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July 16, 2020

White Township Supervisors  
 Indian Springs Road  
 Indiana, PA 15701

Dear White Township Supervisors:

White's Woods is a much-used Nature Center made possible by PA Project 70 monies. It was originally dedicated, and for decades has been used, as a forested recreation area, kept in its natural state. A sound stewardship plan for White's Woods must have at its core the clear recognition that this park is valuable because it offers unique recreational opportunities—and incomparable experiences—in a woodland area. As such, the design of the current Draft White Township Stewardship plan was flawed from the outset on two critical dimensions:

- (1) It fails to recognize that the management needs of the 250-acre White's Woods Nature Center (WWNC) differ profoundly from those of the small White Township community parks, as well as from the White Township parks designated for extensive development for use for team sports and large group activities. The WWNC requires a separate stewardship plan.
- (2) It also fails to recognize the character of this natural area as a park: The WWNC is not, and must not be construed as, a timber farm.

The WWNC, left in its natural state, is an enormously valuable community asset—one that promises to become ever-more valuable to the community in the future. In a time that increasingly appears to be defined by a long-term global pandemic, humans need access to, and benefit hugely from, the opportunity to spend time in a natural area that is open to the public.

Beyond this, Americans, particularly young people, are increasingly devoted to “green space” experiences and activities. Natural areas that provide the opportunity for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, observation of plants and animals—for spiritual and physical renewal – are widely-regarded as “economic-drivers” for long-term development in rural communities. The Center for Rural Affairs, a nationally-leading organization devoted to revitalizing rural America, argues that: “In the future, access to uncrowded natural land will be increasingly hard to come by, and it will be an increasingly valuable asset for communities. Communities that offer it will have a leg up in attracting families to start businesses and drive revitalization.”

What's more, threats associated with climate change are prompting both environmental non-profit organizations and industries to dedicate funds for “carbon capture” (some estimated to be released to

Indiana County next year): They are providing financial support to help ensure that large-acreage forested areas are left intact.

Friends of White's Woods (FWW) had only ten weeks to alert the community to White Township plans to (1) destroy the forest floor and "open the canopy" in the WWNC in a misguided "plan" to control invasive plant species and (2) to harvest an extraordinary amount of timber at rates (per numbered "unit") far greater than that deemed "excessive" by DCNR when evaluating a similar plan in 2008.

The response from the public, in the midst of a pandemic when person-to-person contact has been almost impossible, has been extraordinary. As the documents in this binder make clear, citizens want the WWNC to be kept as a natural area. Large numbers of people, on very short notice, wrote letters, signed a petition, filled out surveys, and sent emails. (See the surveys, petitions, and letters that follow.) Even though severely limited in our ability to contact people, FWW discovered that citizen opposition to timbering WWNC is as profound—if not more so—as in years past.

In 1995, the first time the Supervisors proposed to timber White's Woods, the Township mailed a survey to voters, finding that **62%** (1527 of the 2463 total respondents) did **NOT** want White's Woods selectively timbered (31% approved of the timbering plan while 7% had no opinion).

In April, 2007, the Indiana Gazette announced the results of an online survey which asked the question: "Do you think timbering should be allowed in White's Woods?" The voting response (747 votes) set a record for any single question posed online by the Gazette. The results were:

- **69.2%** believe timbering should not be allowed in White's Woods.
- 22.6% believed removing some trees from the area would ultimately be beneficial.
- 8.2% thought further study was needed.

And in June, 2007, Friends of White's Woods presented the White Township Supervisors with a petition signed by over 1,000 citizens opposed to that timbering plan.

This year, 98% of those who completed the FWW survey want the White's Woods Nature Center to remain in its natural state. In addition, a total of 1,240 individuals who reside in zip codes 15000-16999 (Western Pennsylvania) signed a petition to protect the woods, stop timbering, and preserve this Project 70 natural area. Nearly two-thirds of these signatories live within a forty-minute drive of the park, the large majority of these residing within White Township or the Indiana Borough.

For 25 years citizens and stakeholders have been clear: Do not timber White's Woods. This year, the needlessly destructive invasive plant species treatment plan, which itself involves timbering, has been rejected with the same force. If anything, the conviction by citizens that White's Woods be kept as a natural area is stronger than ever before.

Since late April, when the plan to rototill and timber WW was discovered, FWW, in addition to alerting the public, also sought the expertise of independent biologists and foresters, and hired a much-experienced forester to conduct a review, as well.

All of these consultants concluded that the White Township invasive treatment plan is a terrible mistake and one that is likely to result in the future explosion, rather than reduction, of invasive plant species. Opening the canopy with extensive timbering will result not only in the indefensible destruction of this valuable park, but will also miserably fail to meet any stated goal.

In his July 2, 2020 evaluation, forester Mike Wolf observed that the plan posted for public comment—as it pertains to White’s Woods—is a timbering, rather than a stewardship, plan. Mr. Wolf’s reservations about this plan are grave:

From my initial, on-site review of White Township properties, it is apparent that following Millstone’s plan creates the biggest risk to White’s Woods. Millstone’s plan was written to apply to all of White Township properties, and therefore this review (below) can apply to all locations. However, White’s Woods is obviously at greatest risk for catastrophic results.

A WWNC stewardship plan should holistically address community values (Eschenmann, April 27, 2020) and these values, along with extensive stakeholder input, should drive both the development of the plan and its execution.

FWW strongly believes that the WWNC should be kept as a natural area and that a comprehensive, evidence-based park management plan be developed by experts in conservation, park management, recreation, biology, ecology, hydrology, forestry, and the input from all of the park’s stakeholders, including Indiana Borough and those of us who frequent its trails each day.

We need a plan that is collectively developed by all relevant experts and invested stakeholders. This plan should be updated regularly and, along with stakeholder input, guide further management of this natural area park. FWW would welcome the opportunity to work with White Township so that we can, together, meet these goals.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors,  
Friends of White’s Woods

## Current (2020) Data

### White's Woods Use Survey

The following survey was designed by Friends of White's Woods (FWW) to collect information from and about the users of WWNC. Questions are the result of multiple revisions, benefiting from input of ten+ FWW members. Our intent was to determine the respondents':

- reasons for using WWNC;
- opinions about quality of experience in WWNC;
- suggestions for improvements;
- opinions about park maintenance;
- willingness to participate in WWNC management;
- ideas and recommendations.

### Results

The White's Woods Use survey was posted online through Survey Monkey June 3 – July 16, 2020. Responses were solicited through Face Book, ads in the Indiana Gazette, email distribution, and QR codes posted in local businesses. Of the 229 respondents, 118 (52%) resided in White Township, 74(32%) in Indiana Borough, and 37 (16%) in other areas.

It is important to note that all respondents are regular users of WWNC. Fifty eight percent (58%) reported visiting WWNC twice or more per month (2-3 times/month; weekly; 3-4 times/week; daily); the remaining 42% visit the park monthly or less. The multiple uses of WWNC are impressive. Most frequent reasons for visiting were walking/hiking (97%), enjoying fresh air (82%), relaxing/relieving stress (79%), and spending time with family (53%). Additionally, significant numbers of respondents visit for walking their dog (38%), running (33%), bird watching (26%), photography (24%), teaching about nature (16%) , biking (14%), and cross country skiing (11%).

When asked what would enhance their WWNC experience, most frequent responses were better signage (directions -52%; vegetation -45%; historical -38%). More than one-quarter responded beautifying areas around gas wells (30%) and providing benches (28%).

Data showed that WWNC users want the park to be left in its natural state (98%). They state that WWNC affords a healthier life style (99.5%), is an important resource for the community (99.5%), and provides beauty and attracts wild-life to the area (98%). They believe it exists exclusively for recreation, conservation and historical preservation (98%), and that it should be managed by a park commission with citizen representation (97%) using a comprehensive, science-based management plan (94%).

Respondents are happy with the quality (92%) and quantity (93%) of the trails. They are split on whether the trails should be better maintained (59% / 41%) and rest room facilities should be added (61% / 39%); the majority opposes adding structures for gatherings (76%), but they would like better parking access (68%). Most believe that WWNC attracts visitors to Indiana (92%).

Finally, respondents are willing to help with WWNC maintenance, by picking up litter (70%), clearing trails (51%), removing invasive species by hand (40%), and planting wild flowers (43%). A substantial number were willing to make financial contributions (54%), even though WWNC is owned by the township and should be supported by their tax dollars.

## Summary and Conclusions

It should be noted that approximately half of the respondents reside outside of White Township, either in the Borough, the surrounding areas, or beyond. Their value for WWNC and commitment to supporting it are equal to that of WT residents. FWW believes that their input is just as important as that of WT residents, because, although WT is technically the ‘owner’ of WWNC, the Project 70 funds which purchased it and continue to provide support came from Pennsylvania bond issues, intended for the use of all Pennsylvanians and visitors.

Comments from both this survey and the change.org petition show that former residents who return to visit Indiana head to WWNC, and many users regularly drive to Indiana from other parts of the state to hike in the woods. And when people come to the area to visit WWNC, they also patronize businesses in the Borough and the Township, spending their money and supporting local economy.

In conclusion, the overwhelming evidence from this survey of regular WWNC users is that **THEY LOVE THE PARK** and they want to keep it as a natural area with minimal intervention. They value WWNC for the enrichment it provides to them individually and to the community, to the point that they are willing to contribute ideas, labor, and money.

## White's Woods Nature Center Use Survey

### Results 7/16/20

All responses are shown as percentage (%) (N=229)

1. Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Do you currently live in White Township?  
52% (118) Township   32% (74) Borough   16%(37) Other
  
3. How often do you use White's Woods Nature Center?  
0% Have never been there  
15% 1-3X/Year  
15% 4-6 X/Year  
13% Monthly or less  
14% 2-3 X/month  
20% weekly  
17% 3-5 X/week  
7% Daily
  
4. Why do you visit White's Woods Nature Center? (check all that apply)  
97% Walking or hiking  
33% Running  
11% Bicycling, mountain biking  
14% Cross country skiing  
82% Enjoying fresh air and enjoying being outdoors  
79% Relaxing, relieving stress, mental health  
53% Spending time with family  
38% Walking dog  
26% Bird watching  
16% Teaching others about nature  
24% Photography  
10% Other: please explain
  
5. What would enhance your experience in White's Woods? (check all that apply)  
52% Provide better directional signage and trail maps  
45% Provide signage about vegetation and wild life  
38% Provide historical markers  
19% Remove obstacles in trails (roots, logs, small bushes)  
28% Provide benches for resting  
17% Provide picnic tables  
30% Beautify areas around gas wells with wild flowers and other plantings  
13% Reduce deer grazing

**Please indicate your opinion of each of the following:**

	<b>Strongly Agree 4</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree 3</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree 2</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree 1</b>	<b>Mean</b>
White's Woods Nature Center should be left in a natural state.	<b>187</b>	38	3	1	3.8
White's Woods Nature Center should have pit toilet facilities at a convenient location.	25	<b>115</b>	<b>67</b>	22	2.6
White's Woods Nature Center needs pavilions or other structures for group gatherings.	9	47	<b>125</b>	48	2.1
Parking access near park entrances is sufficient.	42	<b>113</b>	64	10	2.8
The quality of the trails in White's Woods Nature Center is good.	<b>96</b>	<b>115</b>	18	0	3.3
The number of trails in White's Woods Nature Center is adequate.	<b>97</b>	<b>125</b>	7	0	3.4
White's Woods Nature Center exists exclusively for recreation, conservation, and historical preservation.	<b>169</b>	55	4	1	3.7
A park commission with citizen membership should be established to govern White's Woods Nature Center.	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	4	3	3.6
White's Woods Nature Center enriches Indiana by providing scenic beauty and as a home to diverse flora and fauna.	<b>210</b>	18	1	0	3.9

	<b>Strongly Agree</b> <b>4</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Mean</b>
White's Woods Nature Center needs better trail maintenance, including litter removal.	22	<b>113</b>	<b>82</b>	12	2.6
A comprehensive, science-based management plan should be established for White's Woods Nature Center	<b>130</b>	<b>85</b>	9	5	3.5
White's Woods Nature Center affords opportunity for a healthier life style	<b>203</b>	36	0	1	4.0
White's Woods Nature Center is an important resource for the community.	<b>216</b>	12	1	0	3.9
White's Woods Nature Center attracts visitors to Indiana, PA.	<b>111</b>	<b>98</b>	19	1	3.4

6. **How are you willing to help with park maintenance? Check all that apply.**

- 51% Clear trails and clean surrounding areas  
40% Remove invasive species by hand  
70% Pick up litter  
43% Plant wild flowers  
14% Build benches and/or picnic tables  
54% Make financial contributions  
10% Other: Please explain\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Additional comments/suggestions**

8. **Contact (optional): Name, phone, email**

## Selected Comments (24/77)

The citizens of White Township are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful Nature Center. Most communities do NOT have the luxury and benefit of having such a refreshing place. I've seen the difference in communities without such a place, and how it affects the moral of the citizens in that place. Here, you have the opportunity to afford the benefit of teaching the children (and adults) the value of stewardship of our natural world. The experiences and lessons learned here will help them to appreciate the world in a more meaningful way, and when they take their place in making decisions to help their community, they will have a rich background of appreciation of and value of nature to form their opinions from. They then will make decisions that will benefit as many people and as much of their community as they can, not just for a select few. It seems that the idea of selling off so much of White's Woods for timber, is a bad idea. Once those trees are gone, they won't be back in that size in your or my lifetime. In other words, you could not BUY them back for any amount of money. The money that would be received for them, would really only be a fraction of what they would really be worth to your children or mine. There are two different ways to look at this; one way sees only money for the short-term, the other sees the benefit of nature for a lifetime (many lifetimes!) Remember, Cook's Forest State Park was set aside to be enjoyed by all for generations - and Mr. Cook was a lumberjack and sawmill operator! He had the vision to save and protect the trees for the future. I share in that vision. Do you? Thank you.

I am willing to help organize a concert to raise awareness and potential revenue toward ensuring maintaining the woods as close to as natural state as possible. I have frequented the woods since 1975.

I'm so happy I learned about this place!!! I'm so disgusted firstly that anyone wants to destroy such a beautiful park for profit but also about all the secrecy behind the plans to destroy Whites Woods!

Please don't do anything to the park. It's perfect how it is and that's why it's been so successful with attracting people to hike and run. It's my favorite place in Indiana. Don't change it.

Let me be clear: I DO believe a science-based management plan COULD help enhance the health of White's Woods. IF the intentions are indeed for FOREST HEALTH. The 100-page proposed Millstone Land Management Plan that was sent to DCNR is NOT a science-based plan with goals of enhancing forest health. I did not see any environmental data (quadrat sampling? recent sediment analyses? avian studies? evidence to back up that "rototilling" enhances "soil health") that even suggested that this project has the best intentions for this COMMUNITY park. There is a Natural Heritage Site within White's Woods - this was never mentioned in the entire 100-page document submitted for DCNR review. It appears as if NO research on behalf of Millstone or the Supervisors was attempted during the development of the "plan". Not to mention the extremely aggressive proposed timeline and LACK of continued monitoring in future years (10+ years down the line). Additionally, based on what I saw in the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are not being implemented to prevent stormwater/sediment runoff into surrounding neighborhoods. In Summary: YIKES. I am

not opposed to discussions about deer population control in White's Woods. I recreate in White's Woods year round, so hunting is not something I am a particular fan of. However, I understand this is a community park and that the deer population needs to be controlled. Would deer fencing around proposed management sites be more appropriate long-term? I imagine that even with hunting, deer will continue to come to White's Woods from neighboring woodlot lands (IUP CO-OP, etc). I do not think hard structures are necessary for restroom features. Rather, an ADA-compliant port-a-potty situation might be more easily managed/maintained and cost-effective? I want to see the community - and more than one "expert" - involved in the development of a management plan for White's Woods - A park that was established with goals of preservation, conservation, and recreation in mind. I strongly support the suggestion of a committee, comprising of all stakeholders, being established to make management decisions for White's Woods. I believe White Township Supervisors should have organized this type of committee as soon as they began having the recent discussions about White's Woods (especially with their knowledge of controversy in the past). Thank you for the work that you are doing to make this project transparent.

The park is an incredible place that I have grown up running through during my high school career. I would absolutely say the park has great sentimental and practical value to me as a college athlete and as a local citizen, and I would be willing to offer my time and my voice to help preserve and maintain one of the most wonderful locations in the township.

Parking at the N12th st entrance is inadequate. I believe Indiana Borough would partner with the township to improve this situation. Knotweed should be eliminated by spraying with glyphosate. It seems that unless you burn the dug rhizomes it may spread elsewhere. The gas well owners should be held accountable for any introduction of invasive species. Make sure they are obligated to repopulate the site with native plants. I am a Borough resident. I wish you well.

I have been walking my dog daily for about 15 years in WWNC, and I am so fortunate that I live within walking distance! It's a beautiful park, and we White Township residents are so lucky to have it right in our own backyard!

Living "downhill" from White's Woods, our property has been adversely affected by previous development, necessitating thousands of dollars of runoff mediation--and the amount of water that flows seems to increase every year. I shudder to think what the catastrophic removal of a majority of the mature canopy will bring to the basements of homes around White's Woods. This is a shameful plan--a blind money grab by greedy politicians and what seems like a greenwashed, self-interested contractor.

Although I'm not a White township resident, I live right on the township border and my home and yard back up to Whites Woods. I walk and photograph the woods several times a week in all seasons. We moved here in 2013 and we purchased our home (a modest structure built in the 1960s) because of the proximity to the lovely woods. Being part of nature brings mental, physical, and spiritual health to many including myself and my family.

A nature center is just that NATURE ! Sometimes just doing nothing is the best choice. Minor maintenance or cutting an opening in a felled tree or clearing the path is ALL that is needed. People who enjoy communing in nature are used to minor obstructions or stepping over a stone. It is what is...NATURE !!

My daughter is a professor at IUP and when we visit her we enjoy our time spent walking in White's Woods and various Indiana Parks. It has been proven that enjoying nature walks/hikes also boosts good mental health and brain function! Saving and maintaining Whites Woods is essential to the overall beauty and health of your community!

Whites Woods is frequently used by IUP faculty for field trips--my students LOVE it and are discovering the woods often for the first time. It also help me recruit grad students, most of whom are looking to live in a town that has natural areas and outdoor rec/activities.

Citizen involvement in the management of the park is a great idea. Above all, NO TIMBERING!!

I am hoping that we can finally create a conservation plan for the park guided by ecologists and conservation biologists, so that that forest biodiversity and health may be enhanced. That is the number one priority. We should be enhancing the woods's role in carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and biodiversity preservation.

White's Woods is a gem. Part of its charm is that it is not overly curated. We do not want White Township's foresters in there constantly messing with things. Let the woods be the woods. Citizens will step up to form a task force for removal of litter, invasive species, etc. We do not want a "park." We want a woods. White Township needs to understand that their short-sighted financial interest does not outweigh the majority opinion - and physical and mental health- of their community.

The citizens of White Township are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful Nature Center. Most communities do NOT have the luxury and benefit of having such a refreshing place. I've seen the difference in communities without such a place, and how it affects the moral of the citizens in that place. Here, you have the opportunity to afford the benefit of teaching the children (and adults) the value of stewardship of our natural world. The experiences and lessons learned here will help them to appreciate the world in a more meaningful way, and when they take their place in making decisions to help their community, they will have a rich background of appreciation of and value of nature to form their opinions from. They then will make decisions that will benefit as many people and as much of their community as they can, not just for a select few. It seems that the idea of selling off so much of White's Woods for timber, is a bad idea. Once those trees are gone, they won't be back in that size in your or my lifetime. In other words, you could not BUY them back for any amount of money. The money that would be received for them, would really only be a fraction of what they would really be worth to your children or mine. There are two different ways to look at this; one way sees only money for the short-term, they other sees the benefit of nature for a lifetime (many lifetimes!) Remember, Cook's Forest State Park was set aside to be enjoyed by all for generations - and Mr. Cook was a lumberjack

and sawmill operator! He had the vision to save and protect the trees for the future. I share in that vision. Do you? Thank you.

I am willing to help organize a concert to raise awareness and potential revenue toward ensuring maintaining the woods as close to a natural state as possible. I have frequented the woods since 1975.

I'm so happy I learned about this place!!! I'm so disgusted firstly that anyone wants to destroy such a beautiful park for profit but also about all the secrecy behind the plans to destroy Whites Woods!

Please don't do anything to the park. It's perfect how it is and that's why it's been so successful with attracting people to hike and run. It's my favorite place in Indiana. Don't change it.

I don't own a car at the present but would be willing to help there if I have a way to & home. I think it's very important to keep as many trees around as possible as well as remove dead trees that may hurt others as well as remove invasive plants from the area. I've been going to Whites Woods since 2009.

I strongly support your group's mission and applaud you for slowing the clearing of Whites Woods. I also believe in civility in public discourse. I have been offended by some of the accusations that the group has made. I would urge you to be more diplomatic in your approach to the supervisors. It is important to have a civil relationship so that both sides can hopefully work together on a science-based conservation plan. Good luck!

Invasive species removal is very important to restore White's Woods, which is suffering from years of deferred maintenance, but the plan proposed by the supervisors will destroy populations of native species and probably not remove the invasive barberry, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard. There are better strategies for doing that.

Let me be clear: I DO believe a science-based management plan COULD help enhance the health of White's Woods. IF the intentions are indeed for FOREST HEALTH. The 100-page proposed Millstone Land Management Plan that was sent to DCNR is NOT a science-based plan with goals of enhancing forest health. I did not see any environmental data (quadrat sampling? recent sediment analyses? avian studies? evidence to back up that "rototilling" enhances "soil health") that even suggested that this project has the best intentions for this COMMUNITY park. There is a Natural Heritage Site within White's Woods - this was never mentioned in the entire 100-page document submitted for DCNR review. It appears as if NO research on behalf of Millstone or the Supervisors was attempted during the development of the "plan". Not to mention the extremely aggressive proposed timeline and LACK of continued monitoring in

future years (10+ years down the line). Additionally, based on what I saw in the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are not being implemented to prevent stormwater/sediment runoff into surrounding neighborhoods. In Summary: YIKES. I am not opposed to discussions about deer population control in White's Woods. I recreate in White's Woods year round, so hunting is not something I am a particular fan of. However, I understand this is a community park and that the deer population needs to be controlled. Would deer fencing around proposed management sites be more appropriate long-term? I imagine that even with hunting, deer will continue to come to White's Woods from neighboring woodlot lands (IUP CO-OP, etc). I do not think hard structures are necessary for restroom features. Rather, an ADA-compliant port-a-potty situation might be more easily managed/maintained and cost-effective? I want to see the community - and more than one "expert" - involved in the development of a management plan for White's Woods - A park that was established with goals of preservation, conservation, and recreation in mind. I strongly support the suggestion of a committee, comprising of all stakeholders, being established to make management decisions for White's Woods. I believe White Township Supervisors should have organized this type of committee as soon as they began having the recent discussions about White's Woods (especially with their knowledge of controversy in the past). Thank you for the work that you are doing to make this project transparent.

## FWW Change.org Petition

The following petition was posted on Change.org from May 15 – July 15, 2020. It received nearly 8000 signatures and comments from 142 signatories.

Included in this document are signatures of **1240** individuals (see Appendix C) who reside in zip codes 15000-16999 (Western Pennsylvania), and are therefore within driving distance of WWNC, or are known to have formerly lived in the Indiana area, and in many cases still visit Indiana regularly.

Of the 1240 signatures, approximately **600** reside in zip code **15701 or 15705**, White Township, Indiana Borough, or IUP. Approximately 75 additional live within 15 minutes of WWNC, and approximately 175 additional live within an hour of WWNC.

Of the remaining signatures, over 1000 are from Eastern Pennsylvania, hundreds are from across the United States, and hundreds are from as far as Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and even Australia.

It is clear from these data that people are concerned with protecting our natural areas. But most important, residents of Western Pennsylvania, Indiana County, and especially **White Township** do not want WWNC to be timbered or damaged by heavy equipment, both misguided attempts to “manage” the nature center.

## Petition to Save White's Woods Nature Center

White's Woods Nature Center, located on the edge of Indiana, PA in White Township, is a 250 acre preserve that our entire community is able to enjoy. Unfortunately, the White Township Supervisors are proposing to engage in timber harvesting and rototilling, which would destroy our beautiful park--the logging will start in a matter of weeks.

Currently, the forester has marked nearly 700 trees on approximately 50 acres (20%) of the park (Phase I), representing over 50% of the trees in that area, and including mostly large, valuable trees which provide the park's canopy. For updates on our progress in stopping this devastation, go to: [www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org)

### Please **SIGN OUR PETITION** to Save White's Woods Nature Center

Here is a list of concerns about the timbering plan:

- **Cutting and rototilling of the forest floor will begin in weeks.** While current plans for timbering have been in the works for over a year, the greater Indiana PA community only learned about it in mid-April when our members observed the marked trees. We must act now.
- **Timbering is done for profit.** According to the White Township timbering plans, obtained by an Open Records Request by Friends of White's Woods, as much as 50% of the trees in White's Woods will be timbered. The original timber volume before harvest is 5,509,901 with a value of \$2,539,536.05. The after harvest volume will only be 2,754,951 with a potential revenue of \$727,552.68. This is clearly a ploy to profit from our community resource.
- **Mature forest canopy will be lost.** The Township plan calls to remove a substantial portion of the "canopy". This will dramatically damage the forest.
- **Logging plan is not approved by the DCNR.** After a similar logging attempt in 2007-2008, the Pennsylvania Department for the Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) told the supervisors that 21% was too much to remove and they needed to submit a new plan for DCNR approval prior to implementation. The supervisors have not followed this guidance.

