



Friends of White's Woods

Monthly Newsletter



SEPTEMBER

ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC COMMENT ENDS SEPT. 21st

Roadless.org provides a great website to help you understand the situation and make your public comment. To make a quick comment, you can visit saveroadlessforests.com. If you only have time for a petition, see either the [Sierra Club](#) or [Defenders of Wildlife](#) petition web pages.

The proposed rollback of the 2001 Roadless Rule jeopardizes nearly 45 million acres of undeveloped backcountry forestland managed by the U.S. Forest Service. These forests have only remained intact because of the Forest Service's nearly 25-year-old commitment not to build roads in these areas for harmful activities like major logging operations or oil-and-gas drilling. Roadless areas provide [critical habitat for wildlife](#), [the largest source of municipal water supply in the nation](#), and important migration corridors, as well. The proposed Roadless Rule rollback paves the way for logging and development in our nation's last wild places. To protect Roadless Areas, [including our own Allegheny National Forest](#), be sure to get your comment in before Sept. 21st. [Add your name now](#) and share this information with 10 other people to help gather more than a million comments in the next three weeks. Keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact.



FWW Sept 17th Webinar: Deer-Exclosure Update Dr. Mike Tyree



On September 17, noon-1 p.m., [Dr. Mike Tyree](#), Indiana University of Pennsylvania Professor of biology and forest ecology, will provide an update on the success of the deer exclosure that, with the help of White Township, was erected in the White's Woods Nature Center, not far from the top-of-the-ridge border with the IUP Co-op Forest. The exclosure [was built in March 2024](#). The growth of native plants, tree seedlings, and tree saplings within the deer-exclosure is remarkable and points to important steps that are necessary to promote understory growth in White's Woods and surrounding forests. This is an important webinar. To register for this ZOOM webinar, send an email to: info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

UPCOMING FWW EVENTS

Sept. 12th – IUP INTO THE STREETS, WWNC 12th St. Entrance, 10 a.m.-noon. Important work awaits woods-lovers of every strength level & ability! Please join us. Gloves & tools provided.

Sept. 17th: *White's Woods Deer Exclosure Interim Report*, FWW ZOOM webinar, Dr. Mike Tyree, IUP Professor of Biology, noon – 1 p.m.

SATURDAYS: Barberry Removal: Weather permitting. 10 - noon. Please help!

Sign up at the [FWW website](#).

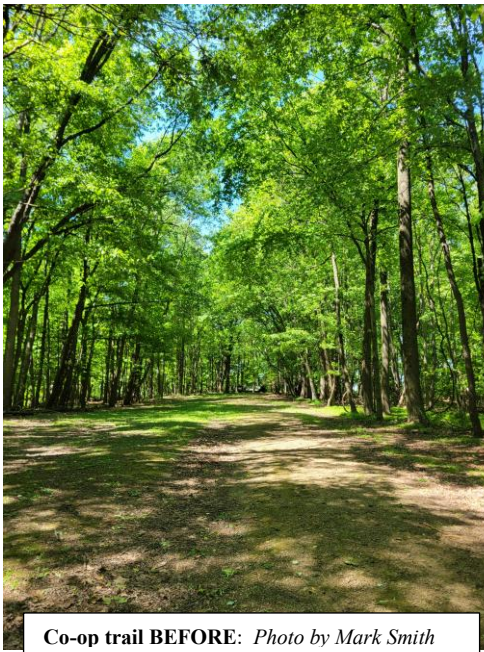
See the monthly [Naturally](#) column, brought to you by FWW and [The Indiana Gazette](#). August: [The Elusive American Butternut](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)
[WHY WE NEED THE ROADLESS RULE](#)
(Short film)

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IUP Co-op Timbering Continues Despite Student & Public Concerns



Co-op trail BEFORE: Photo by Mark Smith



Co-op Trail AFTER: Photo by Marie Olson

A student-led emergency meeting of the IUP Co-op general membership was held on August 20th in the Hadley Student Union Building. Over 150 students expressed their concerns about the Co-op forest timbering. An update of recent, related events [can be found in The Hawkeye](#). IUP graduate student and Friends of White's Woods member Srijan Badhya helped to coordinate student opposition. The Co-op's decision to ignore federal and state recommendations to avoid timbering from [April 1 to September 30](#) to protect endangered species remains a mystery.

SEPT 12TH: WWNC, 10 am to noon 12TH Street Entrance ***IUP INTO THE STREETS***

HELP IS SO NEEDED!

We've made a lot of progress in combatting invasive plants. But we have a long way to go – and we really need your help. We will have two groups working on Saturday, Sept. 12th. One group will be doing the LIGHT WORK of removing small invasive plant regrowth in and around the Natural Heritage Area. It is NOT hard work, but it is really important. (And it is beautiful there.) Another group of vigorous souls will tackle some of the bigger Japanese barberry bushes found on the northern edge of the Nature Center. This is a fight worth fighting. Join us for two hours, Sept 12, 10 a.m. to noon. FWW, with White Township support, will provide group leaders, gloves, tools, and some cookies! Bring water. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants and shirt sleeves.

It is time to renew your FWW membership!

You can get a [great new FWW t-shirt](#) with a \$25 membership renewal. Even better, you can support FWW community education and ongoing projects to protect the woods. [Support FWW](#) and continue your efforts to save White's Woods. (Please help in any way that you can.)

CLIMATE FORESTS UPDATE

Read about the [Endangered Species Act](#) current status. Resources: [Harvard Law](#). The [Sierra Club](#) & [NPCA](#) and other groups are working, too. The current administration is also [dismantling National Parks](#) by reducing legal protections and [professional staff](#).

FALL BIRD MIGRATION UNDERWAY!

Over 42,800 birds [crossed over Indiana County on August 24th](#).

PEAK MIGRATION TRAFFIC

13,600 Birds in flight (est.)

Direction: ESE Speed: 18 mph Altitude: 1,900 ft

Recorded: Mon, Aug 24, 2026, 9:20 PM EDT

You can track the fall bird migration at [Cornell Lab Birdcast](#). Be sure to check out our [local migration dashboard](#).

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org
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