



Whether you own your woodland for hiking, hunting, timber management, wildlife management, bird watching or simply as a family legacy, professional assistance to help with forest management makes woodland ownership even more satisfying.

The Forest Bank is a conservation alternative from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Indiana to conserve working woodlands while preserving opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat, natural beauty and solitude. Woodlands enrolled in the Forest Bank remain private property. Landowners can still hike, hunt, fish, cut firewood and use their woodland just as they normally would as long as the health and growth of timber is not hampered.

forest bank facts

There are currently about 8,000 acres and 60 landowners enrolled in the Forest Bank in 12 counties in Indiana.

The Forest Bank is certified sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The Forest Bank provides an annual financial return from the forest while protecting critical habitat for plants, animals and natural communities.

The Forest Bank began in 2002 and is backed by more than 55 years of professional land management by The Nature Conservancy in Indiana.

The Forest Bank gives a landowner access to the expertise of foresters, biologists, botanists and other Nature Conservancy scientists to manage woodlands for biodiversity.



Your Woodland in the Brown County Hills Conservation Area

Your property is part of the steep, heavily forested hills and hollows of the Brown County Hills Conservation Area. The Nature Conservancy has been working in this area since 1980 to help protect natural areas, purchase and protect land for the state park, state forests and Hoosier National Forest and local land trusts. In 2002 we started helping landowners in this area manage their woods for wildlife, timber and the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

We would be happy to answer any questions you might have about forest and wildlife management, timber harvesting, estate planning or just enjoy a walk with you in the woods to identify trees, plants and birds.

Contact Dan Shaver at dshaver@tnc.org or (812) 200-4040 for more information or to schedule a walk in the woods.



Forest Bank Agreements

10 Year Management Agreement

Fee-based professional forest and wildlife management provided by The Nature Conservancy. A forest stewardship plan is developed to guide forest management work on the property. All work to be completed is approved in advance by the landowner. The landowner can get out of the agreement with 30 days notice. This agreement provides consistent professional management for your woodlands with the comfort of knowing that your land is being sustainably managed to protect biodiversity, wildlife habitat and timber production.

30 Year Management Agreement

This is a 30 year agreement with The Nature Conservancy to help manage your property. The Conservancy will pay you 3% of your timber's value every year. The Conservancy will cover the up-front costs of controlling invasive plants, posting the boundaries, erosion control on roads, and conducting Forest Stand Improvement. When a timber harvest is planned in the future, the proceeds of the sale pay the Conservancy back for the annual payments made to you and the cost of managing your property. The remainder of proceeds from the timber sale go to the landowner. At the end of 30 years, the landowner and the Conservancy can choose to enter into a new agreement. Timber is reappraised every 10 years and the annual payment is adjusted accordingly.

Donation of Land

As a not-for-profit conservation organization, The Nature Conservancy can accept the donation of a permanent conservation easement or the donation of land into the Forest Bank Program. The donation of an easement or land may have beneficial tax implications for some landowners. Landowners must seek professional tax advice to investigate the actual benefits.

For more information about
The Forest Bank please contact:

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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