- **Timbering plans have moved forward without adequate public input and commentary.** The COVID-19 pandemic prevented community members from attending township meetings or peacefully demonstrating. When similar proposals were put forth in 1995 and in 2007-08,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of residents did not want Whites Woods to be logged, according to surveys administered by the township (1995) and by the Indiana Gazette (2008).
- **Proper legal procedures have not been followed.** According to documentation compiled by FWW, the township has not followed the proper legal procedures. White's Woods Nature Center is the only land in White Township that was purchased with funds donated by Project 70, funds that were set aside by the Pennsylvania State Legislature to preserve natural areas for conservation, recreation, and historical preservation. Commercial logging is not consistent with Project 70 guidelines.
- **Logging plan is not ecologically sound.** The plan is likely to introduce new problems, including storm water runoff damage to neighboring residential properties and explosive growth of invasive species. We need park management expertise in providing input to any White's Woods management plan.
- **Rototilling will propagate invasive species.** Removing the canopy to allow in extra light and rototilling invasive species (such as Japanese barberry), as the plan intends, are likely to result in an explosion of invasive species growth, rather than its reduction.
- **White's Woods is home to at least two at-risk species.** Trillium spp. and Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) are both listed by the United Plant Savers as at-risk species (<https://unitedplantsavers.org/species-at-risk-list/>). Logging and rototilling activities will likely destroy perennial ground species, including these and many others.

Our petition asks for the following:

- **An immediate halt to the ALL work in White's Woods (marking trees, eradicating invasive species, timbering).** Halting the current plan will allow the development of a comprehensive stewardship plan.
- **A working group of WWNC stakeholders be formed** to seek necessary input from the public and from DCNR, allowing all stakeholders to be involved in the planning.
- **Use of the park exclusively for Project 70 approved purposes: recreation, conservation, historical preservation.**

- **A long-term, comprehensive, evidence-based park management plan be developed** by professionals with expertise in conservation, park management practices and Project 70 rules in concert with WWNC stakeholders.

### **Selected Comments (35/131 total):**

I'm signing because these are the woods I explored as a child and enjoyed as an adult. I am fully aware of the Irreversible destruction that results from logging. Perfectly healthy flora and fauna are decimated in the process of removing tagged trees. This ultimately destroys the surrounding ecosystems. This must be stopped. It's unacceptable.

Proper legal process has not been followed, nor has community input been sought. This action MUST be delayed so that long term impacts can be studied and legal alternatives evaluated. Otherwise it is just wanton destruction for profit.

Deforesting this area would pose environmental risks to the ecosystem. These forests are enjoyed by this community, and railing this through during a pandemic when citizens voices have been silenced is unacceptable. Stop now!

My girls love taking walks in White's Woods with their grandfather. It is such a beautiful place in our town that should not be destroyed!

This isn't just a road paving project that can be repaved if mistakes are made - much more research and time needs to be invested in the development of management plans for White's Woods Nature Center.

White Township residents deserve more transparency from White Township Supervisors about what will happen to community land and facilities.

I advocate strongly for the development of a committee comprised of park stakeholders to determine science-based best management practices for this community park. These decisions should uphold the parks original establishment requirements of maintaining park preservation, conservation, and recreation.

White's Woods is our community's treasure---for recreation and biodiversity. The Supervisors' plan will leave it and our community unrecognizable.

We fought this irresponsible act years ago and thought the land and ecosystem was safe. Once again the greed and need to destroy has reared its ugly head again and this new assault is being done quietly. This needs to STOP once and for all.

This is the only place in the town of Indiana to take a shaded 2 hour walk with your dogs. This is a slice of heaven for our community.

I'm signing because the trails are convenient for me to get to, it is also a natural wildlife habitat, logging and timbering will drive said wildlife into Indiana Boro and cause local

caos as these animals will think they can live among humans in our back yards, not to mention deer are already getting killed in the Boro, along Philadelphia Street, this is not acceptable

I grew up in indiana, and Whites woods has been an awesome place to hike and relax in nature.

I know I'm not the only person that comes to whites woods all the time with my dog. The township has an opportunity here to show that environmental protection and preservation is one our priorities instead of demonstrating just the opposite. Whites woods is a beautiful place that should be PRESERVED for not only the wildlife that call it home but also for the future generations to of hikers, dog walker, or just the average person to enjoy.

I love whites woods and it's one of the things/places that makes Indiana Indiana. Having nature in our literal back yard is a massive blessing that shouldn't go away or be taken for granted

It's almost been 100 years since White's Woods was last timbered! Instead of cutting down those trees that the harborist sees only as money, why not put in a real parking lot where the basketball courts are, put in some restrooms, and beautify the gas wells with wildflowers. Turn this in to eco-tourism, because I'm pretty sure at 100 years it gets considered an old growth forest, and that would attract a lot more people to Indiana!

This is ridiculous and this park is something this entire community enjoys. This town has a beautiful wild life and nature around it, let's not destroy that!

I have been on these trails for the past 10+ years, almost half of my life, and it would be a shame to destroy the ecosystem. Many people use these woods and trails as a quick getaway. It is so close to town that anyone can use it. I don't know where else I'll scavenge for Morel mushrooms, green onion, and leeks! Not only does it provide for that, what would happen to all the animals and wildlife?

Please please please don't take away the only beautiful thing in Indiana. I go up there all the time. It's a church. They can't just steal that from us

My cousins grew up near whites woods and we loved hiking through there as kids. I would hate to see that taken away from future generations, especially when being outdoors is so healing!

I am signing this petition to save White's Woods Nature Center. The logging plan by the White Township Supervisors will devastate this community's beloved park. This stand of woods is estimated to be approximately 80 to 100 years old, one of the older forests in Western Pennsylvania. It sustains wildlife and woodland birds, such as the Hermit Thrush, Oven Bird and Scarlet Tanager. A truly beautiful spot.

White's Woods is Indiana's green space. Once it is gone, Indiana will be every so much less livable.

This is not a wise use of public resources. After a similar logging attempt in 2007-2008, the Pennsylvania Department for the Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) told the supervisors that 21% was too much to remove and they needed to submit a new plan for DCNR approval prior to implementation. The supervisors have not followed this guidance. This is clearly a ploy to profit from our community resource.

It's heartbreaking to think that our woods might be decimated by logging and rototilling. I hope White's Woods will remain a nature preserve rather than becoming a timber farm.

The selection process lacked transparency and the plan's stated goals differ from the documented marking (for removal) of mature hardwood trees rather than invasive species.

I live in Indiana County. Whites Woods Nature Center is a sanctuary. To try and change it by "mulching" and destroying trees is an absolute disgrace to the residents.

I am a former resident and still visit often when I can. A highlight of every visit is daily hiking in White's Woods with my now-11yo daughter, who grew up loving this unique and historic place like I did as a kid. When you live in a place and see it every day, maybe you get used to it and think it's not that special. Now that I live far from Indiana and miss it, I find it heartbreaking that someone wants to destroy such a biodiverse and beautiful place for the short-term gain of money for timber and development. The loss of carbon capturing trees, and of species like the 17-year cicada—which emerged in 2019 and will not again until 2036, or never—would be a tragedy.

White Township's plan to devastate White's Wood Nature Center is a cynical insult to citizen stakeholders fueled by hubris and deceptive euphemisms dressed up and paraded as "science." Of course, advice solicited from a commercial forester is going favor cutting trees for profit. Had they hired a geologist, the advice would have been to drill or mine. Had they asked a pimp, he would have submitted plans to build a brothel. Perspective is everything. There is a profound difference between a woodlot managed to maximize extracted value versus a park/nature center designated to provide recreation, wildlife habitat, and ecological diversity.

Growing up in Indiana, Whites Woods Nature Center played an important part in my childhood. As a slice of beautiful old forest directly attached to town, it allowed us an excellent opportunity to recreate and enjoy nature close to home. This is an amenity and natural habitat that should be enhanced for recreation and conservation, driving long-term value in the community, rather than depleted for short-term profit.

I lived in Indiana for 6 years. This park saved my life by keeping me connected to nature throughout my tumultuous stay there. This town has it's shares of woes - but this place is the Heart Center of life force in Indiana. I will fight to protect sacred sanctuaries of nature such as this.

White's Woods is a community jewel. It sparkles and is precious in every season. The supervisors plan will leave the park unrecognizable: 50% of trees removed, trails damaged by heavy equipment, and tree tops left to form piles of debris. Stop this now!!!

As a resident and taxpayer in White Township, I implore the Twp. Supervisors to stop this logging plan in the White's Woods Nature Center. Stop it! You are violating the will of the community.

I grew up in White's Woods. It meant so much to have this beautiful forest to hike and explore. Please preserve it for generations to come.

I love these woods dearly, they are my escape from everything that's going on in the world, and they're my happy place. I know I'm not the only one, many other residents use these woods to get away. We will not be deterred by the lies and false promises set forth by those who want to destroy whites woods.

An appalling display of greed, and all the worse because they're hiding behind a bleeping pandemic to do it.

The management of White's Woods should be thoughtful, comprehensive, evidence-based, and guided by public input. I am so thankful for the hundreds of hours I have spent on the beautiful trails and want to ensure that they remain for generations to come.

## The HawkEye Reader Survey

The HawkEye, IUP's online newspaper, conducted a two-question poll of their readership May 23-30, 2020.

Of the 33 respondents, 38% were residents of White Township, 53% of Indiana Borough, and 9% elsewhere.

Overwhelmingly, 88% (n=29) opposed the plans to "cut and clear White's Woods."

## Public Input Data: The Significance

Summarizing the public input collected through the three instruments described above, there is one overriding theme: LEAVE WHITE'S WOODS ALONE! This from readers of the HawkEye (33), users of White's Woods Nature Center (229), and Change.org petition signers (~600 local, ~8000 worldwide).

In 1995, the Supervisors actively requested public input through a mailed ballot, and the result was a virtual mandate to abandon timbering plans. In 2007, response to a survey by the Indiana Gazette produced similar results. Data collected this year, during a pandemic where public contact was limited, are even more compelling. Letters to the Supervisors and to DCNR (see later sections) corroborate this evidence.

Simply put, we now have had three public mandates, all opposing any mechanical removal of invasive species, timbering, use of heavy equipment, or other potential disruption to WWNC. The message is simple: LEAVE WHITE'S WOODS ALONE.

## Citizen Letters to DCNR

Following are 12 letters sent to DCNR requesting that WWNC be maintained as a natural area, as stipulated by the Project 70 funding used for its purchase.

In their letters objecting to the proposed plans for invasive species removal and timbering, writers noted:

- The beauty of WWNC as a backdrop to Indiana
- The opportunity to experience the natural environment, rich with wild-life
- The damage that will be done by heavy equipment, i.e. the “eradicator”
- The acquisition of WWNC using Project 70 money, intended for recreation, conservation, and historic preservation
- The need to maintain green space to combat climate change
- The personal benefits they have derived from using WWNC
- The lack of input from experts in ecology, biology, recreation, and a wealth of other specialties
- The secrecy surrounding the decisions
- The subterfuge of presenting a “stewardship plan” which is nothing more than an attempt to timber
- The unwillingness of the Supervisors to invite public input (note: these comments were prior to the DCNR requirement)

It is our belief that these 12 letters sent to us are but a fraction of those sent to DCNR, and that they accurately represent the concerns of the tax payers of White Township and the surrounding area, but more importantly, the users of WWNC. While each letter has a different emphasis, and raises different concerns, one overwhelming theme unites the writers: their passion for the natural environment of White’s Woods Nature Center and their commitment to protect it from the damaging impact of the current “stewardship plan.”

June 9, 2020

Mr. Mike Eschenmann, Chief, Community Parks and Conservation  
Division Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau  
of Conservation and Recreation 400 Market Street, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg PA 17105

Dear Mr. Eschenmann,

I am a resident of Indiana PA, and I am writing to express my deep distress over White Township plans to timber White's Wood Nature Center. This would be a disastrous loss, not just for the people in White Township, but for the people in Indiana as well. I have been walking in White's Woods ever since I moved to Indiana in 1985. When I had a dog, I walked there every day and enjoyed not simply the exercise, but exercising in such a rich natural environment— from deer to headwaters emerging by wooden bridges to wood thrushes and woodpeckers to turtles and snakes to bright red maples in the fall and May apples in the spring. The woods are used daily by people who enjoy hiking, biking, photography, running, meditating, and simply seeing the natural world up close and personal. When I look up from my house in town, the green hill that I see in the near distance is the White's Woods Nature Center. I would dread a time when, having been timbered, that hill would turn brown and muddy. I would dread not being able to walk there, surrounded by a green forest. White's Woods is one of the joys of living in Indiana and one of the gems of the area.

The sign outside the White's Woods Nature Center proclaims that it is for the people of White Township. It should be. It was purchased with Project 70 money to be used as a recreation area and to be kept in "its natural state." And yet now for the third time (1995, 2007, and 2020) people in both White Township and in Indiana Boro are having to work, hard, to convince the Township supervisors not to timber this beautiful public land. And particularly not while calling timbering a "plan to control invasive species". In fact, timbering the woods will destroy the canopy and increase the number of invasive plants and shrubs newly exposed to light. Bringing in heavy machinery to cut down such trees as red maples and American beech is hardly a way of containing invasive species. It is a way to profit from logging while allowing invasive species to proliferate. And the areas in the woods, now, where land has been cleared to allow power lines, are exactly the places that are most ridden with ticks, a source of Lyme disease in the community. This will only be worse with all the trees gone. And certainly no one has consulted with homeowners living below the woods regarding the effect of run-off water, once the trees are down.

What is worse, to me, is the fact that the township supervisors were willing to move ahead with a timbering plan without informing the community of their intentions, without any input from the citizens and stakeholders, without following the Sunshine laws, and all under the cover of the COVID-19 quarantine. Their plan to timber our woods does not abate. Every twelve years, a new timbering plan pops up. They are simply waiting for a time when citizen vigilance slips so they can slip in and timber. We should not have to keep fighting the same plan to timber our nature center again and again and again.

White's Woods are a fabulous asset to the community. They need to be defended and protected from depredation. They need to be here for the enjoyment of future generations, and particularly at a time of global warming when trees are so crucially important to the environment.

I urge the DCNR to put a halt to this plan to timber White's Woods.

I urge that those who see White's Woods solely as a source of income be blocked.

I urge that an appropriate committee for the stewardship of White's Wood be established to develop a plan that would rely on people concerned with conservation, recreation, park management, and ecology--in short, people who cherish this natural environment.

I urge that the voice of tax payers be included in this process.

And most importantly, I urge that a way be found to pass on White's Woods, in its most thriving state, to future generations.

Sincerely,

Gail Berlin  
661 Chestnut St.  
Indiana PA 15701  
724-463-7447 gailivy@gmail.com

CC:

Tom Ford, Director, Bureau of Recreation and  
Conservation Department of Conservation and Natural  
Resources 400 Market Street, 5th Floor Harrisburg,  
PA 17105

Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship  
Section Department of Conservation and Natural  
Resources Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
Community Parks and Conservation Division 400 Market  
Street, 5th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17105

Tom Ford, Director  
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

June 6, 2020

Dear Mr. Ford

Subject: White's Woods Nature Center, White Township, Indiana County

I am writing regarding the timbering plan for White's Woods Nature Center in Indiana. White Township supervisors developed a timbering plan and were set to implement it when local residents using the nature center discovered that trees were being marked. The supervisors denied that there was to be a timber harvest. They did not give public notice or provide for public input.

The woods were purchased with Project 70 money which restricts the use of this natural area for recreational use, conservation and historic preservation. The 1965 White Township Project 70 application designated White's Woods as an area that "generally was to be left in its natural state". I support continuing this designation and oppose timbering.

White's Woods is a treasure for local residents to experience the beauty, peace and serenity that is provided by a walk in the woods. This can not be found by walking in a mowed park. And the nature center is close enough for everyone in the borough to enjoy. Timbering would destroy my walk in the woods experience, open up the canopy to the spread of invasive plants and could create erosion/water run-off issues.

I oppose the cutting of trees in White's Woods Nature Center. The Nature Center should remain in its present natural state for current residents and for future generations to enjoy as it was originally designated.

Sincerely,

Carol Cummins  
20 Reston Drive, Indiana, PA 15701

Cc Mike Eschenmann, Chief, Community Parks and Conservation Division  
Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship Section, Community Parks and Conservation Division

Mike Eschenmann, Chief, Community Parks and Conservation Division  
 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
 400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105

Tom Ford, Director, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation  
 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105

Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship Section  
 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
 Community Parks and Conservation Division

June 19, 2020

Hello,

I am writing to you today because I wanted to voice my thoughts with regard to the White Township, White's Woods Recreation Center. White's Woods is located in my small town of Indiana, Pennsylvania. This recreation, conservation and historical preservation has been a great place to have at the heart of our small community. I grew up here, and I have many memories of walking the trails throughout these woods as a child, in girl scout camp learning about trees and plants, and as an adult, walking with friends, family, and our pets, relishing in the beauty of the woods.

I also happen to be a current member of the Indiana Borough Shade Tree Commission. While I am by far no expert on matters of trees and forest growth, I do feel that I am a resident who is concerned with nature and preserving our wonderful woods, forests, and shade trees for our future generations.

Under the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act of 1964 72 P.S. § 3946.18(c), it was stipulated that any lands acquired with such funds may only be utilized for recreation, conservation, historical purposes, and contribute to meet the recreation or conservation needs of the community. The recreation area of White's Woods is heavily used by human visitors and is home to a fairly diverse forest of trees, plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and small/large mammals. Since 1965 White's Woods has been designated as an area that generally was to be left to nature.

Despite this designation, the right to leave our woods in their natural surroundings doesn't come without a fight. Time and time again, the White Township Supervisors have brought plans of timbering sections of these woods to the table. In fact, with this current push for timbering, it will be the third time in 25 years that the Township Supervisors have attempted to move

forward with such plans. Yet with each new attempt at timbering, the Township is met with outcry from its residents (White Township and Indiana Borough).

There are a number of potential problems with the proposed timbering plan of White's Woods. Cutting roads, creating new trails, removing "undesirable" trees, all have the potential to damage the park and at quite an expensive cost. Timbering would create an enormous problem to neighboring properties, potential for water run-off, and permanently change the surrounding environment.

I hope that your Department hears our concerns and takes to heart what a wooded recreation area means within a small community. Despite being located in a more rural part of Pennsylvania, there is not access to many public areas where residents can enjoy nature in its natural state. Where hikers, bikers, people, and pets alike can all take part in the great outdoors without the worry of hunters or trappers. A place where all people are welcomed by the tall canopy shade of trees and the feel of the earth beneath their feet. White's Woods is a place to cherish, not to chop (down).

Thank you so much for your time and hopefully, consideration.

Best regards,

Angela M. DonGiovanni

Resident of Indiana Borough, Indiana County

**From:** Dana Driscoll <[danalynndriscoll@gmail.com](mailto:danalynndriscoll@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Whites Woods - Indiana, PA

**Date:** June 8, 2020 at 10:01:24 PM EDT

**To:** [arebert@pa.gov](mailto:arebert@pa.gov)

Dear Ms. Rebert,

My name is Dana Driscoll, a resident of Indiana County and frequent visitor to White's Woods. In addition to being faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where White's Woods is located, I also have taught wild food foraging and herbalism for many years in the region.

I am writing to you today to ask that you please help save White's Woods. I understand that at present, you are reviewing White Township's plan to log White's Woods. I request that you reject the plan on several grounds.

White's Woods was purchased with Project 70 money in 1965; these funds restrict the use of this natural area to recreation, conservation, and historical preservation. Yet the plan released by White's Woods involves lumbering over 2.5 million dollars worth of trees, over half of the forest, and rototilling the land. The Project 70 application indicated that the area would be "generally left in its natural state."

As a wild plant specialist, I can tell you that there are many rare woodland species and vulnerable species in White's Woods, including several on DCNR's endangered list, including *galearis spectabilis*, and two other plants listed by the United Plant Savers as at risk: *caulophyllum thalictroides* and *trilium* spp. (<https://unitedplantsavers.org/species-at-risk-list/>). It is likely there's much more there than what I have seen and identified, and thus, a stewardship plan that *does not* rototill the forest floor would be wise here.

The logging plan was brought forth while the town was in lockdown for the pandemic. Residents only discovered that they were planning on logging White's Woods after seeing trees that had been marked. The last time that White township supervisors had a tried to log White's Woods was in 2007-2008, the voters vetoed the logging plan. This year, township supervisors worked in secret to develop this plan without any input either from the community or from the support of a conservationist. In fact, the person who is set to log the forest does not appear to have expertise in conservation. It is clear this plan is solely for financial benefit.

Finally, I appeal to your work as a steward of the lands across Pennsylvania. As a lifelong resident of PA, I am committed to conserving our lands for future generations. White's Woods is an absolute gem in our community, well loved and well used. It is a travesty what is set to happen to it—and only you are able to stop it. I believe that protecting public lands and preserving intact forests is what the DCNR stands for, and certainly, what these original Project 70 funds we're meant to do.

What the citizens of Indiana hope is that we can work together, with the township supervisions, to develop a conservation plan that will continue to preserve this important landmark for centuries to come.

Thank you,  
Dr. Dana Driscoll  
743 Spaulding Road  
Penn Run PA 15765  
814-243-6556

June 9, 2020

Dear Ms. Rebert,

Please help our Friends of White's Woods community. We very much would like to uphold the integrity of this beloved nature preserve for future generations. On August 20, 1965, the White Township Project 70 application designated White's Woods as an area that "generally was to be left in its natural state" and was not to be used for crop production or forestry. The Township's plans involve timbering to cut roads, new trails, remove "undesirable" trees such as Red Maple and American Beech, "open the canopy" and chew up the forest floor. This plan will tremendously damage the preserve and cause extensive damage to neighboring properties, water run-off, etc. Timbering would destroy the environment. Please help our cause.

Sincerely,

Tammy Garzarelli, a Friend of White's Woods, White Township, Indiana, PA

Vicki Stelma  
1105 Water Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

June 15, 2020

Mr. Tom Ford, Director, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
400 Market Street, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Ford:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen who is interested in protecting White's Woods. As you know, the White Township Supervisors in Indiana County are actively working to timber the woods; however, there are many reasons why it is important that their timbering project not be allowed to move forward.

First, this natural area is quite diverse and is home to amphibians, reptiles, insects, a variety of trees, plants, birds, and small and large mammals and should be preserved as such. In fact, the woods were purchased with Project 70 money which restricts the use of this area to recreation, conservation, and historical preservation – not timbering.

In addition, intact forests help to combat the effects of climate change, and it is imperative that White's Woods not be destroyed in a short-sighted timbering effort. Instead, a stewardship plan for White's Woods must be developed, and it must involve citizen input as well as input from biologists, ecologists, and park management experts.

In short, a different plan from that which has been proposed by the White Township supervisors needs to be developed for White's Woods.

Sincerely,

Vicki Stelma

CC:

Mr. Mike Eschenmann, Chief, Community Parks and Conservation Division  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Conservation and Recreation

Ms. Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship Section  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
Community Parks and Conservation Division

July 3, 2020

649 Shryock Avenue  
Indiana, PA 15701  
[mmstemp@iup.edu](mailto:mmstemp@iup.edu)  
[manfeldlarry@gmail.com](mailto:manfeldlarry@gmail.com)

White Township Supervisors:

We are opposed to the Stewardship Plan prepared by Mike Lawer that was made available to the public last week. We are residents of Indiana Borough, within a short distance to the Whites Woods Nature Center. We moved to Indiana, Pennsylvania, in 1985, from a large city in another state, and have lived in the Borough ever since. Our introduction to Whites Woods left us awestruck at the natural beauty of this wooded area so close to town. We have traveled to and lived in many places during our lives. Very few towns can boast about having such a natural habitat at their backdoor. We have spent countless hours in these woods, at various times of the year, walking, running, learning, observing, contemplating, and educating. I, for one, know these trails like the back of my hand and especially enjoy them in the early morning hours, even while wearing a headlamp. The international students we have brought to Whites Woods have thoroughly enjoyed the natural setting, the wildlife, and the serenity. During this pandemic, Whites Woods has become even more important in helping us maintain physical and mental well-being.

We have read the Stewardship Plan and these are a few of our concerns:

1. We don't think there is evidence provided by experts from the various disciplines that relate to Whites Woods and its use. There is no input from the perspectives of ecology, biology, those who use the park, the adjacent communities, and so on.
2. It is unclear to us how trees were targeted for removal. We have seen many trees marked for removal, that appear to be healthy. The amount of planned timbering seems excessive, and the basis for their removal unclear. Is there information on diseased trees? None is provided in the Plan. Is forest health really the objective, or is it timbering?
3. Other White Township recreation areas (Getty Park, S & T Recreation Center) are addressed along with Whites Woods, as if they're the same. We think that the use/purpose of each of these venues differs to such an extent that the Plan should address them differently.
4. The Supervisors cite a goal about the health and sustainability for the Township recreation areas. In particular, they express a concern about climate change. How does the Plan specifically address climate change?
5. What investment would be made in Whites Woods? We are confused about the use of tree harvesting from Whites Woods to offset costs for the S & T Recreation Center.
6. Whites Woods certainly is used for biking and hiking. But where is more substantial information or input about its related uses, such as education, photography, bird and wildlife watching, the study of plants, meditation?
7. What machinery would be needed to remove trees and invasive species? What damage to the area would this cause?

