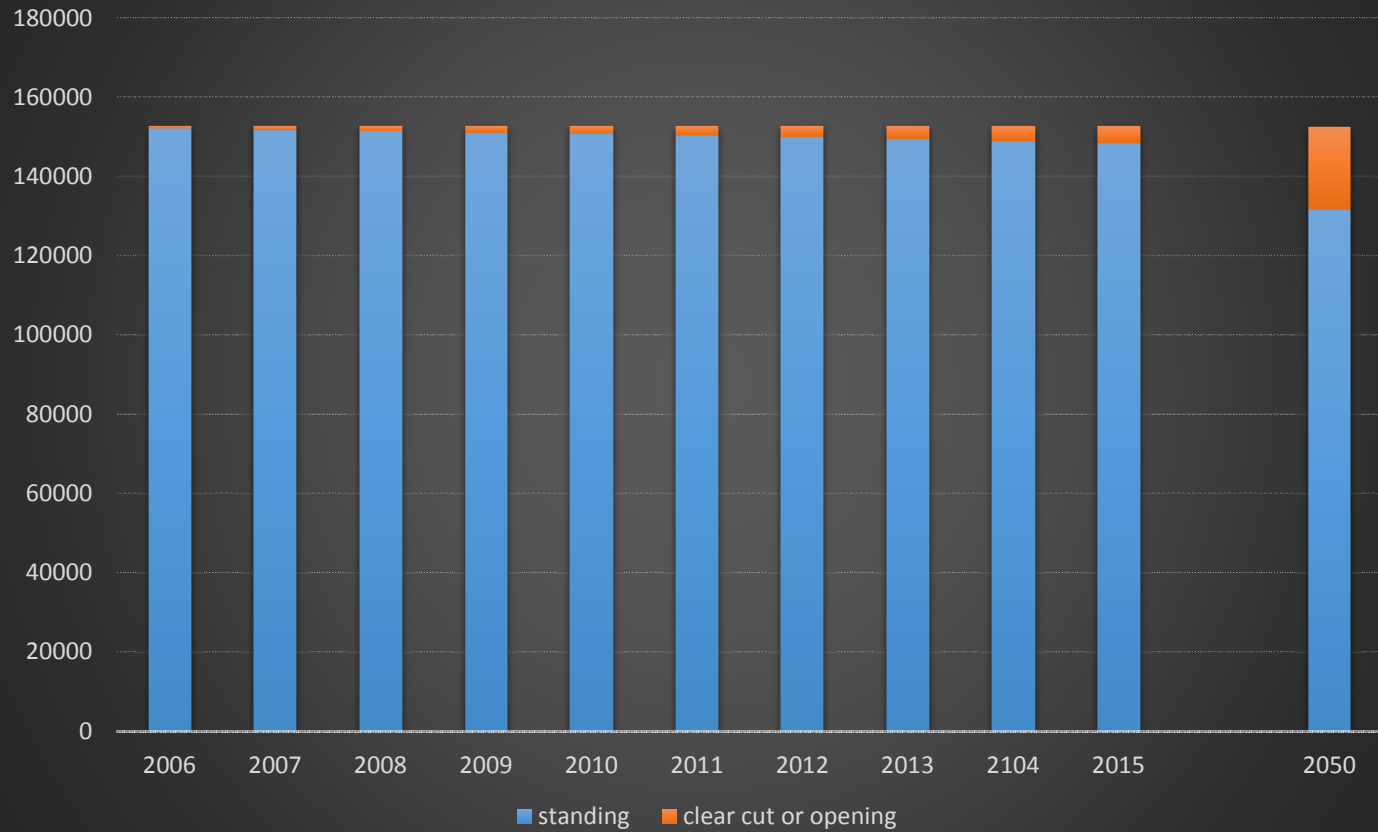
Federal and State forest lands



State Forest timber sold since 1980



Cumulative clear cut or group cut harvest, acres



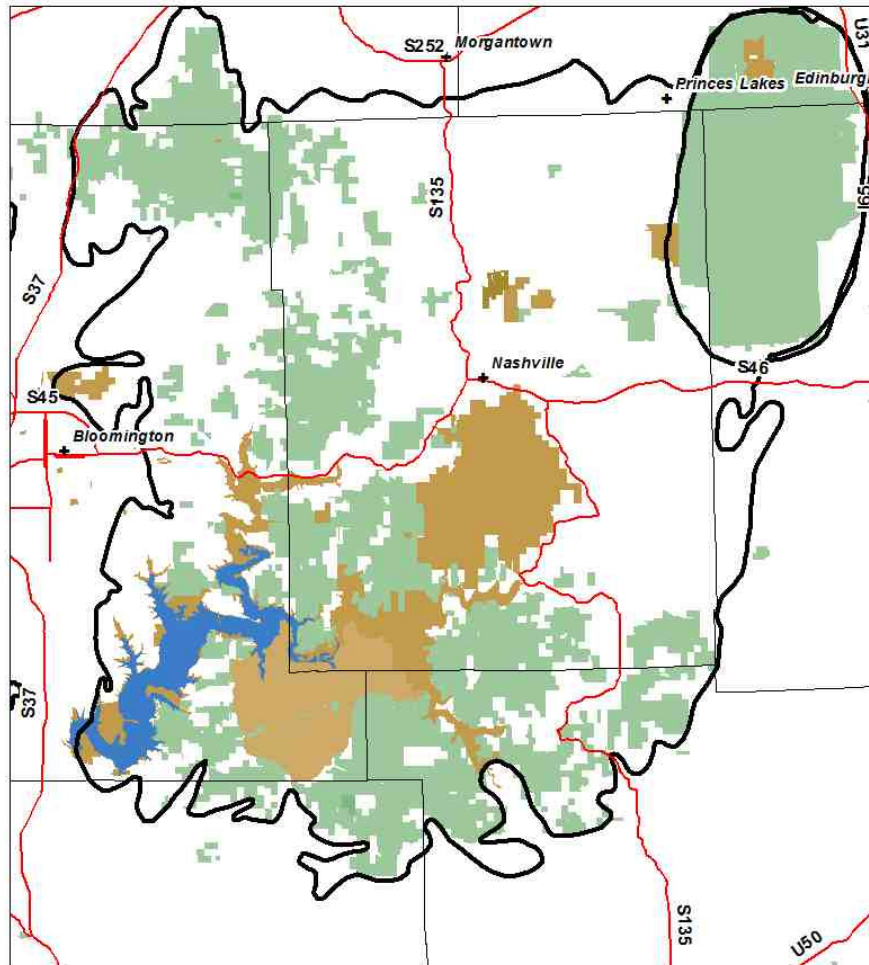
- In the Central Hardwood Region the amount of young forest or early successional habitat has declined to 5.5% of what it was in 1950.
- Declining at 3.3% per year in the eastern US.
- 70% of young forest/shrubland bird species have declined over the past 40 years

King DI, Schlossberg S. 2014. Synthesis of the conservation value of the early-successional stage in forests of eastern North America. *Forest Ecology and Management* 324:186-195.

Recommendation:

“Promote management for a shifting mosaic of forest age structures, including adequate amounts of disturbed early successional and old-growth forest habitats”

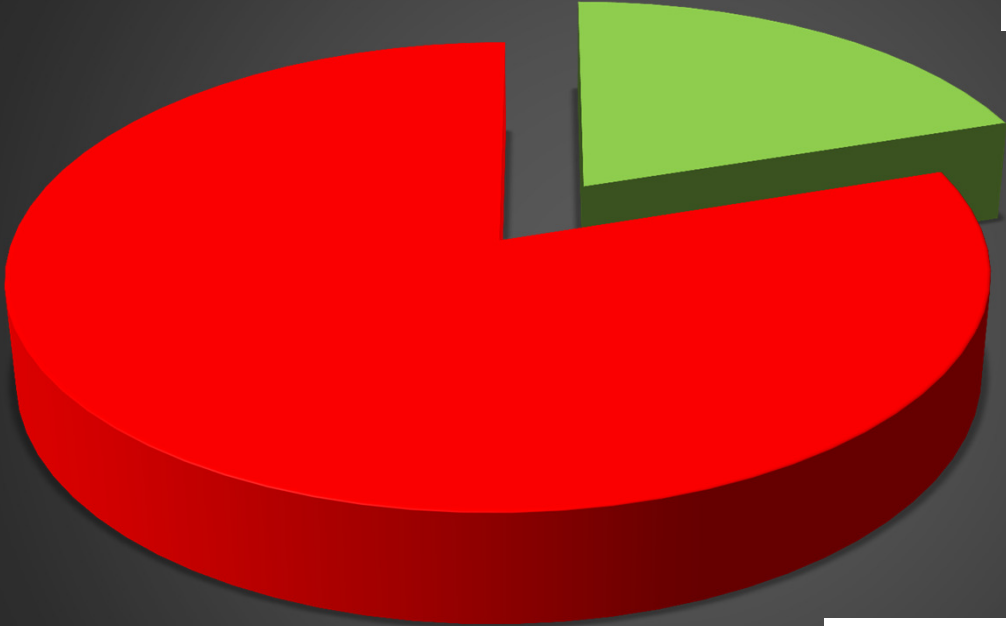




Brown County Hills Area
Total Size: 340,000 Acres
Total Public Land: 188,500 Acres

Managed Forest (Green): 143,900 Acres
Trending Towards Old Growth (Brown): 44,600 Acres

The Nature Conservancy Land



Working Forest, 7435

Preserve, 29872

Total Acres 37,307

Position Statement

We recommend timber harvesting under the terms of forest certification by the Forest Stewardship Council be continued on the state forests. A preponderance of the scientific literature has shown that if done well, timber harvesting most closely mimics the conditions required to sustain the diversity of wildlife, forest types, and age classes associated with the forest of southern Indiana. There is no other reasonable substitute for natural disturbances such as large scale or frequent fire for which this ecosystem is adapted, though we acknowledge some risk exists.

Therefore, we further recommend the State Forests give additional attention to the control of non-native plants both before and after timber harvest, and that additional areas be designated and managed as High Conservation Value Forests and Dedicated Nature Preserve. In particular, we encourage the DNR to quickly dedicate the entire list of 11 candidate nature preserves totaling 1,118 acres announced on October 6, 2016 by Director Cam Clark.

Summary

- Young forests (1-20 years old) are becoming increasingly rare
- Many birds are affected by both – young forest age and dominance of oak
- As forest managers we should continue to manage for a shifting mosaic of forest age classes and structure
- The State Forests are the best option for long-term management to sustain these conditions across meaningful acreage