



Friends of White's Woods, Inc.

A non-profit corporation dedicated to the health and preservation of White's Woods Nature Center

www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org

Update & Summary: Logging of White's Woods Controversy

11 November 2008

From 1968 to 1974 White's Woods was purchased under Project 70 funds for the purpose of recreation and conservation. In 1995 the White Township Supervisors developed a plan to log White's Woods. The plan was abandoned following public outcry and the discovery that logging would have violated existing law. Later in 1995, the law (Second Class Township Code 2207) was changed to allow townships to log "township forests" thus generating "continuing township revenue" without consulting the public.

In 2007, the Supervisors declared Whites Woods to be a "township forest" and developed a logging plan similar to the 1995 plan. FWW and numerous community members declared that "recreation and conservation" is not consistent with logging, over a thousand community members protested by signing a petition and hundreds of citizens attended an open meeting with the Supervisors to raise objections. The Supervisors countered that the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) supports the logging plan and adopted the plan two days later.

After FWW found that the DCNR "support" was informal and not officially recognized, the Supervisors requested another review. DCNR responded by noting Code 2207 "does not apply" to White's Woods leaving the premise for the plan (that WW is a township forest) invalid. The Supervisors wrote another letter to DCNR asking if the logging plan violates Project 70 restrictions. DCNR found the "plan is not consistent with the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act in that the amount of timbering it calls for is not consistent with the definitions of recreation and conservation in the Act [and is] excessive." Thus DCNR has ruled that both the premise for the timbering plan and the plan itself are not suitable for White's Woods.

DCNR is currently developing recommendations for a revision of the timbering plan. The Supervisors are urging patience while a revised plan is prepared.

But, if we do not know what the plan is to accomplish, how can the plan or its revision possibly succeed? FWW contends the community wants a park focused on recreation and conservation. How can a plan developed for revenue production be successfully revised to promote recreation and conservation -- especially when essential community input is lacking? FWW urges the Supervisors to abandon (not revise) this failed plan, establish a dialogue with the community to define a mission for White's Woods and develop a valid park stewardship plan based on that mission.