In summary, the proposed timbering seems untimely, not thoughtful, and not based on evidence. These woods are an awesome treasure for our community and should be preserved. Please abandon the current plan and begin collaborative work with the community at large.

Sincerely,

Margaret Stempien

Larry Feldman



Dear Mr. Eschenmann, Mr. Ford, and Ms. Rebert,

My name is Sara Stewart, and I am a resident of Indiana, PA, as well as a member of the Indiana Borough Council. I'm writing to you because I'm deeply concerned about the proposed plan by the board of supervisors of White Township to remove a large amount of trees from White's Woods.

I have done a substantial amount of research into the proposed plan and have been attending (virtually, due to the pandemic) White Township board's meetings since the plan was first brought to light in April 2020, while the town was under a full Covid-19 lockdown. Everything I have learned about this plan points to its being deeply harmful to the woods that are so beloved by Indiana's residents. What's more, the plan has been developed in secret (often, in executive sessions), while residents were stuck at home, and without soliciting any public input. Indeed, board chairman George Lenz has stated explicitly that he and the other supervisors have no interest in hearing the public's opinion. This is likely because the township's two previous attempts to log the woods incurred massive local opposition. Over the past two months, the supervisors have been hostile and condescending to people who have asked, during the public comment period of their meetings, good-faith questions about the board's intentions regarding the forest. It is deeply concerning to me that a board of elected officials would make an attempt to enact such an unpopular and destructive plan against the wishes of the community.

As you are aware, the woods were purchased with Project 70 funds, which specify that the land must be used for recreation, conservation, and historical preservation. The August 20, 1965 White Township Project 70 application designated White's Woods as an area that "generally was to be left in its natural state." The township's forestry documents that have been made public clearly show that these are not their interests. Their partnership with Millstone Land Management - the third attempt to log these woods in 25 years - aims to take a devastating amount of trees from these woods. Millstone's plan for the removal of invasive species also involves techniques that have been decried by forestry experts, who say it will actually increase the number of invasives going forward - especially if, as planned, Millstone opens up the forest canopy.

I have been a resident of Indiana for six years now, and I have hiked these woods almost every week I've been here, often multiple times a week. I like my town, but this is a place where you can see THREE coal plants on the horizon on a clear day. White's Woods is the most beautiful natural area here and provides much-needed protection from the rampant air pollution in this area. I'd like to add that, as a recent survivor of Stage III colon cancer, spending time in these woods has been an essential part of my recovery, both physically and psychologically. I am far from the only cancer victim in this area, and I know for a fact that many of my fellow survivors feel similarly.

What's particularly shocking to me is that White Township has chosen to move forward with their plan during a pandemic, when humans are more than ever in need of fresh air and natural spaces. More broadly, scientists agree that preserving wooded areas is a key element of

countering the risks presented by climate change, another topic the supervisors are unwilling to acknowledge. As an avid bird- and wildlife-watcher, I am horrified at the thought of removing so much of the habitat in the woods for amphibians, reptiles, insects, a diverse range of trees, plants, birds, and small and large mammals, including at-risk species. Taking down hundreds of trees will also undoubtedly cause damage to other trees around the targeted ones. The forest will not recover from logging on this scale for many, many years.

In a more immediate economic risk, removing trees from White's Woods will increase flooding damage to homes at the base of the woods, some of which already get stormwater in their basements during periods of heavy rain - a not uncommon event here in western PA, as you know.

I am not opposed to stewardship of this forest, but a smart and ecologically sound plan needs to be developed in \*partnership\* with the community and with a board of advisors including experts in conservation, forestry, biology, ecology and climate change. I cannot stress enough that the residents of Indiana - both Indiana Borough and White Township - DO NOT WANT THEIR WOODS LOGGED, and they are understandably very upset at seeing so many healthy, mature trees in the woods already marked for destruction with spraypaint. There is absolutely no good reason to do this, and taxpayers in Indiana deserve a say in what happens to our woods. Please put a stop to this plan before it permanently damages the most beautiful wild area in our town, especially as there are already so many plundered natural resources around us. There are other ways for this township to make money; it need, and should, not do so in such a short-sighted, greedy attack on our nature preserve. I would be happy to speak to you further if you would like to contact me; I'm at [sarafrances@gmail.com](mailto:sarafrances@gmail.com) and 917-750-9642.

Sincerely,  
Sara Stewart  
1309 Water St.  
Indiana, PA 15701  
917-750-9642

351 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Indiana, PA 15701  
June 10, 2020

Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship Section  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
Community Parks and Conservation Division  
400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Rebert,

I write to you as a frequent user of the White's Woods Nature Center, located in White Township in Indiana, PA. I understand that representatives of DCNR are currently investigating both White Township's stewardship plan and the woods themselves. I urge you to reject any plan produced by White Township or Millstone Land Management Company (under contract with the township) that involves timbering of White's Woods. I would like to explain this position with a little context.

I have lived in Indiana for exactly 25 years. I am now witnessing the third attempt in as many years on the part of the township to timber this popular natural and recreational area, created with Project 70 funds in 1965 to maintain the woods for recreation, conservation, and historical preservation. Despite this mandate stemming from the WWNC's creation, the township has consistently refused to divulge its plans to the public or to consult all relevant stakeholders, including experts in relevant scientific fields and park management.

This time around, White Township officials are attempting to push through a timbering plan partly under the guise of "invasive species removal." Yet their "undesirable" trees include Red Maple and American Beech, as well as much of the understory in general. They wish to "open up the canopy," whereas the canopy is of course that of the most mature trees, which also create the richest habitat in the forest. In short, their plan will damage this park irreparably and prove expensive as well.

Although I am not one of them, property owners in the vicinity of White's Woods represent one group of stakeholders who have not been consulted. Timbering would cause enormous problems to neighboring properties via run-off resulting from damage to the watershed.

Finally (and getting back to the Project 70 mandate), White's Woods is a relatively undisturbed natural area and is home to amphibians, reptiles, insects, diverse trees and plants, birds, and small and large mammals: within the past week I have seen a red fox on one of the forest paths, and earlier this year I heard an owl at dusk. There will be little to conserve should DCNR approve White Township's stewardship plan.

I thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Tamara L. Whited

351 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Indiana, PA 15701  
July 6, 2020

Mathew Keefer, Asst. State Forester  
DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Rachel Carson State Office  
Building, 6th Floor  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Dear Mr. Keefer,

I write to you as a frequent user of the White's Woods Nature Center, located in White Township in Indiana, PA. I understand that representatives of DCNR are currently investigating both White Township's stewardship plan and the woods themselves. I urge you to reject any plan produced by White Township or Millstone Land Management Company (under contract with the township) that involves timbering of White's Woods. I would like to explain this position with a little context.

I have lived in Indiana for exactly 25 years. I am now witnessing the third attempt in as many years on the part of the township to timber this popular natural and recreational area, created with Project 70 funds in 1965 to maintain the woods for recreation, conservation, and historical preservation. Despite this mandate stemming from the WWNC's creation, the township has consistently refused to divulge its plans to the public or to consult all relevant stakeholders, including experts in relevant scientific fields and park management.

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I thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Tamara L. Whited

**From:** Todd Thompson <[toddthompson32@gmail.com](mailto:toddthompson32@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** White's Woods in Indiana/White Township, PA  
**Date:** June 9, 2020 at 4:57:16 PM EDT  
**To:** [MESCHENMAN@pa.gov](mailto:MESCHENMAN@pa.gov), [thoford@pa.gov](mailto:thoford@pa.gov), [arebert@pa.gov](mailto:arebert@pa.gov)

Ms. Rebert, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Eschenmann,

I write today to register my strong concern about and opposition to a stewardship plan proposed for White's Woods by the Board of Supervisors of White Township. I believe that this plan is currently under review by the DCNR.

My name is Todd Thompson, and I have lived in Indiana, PA for 11 years. In that time I have hiked and walked my dog in White's Woods (which is very near my house) regularly, usually a couple times a week. It is a special place and a unique asset to this town; and White's Woods means so much to me personally that I proposed to my wife on a hike there on Christmas Eve four years ago.

As a lover of nature in general and White's Woods in particular, I am not entirely opposed to its stewardship or maintenance. I realize that such woods require care and planning.

What concerns me is the clandestine way that the Board of Supervisors has undertaken to pass and implement this plan, scant details of which the public has only seen through public records requests. As an interested citizen, I have attended 5-6 Board meetings (in-person in the fall and winter, and virtually during the pandemic). Board members have actively withheld information about the project and have been condescending and hostile to members of the public (politely) asking questions and offering their views on White's Woods; they have indicated that they are not open to more public comment, having, as they said in one meeting, already heard the public's views 12 years ago (the last time they proposed such a plan). At that time, as now, the majority of public sentiment has been crystal clear: we are against both the Board of Supervisors' plan and their methods for carrying it out. Several community members have offered to consult on a stewardship plan that meets the interest both of the public that uses White's Woods and the Board of Supervisors; but such requests have been flatly denied. White's Woods deserves and needs a stewardship plan with input from all stakeholders and experts, not just the Board and the forester it has hired.

There is also a great deal of concern among local residents (I am one of them) who live near White's Woods about flooding damage caused by water run-off if a significant number of trees are taken down. I imagine this could have unforeseen legal ramifications for White Township.

Board members have instructed the public to look at the forestry plan implemented at White Township Recreation Center as a model for what they want to do to White's Woods. I have gone and looked, and, though I am not a forestry expert, I was extremely disheartened by what I saw. White's Woods is just that—a woods with trails. It is not

and should not be a recreation center with pavilions and mulch but without (a great deal of) trees. White's Woods was purchased with Project 70 funds, which, as you all understand better than I, means that it is to be saved for conservation and historical preservation—not as a “sustainable” source of lumber for White Township.

I apologize for the length of this message and thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any follow-up questions. Warm regards, and thank you for your hard work.

Todd Thompson  
1309 Water St., Indiana, PA 15701  
(724) 762-6707

Drs. Cheri and Daniel Widzowski  
250 N 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

Mike Eschenmann, Chief, Community Parks and Conservation Division  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Eschenmann,

We are property owners (and taxpayers!) in Indiana County that live in a home adjacent to the Whites Woods Nature Center. We have concerns about the proposed plans for logging and invasive species control that White Township supervisors have for the Nature Center. It is our understanding that as the property that comprises the Nature Center was purchased with Project 70 funds, the township supervisors need DCNR approval before such plans can proceed and that the DCNR is currently reviewing these plans. As such, we are writing to you and others in the DCNR to share our concerns and to express our support for the Friends of Whites Woods nonprofit organization.

We moved to Indiana County in August 2013 and purchased our home in large part because of its proximity to Whites Woods Nature Center. Members of our family frequently walk in the Woods (several times a week) for not only physical exercise but for mental and spiritual health as well - especially important during the COVID19 pandemic this winter and spring. Being able to walk in the woods, whether alone with our dog, or with our children, or socially distancing with friends, has been such a blessing during this time. We've observed that the nature center has been heavily utilized during this time by others as well – individuals or families hiking, walking dogs, riding mountain bikes. This beautiful park means so much to the greater Indiana community!

We are both trained biologists (with Daniel being on the faculty of IUP's Department of Biology) and as such have training and experience that allow us to appreciate the ecological significance of Whites Woods. Cheri formerly worked as a toxicologist in environmental consulting. Since moving to Indiana County, she has served on the environmental committee of the Indiana County Sustainable Economy Task Force and the county's League of Women Voter's environmental issues committee. Cheri is also a photographer who spends much of her time documenting the biodiversity of Whites Woods, with particular focus on the flowers, ferns, and fungi of the Nature Center (see attachments).

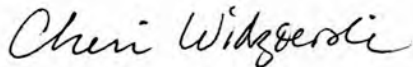
We were disappointed that White Township supervisors were not forthcoming in letting the public know of their interest in harvesting timber. We learned about these plans only after we noticed green and blue paint markings suddenly appearing on Whites Woods trees this spring and started making inquiries. The Friends of Whites Woods (FWW) nonprofit group obtained documents from the White Township supervisors and made them available to the public on their website ([www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org)), something that the township supervisors have not yet done.

The logging plans appear to be much more extensive than what the supervisors claim to be is mostly an invasive species control project - approximately HALF of the volume of the trees in Whites Woods are slated to be removed according to what we've read in the proposal put forth by Millstone, the company selected to do the timbering and invasive control. That scale of tree removal could not possibly be beneficial for the health of the forest. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the township supervisors have considered what impact removing many of the mature trees in Whites Woods will have on water runoff, especially from heavy rains. Since we've lived in Indiana, we have had several storms with over 4" of rainfall. Basement flooding is already a problem for many homeowners near the nature center – this would only be exacerbated with the removal of that many trees.

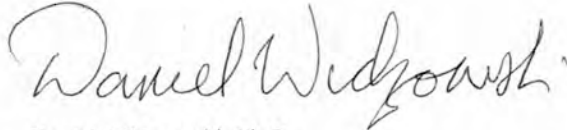
We also have concerns about the methods Millstone proposes for removal of invasive plants – treatment with an unspecified chemical (with no information provided as to the toxicity of this chemical to humans or to desirable plants and animals in the nature center) and mechanical disruption of the forest floor. It appears that the latter is likely to cause the barberry invasion of the woods to worsen and be destructive to sensitive flora such as the pink lady's slipper orchid found Whites Woods. And as to the former, do the town supervisors know the toxicological/ecological/health risks of these chemicals? We are both PhD-level toxicologists with experience in both human and ecological toxicology. Will these chemicals enter the local streams and drinking water supply? What effects might these chemicals have on the sensitive herpetological species of Whites Woods (home to salamanders and box turtles among other species)? If these chemicals are herbicides, how can they be applied without harm to the wildflowers, ferns, mosses, club mosses, etc. in the woods, as well as younger trees and native shrubs (can you chemically kill barberry without damaging native plants and shrubs)?

We understand that Whites Woods needs attention and are not opposed to the forest there being managed. But we feel that it needs to be done in a thoughtful manner with public input. We are asking that DCNR provide guidance to White Township that will encourage a comprehensive stewardship plan that involves various stakeholders, including experts in forest ecology and conservation. Thank you for taking time to learn of our concerns and for considering the best interests of our community and the Nature Center in your decision-making process.

Best wishes,



Cheri Widzowski, Ph.D.



Daniel Widzowski, Ph.D.

Attachments: 3 jpg files containing collages illustrating biodiversity of Whites Woods

CC: Tom Ford, Director, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation  
Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Ashley D. Rebert, Land Conservation and Stewardship Section  
Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Bureau of Conservation and Recreation  
Community Parks and Conservation Division  
400 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

## Letters sent to White Township Supervisors

Following are seven letters that were sent to the White Township Supervisors stating their opposition to timbering and mechanical removal of invasive species. In addition to many of the points addressed by writers of the letters to DCNR (see below), some of the significant points raised by these letters:

- The land belongs to the people, not the Supervisors, who were elected to follow the tax payers' wishes
- The apparent need to fight this battle about every 12 years, when we are forced to revisit the management of WWNC because the Supervisors have a new "plan", always involving tree removal and potential damage to WWNC
- Fear of water damage to already wet properties neighboring on WWNC, created by the disruption of the root systems in the nature center
- Evidence that the 'plan' views WWNC as a timber farm, not a recreational facility
- The current and potential use of WWNC in a variety of IUP classes, including as a case study in sound stewardship (or of gross mismanagement)

We believe that these letters are representative of considerably more sent to the Supervisors. In summary, the writers are pleading with the Township to protect WWNC from harm, whether deliberate, accidental, or collateral damage.

**Angela Whited** <anwhited@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jul 14,  
6:44 PM

to wtinfo, me, cfatzinger, MESCHENMAN

Dear White Township Supervisors,

I am a resident of White Township, and I am writing to urge you to immediately stop any plans to timber White's Woods Nature Center. The park needs a stewardship plan that genuinely takes into account the interests of all of its stakeholders.

After careful review, many of us who have studied the draft "Stewardship Plan" posted on your website can say that it is entirely ill-fit for a park. I say "Save White's Woods"!

Sincerely,

Angela Whited

Supervisors:

I will definitely be using Whites Woods as a case study in the fall when my courses at IUP resume. And depending on what transpires in the evolution of plans for its management, it could be an example of sound, participatory stewardship of public resources, or a cautionary tale. Friends of Whites Woods, together with their professional consultants, have identified a list of concerns with the current proposal which I will not repeat here, but which center on: timber harvest criteria as a base for managing a recreational park; the risks of mechanical controls on invasive species in the physical context of Whites Woods; the experience of the forester advising the Township; and adverse stormwater alterations affecting residents both inside and outside the Township.

My professional experience, which includes a Geography PhD emphasizing rural resource evaluation and assessment and 20 years at IUP engaged in the areas of environmental conservation, freshwater resources, and biogeography, tells me that these concerns are valid and should be heeded in the interests of the public good and the environmental systems which maintain this property in a state so treasured by the community. Please work with the advocates who have expressed their concerns to achieve the best resolution to this perennial and unnecessary conflict.

Respectfully,

Brian Okey

**From:** [Willard Radell <wradell@earthlink.net>](mailto:wradell@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [wtinfo@whitetownship.org](mailto:wtinfo@whitetownship.org)  
**Subject:** Oppose Millstone Woodlot Plan  
**Date:** Jul 5, 2020 6:01 PM

To: White Township Supervisors

Re: Opposition to Millstone Woodlot Plan for White's Woods Nature Center

As a resident of White Township, I am opposed to the Millstone Plan for White's Woods Nature Center. I have read the entire plan and have many objections to the portions pertaining to White's Woods Nature Center. Here is one of them.

Millstone's plan describes White's Woods Nature Center as a "woodlot." Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, 3rd College Edition, 1988, defines "woodlot" as "a piece of land on which trees are cultivated, specifically as a source of firewood, lumber, etc." Webster's Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd, 1979, defines "woodlot" as "a piece of land on which trees are cultivated and cut." A recent Miriam Webster Dictionary definition has a woodlot as "a restricted area of woodland usually privately maintained as a source of fuel, posts, and lumber." A "nature center" is not a "woodlot" and a "woodlot" doesn't make a very satisfying "nature center." White's Woods Nature Center should not be considered as a "tree farm."

I believe Millstone and/or the White Township Supervisors have misunderstood the fact that White's Woods is a "nature center" and not a "woodlot" or a tree farm. I've hiked and biked the trails of White's Woods for 39 years. I do not see any necessity to have it logged, or "managed" by a company that thinks of it as a woodlot.

Willard Radell  
430 Forest Ridge Road  
Indiana, PA 15701

Dear Mr. Lady and all White Township Administrators:

I am writing to ask for a change to your current plans for the White's Woods Nature Center (WWNC). There is a need to give the public a chance to offer input (in person, when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted) into what happens in this community space. White Township has a responsibility to help steward this land and preserve it as a park for recreation, conservation and historical preservation. This is what the Township promised when they accepted PA state funds for its purchase. To do the best job possible, White Township should welcome input from multiple, qualified consultants and from all members of the community who value this space.



I became aware of plans to do commercial logging and removal of 'invasive species' through Friends of White's Woods. They are an organization that represents the views of large numbers of Indiana County residents. When I heard about these plans, my heart sank. WWNC has been important to me all of my life. I took part in summer day camps there when I was a child and those experiences awakened a love of the outdoors in this part of the world. I grew up here and went to IUP. I left the area for work and moved back 7 years ago to be close to family. I rediscovered this beautiful community space and it has been a place of solace and benefit to my physical, mental and emotional health ever since. I lived in Indiana Borough for 5 years and I was close enough to walk to WWNC. I walked the trails at least 5 times a week. I currently live in White Township and now I drive to WWNC almost everyday to take

I believe that using WWNC for commercial logging is short sighted. Making profit in the short term is being chosen over looking at the worth of a community space that contributes to a healthy, vibrant community. I recognize that any forest that people want to use for recreation needs to be well managed. There will be times when trees may need to be removed for safety or to promote regeneration of the forest. Decisions about proper management need to be made with input from a qualified forester who is familiar with project 70 rules and the best management practices to promote long-term health of WWNC.

Thank you for considering my request,

Respectfully,

Beth Rettig

Dear Indiana Township Supervisors:

I am writing to express my opposition to the planned timbering of White's Woods. I would strongly ask you to reconsider this plan. My father, Bob Overdorff, was a long-time member of your board and this is a topic he and I very much disagreed on. To dad, trees were a commodity, or a nuisance, but not of value as a precious thing in and of themselves. I feel that is the consensus of this board of supervisors.

For me, the forest has always been the place I felt most happy, a thing I needed just as much as I need air to breath or food to eat.

White's Woods is a treasure that we are so fortunate to have in our community. It is an absolutely stunning park and an incredible asset to the community. Beyond that, for those who love natural forests, it is precious and valuable far beyond the monetary value of the trees. The forest is not "managed" but left to evolve on its own. The mature trees that fall, nourish insects, mosses, and mushrooms, which then feed the many bird species and the plentiful wildlife that inhabit this unspoiled ecosystem. With songbirds and insect species disappearing at an alarming rate, natural areas like White's Woods are refuges where these creatures can survive and thrive.

I would disagree with the assessment that certain species of plants or trees need to be culled from the forest, or that the undergrowth must be cleared for the health of the forest. That is just double-speak to hide the true reason for the "forest management" plan. It is now, as it always was, just a plan to make money on the park. When I hike or run through the park, the whole history of the land is there to read in the plants that grow there. The barberry tells me those are areas where perhaps someone once had a home, there are old wells that were used by former residents of the land where now box turtles live. If you look closely, you can find the remains of old foundations, old fences and stone walls built when the land was farmland. And then, there are the trees, the forest reclaimed the land as the traces of human habitation were absorbed into the forest. A mature forest is a rarity these days and is something to be conserved and protected, not exploited.

Any time I am in White's Woods I encounter hikers, runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, and others enjoying the forest. Local foragers harvest mushrooms. I am a member of the Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club. We hold meets in the park periodically and I have had the opportunity to explore the park off the trails where I found secret spots of incredible beauty; hidden streams, wild flowers, or just the way the ferns and moss cover the forest floor. There are cliffs, and large rocks. I've seen scarlet tanagers, and towhees, and kestrels flitting through the trees and deer who stand and watch us go by, not threatened by our presence.

The forest is managing itself quite well, and this beautiful park is an asset to our community. When orienteers from Pittsburgh and beyond have come to the park to compete, they have raved about the beauty of the park and many have said they would make a special trip back to Indiana to enjoy the park again in the future. Please do not deface it by tearing up the incredible ecosystems and the amazing beauty of this wild area. White's Woods Natural Area is of much more value to our community as it is than any monetary value that can be reaped from ravaging its beauty and destroying the habitats for all the living things that interact there.

In these times of upheaval, we need unspoiled natural spaces more than ever to recharge and reconnect with the Earth and with nature. Destroying this beautiful park with logging is not the right choice. It has not been the right choice at any point in time and will not be at any time in the future.

I believe that each member of this board knows that the community does not support logging White's Woods. The community values the park and wants it to remain as it is for all to enjoy. I also believe that you chose this time when public participation would be limited to rush this plan through to avoid public comment and opposition. That is reprehensible and goes against the democratic principles of how local government works. I expect more from the people we elect to serve.

I am asking you to stop this plan. Save the park for our community, now and for the future.

Sincerely:

Sherry Shank

## White's Woods Needs Real Expertise and Public Input

White's Woods is a public good: it is available to everyone in the community, with no fees charged for use. The value of this public good is not measured by revenue streams or attendance data, much less board feet. We measure its value by its proximity to Indiana, its relatively undisturbed nature, and the ecosystem services it provides. These statements may ring philosophical, but they are based on White's Woods legal status, for White Township purchased the land with help from the Commonwealth under Project 70, a piece of legislation mandating that the land be used for conservation, recreation and historical preservation.

We might also measure the value of this public good by its living potential, one realized in recent weeks as more local residents have safely escaped their confinement by frequenting the woods.

A public good does not belong to public officials, and when their "forest management plan" (see Millstone Land Management's document titled *White's Woods Timber Valuation*) calls for removing "about half of said volume" of the timber from White's Woods, it is clear that those more mindful of the park's history and status must be allowed to weigh in. Only a forester familiar with park management practices and Project 70 rules should determine which specific trees need to be removed to promote the long-term health of the forest.

I urge residents to walk the woods and see for yourselves the surprising number of mature trees that have been marked for removal in only a 50-acre tract – plans call for timbering in seven designated tracts. Is it coincidental that township supervisors have opposed virtual or in-person public hearings on this issue? Or are they recalling the results of surveys conducted in both 1995 and 2007, both of which yielded a 2/3 majority of respondents opposed to timbering? Injecting a little democracy into the process of managing White's Woods will of course be dangerous for them.

418 Forest Ridge Road  
Indiana, PA 15701-7445  
May 12, 2020

Board of Supervisors  
White Township  
950 Indian Springs Road  
Indiana, PA 15701

Re: Timbering White's Woods

Greetings Board Members Lenz, McCauley, Gemmell, Gallo, and Gillette:

Forty years ago we moved into White Township after building our home on Fulton Run Road. For many of those years we hiked through White's Woods, entering from the Fulton Run Road side of the forest. We fostered in our three children a love of nature and to have respect for outdoor spaces including White's Woods, Blue Spruce Park, Yellow Creek State Park, etc.

