



Forest Resources Information

- Provided 347 technical assists upon request to various customers on topics of marketing, utilization, and efficiency, Best Management Practices, and forest resource and industry data.
 - Provided various training opportunities (log, lumber, tree grades workshops, chainsaw training, Best Management Practices, SFI, etc) to 219 attendees. Those attending were a combination of professional natural resources personnel and forest industry professionals.
 - Coordinated 4 Field Days/Industry Education/Industry tour with an attendance of over 108 people
 - Private contractors collected forest inventory data from 550 plots across the state. The information, collected annually provides an excellent picture of the forest resource in Indiana.
- The Forest Resources Information section concluded its first year of the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) program this year. The program which closely resembles the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis program will program an up close view and provide valuable, timely, and current data regarding the forest resource on our State Forest properties. Data was collected from 750 plots.
 - A riparian prioritization framework project has been developed that will allow specific watershed groups to use this as a way to prioritize riparian areas where forestry/conservation applications will benefit the watershed. The project also is flexible to allow individual watershed groups to input their own variables, which makes the program very applicable to different settings and locations. This year staff discussed this project with 67 people through oral presentations. Four staff members from IDEM were informed of the project. The Indian Creek Watershed group, one of the watersheds that his tool is being tested on, was informed of the results of this framework on their watershed, 15 were in attendance. Staff was also invited to speak at the Quadrennial Riparian Specialty Conference of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) to an audience of approximately 40 individuals. A 6 page peer reviewed article was also produced for inclusion into the proceedings for this conference which had 250 attendees. A lecture was given to the Purdue University's Forested Watershed Management class of 8 students about Riparian Forest Buffers.

Hot Items – biomass / renewable energy, poor markets, certification.....although ethanol seems to have lost its luster, the need for producing various items from renewable resources is still a hot topic. The just released stimulus package has several areas looking at residues and wood to energy. Demand for wood pellets is good right now. Lumber markets have been at all time lows with less than optimistic forecasts for a quick turnaround. We estimate sawmill production is probably 40% less than what it was 3-4 years ago. Mills are just not producing the lumber due to weak demand plus several mills have closed due to the poor economy. Certification continues to be a much talked about topic. Acronyms such as SFI, FSC, SCS, PEFC....are discussed with much debate and depending on who you talk to...it varies as to which certification system is the best. One thing is for sure....certification is here. While producers have yet to receive a large premium for a "certified product", most will tell you that having a certified product does open additional doors to customers.