



Cooperative Forest Management (CFM)

Many do not realize the health of Indiana's woodlands are heavily dependant on family forest owners. Like other Midwestern States, Indiana's woodlands are largely owned by families, individuals and other private forest owners. They own and care for 85% of Indiana woodlands – nearly 3.5 million acres.

At the heart of Indiana's CFM program is providing **Forest Landowner Assistance**. As a public service our foresters advise landowners on techniques to insure long-term health and productivity of Indiana's family owned forest resources. In 2008 these men and women covered 191,545 acres and assisted 3,562 family forest owners.

Funded by state forest timber sales, the **Indiana Woodland Restoration Program** promotes healthy forests and the hardwood economy by aiding private landowners in planting new forests and improving the health of existing forests. 153 projects were completed in 2008 to help restore 7,122 acres.

The **Forest Land Enhancement Program** provides federal cost share funding to promote forestry practices that establish, maintain, and enhance the health and productivity of private forest lands. 44 projects were completed in 2008 enhancing forest resources on 1,995 acres.

The 2008 **Cooperative Forest Management Customer Satisfaction Survey** indicated that over 99% of respondents rated the service received as good or great!. Additionally, 84% said they planned to implement most or all of the forest conservation recommendations received.

The **Classified Forest & Wildlands Program (CFW)** program is one of the longest standing and most successful forestland conservation programs in the country, providing property tax incentives for well managed forests. This nationally recognized program now allows participating forest owners to enter the world market of 'green certified forest products'. Approximately \$8-9 million of timber is harvested annually from these managed forests.

At the end of 2008, CFW enrollment reached 619,400 acres with 12,720 landowner participants (a net gain of 16,661 acres). The pace of new enrollment was up in 2008. This is primarily attributed to changes in property tax laws and the positive reputation of this long standing forest conservation program. The Division of Forestry continues to look at ways to add new value to participants and Indiana in general.