Now we live in the White's Woods development, and we enter White's Woods for hiking via the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Park area. We are ever so fortunate to have this beautiful acreage available especially so given the last two months of social distancing. The forest offers solace and comfort for all of us to help deal with Covid-19 restrictions on top of everyday life situations.

The deed to our current home clearly states that property owners are NOT to remove trees. The only acceptable situations involve removing diseased trees or trees that may potentially cause damage to homes. When homeowners in the development have removed trees (ignoring their deeds), it has caused property damage for those caught in the water table affected when tree roots are no longer there. For the last five years our back yard is often like a swamp due to the removal of trees above us. We have spent a lot of money attempting to deal with this, and we do not need more trees removed. Will you reimburse homeowners for damages occurred when the water table is further affected from timbering?

If we the property owners are not permitted to remove trees wantonly, what gives the White Township Supervisors the right to remove trees at will? The trees in White's Woods currently marked for timbering do not appear to be damaged or diseased. Other than \$, what is the motivation to tear up this beautiful park? Furthermore, I challenge the five of you to take a ride from town and head out Martin Road toward Blue Spruce Park or take Fulton Run Road up past the electric station. Those woods have been timbered, and habitat disrupted. Compare what we have in White's Woods now to what it will potentially look like once timbering is permitted. Is that what you want for your legacy as a Board Member of the White Township Supervisors? If the timbering in White's Woods is permitted to go through, the forest will not recover in our lifetimes. I find that unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Mindy L. Wygonik

## Citizen Letters to the Editor, Indiana Gazette

Twenty-two letters to the editor of the Indiana Gazette about the timbering WWNC have been published to date (April 21-July 5); twenty of them strongly oppose timbering. Among the themes they address are:

- The lack of public input (prior to the DCNR request in late June)
- The timing of the timbering attempt – during a pandemic
- The attempt to log, under the guise of ‘forest management’
- The beauty and diversity of flora and fauna, described passionately and poetically
- The economic impact of having a natural green area which attracts businesses and visitors
- The devastation resulting from ‘selective timbering’ in other wooded areas

Perhaps the most compelling arguments are made by a forester (Murphy, July 1) who says the plan is ‘backward’, corroborating concerns expressed by both biologists and consultant forester, Mike Wolf.

Citizens who wrote these letters were offering their opinions for public scrutiny, demonstrating their commitment to protect WWNC.

# Community deserves say in decision

Well, here we go again. We're all busy dealing with COVID-19, and the White Township supervisors decide that it's time to sneak through their 20-plus-year-old-plan to timber White's Woods Nature Center. At least they're consistent; just wait till you think no one's looking, approve a "plan," mark the trees, collect the bids, quietly.

No public input, no concern for properties surrounding the park, no consideration for taxpayers who use the park for recreation, just "we've got a plan, let's run with it."

They finally announced it through an article in the Gazette — after their plan was discovered, and they were confronted. When taxpayers asked the supervisors to release the documents, it took over a week for the township to comply. But apparently timbering White's Woods during the pandemic is their major priority, and that's why the plan should have been released months ago — before the contract was signed, before the trees were marked and before the timeline was implemented.

The supervisors claim that "their concerns" are different from 2007, their "purpose" is not the same and the outcome "will be different." But read the plan. Do you see these differences? We don't. We fear the results will be devastation of a mature, deciduous forest, which will take decades to restore, if that's even possible.

Do you use White's Woods for recreation? Do you want to maintain a beautiful green space for Indiana? Are you interested in preserving natural habitat? Do you agree with the majority of surveyed residents who opposed timbering in 2007 (Gazette, 2007)? Most importantly, do you believe that elected officials should be obligated to consider the wishes of their constituents?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, contact the White Township office and demand that public comment be considered before any plan is implemented. Join us in our efforts to save White's Woods with a viable park management plan that guarantees White's Woods will be here for future generations. Go to [www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org) to see the plan.

**Susan Dahlheimer**

**Andrew Davis**

**Jessica Jopp**

Members, board of directors, Friends of White's Woods

# Forester weighs in on White's Woods

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As a two-degree forester (PSU) capped with an MS in physical geography from our beloved local institution and as a fellow professional (if you like), I have served private and communal clients as a consultant in our region approaching 30 years.

Not sure why I wasn't considered to offer consideration in the White's Woods management plans.

No sour grapes here. Wouldn't care to step on that white-faced hornet's nest anyhow.

I applaud the overdue proposal to control exotic/invasive plants. Much work must be done!

Seems to me, however, forestry professionals might refrain from using nebulous, fungable terms, like "select-cutting" — a delightful little term used by gyppo loggers in rusty red pickups and never personally encountered in any forestry text I have ever read. (Except used as conflagration of group selection in uneven aged forestry, which is a completely esoteric regime requiring intense study and commutative acumen.)

Call forestry what it is. (There's no happy way to say this: trees die!)

Sometimes it's not a bad idea to cut a few down and use them for the property and the folks who treasure it.

**TS Murphy**

Clarksburg

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-logging-will-impact-many/article\\_4f2aa9e8-8a23-11ea-9dff-5329c2cd97b0.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-logging-will-impact-many/article_4f2aa9e8-8a23-11ea-9dff-5329c2cd97b0.html)

## White's Woods logging will impact many

Apr 29, 2020

This letter is in response to the Good Friday announcement, during the pandemic, that the White Township supervisors are planning to log part of White's Woods soon.

I've walked through these woods for decades; this is bad news to me.

Over the years I noticed how, as the trees grew bigger, I heard different bird voices, such a pleasant experience.

I noticed that as the trees grew, the thorny underbrush diminished, the woods look more like trees and less like brush.

I noticed that as the trees died, and many trees have died in the woods over the decades, the <sup>58</sup>dead trees just decayed into the ground and became part of the soil.

Since I am familiar with the woods, I checked the trees destined for logging. Most of the trees marked are huge, healthy and beautiful. This is confirmed by arborists and biologists.

Why would the White Township supervisors say these are diseased? They are not. Why after all these years, do the woods need to be logged? The woods have grown into such a beauty, the logging would create destruction and disruption to the beautiful flow of the woodland growth.

A few people may be interested in the very small amount of money that would be gained from logging in White's Woods. The money is minimal, short-term gain and maximum long-term destruction. Many people, animals and plants would be impacted by the decision of a few.

**Carolyn Trimarchi**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/logging-will-disrupt-beauty-of-woods/article\\_f60034ca-8a34-11ea-a3f9-cb83fe9bc6f5.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/logging-will-disrupt-beauty-of-woods/article_f60034ca-8a34-11ea-a3f9-cb83fe9bc6f5.html)

## Logging will disrupt beauty of woods

Apr 30, 2020

I went for a walk in White's Woods today, as I have countless times over the years. Red-bellied woodpecker. It is always a pleasure to get away from the daily hubbub and enjoy an

hour of quietude. White-breasted nuthatch. I am always awed by the majesty of the mature trees. I meet many people on these well-worn trails and am satisfied that many others also enjoy this simple relaxation. White's Woods Nature Center, as envisioned by its creators, is a gift to the community from the people of White Township. Wood thrush.

Once again, this park is under attack from those who apparently do not share our appreciation<sup>60</sup> of this natural area. Gray squirrel. They talk about invasive species and eliminating dead and dying trees. Pileated woodpecker. Their newest plan only includes 50 acres. 50 acres! Slate-colored junco. If it were truly about the invasive species, i.e., multiflora rose, I am sure that the township supervisors could find volunteers from an IUP organization or a nature-oriented community group to rid these plants from the park. Red-tailed hawk.

I hope that the people of the community can show this current crop of meddlers that White's Woods Nature Park is there for recreation and not commercialization. Northern cardinal. That its benefit to the community lies in its ambiance, not in its timber. Certainly, the value of this park as a watershed buffer has a greater economic benefit than the timber income. Ruffed grouse. Let the township supervisors what you think of their latest plan to despoil the natural appearing forested park. Yellow-bellied sapsucker.

**Richard Mauk**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-a-community-treasure/article\\_5f98ed3e-8a33-11ea-9f9e-97c8aab6640b.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-a-community-treasure/article_5f98ed3e-8a33-11ea-9f9e-97c8aab6640b.html)

## White's Woods a community treasure

Apr 30, 2020

White's Woods is a treasure that we are so fortunate to have in our community. It is precious and valuable far beyond the monetary value of the trees.

The forest is not “managed” but left to evolve on its own. The mature trees that fall nourish insects, mosses and mushrooms, which then feed the many bird species and the plentiful wildlife that inhabit this unspoiled ecosystem. With songbirds and insect species disappearing at an alarming rate, natural areas like White's Woods are refuges where these creatures can survive and thrive.

I would disagree with the assessment that certain species of plants or trees need to be culled<sup>62</sup> from the forest, or that the undergrowth must be cleared for the health of the forest. When I hike or run through the park, the whole history of the land is there to read in the plants that grow there. The barberry tells me those are areas where perhaps someone once had a home; there are old wells that were used by former residents of the land where now box turtles live. If you look closely, you can find the remains of old foundations, old fences and stone walls built when the land was farmland.

And then, there are the trees. The forest reclaimed the land as the traces of human habitation were absorbed into the forest. A mature forest is a rarity these days and is something to be conserved and protected, not exploited.

Any time I am in White's Woods I encounter hikers, runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers and foragers enjoying the forest.

There are secret spots of incredible beauty; hidden streams, wildflowers, ferns and moss covering the forest floor. Scarlet tanagers, towhees and kestrels flit through the trees and deer watch us go, not threatened by our presence.

In these times of upheaval, we need unspoiled natural spaces more than ever to recharge and reconnect with the Earth and with nature. White's Woods provides this connection to our community. Destroying this beautiful park with logging is not the right choice.

Save White's Woods, now and for the future.

Sherry Shank

Marion Center

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/forester-offers-point-of-view/article\\_6b233f68-8ef4-11ea-b717-b39f5ddcfbda.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/forester-offers-point-of-view/article_6b233f68-8ef4-11ea-b717-b39f5ddcfbda.html)

## Forester offers point of view

May 6, 2020

I have read with a certain amount of professional interest the debate over the proposed Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) operations in White's Woods.

Perhaps we should look at some basic ecological concepts of forestry to aid in this discussion. Ecology is essentially the study of various species, plants and animals, their interrelationships and the various cycles of each ecosystem, life, energy water, etc. Trees or groups of trees known as stands are like all other living organisms or groups of organisms — they are born, they live, they reproduce and they die. Each species has a specific role to play in developing the ecosystem during the various stages of forest succession.

Forest succession starts with a major disturbance and over time leads to a mature, climax forest.<sup>64</sup> But even a climax forest is not static. They are dynamic and cannot really be preserved individually. They are always changing, whether through a normal orderly processes of its life cycle or through other subsequent disturbances, natural or man made.

Species classified as Early Successional are absolutely dependent on these disturbances in order to survive or grow. How any tree or plant is classified is often determined by their tolerance to shade.

In short, too much shade and only certain species of trees, and the flora and fauna that they support, can reproduce and survive. Others will not. Some would look upon cutting as “deforestation.” For a forester, it is ultimately about the regeneration of the stand. Allowing more sunlight onto the forest floor encourages the establishment and new growth. I would guess that many of the folks who are opposed to the cutting in White’s Woods would be equally upset to learn that a native song bird, the golden-winged warbler currently is on the IUCN’s (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list of near threatened species. It is threatened due in part to the human impact on the loss of breeding-ground habitat here in Pennsylvania. Ironically, it is threatened not because too many trees have been cut, but rather it is an

Early Successional species, and needs a certain amount of forest disturbance in its breeding-ground habitat in order to survive. The only way all species that are native to this area will thrive is to maintain a diversity of successional stages — some early, some climax and some in between.

Walter A. Schroth

Indiana

B.S. Forestry 1978

Colorado State University

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-should-be-treasured/article\\_a8c72ad2-8ef4-11ea-9c79-67b9c31ab000.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-should-be-treasured/article_a8c72ad2-8ef4-11ea-9c79-67b9c31ab000.html)

## Woods should be treasured

May 6, 2020

White's Woods is a place shared by people for various reasons.

For some it is a place to leave stress behind on a pleasant walk, maybe a run or hike (with or without dogs) or a time to share with a friend.

Nature made this place the haven it is.

Let's not infringe upon the harmony of nature.

**Carol Dickerson Kauffman**

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-fiction-vs-reality/article\\_4531685a-906d-11ea-89e7-cb0c49505b0d.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-fiction-vs-reality/article_4531685a-906d-11ea-89e7-cb0c49505b0d.html)

## White's Woods: Fiction vs. Reality

May 7, 2020

**Make no mistake:** The so-called management plan for White's Woods is a commercial logging operation.

Despite the claims made by the White Township supervisors and Millstone Land Management LLC, this project is not science-based and involves the entire park.

Let's examine the fiction presented on behalf of the township to the realities in the project documents — and those we can see with our own eyes.

**Fiction:** The project is not traditional logging for profit.

**Reality:** The only data provided in the project documents are estimated commercial values of the timber in the park.<sup>67</sup>

**Fiction:** The project only involves a 50-acre upland dry site, not around people's homes.

**Reality:** All project documents indicate that timbering is planned throughout the entire park, which is bordered by many homes.

**Fiction:** Millstone will only remove trees that are dead or unhealthy.

**Reality:** Over half the timber volume in the park will be harvested. Many marked trees appear mature and healthy.

**Fiction:** The goal is to treat invasive species.

**Reality:** This project will allow invasive species to overtake White's Woods. Maintaining the canopy provided by mature trees and undisturbed forest floor are the park's only defenses against them.

**Fiction:** The project will improve public safety.

**Reality:** This project will compromise public safety by giving Lyme disease-carrying ticks a better habitat and causing stormwater damage to homes.

Don't take my word for it — read the documents yourself on [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org). And take a walk in the park.

Christina Ruby, Ph.D.

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/public-deserves-input-on-white-s-woods/article\\_13f335c2-9142-11ea-a4c9-2bbb12ceeadf.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/public-deserves-input-on-white-s-woods/article_13f335c2-9142-11ea-a4c9-2bbb12ceeadf.html)

## Public deserves input on White's Woods

May 9, 2020

In this difficult period of lockdown and shutdown, one of Indiana's greatest resources is the White's Woods Nature Center. In the routine of the COVID-19 day, a hike in White's Woods becomes a necessity to maintaining a sense of well-being, to walk the dog and to be reassured by nature.

However, now in the midst of this national crisis, a great concern for the very life of the White's Woods Nature Center is raised anew. White Township supervisors have met, without open public input, to contract a company to do the removal of invasive vegetation and the substantial removal of select hardwoods. Many mature, healthy trees have been targeted for cutting. It is widely felt that the supervisors took advantage of the COVID-19 crisis to steamroll this action, fearing a repeat of effective public resistance as experienced in 2008.

Now as then, the fear lies in the fact that this is a first step toward the erosion of the woods as a<sup>69</sup> public nature sanctuary toward a high-end residential development. Without a public hearing on the matter and within this air of secrecy from the township, speculation abounds. Only through a series of open forums can the public and the township supervisors come together to an agreeable reassurance and suitable action.

White's Woods may well need maintenance in facing invasive vegetation, but is this masking another agenda? Why are hardwoods signaled for removal? How would the logistics of this massive operation affect the habitat? How many trees would be cut in creating the logging roads necessary to reach trees deep in the forest? Which methods would be used for removals? Are we understanding that fallen trees are critical to the ongoing life in the woods as they form nutrients and shelters for animals and insects?

White's Woods Nature Center is the national park of Indiana.

I urge the White Township supervisors to design a way for public input on this issue by constructing a "safe" method of public discussion. To proceed without it is irresponsible.

Chuck Olson

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-should-be-left-alone/article\\_dd7114b4-914c-11ea-aa7f-833de707773e.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/white-s-woods-should-be-left-alone/article_dd7114b4-914c-11ea-aa7f-833de707773e.html)

## White's Woods should be left alone

May 10, 2020

I appreciated the recent letter from Walter Schroth (May 6, Indiana Gazette) concerning White's Woods. One can never have too much knowledge, and I found Mr. Schroth's information very enlightening.

For anyone concerned about any species that prefers a "disturbed" forest habitat, I have good news! I have noticed an abundance of locations in Indiana County where trees have already been cut.

My Rayne Township property borders McKee Run, at the northern border of White Township. The property just south of McKee Run, in White Township, was harvested a few years ago. Loggers tend to tear up a lot of land with their heavy equipment, and usually leave a lot of brush scattered around when they are done. There is also a natural tendency for the falling trees to break branches from the trees that are left. It's OK, though, after 10 years or so, the woods usually look better.

I see the same is now being done in the woods along Martin Road just north of White's Woods, so any birds that don't like it there need only fly a few hundred yards to find disturbed woods. There is a lot of it around, and close by.

White's Woods survived for thousands of years before the township supervisors came on the scene, and it will probably be here long after they are gone. Most citizens obviously want it left as it is, a beautiful natural area. But it seems, as with the school project and the Blairsville bridge project, the "public servants" always seem to think they know better.

**Don Lapinsky**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/wooded-areas-help-town-economy/article\\_e8c5c6e4-938f-11ea-931a-bf4b40f89eeb.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/wooded-areas-help-town-economy/article_e8c5c6e4-938f-11ea-931a-bf4b40f89eeb.html)

## Wooded areas help town economy

May 11, 2020

I have experienced, many times, the ambiance of nature in White's Woods, such as sitting on a rock and looking at the trees. Having an old growth forest in Indiana is truly a treasure!

It makes me sick to my soul that the White Township supervisors want to cut down the trees to "improve" White's Woods. Timbering would take away the deep forest ambiance that makes White's Woods so unique.

How can we shop Indiana first when the local officials want to timber our forests?

If people don't feel they have a nice forest to hike in on their day off, they may travel to another town to visit their parks and woods and possibly spend money in out-of-town businesses, and then the local economy suffers.

When a town has beautiful woods and diverse shopping options, people don't feel the need to go elsewhere.

Save White's Woods! Save Indiana!

Jeffrey Duchovnay

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/supervisors-should-leave-the-woods-alone/article\\_56dc925e-9451-11ea-a572-6f789c0dd276.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/supervisors-should-leave-the-woods-alone/article_56dc925e-9451-11ea-a572-6f789c0dd276.html)

## Supervisors should leave the woods alone

May 12, 2020

What is the reason for the obsession of the White Township supervisors to log White's Woods? Is there a war of wills with those who want the woods to remain wild?

This is a place many people enjoy visiting. It's been there for many years and will be there for years ahead. Just a wooded area for plants, trees and animals, there's no need to destroy it that I can comprehend.

In this time of uncertainty and turmoil, surely there are other issues more important to deal with. How about searching for ways to help us through this?

Use your position of leadership to better us, not as a platform for a vendetta.

All of us need to pray for and reach out to others in whatever way we can. Forget the trees.

**Candis Byers**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/other-ecological-factors-need-considered/article\\_ce6dfab2-9477-11ea-b71e-c3526569748d.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/other-ecological-factors-need-considered/article_ce6dfab2-9477-11ea-b71e-c3526569748d.html)

## Other ecological factors need considered

May 13, 2020

In his letter published on May 6, Walter Schroth does an excellent job discussing ecological principles of forest disturbance, succession and species diversity, principles which I teach in my courses.

However, the natural balance in our forests has been disrupted by stresses which challenge their management. Plan documents for White's Woods mention forest regeneration and exotic plant removal as objectives. However, White's Woods is not an island and I am concerned over ongoing threats from a changed landscape.

First, exotic invasive plants aggressively recolonize disturbed areas and outcompete native species; they will return in force without persistent control measures.

Second, the current density of deer in the state is inhibiting forest regeneration through over-browsing.

Will the proposed activities be done in a manner which yields any lasting ecological benefit?

I believe that White's Woods was initially set aside for recreational and aesthetic enjoyment. This purpose presents additional, subjective priorities which should also be weighed in any decision-making process, with input from park users.

**Brian Okey, Ph.D.**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/supervisors-have-different-view-on-woods/article\\_7c28449a-99dd-11ea-ade0-0ff5aedd7e4.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/supervisors-have-different-view-on-woods/article_7c28449a-99dd-11ea-ade0-0ff5aedd7e4.html)

## Supervisors have different view on woods

May 19, 2020

An ant crawling along the ground in White's Woods came upon a beautiful tree and explored its roots.

Three robins flew up to the same tree and enjoyed the view as they sat on its branches.

Two squirrels encountered the glorious tree and frolicked among the leaves.

A few minutes later a deer walked to the tree and rubbed its itchy antlers against the rough bark.

Later that day, three White Township supervisors came upon the same beautiful tree and said let's cut the darn thing down.

Lee Schweitzer

Penn Run

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/writer-weighs-in-on-woods-trump/article\\_6405803a-99dd-11ea-981f-2313a5b3d53c.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/writer-weighs-in-on-woods-trump/article_6405803a-99dd-11ea-981f-2313a5b3d53c.html)

## Writer weighs in on woods, Trump

May 19, 2020

As a resident of White Township I have faith in the ability of its officials to manage White's Woods Township Park without input from nonresidents of White Township.

Nonresidents of White Township should be content with expressing their thanks for being allowed to use the park without charge.

That park does not belong to "the community."

Many began blaming President Trump for everything even before his inauguration. The truth is out about the skullduggery initiated by the Obama administration and continued by the holdovers President Trump left in place.

Federal officials persecuted Americans who supported Trump. Bill Barr and John Durham may be able to prosecute some of those Deep Staters and Swampers. President Trump should appoint General Flynn as head of the FBI.

President Trump was not found guilty of collusion by the long and expensive Mueller investigation. How many of his opponents could withstand the same type of investigation?

Recent news is the Chinese are supplying America with substandard personal protective equipment. I don't believe it because Joe Biden himself said the Chinese are good folks. Yeah, right. I wonder how much the Chinese paid Joe's son for that remark. China is a huge tick feeding on America.

President Trump is not perfect, he's just far above the other choices in putting America first. Make liberals cry again. Vote Trump 2020!

**Randy Cornman**

White Township

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-will-benefit-from-working-together/article\\_52c2d8d4-9a93-11ea-b994-4b590d909465.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-will-benefit-from-working-together/article_52c2d8d4-9a93-11ea-b994-4b590d909465.html)

## Woods will benefit from working together

May 20, 2020

Some thoughts after “attending” the Board of Supervisors meeting: Supervisors — while it’s difficult, if you are able to put aside the offense of the accusations, I think you’ll find that the source of the pushback is simple and sincere: the community cares deeply about the fate of White’s Woods.

This is a place to exercise and relax, to wander and wonder; a sanctuary when the sanctuaries are closed. This place is precious. Therefore, I think FWW’s offer to bring in additional experts is excellent. I’ve read Millstone’s proposal and that’s when I became alarmed enough to take action.

The timbering process described is much like that done recently near my family’s farm, which has left a mutilated mess behind. However competent Millstone may be in their method, I strongly question the proposal’s suitability in this complex recreational/conservational context. We need

additional expert input.

Once the trees are cut, once the soil is turned, it's done—and if an already-mistrustful public is left with anything like the scene near our farm, without proof that this was truly best practice, the current anger may only be the tip of the iceberg.

Furthermore, the public has repeatedly demonstrated great will to preserve the forest.

Why not harness this? It was mentioned that the best practice for removing the barberry, etc., is by hand, not machine. If this is reviewed and approved — we can do this! I'm positive I can find you twenty volunteers, likely more, who are willing to contribute manual labor to avoid unnecessary rototilling.

I am not against some proposed “improvements” — an amphitheater, signage, parking — but I am against these being held up as a sort of consolation prize after timbering. The health and preservation of the forest is the priority, and, as one board member said, here we need to “follow the science.”

Once that is assured, small improvements can be crowdfunded or done other ways. In Morgantown, W.Va., the arboretum's amphitheater was built as an Eagle Scout project.

We all want the best for our community — and our woods. Let's resolve this conflict through evidence based stewardship solutions and move forward together.

Beth Wheeler

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-need-expertise-public-input/article\\_53b5fe6a-9c4b-11ea-9f40-f341b442efe8.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/woods-need-expertise-public-input/article_53b5fe6a-9c4b-11ea-9f40-f341b442efe8.html)

## Woods need expertise, public input

May 23, 2020

White's Woods is a public good: It is available to everyone in the community, with no fees charged for use. The value of this public good is not measured by revenue streams or attendance data, much less board feet. We measure its value by its proximity to Indiana, its relatively undisturbed nature and the ecosystem services it provides.

These statements may ring philosophical, but they are based on White's Woods legal status, for White Township purchased the land with help from the commonwealth under Project 70, a piece of legislation mandating that the land be used for conservation, recreation and historical preservation.

We might also measure the value of this public good by its living potential, one realized in recent<sup>79</sup> weeks as more local residents have safely escaped their confinement by frequenting the woods.

A public good does not belong to public officials, and when their “forest management plan” (see Millstone Land Management’s document titled “White’s Woods Timber Valuation”) calls for removing “about half of said volume” of the timber from White’s Woods, it is clear that those more mindful of the park’s history and status must be allowed to weigh in. Only a forester familiar with park management practices and Project 70 rules should determine which specific trees need to be removed to promote the long-term health of the forest.

I urge residents to walk the woods and see for yourselves the surprising number of mature trees that have been marked for removal in only a 50-acre tract — plans call for timbering in seven designated tracts.

Is it coincidental that the township supervisors have opposed virtual or in-person public hearings on this issue? Or are they recalling the results of surveys conducted in both 1995 and 2007, both of which yielded a two-thirds majority of respondents who were opposed to timbering? Injecting a little democracy into the process of managing White’s Woods will, of course, be dangerous for them.

