

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conservation principles do apply

Six months ago I barely knew how to spell "conservationist." I did know our White's Woods Nature Center must be used for conservation and recreation since a Project 70 grant was used to buy it. But only recently did I learn more about the principles of conservation and how they legally affect our nature center.

For any others like myself, I recommend a short article titled "A Conservationist's Alternative Plan for Management." It describes in clear language how conservation experts would protect a property like White's Woods. The article is available on the Internet at www.hecweb.org/hoosier_national/conservationist_alternative.html

I must admit that in one respect this article is too extreme

for me. It recommends the use of conservation principles in the Hoosier National Forest because it is close to population centers. That would rule out timber sales.

I believe our national forests are legally chartered to include multi-use functions like sustainable timbering. I guess I'm just a sucker for the idea that legal agreements should be honored. For the same reason I also support sustainable timbering in our Pennsylvania state forests, and in "township forests."

But please do not be misled by careless information about White's Woods. White's Woods does *not* meet the conditions that define a township forest because it was bought with Project 70 funding. White's Woods is

regulated under Pa. Statute 72, the specific law for Project 70 acquisitions.

Conservation principles do not (and should not) apply to all public property. We are blessed that one small area, the White's Woods Nature Center, does legally require the use of conservation principles. It would be exciting to understand more fully what this blessing can mean to our grandchildren.

This would be a great time for a public teach-in, using recognized experts on conservation principles. In a perfect world, a healing world, that teach-in would be organized by the White Township supervisors in cooperation with group(s) of concerned citizens.

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