**Tamara Whited**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/other-attempts-to-harm-woods-stopped/article\\_c64b0a7c-a1d9-11ea-bb42-7febe3972373.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/other-attempts-to-harm-woods-stopped/article_c64b0a7c-a1d9-11ea-bb42-7febe3972373.html)

## Other attempts to harm woods stopped

May 31, 2020

This is the third time that timbering White's Woods "for the health of the woods" has been proposed by White Township supervisors. Public outcry and legal issues stopped the first two attempts.

What do the supervisors not understand? Friends of White's Woods, for the third time, have had a tremendous response of support to block this latest proposal. People realize that White's Woods is a gem to be protected.

Every season White's Woods has new beauty and wonderful sights to offer. Many years ago, I was pictured on the Gazette's front page cross country skiing the beautiful snow-covered trails. Now, in spring, we witness the foliage come to life including the May apples blooming and ferns uncoiling their fronds.

The first phase of the supervisors' plan will remove over 600 trees. By phase seven, 50 percent of its trees will be removed. The heavy equipment required will destroy the trail system. Tops of timbered trees will be left on the ground, making an excellent environment for deer and ticks. The one natural enemy of the invasive species, shade, will be gone or minimized, and water runoff onto surrounding homes will be increased.

What is it that supervisors, who are to represent their community, don't understand?

For the third time we do not want the timbering. We want a science-based plan for the stewardship of White's Woods. And Friends of White's Woods will continue to fight to make sure that this happens.

**Norma Tarnoff**

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/public-denied-a-voice-in-woods-decision/article\\_2b680710-ab1d-11ea-94ec-8f23f3a7c947.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/public-denied-a-voice-in-woods-decision/article_2b680710-ab1d-11ea-94ec-8f23f3a7c947.html)

## Public denied a voice in woods decision

Jun 10, 2020

Once again we're confronted with a problem of democracy here in our dual-municipality community made up of Indiana Borough and White Township. The problem is top-down government evidenced by the township supervisors excluding stakeholders and others of standing from participating in the formation of a plan dealing with the use and management of the White's Woods Nature Center.

Not only have members of the public been denied a voice in its formation, access to information about the supervisors' intentions and how and when their decisions were made has been delayed or the blocked altogether. This is not how Lincoln's government of, by and for the people is meant to

operate. His concept of democracy entails bottom-up policy making with public participation<sup>82</sup>, with the public being informed, with the assurance that results will deliver policies and programs within the public interest.

In contrast, the township supervisors' top-down approach is more like government on the people, over, above, or atop the people, invariably resulting in outcomes against the peoples' interests.

Even though we're faced with this undemocratic track record, there is cause for optimism due to the promise of two sound, sturdy pillars supporting our system of government: rule of law and oath of office.

According to the former, the citizenry is to be ruled by the rule of law, not the rule of lawyers, not the rule of rule-makers and not even the rule of rulers. Like the rest of us, these three parties are all subject to the rule of law and must act accordingly. In accordance with that second pillar, when taking office, our representatives commit to upholding the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, plus all the rules and regulations, codes and ordinances, statutes and resolutions thereof, along with all the rules and regulations, etc., of their local jurisdiction, so help them God.

So help them, God. Help your servants honor the pledge they made to you when entering public office. Amen.

Tom Miller

Indiana

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/forestry-question-needs-examination/article\\_17c1f704-bae8-11ea-8fde-2fecaa38f42f.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/forestry-question-needs-examination/article_17c1f704-bae8-11ea-8fde-2fecaa38f42f.html)

## Forestry question needs examination

Jul 1, 2020

Most of you don't know me, but have maybe read my editorial screeds. Fine.

I don't live in the borough, but I lived in your neighborland in my late teens, went to high school at IASD, played football and messed around in White's Woods, building cabins and hunting squirrels for the crockpot. I still love that forest and don't want to see it mismanaged.

I am also very much pro-management in improving conditions based on my clients' ownership objectives and the realities of conditions of the forest health and sustainability. This is all I have done as a private forestry consultant for more than half of my life. Frankly, it is a passion for me and a *raison de vivre*.

That being admitted, I am concerned for your community and the resources you share. It seems<sup>84</sup> to me that your current management “plan” is written backward. Any disturbance in the overstory must be proceeded by an examination of the plants on the forest floor.

Any excess of sunlight on a site occupied by invasive species has to be considered absolutely first.

This control can take concerted effort for several growing seasons to ensure satisfaction in preparing the property prior to any overstory disturbance. Any other regime will result in disappointment of the stakeholders and long-lasting disaster on the land.

I don't know who was hired to run this show and I am not going to disparage. But did any of the supervisors, commissioners or whoever examine credentials, etc.? Unfortunately, anybody in Pennsylvania can run a “forestry” business or call himself a “forester.” Heck, you can't buy a haircut from an uncertified barber! There is no legislation for U.S. foresters in Pennsylvania. This thorn festers in my brain!

So take your time, folks. You shouldn't make snap decisions about something that takes so long in patience, considerations and time to grow and thrive. What is the rush? Ask the stakeholders what they cherish in the community resource.

Listen, act, sustain, conserve, use science and manage!

**T.S. Murphy, Forest resource consultant**

Clarksburg

[https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/reader-opposes-white-s-woods-plans/article\\_d13f6fe6-bd4e-11ea-b23e-1b03732bf318.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/reader-opposes-white-s-woods-plans/article_d13f6fe6-bd4e-11ea-b23e-1b03732bf318.html)

## Reader opposes White's Woods plans

Jul 5, 2020

During a 2009 White Township meeting, Friends of White's Woods suggested removing grapevines and *rosa multiflora* from White's Woods. Larry Garner, then township manager, indicated the responsibility

to clear plants fell to the Recreation and Parks Commission, not the township, and that FWW may want to volunteer with approval from the commission.

By mid-2019 after giving a one-year notice, both the Indiana Area School District and the Borough of Indiana had withdrawn from the three-member Recreation and Parks Commission, resulting in a loss of \$52,000 per year of funding.

White Township received a Millstone assessment in October 2018 for invasive species and timber management on all White Township properties. Bluntly, was IASD and the borough pressured by the township? Perhaps someone from IASD and the borough could candidly explain their withdrawal. The borough has mentioned that White Township wanted more recreation funds.

See the completed Millstone Stewardship Plan at [whitetownship.org](http://whitetownship.org). The township has approved \$17,770 for invasive species removal at the Recreation Complex, \$3406 for grass seed not included, and \$20,000 for Phase I of White's Woods. But wait. There's more!

The plan includes *multiflora* rose at Getty Heights Park, \$1,000 and \$2,200 to landscape its stream. George Lenz sees Japanese knotweed at the municipal building and stream landscaping, \$2,800. Hold on to your socks as other suggestions total almost \$145,000.

A lengthy to-do list goes out to fall of 2024 with no costs listed. It also lists a completed \$50,000 rain-garden/pond. All this while township revenues will most likely be down due to a pandemic. The township brags that we don't have a property tax. We do have a growing list of service taxes (I pay \$72 per quarter), and I would hate to see a huge "White Township Continuing Landscaping" fee line item added to it. And then there's the lawsuit by FWW. Did I mention weeds grow back?

The plan is beyond extravagant and I urge all who are opposed, borough included, to get involved. Opinions emailed via the township main page or letters to the editor will help.

Call the township or attend a meeting to express your opposition. Lastly, visit White's Woods. For many, it may be the last time in your lifetime to see White's Woods Nature Reserve at this level of maturity.

Joel Royer

White Township

## Forestry Consultant Input regarding proposed management plans for White's Woods Nature Center

The section contains two reports from Mike Wolf of Appalachian Forest Consultants. The first is his response to the initial documents created by Millstone Land Management regarding the management of White Township properties including White's Woods Nature Center. The second report from Mike Wolf is his analysis of a draft forestry stewardship plan created by Millstone Land Management which was submitted to Pennsylvania DCNR for review.



Friends of White's Woods, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1271  
Indiana, PA 15701

June 24, 2020

Dear Andy and Christina,

Thank you for the tour of White's Woods last Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. As you know, we had great weather and were able to walk most of the property. According to my "track," we walked 4.77 miles in White's Woods and reviewed every segment of the forest. Along the way we encountered many hikers, bikers, and even a mama bear and her two cubs. The forest is unique in many ways and it is easy to see why the property attracts so many recreationists on a daily basis.

Your organization has asked me to review current and past documents related to White's Woods as well as to provide a general assessment/opinion of the forest resource and property. I have broken the assessment into the following categories: Overall Impression, Overstory, Understory, Sustainability, and Recommendations.

#### Overall Impression

White's Woods is a 245 acre beautiful forest with only minor intrusions from a powerline and some shallow gas production. The property has limited vehicle access, but has substantial access for hiking and biking. The property is mainly used for recreation and has many daily recreational users on its vast internal trail system. Signs are posted naming the property "White's Woods Recreation Area" and listing hours for the "Park." There are 12 named trails (totaling over 5 miles in length) listed on a welcome sign at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street trailhead. The trails are well-designed and provide excellent recreational access to the whole property.

White's Woods forest is as beautiful as any I've seen in my career. The aesthetic value of the property is very high. Hikers and bikers experience large, beautiful trees along every path. The site/soil is obviously very productive for growing quality trees and the growth of the trees (both height and diameter) is impressive. It is easy to see why so many users and residents have a high degree of passion for White's Woods.

#### Forest Overstory

The overstory is the highest layer of vegetation in a forest. At White's Woods, the overstory is made up of trees that have formed a vegetative canopy over all other vegetation layers. In any forest, there are overstory (tallest), and understory (ground-level) layers of vegetation. All trees that have been measured by previous foresters (1995, 2007, and 2019) for volume and value estimations are part of the overstory of White's Woods.



According to the 2007 Forest Stewardship and Management Plan, authored by professional forester David J. Babyak of Indiana, “Most of the forest has developed on units that are abandoned farmland or previously harvested woodland.” Also, according to Richard S. Stephenson, naturalist and historian, in his 1980 *Human History of White’s Woods*, “White’s Woods has been logged at least twice since the early settlers. Some areas in the woods were logged as recently as the 1940’s and early 1950’s.” In a recent interview with The Hawkeye, professional forester David J. Babyak said, “White’s Woods is an even-aged forest, for the most part. It was clear-cut. Walter Schroth told me his father clear-cut the forest in the 1950’s.”

When a forester inspects a forest, it is always important to gain knowledge about the forest’s past logging history and to determine an approximate age of the forest. I reviewed historic aerial photos of White’s Woods from 1939, 1957, and 1967. In the photos, it is easy to see evidence of abandoned old field as well as timber harvesting across the bulk of the property. I agree with Mr. Babyak that we are dealing with an even-aged forest and for now, I am using an average age estimate of the forest at approximately 70-80 years. Typically, trees don’t grow to the size of the trees in White’s Woods in only 70 or 80 years, but this indicates a very productive soil and nutrient component. An agricultural analogy would be that corn grows much faster and taller on a good site than it would on a poor site.

Because White’s Woods is considered an even-aged forest (either grew from an abandoned field or as the result of a heavy timber harvest in the past), the large trees are not older than the small trees. In fact, the large trees are a very similar age to the small trees. The small trees were out-competed by the larger trees and were, in many cases, just barely able to survive. Through fierce competition, the larger trees were able to fight for a place in the forest canopy and the smaller trees were forced to hang back, grow slower, and accept an inferior position of only collecting filtered light. In this way, White’s Woods is not unlike over 90% of Pennsylvania’s forests. Most of our PA forests were clearcut between 1880 and 1930 and grew back as even-aged forests.

White’s Woods overstory is healthy. As previously stated, the site is very good for growing high quality trees. There have been plenty of previous listings of species, board foot volumes, and timber values for White’s Woods overstory, so there is no need to present that information here. However, it should be stated that the overstory is in very good (way above average) condition in terms of health and that the overstory of White’s Woods is NOT over mature. Just because the trees are big, does not mean they are over mature or that there is need to harvest timber in order to save the forest. I would whole-heartedly disagree with anyone who would state this. In fact, due to the great growing conditions and overall health of the overstory, I would suggest that White’s Woods is actually a long way from being over mature or in need of a near-term harvest. 80 Year old timber is basically in its prime. Of course, someone who wants to profit from harvesting the trees would certainly lick their lips at an opportunity to harvest and sell 80 year old, high quality timber, but the reality is White’s Woods overstory is in its prime.



### Forest Understory

The ground level vegetation in White's Woods is in very poor shape. Even though thousands of large trees are annually producing millions of seeds, it is almost impossible to find tree seedlings in the understory. What we do see in the understory are non-native invasive plants such as Japanese barberry, Japanese stiltgrass, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard. It is also easy to find native competing vegetation such as spicebush and hayscented fern. The bulk of the forest floor has evidence of invasive and competing plants. There are also some small sections where the forest floor appears bare. None of this is good.

If given enough experience, it is easy for a forest manager to determine the culprit and to put blame where it is needed. There is nothing wrong with the tree seeds and there is nothing wrong with the soil. The culprit is deer. Deer have taste preferences. They like to eat the type of vegetation we typically want to grow and they do not eat the invasive and competing plants. The average deer requires 5 pounds of desirable hardwood buds per day during all months outside the growing season. So, from October through April, every year, each deer spends its days meandering the forest looking for its 5 pounds of desirable hardwood buds. As previously stated, there are basically zero desirable tree seedlings in White's Woods. This makes easy pickings for any deer that spends time on the property to find each and every germinated bud (fall or spring) on the property. The seedlings are gone before they ever get a chance to grow. I know I will meet with skepticism on this from the general public. Of course, in PA, the deer impact on our forests has been a hot topic of debate for decades. However, my statements are provable. Give me a few years and allow me to build a small deer enclosure and the evidence will be indisputable in a short matter of time. There is nothing wrong with the millions of seeds and there is nothing wrong with the soil.

The understory of a forest plays a vital role in forest health. If there are any impacts to the forest overstory, such as harvesting, ice damage, wind damage, insects, or disease the health of the understory will determine future forest health. Ideally, in a healthy forest system, there should be ample tree seedlings produced from overstory seed production and germination. Contrary to popular belief, tree seeds do not need added light to germinate and tree seedlings do not need added light to begin growing. In fact, the best understory condition would be to have tens of thousands of seedlings of desirable species "at the ready" in case of and in preparation for an overstory impact of some kind. If the forest understory and the deer impacts were not out of balance, there would be enough seedlings to feed deer and to be in place to become the next forest, following an overstory impact. In addition to many healthy seedlings, a forest understory should also have a wide range of forbs, wildflowers, and shrubs that are native to the area. Seeing only undesirable invasive and competing plants, or no vegetation at all is definitely cause for alarm.

### Sustainability and Management Challenges

There are many resources and academic studies that discuss sustainable forest management. In brief, they can be boiled down to a simple premise...the forest should be able to grow back a similar or improved variety of species to a similar or improved quality following an overstory impact. Whether the overstory



impact is planned, as in proper harvesting, or in the case of an unplanned event like wind, insect, or disease, a sustainable outcome is one where the forest grows back in at least as good if not better condition. Tragically, most timber harvests in PA can be labeled unsustainable. The reality is, a sustainable outcome is extremely difficult to achieve. There are many impediments along the way to a sustainable outcome, such as hungry deer, invasive plants, competing plants, improper harvesting, improper planning, improper use of added light, etc. The days of thinking “we just have to add light to get things growing in the understory” are gone. There are way too many challenges today. In fact, if you want to know exactly what will grow back after a timber harvest it is quite simple – just look at what is on the forest floor before the harvest and you can know for sure. If there are invasives, you will grow invasives. If there are competing plants, you will grow competing plants. If there is nothing, you will make the perfect environment for increased invasives. Even if you kill all the invasive and competing plants first, you should definitely not add any light until you have an abundance of desirable, protected seedlings in place. The reason is simple...the invasives will come back much faster than any desirable native plant that is a target for deer.

To truly practice sustainable forestry today, there is no simple one, two, or three step process. Also, a sustainable outcome requires a substantial investment of time and money. There are costs for experienced professional foresters, costs for managing deer impacts, costs for managing competing plants, and costs associated with harvests and harvest planning. Responsible landowners are aware of these facts. However, most landowners do not understand or value the investment of time. There would be no way to ensure sustainability in a proposed regeneration harvest that would all be accomplished in a 5 year period. In fact, a sustainable outcome actually takes 10-15 years at least. A sustainable outcome can be achieved, but the regular underestimation (of time and money) on the part of landowners and their managers has made sustainable outcomes rare.

### Recommendations

The situation at White’s Woods is interesting to say the least. After reviewing many relevant documents, it is obvious that there are many folks on both sides of the issues that care about the property and the forest. The property, its location, and its usage is quite unique and special. There is passion on both sides and there is obvious friction. The current proposal for a regeneration harvest (shelterwood harvest), beginning with a 50 acre area in the center of the property, is probably the last thing that would resolve the friction. Any regeneration harvest on a property like White’s Woods will be viewed as extreme. Also, with the proposed process, the outcome will not be a good one for the forest. Believing the forest is over mature, the forest floor is “stagnant” and a regeneration harvest is the only hope for a bright future for White’s Woods, is completely misguided. The fact is, White’s Woods is only 70-80 years old, in its prime, and has a very healthy overstory. Of course, as mentioned, the understory condition is appalling and much work can and should be done to improve it which will greatly improve the overall health of the whole forest system.

If I were managing this property, I would manage it as it is...like a park. Parks are not industrial forests. Parks can be and should be treated differently. Traditional forest management techniques should be



tweaked to meet the needs of the landowner, improve the forest, and consider all the users as well. Often, situations like this require a great degree of creativity. I realize the landowner would benefit from adding timber sale income to their budget. I also realize doing this improperly, as proposed, would forever change the forest. I also realize that the majority of Indiana's residents and users of the park would prefer the landowner and a manager to consider values beyond just timber income. How will a substantial timber harvest affect aesthetic values, recreational values, and surrounding property values? I would take a creative approach and present the landowner with options that delay harvesting while still allowing for some revenue generation from the property. My "plan A" would be to attract an organization that would be interested in paying the landowner for use of the forest as a carbon sink. White's Woods is a high volume, high production forest that annually absorbs an abundance of carbon dioxide from the air, producing an abundance of oxygen in the process. Do you realize Indiana, PA is a healthier place to live because of White's Woods? Emission offsets and carbon sinks are in the headlines across the world and many large companies have shown great capacity to invest in these projects. There are conservation organizations currently involved in plans to bring together multiple small landowners for carbon projects that pay out. Ideally, the landowner could be paid for just growing trees and maintaining forest health. There are other ways to be creative as well. Would residents be willing to pay for timber rights over time? Would a conservation organization be willing to pay for a conservation easement? Many such easements still allow for forest management and can be very practical. Would the landowner allow a regeneration study to include erecting a small educational deer enclosure? This would go a long way to proving how the system really works and what to blame for the current issues.

Of course, my "plan A" as well as other creative ideas would take some time to develop. Fortunately, there is no need to rush with White's Woods. Afterall, we are dealing with a forest that is approximately 70-80 years old. Many state forest agencies, even if managing timber with industrial forest techniques, would not consider an 80 year old forest to be over mature or in desperate need of management. The reality is White's Woods will outlive all of us, even if we take a do-nothing approach. Time is definitely on our side.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this great forest property. Feel free to call me (814) 659-1280 or email me [mike.wolf.afc@gmail.com](mailto:mike.wolf.afc@gmail.com) anytime to discuss this report.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Wolf  
Forester



Friends of White's Woods, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1271  
Indiana, PA 15701

July 2, 2020

Dear Andy and Christina,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the "White Township Stewardship Plan," recently submitted to the PA Bureau of Forestry for approval. My only goal in participating with this work is to provide advice that will make a better outcome for White's Woods (and other White Township properties, as appropriate). From my initial, on-site review of White Township properties, it is apparent that following Millstone's plan creates the biggest risk to White's Woods. Millstone's plan was written to apply to all of White Township properties, and therefore this review (below) can apply to all locations. However, White's Woods is obviously at greatest risk for catastrophic results.

REVIEW OF WHITE TOWNSHIP STEWARDSHIP PLAN (prepared by Millstone Land Management, LLC)

**Landowner's Goals for Woodlot Management of White Township Properties, page 2 and 3:**

The reality is, these are not forest stewardship goals, and maybe that is on purpose. The plan is titled a "Stewardship Plan" and not a Forest Stewardship Plan. Given this list of "goals," it would appear you not only need a qualified forester's review, but also that of a qualified Municipal Planner.

As a qualified forester, I can certainly comment on "goals" 1 and 2 because the general idea behind both are common to many forest landowners. The goal to (#1) Improve Forest Health and Sustainability is great! Generally, I can agree with most of the ideas presented in Goal #1, however, there is actually a second goal presented here – Safety. I don't think you can lump the goal of safety in with the goal to improve forest health and sustainability. So, it seems to me White Township's top goal is forest health and its second goal is safety.

Listed as goal #2 is to enhance recreational activities. I assume this should really be stated as enhance recreational opportunities. Most of the wording in goal #2 refers to White Township's commitment to recreation, as if maybe this is not really a goal to accomplish or aspire to, but rather a past success that just requires maintenance.

Overall, the basis of each of the goals presented are fine. It is quite normal for forest owners to want to improve forest health and sustainability, improve safety, and increase recreational opportunities. It is well known that the landowners' goals are the building blocks of any successful plan. While the basis of each is fine, I do not see a clean, crisp presentation of goals here. Since the plan is built upon the goals, they should be well thought out and presented. As presented in Millstone's document, they are quite scattered and unfocused. The better the foundation is laid, the stronger the plan will be.



Worse than this, the parting thoughts in goals #1 and #2 refer to a much too simplistic way forward – contract with Mike Lawer. Goals can only be achieved through great strategy. The strategy part of the plan is the meat of the plan. A solution of blind trust, in any consultant, presented in the landowner goals section of the plan is misplaced. Alternatively, trust that well-presented goals can be accomplished should be put in a logical, biologically sound strategy presented in the meat of the plan (typically the recommendations section).

#### **Millstone Land Management Objective for White Township Properties page 4:**

First, the Consultant’s “objectives” for any property should simply be to employ a logical, biologically sound strategy that will help the landowner meet their stated goals. That’s it. Beyond this however, I feel it’s necessary to also comment on the content presented in this section...

None of the information presented represents objectives, as the title of the section implies. Additionally, there are some foreign concepts presented such as (forest) mulching and mowing, selective objective timber harvesting, and utilizing sustainable selective harvests. Obviously the plan author has presented new ideas. While new ideas are often welcome when attempting to solve tough issues, a public property is hardly a place for experimentation. First, experimentation was not stated in the landowner’s goals. Second, there are time-tested, logical, biologically sound practices that are available and could be employed. Anytime a “forester,” timber buyer, or logger uses the word “selective,” to describe a harvest the landowner should pause and notice a red flag. The word selective has been used by many to promote an idea of professional choice related to harvest decisions. The term has been used to put landowners at ease, i.e. “we won’t clearcut, but rather we will be selective”. The term selective harvest has been discussed, by forest health advocates, as the polar opposite of proper, sustainable harvesting for decades. In a 2016 Penn State Extension article by Dr. James C. Finley, Professor Emeritus of PSU Forest Resources, titled “Forest Stewardship: Timber Harvesting: An Essential Management Tool,” Dr. Finley writes, “This misleading term –selective cutting—refers to a practice that has no basis in scientific forestry.” Proper harvesting can only fall into one of two categories – thinning or regeneration harvesting. The goal of a thinning is to create additional space and increased growth for overstory trees. The goal of a regeneration harvest (shelterwood, seedtree, or clearcut) is to start a new forest. Any harvest plan that does not include the proper terms of thinning or regeneration harvesting and instead used the term selective harvest should at least raise concern.

The idea of utilizing mulching and mowing is ok in an old-field setting or where coppice forestry (creating and maintaining an early-successional habitat) is the goal. However, in a mature forest setting, tilling the soil to a depth of 6 inches (as stated in multiple Millstone documents) should again raise a red flag. As I stated in my June 24<sup>th</sup> report, there is not a soil compaction problem in White’s Woods. Soil compaction is the result of running heavy equipment like skidders, dozers, or even a skid-steer over the forest. These activities have been absent for many decades in White’s Woods. Additionally, think of how many leaves fall to the forest floor every year in the Park. Every fall, dead leaves create a new richness for the forest soil. This has been happening



there for hundreds of years. Annually, freezing and thawing loosens the soil above the frostline. Also, contrary to popular belief, the top six inches of forest soil contains many tons of roots per acre. These roots, close to the surface, are an important asset for healthy trees. Damaging these roots through compaction and breakage through tilling could have devastating effects on the health and vigor of all the trees of the forest. Root damage results in top dieback, increased root rot, and unnecessary tree stress which invites problems from a host of dangerous pathogens.

In addition, some of the invasive plants, like Japanese stiltgrass and garlic mustard are excellent seeders. These invasive plants produce an abundance of small, hard seeds year after year. These seeds can lay dormant for a decade – waiting for best conditions to germinate and spread. Running equipment across the soil and disturbing the soil will greatly increase these troublesome competitive plants. The seeds are already present and are easily spread by the mechanized process to every disturbed area. Unfortunately, this will certainly create a very undesirable and worse forest understory condition across the property. Competitive native plants that spread aggressively by rhizomes, like hayscented fern, will also greatly increase from running equipment around. Hayscented fern, Japanese stiltgrass, and garlic mustard are all abundant on White Township properties.

#### **The Properties Within the Landscape page 7:**

The reason the PA Bureau of Forestry wants a section like this in a plan is because every landowner should have an understanding that their own property is not an island. Each forest ownership is surrounded by other forest ownership as well as non-forest ownerships. Additionally, each forest property plays an important role within a watershed. The purpose here should be to help the landowner understand how their decisions effect surrounding properties, surrounding resources, and surrounding people. It is good that the plan author has named each of White Township's properties as a park and used considerable descriptions of public use and recreational activities to prove the labels.

What Millstone's section lacks is a discussion of how proposed activities can and will impact many surrounding properties. If, for example, a misguided treatment strategy were to be employed that actually decreased forest health (through root damage) or increases invasive plants (through seed spread), there would be a negative impact on surrounding properties. On the flip side, a process that maintains or improves the natural resources on White Township properties can and will have a positive impact on the surrounding landscape. There should also be substantial discussion on the water resources within and outside the White Township lands.



## Species of Special Concern page 8:

PNDI report actual results:

### 2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Fish and Boat Commission	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

##### RESPONSE:

Conservation Measure: Voluntary implementation of the following recommendation(s) will contribute to the conservation and recovery of endangered and threatened species. To conserve foraging and roosting habitat for endangered bats, while also carrying out the proposed conservation, restoration, or stewardship project/activity, conserve and protect forested areas. Emphasis should be placed on retaining (or restoring, if not already present) mature forests with at least 60% canopy closure. Also, retain all hickory trees, and large diameter (>12 inches d.b.h.) snags, dying, and injured trees to ensure a continuing supply of potential roost trees for bats. If agricultural lands are proposed for inclusion in the conservation project/activity, use Integrated Pest Management, with an emphasis on avoiding or minimizing the use of chemical pesticides, and review this project under the appropriate "Agriculture/Farming" project categories. If any timber harvesting or tree cutting is proposed, review this project under the category "Timber harvesting and Vegetation Management" -- "Timber sale/harvest."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (as well as the PA Game Commission) are recommending only forest management activities that retain greater than 60% canopy cover and other conservation practices. Notably, a regeneration harvest would surely open the canopy beyond the recommended level.

## Management of Goals and Objectives for Two WT Properties page 14, 15, 16, 17:

### White Township Recreational Complex page 14

This section amounts to a version of a harvest plan. A harvest plan can be a part of a forest management plan, but the most important parts of a forest management plan are landowner objectives and the professional forester's recommendations. The recommendations are written by a forester and lay out the strategy – how will the forest be managed and what are the necessary steps to accomplish the stated goals. A harvest plan is typically something of an addendum to a forest management plan. It is typically put together after a forest management plan has been approved and it is then utilized to accomplish a portion of the recommendation. As stated, a harvest plan can be stuck in a forest management plan, but it is not common.



Regarding the content, there's a good bit worthy of debate. In Phase 1, I don't see how a process of mowing/mulching followed by Conservation Mix seeding could result in any substantial long-term improvements. Mowing/mulching does not eliminate invasive seed, instead it will spread it. Seeding with an Ernst Conservation seed mix can produce a beautiful initial site with good germination, but these plants get eaten or out-competed within just a couple years. Think about the vast wildflower plantings PA DOT used to do on PA highway medians...beautiful year 1, about 50% as nice in year 2, gone by year 3. Also, I did not read anything about soil testing in the plan, but if soil tests were to be conducted, soil analysis would likely recommend lime applications at a rate of at least 2 tons/acre for improved results.

In Phase 2, there's the subject of a timber harvest. As I stated in my June 24<sup>th</sup> report, whatever you add light to is what you will grow... 'if you want to know exactly what will grow back after a timber harvest it is quite simple – just look at what is on the forest floor before the harvest and you can know for sure. If there are invasives, you will grow invasives. If there are competing plants, you will grow competing plants. If there is nothing, you will make the perfect environment for increased invasives. Even if you kill all the invasive and competing plants first, you should definitely not add any light until you have an abundance of desirable, protected seedlings in place. The reason is simple...the invasives will come back much faster than any desirable native plant that is a target for deer." And to add to this, if you plant wildflower seed and then add light, you will get both wildflowers (temporarily) and invasives resprouting or germinating. The invasives will dominate after a short term.

#### WT Recreation Complex Timber Assessment page 16, 17

"Total Standing Price" – assuming this is actually referring to what the industry calls "stumpage value." Stumpage value is the value of standing trees. Stumpage value is less than "log value" or "log price" because there is an expense involved in cutting, skidding, and hauling to a sawmill. The industry does not reduce stumpage value due to costs of cutting, skidding, and hauling. Stumpage value can be reduced due to quality/grade, additional site access expenses, terrain, etc. So, there seems to be at least a misnomer in the "total standing value" designation. In Millwork's projections, after cut/skid/haul costs, the stumpage value of the timber sale is estimated at \$9,259.26. Of all the forest consultant fees I'm aware of, the highest cost for a forester to prepare a timber sale prospectus, create contracts, and oversee the harvest work is approximately \$1,400 on a sale this size. While a "forester" can charge whatever he/she wants in an open market, it should raise a red flag for a landowner to be paying almost 80% instead of industry standard 10-15%. Of course, there may be undocumented costs/fees involved that are not listed in the projections.



Whites Woods Tract #1 page 18 - 22

Again, this is more like a harvest plan.

Regarding the content, again, there is much worthy of debate. Remember this as you read through the following sections...the primary objective (of Millstone's work in White's Woods) is to improve forest health, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities for the community.

My June 24<sup>th</sup> report describes, in detail, issues related to deer. Yes, they are a problem. Conservation mix seeding cannot begin to solve the problem. It is good that Millstone's wording includes "based on observation, other methods may be evaluated such as deer fencing or a controlled deer harvest". However, this is like considering the purchase of insurance after having a car wreck. Of course the "observation" will require new control methods – they will just be too late following increased light.

Phase 1 quick debate points...

1. Japanese barberry is one of the easiest invasive plants to control and is never a problem if controlled properly, with proper timing of treatment.
2. Soil is not compacted
3. Mulching will damage tree roots, increase invasive sprouting, and spread invasive seeds of the most difficult problem plants
4. Overseeding with a conservation mix is pointless in the forest understory
5. None of the proposed steps will meet the primary objectives
6. Costs are very high

Phase 2 quick debate points...

1. If there is "zero desirable regeneration," DON'T add light until there is an abundance of desirable regeneration
2. The stand is not "over-stocked". This could be a term associated with a thinning, but cannot be a term associated with a regeneration harvest.
3. A high canopy does allow filtered light to the forest floor and our PA trees can and will germinate and begin to grow in the shade of a closed canopy because the shade is high (not low like that from hayscented fern which can prevent germination and growth) and there is filtered light.
4. Deer and now also competing plants that deer do not eat are the reasons there is zero desirable regeneration.
5. None of the proposed steps will meet the primary objectives

"Total Standing Price" – assuming this is actually referring to what the industry calls "stumpage value." Stumpage value is the value of standing trees. Stumpage value is less than "log value" or "log price" because there is an expense involved



in cutting, skidding, and hauling to a sawmill. The industry does not reduce stumpage value due to costs of cutting, skidding, and hauling. Stumpage value can be reduced due to quality/grade, additional site access expenses, terrain, etc. So, there seems to be at least a misnomer in the “total standing value” designation. In Millwork’s projections, after cut/skid/haul costs, the stumpage value of the timber sale is estimated at \$39,965.44. Of all the forest consultant fees I’m aware of, the highest cost for a forester to prepare a timber sale prospectus, create contracts, and oversee the harvest work is approximately \$5,990 on a sale this size. While a “forester” can charge whatever he/she wants in an open market, it should raise a red flag for a landowner to be paying almost 38% instead of industry standard 10-15%. Of course, there may be undocumented costs/fees involved that are not listed in the projections.

Phase 3 quick debate points...

1. The proposed invasive treatment will not improve wildlife habitat
2. Additional trails are not necessary in White’s Woods
3. The proposed methods will not establish a healthy, diverse ecosystem

### **Management Recommendations for all WT Properties page 23-26**

Quick debate points...(that haven’t already been presented)

1. Fascines are typically vigorous sprouters. Typically made up of bundles of willow-type species are placed in the ground and will create (for White’s Woods) a very unnatural-looking, shaggy growth along stream banks. The majority of species making up the fascine bundles would be out of place on a property like White’s Woods.

### **Recommended Schedule page 27, 28**

Quick debate points...

1. In only the second year of the schedule (summer/fall 2021), regeneration harvesting on 50 acres of White’s Woods will be begin. The added light will NOT be on desirable seedlings and saplings, but rather (maybe) some wildflowers and of course invasives.
2. Question – what does “evaluate timber” mean (fall 2022 and fall 2024)? Is this a code for timber harvesting? Page 23 (2a) recommends to “evaluate and select trees for a timber harvest.” If all acres of White’s Woods receive a combination of mechanical/chemical treatment as proposed, we can only assume “all acres” of White’s Woods are to be harvested similarly to White’s Woods Tract 1. Based on all above information in this review...this is a scary thought.



3. A sustainable forest regeneration plan for a property like White's Woods should take 10-15 years, not just 4 as proposed in this schedule. And, this is for each unit. To sustainably regenerate a forest of any size, or any portion of a forest of any size (as described in my June 24 report) takes at least 10-15 years. To sustainably regenerate White's Woods Tract 1...10-15 years; Tract 2...10-15 years, Tract 3...10-15 years, etc. Anything less is an impossibility with a forest in its current condition. It is very important to remember, there has to be desirable seedlings in place before any light is added. This takes time.

### **Appendix 3 – Millstone Land Management Sustainable Forestry Philosophy**

Quick debate points...

Paragraph 1: Soil

I called Soil Scientist, Ron Andrasko (Andrasko and Associates, Inc.) to discuss Millwork's basis for soil aeration (to a depth of 6"). Millwork claims that the soil in White's Woods and other White Township properties are compacted and lays blame on soil compaction for lack of desirable regeneration. I described the White's Woods property to Ron, including past logging history. Ron's response was, "it is a ludicrous claim." Ron said, "it has nothing to do with compaction of soil." He added, "taking a machine into a forest area results in compaction. Only manipulation (of any kind) of forest soil results in compaction. Only time, through annual freeze/thaw and shrink/swell decreases compaction."

Paragraph 2:

Millstone's plan to reintroduce native plant species refers to overseeding with a customized Ernst Conservation Seed Mix. This is not the native species that will result in improved habitat and forest ecosystem health. Native hardwood seedlings, resulting from White's Woods overstory seed production, germination, and growth are the only solution. The seed mix prescribed by Millwork will not result in desirable natural regeneration of the types of trees currently found in White's Woods. However, skipping the soil aeration, skipping the overseeding, and simply erecting a deer exclusion fence and killing competing plants WILL provide the desired results.

Paragraph 3:

Light is the enemy to an unhealthy forest understory. In my June 24<sup>th</sup> report, I detail the health of the understory in White's Woods. It is obviously unhealthy. ALL of our native PA trees can germinate and begin to grow in a shaded understory – especially when the shade level (height) is high, like that created by the overstory tree canopy. A tight canopy is NOT the issue in White's Woods. I recommend to NEVER add light to a forest floor until after desirable seedlings are sufficiently present.



Again, I thank you for requesting my input. White Township has some tremendous lands that are an asset to all the residents of White Township and Indiana Borough. I am quite impressed with the properties and their community usage. Forest management, public park management, and municipal planning are very complex today. It is my hope that this review, as well as my June 24<sup>th</sup> report can be used to move White Township in the direction of a sustainable outcome. In my opinion, because the properties are so incredible, there is much to lose if a wrong direction is chosen. I honestly do not see ill-intent, just a lack of fundamental understanding of silviculture, sustainable forestry practices, and how forests grow and develop. The “Forest Stewardship Plan” you asked me to review is intensive and was obviously written with passion. When this type of passion is mixed with the right knowledge and strategy there is no doubt a positive outcome can be reached. However, as this review and my previous report point out, while the proposed strategy may be well-intentioned, for many reasons, it will not produce a positive outcome.

Feel free to follow up with me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Wolf  
Forester

## IUP Biology Faculty Input Regarding Proposed Management Plans for White's Woods Nature Center

This section contains a letter submitted to the township from three IUP biology faculty which present their thoughts on the state of White's Woods Nature Center and the initial set of documents created by Millstone Land Management.



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30 April 2020

Mr. Milton Lady  
White Township Manager  
950 Indiana Springs Road  
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701

Dear Mr. Lady:

Friends of Whites Woods requested that we evaluate from an objective and scientific perspective the land management plan for Whites Woods proposed by Millstone Land Management, LLC. We have significant applied research experience and expertise in the fields of forestry, forest ecology and restoration, wildlife ecology and management, and disease ecology. To evaluate the plan, we conducted a preliminary survey of the 50 acres Whites Woods Tract #1 in which trees are being marked for removal; met with Millstone owner Michael Lawer onsite to discuss his plan; visited the 34 acres White Township Recreation Complex Tract in which invasive species and the soil were mechanically treated earlier this year; and studied all relevant publicly available documents released by White Township to date. Below is a summary of our findings and recommendations which are limited because the Millstone plan is rather cursory and incomplete, and from our understanding is a work in progress.

From an ecological standpoint, Whites Woods is obviously in need of evidence-based and scientifically sound forest management to improve its health and strengthen its resilience. However, the combination of opening-up the canopy to allow sunlight penetration to the forest floor, disturbing the forest floor by mechanical mulching of invasive plants, and rototilling the soil as proposed in the Millstone plan; and not excluding white-tailed deer will unquestionably create conditions that are ideal for invasive plant colonization and proliferation, and are detrimental to forest regeneration and sustainability. Once this takes place it will require constant, expensive, and intensive intervention to restore.

From a planning standpoint, it is apparent that the views of Michael Lower, Friends of Whites Woods, and ours (as applied ecologists) of how Whites Woods should be managed and for what purpose are different, but not mutually exclusive of one another. We make this point to emphasize that although there are diverging opinions and viewpoints, there is still an opportunity to work together and develop a common goal and set of objectives for improvement and multi-use of Whites Woods.

We recommend that the Whites Woods project be immediately halted until the following are addressed: 1) All stakeholders, including the public, have had a chance to provide input; 2) A comprehensive stewardship plan has been developed based on this input and on a Silviculture for Allegheny Hardwoods (SILVAH) assessment; and 3) The comprehensive forest stewardship plan has been fully vetted by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Respectfully yours,

Jeffery Larkin, Ph.D.  
Thomas Simmons, Ph.D.  
Michael Tyree, Ph.D.

cc. Friends of Whites Woods  
Millstone Land Management, LLC

## **White Township Draft Stewardship Plan: Document Review by Friends of White's Woods**

Friends of White's Woods Board members spent four days reading the recently posted White Township DRAFT Stewardship plan, taking notes, and following up citations and references. We took special note of 1) the stated goals of the plan, 2) the size and purpose of the timber harvest in White's Woods, 3) the method for treatment of invasive species, 4) the data on which the plan is based (and the data that is absent), 5) stormwater management, and 6) comparison of this plan to the previously released Millstone documents. FWW considered all of the information made available in the newly posted White Township plan in the context of available expert opinion.

What follows is the Executive Summary of the FWW review. The extended analysis of the draft plan's goals, approach to invasive plant species treatment, and comparison to the previous Millstone plan that was released to the public on April 16, 2020 can be found in Appendix B.

## **FWW Executive Summary: WT DRAFT Stewardship\* Plan**

**June 30, 2020 (revised July 13, 2020)**

Friends of White's Woods Board members spent four days reading the recently posted White Township DRAFT Stewardship plan, taking notes, and following up citations and references. We took special note of 1) the stated goals of the plan, 2) the size and purpose of the timber harvest in White's Woods, 3) the method for treatment of invasive species, 4) the data on which the plan is based (and the data that is absent), 5) stormwater management, and 6) comparison of this plan to the previously released Millstone documents. FWW considered all of the information made available in the newly posted White Township plan in the context of available expert opinion.

Below is a summary of FWW observations and concerns. The White Township plan is posted at [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org), along with the extended section-by-section analysis provided by the FWW Board.

### **I. Goals: Recently Posted WT Stewardship\* Plan**

Goals of the recently posted DRAFT White Township Stewardship Plan are (a) stated in the first two pages of the document and (b) articulated in various sections throughout the plan (e.g. "Millstone Land Management Objectives for WT Properties," p. 4; "enhancing the growth and performance of the timber," Millstone contract, p. 13).

#### **a. Township stated "Goals for Woodlot Management of WT Properties," pp. 2-3**

1. [I]mprove the overall health and sustainability of all township-owned properties

**Summary Goal 1:** This is a generic goal for all White Township recreational parks, and is meaningless due to the diverse nature of the parks. For this goal to be functional, there should be separate sub-goal(s) for each park, with specific, measurable, achievable objectives for each goal. For instance, dead trees, rarely a problem in a 250-acre forest, might be a significant concern in a small community park. It is interesting that the Supervisors note in discussing this goal that they wish to combat climate change: Given the carbon-capturing potential of a 250 acre forest, this seems to be a good argument for keeping WWNC untouched and intact.

2. Enhance recreational activities for all community members:

**Summary Goal 2:** This section does not address any aspect of "enhance(ing) recreation activities" in WWNC. The properties cited in this goal ("17 acres of community parks (3) and a 90 acre recreation complex") specifically exclude the WWNC. Given that the overall goal of the WT DRAFT plan as it pertains to the WWNC is to remove invasive species by rototilling the floor of the park and remove as much timber as they can get past DCNR, this plan promises to destroy the quality experience currently treasured in WWNC.

3. **Summary Goal 3:** Goal 3 is unclear. It appears that this goal is announcing a plan to develop a comprehensive plan for WT recreation **in the future**. In this sense, Goal 3 seems irrelevant to this document –or might even suggest that this document is premature. In any case, readers should note that WT is working on a comprehensive plan and should be looking for means for input!

**Conclusion:** The stated goals for this project are vague and poorly written to the point that they are difficult to discern. They are not formatted appropriately for a planning document, and the attempts to provide supporting evidence cite a plethora of irrelevant, largely undocumented, unproven claims. From the perspective of 25 years of fighting desecration in WWNC, this “plan” is a thinly veiled attempt at (1) selling timber and (2) providing employment for the “consultant,” which should more accurately be the stated goals.

**\*Relevance to DCNR and Project 70 land use**

WWNC was purchased with Project 70 funds, which are intended to be used for recreation, conservation, and historic preservation. Stewardship plans for public lands should be driven by community values, which are used to define goals and measurable objectives. The Millstone plan fails to consider either in its stated goals.

**b. WT DRAFT Plan Goals and Objectives Articulated Throughout the Document**

Statements throughout the White Township Draft Stewardship plan make clear, as Consultant Forester Mike Wolf noted in his own report, that, as it pertains to White’s Woods, this is a timbering plan.

1. The statement of Millstone Land Management Objectives for WT Properties (p. 4) includes plans to: (1) mow, mulch, and **harvest timber** to treat invasive plants and to address the “issue” of “overstocked timber stands” and (2) to utilize ...harvests to offset the costs of land management

(FWW note: Offset the cost of management of the Rec Center? Investment in WWNC, as noted in two places in this document, is minimal.)

2. The September, 2019 Millstone Contract (p. 13) specifies Millstone’s obligation to “perform consulting services for the purpose of removal of invasive plant species and **enhancing the growth and performance of the timber.**”
3. The stated Millstone Management Goals and Objectives for White’s Woods (p. 18) confirms that:
  - a. “[w]ood products were assessed and valued on species, quality, and merchantability.”
  - b. **the highest volume of tree species to be harvested** are “high-quality” (merchantable) trees (p.20).

#### 4. The worth of White's Woods?

If a tree or log was too small or too low of quality and was at least 10 inches DBH (Depth Breast Height), it was scaled as pulp" (p.20).

The total "pulp" to be "harvested": 131 Tons, valued at \$5 a ton (p. 20-21).

## II. TIMBERING IN THE WWNC: WT DRAFT STEWARDSHIP PLAN—KEY POINTS

See Select Timber Harvest, p. 19- 28; 47-48

- a. **The amount of timbering is more than excessive.** 125,668 board feet of timber PLUS 131.1 tons of wood pulp are planned for harvest from just Tract #1 (50 acres). Lawer does not specify how much timber he intends to take from the other 6 tracts (Tracts #2-7) of White's Woods, but if similar to Tract #1, he would be removing 628,000 board feet total, far more than the proposed timbering of 555,000 board feet from all 250 acres of White's Woods, which DCNR called "excessive" in 2008. Forester Mike Wolf also stated that removing the canopy would KILL the remaining trees in White's Woods, as they are the same age as the large ones (from prior clear-cut timber harvests) and have adapted to lower light levels. This will look more like a clear-cut than a "selective harvest."
- b. **Lawer's rationale for timbering—"promote wildlife habitat, improve forest health, and maintain trail safety"-- is nonsense.** According to forester Wolf, the trees that comprise the canopy of WW (overstory) are very healthy, not overly mature, and do not need to be timbered for the health of the forest. Because there are almost no seedlings on the forest floor, WW would not be able to regrow trees by adding light to the forest floor, as Lawer proposes. Wolf states: "Contrary to popular belief, tree seeds do not need added light to germinate and tree seedlings do not need added light to begin growing."
- c. **The costs and revenue of timbering are incomplete and misleading.** Once Lawer's "Consultant Cost" is deducted (as the costs for Cutting/Skidding and Hauling have been), the Total Net Revenue comes to only \$24,662.43. for 50 acres of trees, while the cost of the above will be \$36,666.57. No road work or stormwater mitigation are included in the costs. This work is likely to cost the taxpayers far more than is represented in the plan.
- d. **The 5-year timeline is overly aggressive yet lacking in detail.** According to Wolf, "There would be no way to ensure sustainability in a proposed regeneration harvest that would all be accomplished in a 5-year period. In fact, a sustainable outcome actually takes 10-15 years at least. ... doing this improperly, as proposed, would forever change the forest." Again, the total amount of timber to be harvested from WW is not specified, which is more than troubling. It is also questionable what money from timbering WW would be put back into WWNC as opposed to the other township parks (namely the Rec Complex).
- e. **The plan proposes deer hunting in WWNC.** "Deer harvest," which Forester Wolf states would be completely ineffective, is tentatively scheduled for this upcoming Winter (2020). This is

incredibly unsafe to do in a small park that many people visit daily year-round and that is bordered by neighborhoods, especially given the Supervisors' poor track record of communication with the public.

### III. INVASIVE PLANT (and tree) SPECIES REMOVAL

- a. **Without research or evidence**, Mike Lawer has proposed to remove and treat "invasive species" in White's Woods by using heavy equipment to uproot undesired plants and trees, and to mulch and till the soil in the entire 50-acre Area #1 in White's Woods. The goals were to be to aerate the soil and let additional sunlight reach the forest floor.
- b. **This plan is the same for all parks in White township.** "Using mechanized mulching equipment (see Appendix 8), areas affected by invasive plant species will be mulched up to 6 inches in order to uproot undesirable plants. The mulching process will aerate soil and address soil compaction issues. In addition, mulched material remaining on the surface of the soil will provide an excellent stormwater management practice that limits runoff and sedimentation."(p.18) "Upon completion of the mulching process, an over seeding of the treated area (seed mix to be specified) will take place to establish a new layer of native desirable plants." (p.19)
- c. Experts in Forest Management, Ecology, Conservation Biology, and related fields carefully studied Lawer's proposal and relevant professional research. They concluded: **"the combination of opening-up the canopy to allow sunlight penetration to the forest floor, disturbing the forest floor by mechanical mulching of invasive plants, and rototilling the soil as proposed in the Millstone plan; and not excluding white-tailed deer will unquestionably create conditions that are ideal for invasive plant colonization and proliferation,** and are detrimental to forest regeneration and sustainability. Once this takes place it will require constant, expensive, and intensive intervention to restore."
- d. Mike Wolf, a forester of 30 years with a strong background in forest management additionally opposed Millstone's plans to improve the forest soil by tilling and aerating it. "Typically, trees don't grow to the size of the trees in Whites Woods in only 70 or 80 years, but this indicates a very productive soil and nutrient component." His recommendation: "Just let the timber grow, occasionally take care of dangerous trees along the trail, build a small deer exclosure...Final thought...until substantial understory work is done properly (not using a mulcher and throwing a non-native wildflower mix on it), light is the enemy to the forest floor. **If you think the understory is bad now, wait until Millstone adds light...total disaster."**
- e. The deer overpopulation and deer appetite for hardwood buds has prevented seedlings from growing in the understory to replace fallen or harvested overstory trees. Millstone's only proposal is to overseed the tilled forest bed with non-native wildflowers to feed the deer, which our experts say will not work to permit seedlings to grow. Therefore, there will

be no seedlings to grow to replace the trees that have been timbered.

**Conclusion: The invasive that will create the most damage to White's Woods is Mike Lawer of Millstone Land Management and his mulching machinery. Under the guise of concern for White's Woods, both Lawer and the supervisors have agreed on a plan to remove the invasive plants in the understory. However, 680 trees are marked for timber in just phase one of 7 phases, and by the time Lawer is finished over 50% of the trees will be timbered.**

#### IV. THE USE OF DATA IN THE NEWLY POSTED WT STEWARDSHIP\* PLAN

- a. The stewardship plan is sparse on data except for timbering information (board feet, number, value and type of trees). Specific information on diseased trees is also not provided. Other data necessary for a complete stewardship plan are missing: survey instrument, number of respondents, results; soil tests and results; wildlife variety and quantity; vegetation other than trees and invasive species; research on use of mechanized mulching and rototilling in a 70- to-80-year-old forest; effects of deer population on tree seedlings; assessment mechanisms for forest health, among others.
- b. In addition, there is NO data in the DRAFT stewardship plan on community input (survey, focus groups), wildlife, location of invasive species and level of proliferation, soil analysis, stormwater runoff problems, soil compaction, other flora, park usage per season.
- c. **In fact, the only data provided is about trees – board feet, types, value, and size. This is obviously a timbering plan and not a stewardship plan based on data provided and lack of data in areas specified in a and b.**

#### V. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- a. Lawer's answer to **stormwater runoff** (p. 18) is that: "mulched material will limit runoff and sedimentation and provide an excellent stormwater management practice." Twigs and bushes are going to be broken up and the soil tilled to a depth of 6 inches and in a heavy rain will not stay in place very long. Bales of straw or other items such as the newer socks with switchgrass in them are needed for this project the same as a construction site.
- b. **Streambank Improvements:** 1650 feet of streambank to be covered with Fascines (bundles of living stems of native species that will establish a streambank cover), (p.23). **The report does not say where this to be used. Two streams come off the White's Woods property.** One flows to the northeast and one to the southwest. Another stream flows to the northwest and will get runoff from White's Woods after crossing IUP property. The White's Woods park has elevation differences of almost 300 feet and the plan calls for 1650 feet of streambank protection.

**(1) Where are the estimates of water runoff for certain strength storms?**

**(2) Where are the runoff estimates from different soil types as shown on the maps?**

**(3) Where are the runoff estimates from the tilled bare earth as seen on the recreation complex property after the mulching machine was used?**

**(4) Where is the analysis of existing runoff problems and how to make them better not worse?**

- c. **Erosion and Sedimentation Plan** for a Timber Harvesting (Forest Mulching) Operation (p. 74) for Tract No 1. Dated 5/12/20 and signed by Milt and Millstone Land Management. **After page 3 it is missing every second page.** None of the drawings for silt barriers will be used along haul roads, skid roads or landings. A USGS Contour Map was not used as requested in the instructions (p. 83 or p.3 of E&S plan) it is filled out that zero acres will be disturbed. I am not sure if this plan went to the state or county.

VI. New Plan to Old Plan: Comparisons:

- a. **The “new” plan draws heavily from the following documents on which the previous plan was based:** (1) “Sustainable Management Forest Overview” (April 2020); (2) the “White Township Parks: Preliminary Assessment” (Dec 2018); and (3) the “White’s Woods: Timber Valuation” (February 2019).
- b. In some cases, sentences are cut and pasted from one document to another; in some cases, the order of paragraphs is reversed:
- Objective Timber Harvest is the second objective in the “new” plan; it was listed as the first objective in the “old” one.
  - **New language reveals the same intent: “select trees for timber harvest, based on art and science in order to promote forest economics.”**
- c. **Some specific numerical information has been added; other information omitted:**
1. The number of board feet--125,668 from Unit 1 alone (PLUS 131 TONS of PULP—is articulated here.
  2. The total volume of WW timber is NOT directly cited. However, figures that Lawer cited are clearly based on the total volume identified in the February 2019 White’s Woods Timber Valuation.
  3. The projected revenue derived from timbering all 7 WW “tracts” has been omitted.
- d. **What’s new?**

There is a signature page referencing “timber harvesting” over a “ten-year period.”

### **Summary of “old” and “new” plan comparison:**

In this version, there is still the purported goal of “forest health,” but with more emphasis on recreation, likely to sound as if the parameters of Project 70 funding have been taken into account. However, **much of the language makes clear that the priority is timbering.**

Of note is that the reference to a “shelterwood” harvest is removed, likely because a “select” harvest sounds less destructive. This does not mean that the projected removal is reduced from the earlier version! In fact, the overall volume of timber is not listed here, nor are any percentages. This is a linguistic shift, not a shift in intent.

From the glossary: “Shelterwood—A regeneration cut designed to stimulate reproduction by removing all overstory trees. This is achieved by a series of cuts over several years.” Under Phase 11 — Select Timber Harvest is this: “there is zero desirable regeneration, and there is little to no sunlight filtering to the forest floor due to the overstocked stand” (19). **Every indication is that this is STILL by design a shelterwood timber harvest.**

Clearly, this new iteration is meant to obscure the intent and make estimating the total damage more difficult. It is also worth remembering that in Babyak’s plan the percentage targeted for removal was stated directly, and this is precisely the number that the DCNR said was “excessive.” Leaving out any estimated revenue for entire acreage is also problematic, since there is reference to “evaluate timber” in all the designated tracts (27-28).

### **FWW Review Summary:**

In a letter dated April 27, DCNR Chief Mike Eschenmann requested the Township to demonstrate in a 10 year plan how the community goals for WWNC were enhanced or promoted by management of invasive species, timber harvesting, and any other strategies intended.

Although this WT plan does note, on page seven, that White’s Woods is used primarily for hiking and biking, NO PUBLIC INPUT was welcomed before the plan was developed. The survey data now being collected by White’s Woods does indicate that the Woods are important to people for hiking and biking—but also for birdwatching, education, cross-country skiing, relaxation, spiritual and mental health, observation of plants and animals, and more.

The WT plan now posted for public review does nothing to “enhance” these community goals for the WWNC. To the contrary, this plan promises to devastate White’s Woods.

\*It should also be noted that the Millstone plan fails to qualify as a “stewardship plan,” by all standards. It does not provide the information that Mr. Eschenmann requested in his letter, does not provide identification of community values or goals, and does not include the sections listed in the DCNR sample stewardship plan or the Penn State stewardship guide.

## News articles published in the Indiana Gazette and the Hawkeye

News stories regarding the 2019-2020 White's Woods Nature Center situation were first published in the Indiana Gazette on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The last news story included as part of this report is from July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. In addition to the Indiana Gazette, stories related to White's Woods are included here from the local online news website The Hawkeye.

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-seek-extension-for-windy-ridge-tax-break/article\\_5d1ead88-85e4-56bb-905c-1f1229275c52.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-seek-extension-for-windy-ridge-tax-break/article_5d1ead88-85e4-56bb-905c-1f1229275c52.html)

## Supervisors seek extension for Windy Ridge tax break

PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Sep 12, 2019

Indiana County, Indiana Area School District and the White Township Board of Supervisors are trying again to get a 10-year extension of a Keystone Opportunity Zone tax break for investments in most of the Windy Ridge Business and Technology Park.

“We have an opportunity if we get an application in by the end of the month, Oct. 1 in fact, to extend the KOZ for another 10 years on the vacant parcels,” Byron G. Stauffer Jr., executive director of the county Office of Planning & Development, told the board Wednesday night.

“The benefits of the program are 100 percent tax abatement,” Stauffer said. “Businesses that get approved in the program can also get some state incentives.”

However, an application last year to extend the KOZ for 187.31 acres in Windy Ridge was rejected by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. It was one of two applications submitted by Indiana County, the other being for Corporate Campus Business Park in Burrell Township.

“That one was approved, and it was essentially the same application” as that for Windy Ridge, Stauffer said.

So the county and its partners are focusing on 138.37 acres that the Indiana County Development Corporation purchased for Windy Ridge.

“I’m seeking your approval in terms of advertising and then I would come back in two weeks and at that point the county commissioners would consider their ordinance, and the school board, and you would be the final approval, if you so desire, to support this initiative,” Stauffer said.

That covers “currently vacant lots” there, he said, and does not include Urban Outfitters Inc. or Creps United Publications.

“There are no buildings on any of those parcels,” the county planning director said.

“If this is approved, when does the 10-year period start?” Supervisor Eugene Gemmell asked.

“Jan. 1 of 2020,” Stauffer said.

The county found other breaks for Urban Outfitters, which is building a distribution center at Windy Ridge.

“We were able to use some other programs to try to help Urban, so that parcel will go on the tax rolls,” Stauffer said. He said they involved other state tax breaks that do not involve getting local approval.

Supervisor Ted Kuckuck moved to advertise a new KOZ ordinance and Supervisor Gail McCauley seconded it, but there isn’t enough time for the ordinance to be considered at the next regular board meeting Sept. 26.

“That doesn’t meet code, advertising-wise, by the next meeting,” township Manager Milt Lady said.

So the board will vote Sept. 26 to hold a special meeting, sometime during the day on Sept. 30.<sup>114</sup> Would there be enough time to get an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development?

“That’s fine,” Stauffer said. “I can overnight it.”

Stauffer also sat in with the board for most of what became a 68-minute executive session, after which the supervisors came back to approve a consulting agreement the township had negotiated over the past six months to provide advice about properties owned by the township.

Lady said the township talked to two or three potential consultants before deciding on Mike Lawer and Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center.

Solicitor Michael S. Delaney said Millstone would manage township-owned properties such as White Township’s parks.

He said Millstone would utilize the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist with handling the township’s timber lands, and oversee the township parks where invasive species of plants have been a problem.

Board Chairman George Lenz said invasive species of plants — specifically, Japanese knotweed — can be seen outside the township municipal building, along the bank of McCarthy Run that flows between the building and Indian Springs Road.

The consulting agreement does not include structures such as the municipal building, Lady said.

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PAT CLOONAN

## Supervisors consider removing growth in White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net) Apr 10, 2020 Updated Apr 12, 2020

Ten years after a previous plan ran into a buzzsaw with some White Township residents, the township is revisiting what it considers a serious invasive and non-desirable plant issue throughout White's Woods.

That's a property covering nearly 250 acres, nestled between College Lodge, Chevy Chase Heights and the north end of Indiana Borough.

In a press release issued Thursday morning, township officials said Millstone Land Management is focused "on a 50-acre upland dry site" to be tackled this spring and summer.

"What we are doing is not traditional logging," said Mike Lawer of Millstone. "Our intentions are not for economic benefit, but to establish forest health, aesthetics and safety."

Lawer is the project consultant, while his company is the winner among three companies asked to bid on the work.

"I will be overseeing bids for the tree cutting ... but not doing the actual work," Lawer said. "We do bid the jobs out. We got three quotes from people who do similar work."

Township Manager Milt Lady compared Lawer's plan to what Millstone oversaw on the township recreation complex, and said there will be a different approach from what was proposed, but never carried out, in a forestry management plan 10 years ago.

"It is not around anyone's house, it is not in wetland," Lawer said. "It is in an area that is dry. It definitely limited the damage from any rutting activity," involving heavy equipment.

The township said Lawer "is very confident that the issue can be treated following proposed forest management objectives," using mechanized forest mulching, root invigoration and a selectively objective timber removal.

"We've already begun marking some of the timber, and marked out a new foot trail," Lawer said. "It will reroute traffic so the park can remain open."

Or as the township put it in its news release, "synergistically converting skid trails into additional new recreational trails will immediately follow the selective objective tree removal."

Millstone's plan is to remove a variety of "non-desirable" trees, such as American beech, black birch, red maple and spice bush, that are dead, decayed or in poor health.

"The initial process is the removal of non-desirable pioneer understory tree and plant species in combination with an immediate follow up of select, objective hardwood timber removal," according to a township news release.

Also targeted is Japanese barberry, an invasive species that Lawer said has "little or no" value.

Japanese barberry was introduced to the United States as an ornamental plant in 1875, in a bid to replace common barberry, which is a host for black stem rust.

However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Invasive Species Information Center said Japanese barberry forms dense strands that compete with native trees and herbaceous plants in the East and Midwest.

Lawer said the clearance work would allow more sunlight in to promote “desirable species” including trees with quality genetics.

Also, Lawer said, “erosion and sedimentary control is of great interest to us.”

White Township has pondered over the idea of forestry management in White’s Woods for more than a quarter century. The plan considered then set aside in 2009 was developed by a different consultant in 2007 then discussed in various venues over the next three years.

As offered in 2007, it would have involved harvesting trees over the span of 10 years. As proposed by Millstone, this year’s project would be completed by the end of summer.

## Opponents ask for delay of White's Woods forestry proposal

By [PATRICK CLOONAN, pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Apr 22, 2020 **Updated** Apr 24, 2020

In an open letter to White Township officials, with copies addressed to a long list that includes Indiana County, state, conservation and media officials, two writers are urging a halt to planned work on the township's 250-acre White's Woods Nature Center.

"We are writing to request that you cease all work ... until there is ample opportunity for effective citizen input regarding the goals, objectives, and sustainable management strategies for the proper management of this park," Sara B. King and Andrew C. Davis wrote on behalf of the group Friends of White's Woods.

That's a property nestled between College Lodge, Chevy Chase Heights and the north end of Indiana Borough.

On April 9, township officials said Millstone Land Management is focused "on a 50-acre upland dry site" to be tackled this spring and summer. Millstone is the township's consultant for dealing with invasive plant species on White Township properties, including the recreation complex and White's Woods.

"What we are doing is not traditional logging," said Mike Lawer of Millstone. "Our intentions are not for economic benefit, but to establish forest health, aesthetics and safety."

King, an emeritus professor at Saint Francis University, identified herself as president of the group, while Davis was identified as vice president. The letter was dated Monday, two days before tonight's scheduled 7:30 p.m. meeting of the board of supervisors, at which a portion of the White's Woods plan is listed on the agenda.

"As you are aware, Friends of White's Woods, along with its many supporters, has long expressed our desire to work with you to find a mutually favorable resolution regarding the future of the White's Woods Nature Center," King and Davis wrote. "In just the past week, based on FWW's outreach efforts, it appears that citizen interest in this issue is as strong as ever — if not stronger."

They recalled a 2008 drive in which "over 1,000 people signed a petition and 200 to 400 citizens attended public meetings to alert the township supervisors of our collective interest in developing park management goals and strategies."

White Township Manager Milt Lady said he had received the letter and would respond to it at tonight's meeting.

King and Davis are among several individuals to express concern in recent communications with The Indiana Gazette. Another is retired attorney Robert W. Lambert, who said he is among members of FWW.

"The members of FWW have been prohibited from traveling to the township offices to examine the public records relating to the tree removal and timbering operations as a result of the governor's coronavirus stay-at-home order," Lambert wrote in an April 15 statement.

While Lawer is project consultant, he said on April 9 that his company is the winner among three companies asked to bid on the work.

"I will be overseeing bids for the tree cutting ... but not doing the actual work," Lawer said. "We do bid the jobs out. We got three quotes from people who do similar work."

Lady compared Lawer's plan to what Millstone oversaw at the township recreation complex, and said there will be a different approach from what was proposed, but never carried out, in a forestry management plan 10 years ago.

King and Davis see things differently.

"It is of note that the White Township Sustainable Forest Plan identifies the primary objective in White's Woods as a 'Sustainable Objective Timber Harvest,' they wrote. "The information that we have received indicates that the percentage of timbering planned for the White's Woods Nature Center is significantly greater than would be consistent with appropriate management of the park for conservation and recreational purposes."

Tonight, the township board of supervisors is scheduled to award a contract for "White's Woods Tract 1 — Treatment of Invasive Plant Species."

Lady said that involves the use of machines to "rip up invasive plants." He said there would be a second phase involving mechanical means of removing those plants as well as use of "an environmentally friendly herbicide."

The township's website includes the agenda as well as ways to join "GoToMeeting Public Participation" in a meeting that centers on an otherwise-closed township administration building along Indian Springs Road. On

March 17, White Township supervisors approved a 30-day state of emergency prompted by the COVID-19 outbreak. It was done in a conference call, then ratified at a voting meeting March 26.

Lady said it is likely the state of emergency will be continued for as long as Gov. Tom Wolf's stay-at-home order continues. He said it was likely the supervisors will vote on such a continuance tonight.

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-approve-contract-for-work-in-whites-woods/article\\_7fe5afae-856b-11ea-b1cb-c30b12144a07.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-approve-contract-for-work-in-whites-woods/article_7fe5afae-856b-11ea-b1cb-c30b12144a07.html)

## Supervisors approve contract for work in White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Apr 23, 2020

At its meeting Wednesday night, White Township's board of supervisors approved a \$20,000 contract with Millstone Land Management LLC for the first phase of an overhaul of 50 acres of the White's Woods Nature Center.

Pending any needed approvals from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and/or Indiana County Conservation District, removal of invasive plant species is planned.

It would be followed by a second phase where removal would be accompanied by the use of what township manager Milt Lady called an "environmentally friendly herbicide."

Millstone's Mike Lawer restated his intentions for White's Woods. He said it doesn't include <sup>121</sup> traditional logging but rather to establish forest health, aesthetics and safety.

However, the work isn't meeting with the approval of Friends of White's Woods, a citizen group that insisted that the township acted in secret and should have explicitly held public hearings regarding its plans.

"It is a violation of public trust," said Robert Lambert, an attorney who is on the FWW board and was in attendance along with FWW President Sara B. King and Vice President Andrew C. Davis.

"We believe it is a requirement that the township issue public notices of their plans to review projects of major import such as White's Woods," Lambert said.

Board members contend that issues involving Millstone, a township consultant on removing invasive species, are treated the same way any other major township project is treated, such as road or sewer matters.

"Our meetings are public," Supervisor Sandi Gillette said. "It was all open and above board. If you want to know what will happen at these meetings, come."

Board Chairman George Lenz said he thought any further public airing of the matter would be redundant, saying "the only way I would support a public hearing at this point is if DCNR requested us to have one."

The timing of the work also was a topic of discussion. Supervisor Rich Gallo said, "This is the time of year when we should be doing this. You want to get ahead (of invasive growth). I think there has been enough research done."

"They painted the picture that timing was critical for them," Lambert said. "They could have initiated this part of the plan or at least noted this for public comment many months ago."

Among those participating over a conference call was township resident Joel Royer, who said "I am quite in favor of WW remaining as it is," as an old-growth forest, the way he thought it had been for "hundreds of years."

Township supervisors countered that White's Woods is a third-generation forest, on land that had been purchased from the old Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company.

It wasn't all a matter of sides being at loggerheads. Lambert said he and Davis met with Lawer<sup>122</sup> after a lengthy public session before the board of supervisors went into executive session.

"We learned quite a bit," Lambert said. "He has agreed to cooperate with us, to meet with us, to review matters with us. He would be happy to meet with and review his plan with one or more foresters that we would retain."

After a lengthy discussion of White's Woods, the supervisors moved on to other issues, including the opening of bids for limestone and anti-skid material for township roads and gasoline and diesel fuel for township vehicles.

Lady opened the bids and turned them over to solicitor Matthew Ross and road foreman Tim Willis to review. The board is expected to vote on those bids next month.

The board did vote to make a one-time contribution of \$5,000 to the Indiana County Community Action Program, on behalf of its multiple services that have been strained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Calling the situation "unforeseen, unexpected," Gillette moved for the contribution, citing what she saw earlier this week, when she was involved in a drive by the Indiana County Republican Committee and the county's Trump Victory Team to raise food and money for ICCAP.

She didn't have a figure to offer, but Lenz told her, "you will have to put an amount to it." Her fellow board members voted unanimously to make that donation.

The county's Democratic Committee and Food 911 also were involved in Monday's drive.

Lady said the township's annual spring yard waste collection will take place May 18-22. Township crews will travel along public roads, collecting branches, brush and garden waste.

Lenz opened the meeting recalling the memory of two township notables who passed away recently. Dr. C. William Lauver, 89, a former member of the Indiana/White Township Water Authority and chairman of the Indiana County Airport Authority, died April 16, while Eddie W. Frank, 82, a former road boss in the township, died April 9.

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PAT CLOONAN

## Logging White's Woods, version 3.1

Posted on [May 9, 2020](#)



Jessica Jopp, board member, Friends of White's Woods, May 2, 2020. Photo by David Loomis.

By Sara Stewart

INDIANA — As spring slowly comes to Indiana, a battle is reheating over the fate of White's Woods Nature Center, the 250-acre wooded tract of land owned by White Township.

For the third time in the past three decades, the township's supervisors — chairman George E. Lenz, vice chairman Rich Gallo, Gail L. McCauley, A. Eugene Gemmell, and Sandi Gillette — are attempting to enact a [forest management plan](#) that includes extensive timbering of White's Woods, with the new element of removing invasive species, all purportedly to improve forest health.

Also for the third time, the Friends of Whites Woods community group has come together to oppose what they say is greed-fueled overreach, faulty forestry planning and a lack of respect for public opinion.

This time, they say there's a deliberate attempt by the township's supervisors to use the Covid-19 stay-at-home order as cover for a plan that would likely meet with widespread disapproval. [Again](#).

"I don't think any of us is convinced that the supervisors' main interest is the health of the forest," FWW board member Jessica Jopp told the HawkEye. "They've thrown out the invasive species thing as their defense, but it's hard to assess that, because their actions have been kind of dubious."

THE TOWNSHIP is still awaiting feedback from the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on the first phase of its plan. Supervisors approved Phase 1, the removal of invasive plants including Japanese barberry and stiltgrass, at their April meeting.

"We have not approved the harvesting [lumber] portion," White Township manager Milt Lady told the HawkEye. "That may be delayed. I don't know. That's up to the board."

Previous White Township logging plans for the woods, in 1995 and 2007, were defeated by public outcry galvanized into legal action. But the current plan raised an alarm when marked trees were spotted in the woods in early April.

Township officials had put the plan in motion with no notice given to the public. With a stay-at-home order still in effect as of early May, little opportunity has been available for opponents of the plan to weigh in at meetings, circulate petitions, hold rallies or otherwise organize the way they could under normal circumstances.

Ironically, White's Woods has seen a steady stream of visitors during the pandemic, as restless town residents find a welcome recreational outlet in hiking and biking the forest's miles of wooded trails. Visitors can easily spot the towering trees marked for logging, which are spray-painted with bright green or blue dots, many located along the main trail loop.

(The township maintains that dangerous or diseased trees have been marked, although observers may notice many of the marked trees seem healthy.)

If the township's plan goes into effect this spring, at least 50 acres of these woods — about 20 percent — will be unavailable to the public for up to two of the warmer months. The tract will be cordoned off for the removal of invasives and logging of 250 mature trees.



White's Woods Recreation Area. White Township map. Click to enlarge.



Green spray-painted dots mark trees intended for removal in White's Woods, April 27, 2020.

According to the township, this is just the beginning: The 50-acre tract is one of five tracts shown on the forester's maps.

"We've only looked at what the cut is going to be for [Tract 1](#), which is 2.3 percent of the timber value in White's Woods," Lady said. "That's the info we're presenting to the DCNR. It's only 50 acres. We have not looked at what the plan is [for the rest of the woods]. I think the forester has indicated there's a couple of those tracts we might not even touch. Other areas, there may be more significant work. We're not sure, until we see how Tract 1 plays out."

He said the idea that the supervisors were using the<sup>125</sup>

pandemic to dodge public scrutiny was false.

“It’s just unfortunate that the virus hit in March, and we were caught right as we were finishing [forestry work at] the S&T Bank Arena Rec Complex and moving on to White’s Woods,” he said. “Timing is of the essence, to treat the invasives, which is why we’ve pushed this forward. This has been a work in progress for almost two years. I don’t think we tried to hide under the coronavirus situation. It’s just unfortunate timing.”

At their board meeting on April 22, township supervisors approved a \$20,000 contract with the three-year-old, Marion Center-based company [Millstone Land Management LLC](#). Its owner, 30-something Indiana native Mike Lawer, has already done the work at the township’s rec complex on East Pike Road.

Before the supervisors approved the contract, the meeting featured a number of heated exchanges with members of the public. Many called in, consistent with the stay-at-home order, though three board members of FWW attended in person, including attorney Robert Lambert.

The supervisors were repeatedly asked to convene a public hearing about the timbering plan. The audio of the webcast meeting was indistinct, but one supervisor was heard to insist that that the supervisors were “the most translucent [sic] group of people you’ll come into contact with.”

Board Chairman George E. Lenz said supervisors already had heard enough from the public in the 2007 controversy over cutting the woods.

“The only way I would support a public hearing at this point is if DCNR requested us to have one,” Lenz said.

FWW’s JOPP said it’s fairly obvious why the supervisors aren’t asking for feedback.

“My best guess is they know there would be overwhelming public backlash,” she said.

In spite of objections to hearing from the public, the supervisors seem to have had little choice in the matter. Lady acknowledged that the office has been receiving a high volume of calls and emails from residents alarmed about the impending logging.

But he said an unseen segment of the population supports the township’s plans.

“A lot of people have said to us that they feel the forest does need managed,” he said. “But they aren’t the vocal people who are going to come to meetings showing their support. The supervisors aren’t sure this vocal group is the majority, based on what people are telling them.”

Lady offered assurances.



George E. Lenz, chairman, White Township Board of Supervisors. Photo: Indiana Gazette.

"I'm kind of taken aback that people don't think we have the best interests of the woods at heart here," he added.<sup>126</sup>  
"We're not trying to wreck it or destroy it. We're trying to improve it."

Yet forestry professionals and scientists have voiced concern, including about damage from stormwater flooding due to the removal of 250 large trees.

Lady said Lawer selected the first tract specifically in an attempt to avoid harm.

"Tract 1 wasn't randomly picked," Lady said. "It's an upland tract, in the higher elevation of White's Woods. And because it's dry at this time of year, it would minimize the damage to the forest floor, versus some of the steeper areas where it's wet.... "That's why this was picked, and why it's such an odd shape on the map."

It was not clear what research has been done on the subject, or how it would apply to the other tracts of the woods to be targeted in the near future.

A legal hurdle for the township may be the stipulations of [Project 70](#), a 1964 state land acquisition and borrowing statute that FWW critics of the logging plan say requires the woods to be used for recreation, conservation and historical purposes only. Previous plans were rejected as their logging volume was deemed excessive.

"They keep using Project 70 against us," Lady said. "I find that confusing. All the money we make, if any, would be put back into recreation."

THE FORESTER HAS VALUED the trees in Tract 1 at \$40,000. After costs, the township would make only about \$13,000, Lady said.

"It's going to be used to make new trails," he said. "Obviously the signage in White's Woods is terrible. We'd like to do some educational signage, maybe identifying trees or invasive plants. Possibly an educational amphitheater."

Also, parking lots.

"There's not enough parking," Lady said. "Maybe if we do a landing zone for the timber operation, we would then further develop that into a parking area off Fulton Run Road. Maybe develop parking areas so people can more utilize it for recreational purposes."

The township may spend some of the logging revenue at the rec complex on East Pike, Lady added.

Supervisors also have taken tentative steps to put a cell tower in the woods. The minutes of a February meeting include an executive session in which "George Lenz made a motion authorizing Milt Lady to proceed with the preliminary development of a cell tower on White's Woods property. Rich Gallo seconded. The motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote." (Supervisor Gene Gemmell cast the lone vote against the motion.)

But when supervisors were asked about it at the April 22 webcast meeting, they denied it had been in consideration.

Lady clarified and described conversations with the cell-tower representatives:



Forestry management map indicating logging areas in White's Woods, April 28, 2020. Source: Friends of White's Woods. Click to enlarge.

"I had a phone call, and they asked if we would be receptive to the possible location of a cell tower on that property," Lady said. "But they haven't been back to me since, so I don't know if they've decided not to pursue it. It's a long process. The only site we would consider would utilize the power line right of way. It would not go into the woods. We wouldn't allow it to further develop any right of way."

The overall plan is not a done deal. Friends of White's Woods has already raised over \$5,000 for legal funds in a little over a week. Members say they are optimistic about their chances.

"I'm confident we will be able to stop them," said Jopp. "In the last plan, they proposed taking about 550,000 board feet, or 20 percent of the total volume of the park. And the DCNR said that was excessive. In this plan, if I'm reading it correctly, it would involve taking half of the total volume of 2.7 million board feet. The numbers are shocking to me."

*Next: The HawkEye interviews science and forestry experts about the township forest-management plan. Said one out-of-state lumber-valuation specialist: "This park will literally*

*never be the same. There will be a lot of tears."*

*Sara Stewart is a freelance journalist who writes for the New York Post, CNN.com and other publications. For The HawkEye, she has covered domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic and White's Woods. She lives in Indiana and is a member of the Indiana Borough Council.*

### Sidebar: For more information/To get involved

For more information about this story or to engage in the issues addressed, contact the following sources:

White Township Board of Supervisors

George E. Lenz, chairman

Rich Gallo, vice chairman

Gail L. McCauley, supervisor

A. Eugene Gemmell, supervisor

Sandi Gillette, supervisor

Milton "Milt" Lady, township manager

950 Indian Springs Rd

Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724-463-8585

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Website: <http://www.whitetownship.org/Government/Board-of-Supervisors>

Forest management plans, April 2020: <https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/mgmt-plans>

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Friends of White's Woods

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Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Phone: 717-787-2703

Email: [PaForester@pa.gov](mailto:PaForester@pa.gov)

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## Group questions motive behind proposal for White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN, [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 14, 2020

The controversy over the White's Woods Nature Center in White Township took up an hour of discussion at Wednesday's meeting of the township supervisors.

Robert Lambert of Friends of White's Woods said there had been more than 600 trees marked amid approximately 250 acres in that township park.

"Why has the township allowed defacement of the forest?" asked Sierra Davis, daughter of the group's vice president, Andrew Davis.

Manager Milt Lady said he had been told by consultant Mike Lawer of Millstone Land Management LLC that 250 trees had been marked.

As Millstone announced it last month, its plan is to remove a variety of “non-desirable” trees, such as American beech, black birch, red maple and spice bush, that are dead, decayed or in poor health, along with what the township considers a serious invasive and non-desirable plant issue throughout White’s Woods.

Friends of White’s Woods are concerned that healthy trees also are being targeted. Lady said the plan is not a money grab, and that any money made from plan would go toward recreation in White Township.

FWW members questioned Lawer’s qualifications as a forester. Their leadership has said there is a need for someone who has an essential background in forestry, ecology, conservation and park management.

“I believe Mr. Lawer is trained and trained well,” said Supervisor Gail McCauley, who also was on the board in 2007 and 2008, the last time the township discussed a plan to manage the park’s growth. She said the supervisors then felt White’s Woods needed attention.

The plan — still reportedly in development — will require the attention of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Sierra Davis wondered why the trees were marked before a plan went through DCNR. Lady said the trees had to be marked so they don’t have to be re-evaluated.

The township manager said he expected that a plan could be submitted by the end of the week to DCNR.

FWW has pressed an argument that the township has not been open about its latest White’s Woods plan.

Supervisor Eugene Gemmell denied that the township was hiding behind the coronavirus pandemic.

And board Chairman George Lenz noted supervisors are open to public comment.

“You are questioning how much information you are getting from us constantly,” Supervisor Eugene Gemmell said.<sup>131</sup>

“I welcome input from the community,” Lenz said. “We are sort of a balancing act here. We’ve had the rural part of the township and the suburban part of the township. Any group or all groups would be welcome.”

Lenz again urged residents to take in the various monthly and semimonthly township meetings, saying those with “a real deep interest” in an issue could wind up being appointed to one of the boards and authorities.

“White Township also does not have a real estate tax because we try to keep our overhead costs down as much as possible,” the board chairman said.

Wednesday’s gathering was another virtual meeting of the board, with participants joining in a conference call as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One action by the board was to continue a state of emergency declared because of the pandemic through June 22, a 30-day extension of the declaration set to expire next week.

After the White’s Woods discussion, the board turned to other matters on its agenda, including approval of bids for road material and fuel:

- Blanco Trucking LLC of Rural Valley was low bidder for \$17.40 per ton for 250 tons of AASHTO No. 57 limestone, \$13.89 per ton for 600 tons of No. 2RC limestone, and \$17.40 per ton for 400 tons of AASHTO No. 3 aggregate limestone.
- Lindy Paving of New Galilee was low bidder at \$47.85 per ton for 1,000 tons of Superpave Base Course 25-millimeter and \$57.85 per ton for 1,200 tons of Superpave Wearing Course 9.5-millimeter paving material.
- McClymonds Supply & Transit of Portersville was low bidder at \$23.59 per ton for 1,000 tons of AASHTO No. 8 washed limestone.
- Davis Transport Inc. of Blairsville was low bidder at \$20.15 per ton for 2,000 tons of type AS2 anti-skid material, in state-approved limestone or slag.

- American Natural Satterlee Leasing of Rochester Mills topped three other bidders for 7,000<sup>132</sup> gallons of unleaded gasoline and for 13,000 gallons of ultra-low sulphur diesel fuel at a cost markup for each of \$0.0610 per gallon.

In other business, Lady said two light poles are in production and being inspected for shipment to White Township early next month. Those are the poles needed to complete the first portion of the new traffic signal at Warren and Ben Franklin roads. The supervisors approved paying the project contractor \$88,822 for the work, the project engineer \$4,200 and \$3,348.80 for the inspection of those poles.

The board approved a \$11,260.60 purchase of 630 feet of fencing to replace fencing around the caretaker's home in the recreation complex.

And it will look into providing minutes of board meetings on the township website.

Also, Lady said a power outage is scheduled in the vicinity of the municipal building along Indian Springs Road on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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PAT CLOONAN

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/timeline-spells-out-white-townships-discussion-of-millstone/article\\_3dff1376-97ec-11ea-8daf-6fc9d1101c31.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/timeline-spells-out-white-townships-discussion-of-millstone/article_3dff1376-97ec-11ea-8daf-6fc9d1101c31.html)

FEATURED

## Timeline spells out White Township's discussion of Millstone

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 17, 2020

The latest dispute over plans to remove invasive plant species, as well as some trees, from White's Woods Nature Center in White Township, has been a topic of discussion at township board meetings since May 15, 2019.

According to the minutes of an afternoon meeting held that day in conjunction with a semi-annual tour of township roads, Mike Lawer and Jarod Skebo of Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center addressed the board about the benefits of woodlot management.

They proposed “a sustainable program at all township-owned properties,” according to the minutes.

Among those “township-owned properties” is White’s Woods Nature Center, approximately 250<sup>134</sup> acres located along the Indiana Borough line in the heart of the township, where Millstone has received the green light for the first phase of “woodlot management” on 50 acres there.

It’s again in the midst of a dispute that has put some residents at loggerheads with township officials, as was the case with a 1995 plan and another that was discussed from 2007 to 2009.

As Robert W. Lambert of Friends of White’s Woods has put it, those plans “were abandoned after FWW exposed the scope of the proposed deforestation.”

However, as Township Manager Milt Lady put it in an April 16 Gazette story, what is planned now is different from what was proposed, but never carried out, in those earlier efforts.

Amid a sometimes heated debate over White’s Woods at the April 23 township Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Sandi Gillette said the process leading to Millstone winning a contract for that work “was all open and above board.”

She and other board members were turning back calls for a further public airing of Millstone’s plans, with Board Chairman George Lenz calling such calls redundant.

“The only way I would support a public hearing at this point is if (the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) requested us to have one,” Lenz said.

“It was all open and above board,” Gillette said. “If you want to know what will happen at these meetings, come.”

Meeting minutes provided by Lady at the request of The Indiana Gazette included these developments, covering all township efforts in the past year to deal, as one set of minutes put it, with “invasive plant species and timber” on properties owned by the township:

- June 12, 2019: Guests included residents of the neighborhood around White’s Woods, expressing concern over stormwater issues. The focus was on the upper properties in that area.

Supervisor Eugene Gemmell moved to approve a woodlot management program for all White Township-owned properties. Supervisor Gail McCauley seconded that motion which was approved by the board.

- Sept. 11, 2019: An executive session was conducted to discuss a consulting agreement with<sup>135</sup> Millstone involving “invasive plant species and timber on all White Township-owned properties,” using advice on rules and regulations from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- Oct. 2, 2019: Discussion centered on Millstone completing “a scope of services” for 11 acres adjoining an old caretaker’s dwelling and 22 acres of the former Blosser property.
- Oct. 23, 2019: McCauley moved to approve a “scope of services” proposal covering 34.12 acres at the recreation complex. Supervisor Steven Kelly seconded that motion, which was approved by the board.
- Dec. 4, 2019: Bid requirements were discussed for removal of invasive plant species from 29 acres at the recreation complex.
- Jan. 8, 2020: Millstone had the low bid of three considered for the invasive plant species removal at the recreation complex, \$17,770. The other bids were \$19,865 and \$23,800, but neither bid was accompanied by a required bond. Gillette moved to accept the Millstone bid and McCauley seconded that motion, which was approved by the board.
- Feb. 12, 2020: The board approved a partial payment of \$4,442.50 to Millstone, covering 25 percent of the work to be done at the recreation complex.
- March 11, 2020: McCauley moved, Supervisor Rich Gallo seconded and the board approved a motion to employ Millstone’s consulting services for woodlot management on a 50-acre tract in White’s Woods.
- March 25, 2020: “Milt Lady stated that he has provided copies of the timber assessment within the invasive plant treatment area at the Recreation Complex to each of the Supervisors,” the minutes read. “Mike Lawer stated that this is not the traditional timber sales; it is based on species quality, aesthetics, safety, and forest health. He is looking to complete a mechanized logging job where a machine on tracks with a mechanized arm removes the trees for less impact on the ground.”

After a discussion, “Gail McCauley made a motion to allow Mike Lawer to proceed with the bidding for the strategic removal of trees. Gene Gemmell seconded. the motion carried unanimously.”

- April 8, 2020: “Milt Lady stated he handed out a press release that Millstone Land Management<sup>136</sup> created for the invasive plant species treatment and undesirable tree removal at White’s Woods,” the minutes said, referring to the release he later emailed to local news media and discussed at length in an April 9 conference call Lady and Lawer had with reporters.

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/council-members-weigh-in-on-plan-for-whites-woods/article\\_6e7160dc-9aa7-11ea-8010-8fe51c29c2c5.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/council-members-weigh-in-on-plan-for-whites-woods/article_6e7160dc-9aa7-11ea-8010-8fe51c29c2c5.html)

FEATURED

## Council members weigh in on plan for White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 20, 2020

Indiana Borough officials have wanted a chance to discuss the situation in the White's Woods Nature Center, a 250-acre White Township property but with about 25 acres on the Indiana side of the municipal line.

Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center has received the green light for the first phase of "woodlot management" on 50 acres there, pending approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

At borough council's meeting Tuesday night, officials said they believe they'll get an opportunity to weigh in on that plan once it is submitted to DCNR.<sup>138</sup>

Borough concerns include a lack so far of an erosion and sediment plan for the project. Smith said any plan for woodlot management involving 25 or more acres requires state approval.

Council Vice President Gerald Smith said he is concerned "about any sort of logging up there," but told his colleagues, until "they have actual documents ... there is not much we can do except wag our fingers."

Councilwoman Kaycee Newell said, "if they are not willing to be open in communication with us," then how should the borough react to White Township's request for additional recreation funds from the borough — something she said township supervisor Chairman George Lenz has been adamant about.

Councilwoman Sara Steelman said the more she reads about the situation, the more confused she is.

"The whole topic of mulching needs to be discussed with the township," Steelman said. "I'm not even sure what the purpose of mulching is supposed to be," for a project involving the removal of invasive plant species. "Mulching is not a good way to get rid of Japanese barberry."

Council President Peter Broad said he has heard how township officials believe the process has been "all transparent and open," and that they had no interest in more meetings, such as the hearings sought by Friends of White's Woods.

In other matters Tuesday:

- Borough Manager C. Michael Foote said the Indiana Free Library is planning to reopen tentatively on May 27, though patrons still won't be able to enter the building. He said a "grab and go" arrangement is being planned for a takeout service for those wanting books from the library.
- Borough Solicitor Neva Stotler said she expected to have a "state of the union, so to speak," about ongoing contract talks, hailing Foote for "a really herculean job trying to work through these grievances" and expressing the hope that she could report on some resolution next month.

- Asked by Council Public Safety Chairman Donald Lancaster if there was an update regarding the<sup>139</sup> bid by Home Made Ice Cream Express owners Cindi and Damien Kordell to run their ice cream truck in the borough, Foote said he had reached out to them about the situation but had not heard back from them.

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PAT CLOONAN

## White's Woods logging: 'There will be a lot of tears'

Posted on May 22, 2020 by David Loomis



White's Woods Nature Center entrance, North 12th Street, Indiana, Pa., May 2, 2020. Photo by David Loomis.

By Sara Stewart

*"In childhood the wilds seemed infinite. Along Crooked Creek in the Allegheny Mountains of western Pennsylvania there was a tract of forest we called the Big Woods. The hemlock, beech, poplar, red oak, white oak, maple, and shagbark hickory grew on slopes so steep they had never been logged... Now I would not care to visit those faraway scenes. The forest which seemed so vast to us was only a small thing after all, as the bulldozers, earth movers, and dragline shovels have proved."*

— excerpt, "Shadows from the Big Woods," by Edward Abbey

INDIANA — The author and environmentalist [Edward Abbey](#), a native of Home, wrote these lines in 1974. They have a particular resonance now, during the latest dispute between the five-member White Township board of supervisors and a growing number of Indiana residents over the township's plan to remove trees from [White's Woods Nature Center](#).

How many? The number is proving difficult to pin down. At the township board's meeting on May 13, a member of the [Friends of White's Woods](#) group asked township manager Milt Lady how FWW had counted nearly 700 trees spray-painted for removal when the [official tally given by the township](#) was 250.



Zones	Acreage	
1	50	
2	30	
3	25	
4	50	
5	15	
6	50	
7	10	

by  
Michael Lauer  
Millstone

5/1/20  
Revision 1

Map of White's Woods, submitted to White Township officials by Millstone Land Management LLC, of Marion Center, the contractor township supervisors have chosen to perform work in the recreational forest. The map's seven tracts

indicate areas within the 250-acre forest where Millstone plans to schedule its work. Source: Friends of White's Woods website. Click to enlarge.

And this was just on the initial tract, one of seven tracts shown on a [map](#) submitted by [Millstone Land Management LLC](#), of Marion Center, the contractor chosen by township supervisors to perform forestry work in the publicly owned recreational forest.

An earlier map showed [five tracts](#).

"I need to talk to our forester and clarify that discrepancy," said Lady at last week's meeting, adding that Millstone owner Mike Lawer "may have marked additional trees," and that any forest project involving "any type of timbering, we have to do the data."

Although the township has protested that it has not yet submitted any timbering plan to the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, its forester's overview clearly includes it.

"If you look at the documents," FWW member Christina Ruby, an IUP biology professor, told The HawkEye, "they have planned on removing something like 56 percent of the tree volume in the entire park."

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***'... they have planned on removing something like 56 percent of the tree volume in the entire park.'***

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This expansive new "sustainable forestry" plan appears to reposition the township's recreational woods as an ongoing source of timber income. Millstone's [website](#) explains this philosophy :

"Through the use of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Millstone can ensure that you can continue to harvest your valuable timber multiple times over the years. By implementing a plan, harvesting select timber, and controlling invasive species Millstone Land Management can help grow your timber at a more sustainable rate. Millstone Land Management also watches for high value timber on the land. This high value timber has the potential to increase land value dramatically."

The township's strategy, for the [third time](#), is at odds with the provisions of the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing [Act](#), the state government fund with which the land was purchased. The 1964 statute states that White's Woods must be used for recreational, conservation and historical purposes.

Although the township has justified its new plan as primarily "for the health of the forest," based on planned removal of invasive species, supervisors have once again met with public

opposition. A May 14 [petition](#) created by Friends of White's Woods had more than 2,400 signatures as of May 22, and the group has raised more than \$12,000 for legal representation. [Letters to the editor](#) of The Indiana Gazette have weighed in on the township's actions, with the majority in opposition. The township says it is updating the plans.

"Per DCNR's request a Stewardship Plan is currently in the works but in draft form only," Lady said.

Lawer has not responded to interview requests from The HawkEye.

AMID CHANGING INFORMATION from the township, The HawkEye spoke to three experts about plans submitted by Lawer in [four documents](#) posted on the FWW [website](#).

Jeffrey Larkin, an IUP distinguished professor of conservation biology, said he spoke in mid-April with Lawer about Millstone's plans for the woods.

Larkin said the polarization over the proposed forestry was unnecessary.

“I’ve spent my entire career trying to help avoid these situations,” he said. “[The township has] done a splendid job, in a matter of months, of showing how one does not do community-based conversations and forest management.”

Larkin said he met with Lawer following an April White Township supervisors meeting. He toured the initial 50-acre White’s Woods tract and heard details of the plan, which involves “mechanized forest mulching efforts” to remove invasive plants, rototilling the soil, and removing marked trees.

Larkin said he was not impressed with what he heard from Lawer and saw for himself.

“The invasives on that 50 acres, quite honestly, are not at all to the point where you actually need to go in and mechanize to remove them,” Larkin said. “If you grind them up with a mulcher you’re not killing them. Those things have produced seedlings. They are going to flourish when you open up the canopy and give them sun to grow.

“And the proposed site is right along a power line corridor,” he continued. “It’s got a heck of a nice source of Japanese stiltgrass that will invade the rich soil like nobody’s business when you open it up to sun and disturb the forest floor like what is being proposed. Most practicing foresters will say if you break open the canopy at all, one thing you better be ready for is an invasion of stiltgrass. You typically don’t open up the forest canopy and do the low shade understory treatment at the same time.

“Any forester who would look at that and say this is an acceptable process, I would bet my life that you will not find one,” Larkin said. “All you have to say is, ‘We’re gonna rototill the ground, and we’re then going to remove all of these trees that are marked, and not going to account for herbicide or overabundance of deer, and we’re going to plant some expensive ground cover and everything’s going to go great.’ They would look at you like, are you for real?”

The only person this process benefits, Larkin said, is Lawer. His company will have to return to treat invasives when they inevitably spring up again.

“They’re going to have to go in there continually to do this, at a rate of something like \$400 an acre,” Larkin said. “It’s not a fiscally responsible way to manage a forest. I guarantee you DCNR would not sign off on this if it were land they managed.”

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***‘It’s not a fiscally responsible way to manage a forest.’***

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Larkin also expressed concerned about the bidding process for the logging by Lawer.

“His valuation statement shows he’s going to go about overseeing the sale of the timber,” Larkin said. “The bidding process seems like a very odd approach that’s not normal. The general procedure would be that a consulting forester would mark 50 acres, advertise the project and welcome bids from loggers or procurement foresters. I pushed him on it, and he said, ‘I’m gonna decide who comes in and gives me bids.’ You can’t do that on public property. That should be a public process in order to maximize the outcome for the public and township.”

LAWER’S CREDENTIALS came up at the May 13 township supervisors’ meeting. FWW member Andrew Davis, an attorney, noted that the forester does not hold a bachelor’s degree.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources publishes a [list](#) of more than two dozen foresters in Indiana County who have received a degree in natural-resource management and who have acquired other professional certifications. Lawer’s name is not on the list.

An agency spokesman said the listings are largely voluntary.

“Pennsylvania does not have stringent laws on who can call themselves a forester,” Ryan Reed, a spokesman for the agency’s Bureau of Forestry, said in a May 20 phone interview. “Pretty much anybody can go out there and call themselves a forester.”

The agency’s philosophy is to let the market decide and the buyer beware.

“Indiana County has a pretty good number,” Reed said. “It wouldn’t be wise to not be on the list. It gets more name recognition.”

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which Lawer lists as his certifier, gets Larkin’s approval. But it has [come under fire](#) for practices that are more in line with its timber-industry origins than in maintaining forests meant for public recreation.

“SFI is the logging and paper industry’s PR scheme that tries to convince people that large scale clear-cut logging is good for our forests, wildlife, and communities,” writes Lisa Graves, of the Center for Media and Democracy, in a compendium of statements criticizing the SFI’s [“greenwashing” practices](#).

AMONG THE less-than-sustainable risks of the current plan are a reduction in air quality and rampant stormwater damage, said Ruby, the IUP biology professor and FWW member.

She said she was perplexed by the township's move to reduce the number of trees at a time when their presence is key for the health of Indiana's population.

"We have a lot of pollutants around," she said. "The air pollution is offset by having those trees. They provide a layer of protection."

Especially during the pandemic, she said, the woods have provided a much-needed oasis.

“There have been so many people in the woods, and it’s wonderful to see,” Ruby said. “There’s plenty of space for everybody. We can maintain our physical distancing, we can do something for our physical health and mental health. Why they would want to compromise that, at this time, is beyond me.”

Ruby also pointed to a recent [study](#) examining the economic and health benefits of green spaces.

“They did this mathematical model of Philadelphia, saying if they increase the tree canopy to 30 percent of the land, they estimated they could prevent 400 deaths per year,” Ruby said. “But they also said it would yield economic benefits in the hundreds of millions.”

Stormwater damage is another concern for Ruby, as it was for the Indiana Borough Council. At its May 19 meeting, council members discussed the township’s lack of an erosion and sediment plan for the woods. Councilor Gerald Smith [stated](#) that “any plan for woodlot management involving 25 or more acres requires state approval.”

“When you have a steep slope that we have in White’s Woods, with all the houses around the base; if you remove a lot of these trees, as they are planning on doing, I think it’s going to lead to pretty widespread erosion,” Ruby said. “I think it’s going to lead to stormwater damage to homes, and probably other properties as well, some public areas. Those tree roots go deep into the hill. They stop the hill from falling down.”

THE HAWKEYE ENLISTED an independent, out-of-state lumber expert to review the township’s forestry documents. Tom Kane, head of procurement at Johnson Brothers lumber in Cazenovia, NY, said removing invasives was “an environmentally sound practice.” But he had deep reservations about the logging section of the plan.

“By definition, a [shelterwood cut](#) is not sustainable,” he wrote in an April 23 email. “If the goal is ultra-long-term timber production — 100 years or more — it probably is the right choice. That being said, this is a park, and undoubtedly, the goals are not ultra-long-term timber production. The goals are multi-use, and this cut will not promote that. It will look like a bomb went off. This park will literally never be the same. There will be a lot of tears.”

### **The HawkEye poll**

Take [The HawkEye Poll](#) on White Township’s proposed clearing and cutting of White’s Woods. Background info on the issue is linked to the brief questionnaire. It takes seconds to complete — only two questions. All responses are completely anonymous to pollsters and to participants. The poll closes on Saturday, May 30.

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*Sara Stewart is a freelance journalist who writes for the New York Post, CNN.com and other publications. For The HawkEye, she has covered domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic and White's Woods. She lives in Indiana and is a member of the Indiana Borough Council.*

*David Loomis contributed reporting.*

### **Sidebar: For more information/To get involved**

For more information about this story or to engage in the issues addressed, contact the following sources:

White Township Board of Supervisors

George E. Lenz, chairman

Rich Gallo, vice chairman

Gail L. McCauley, supervisor

A. Eugene Gemmell, supervisor

Sandi Gillette, supervisor

Milton "Milt" Lady, township manager

950 Indian Springs Rd

Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724-463-8585

Fax: 724-463-0705

Website: <http://www.whitetownship.org/Government/Board-of-Supervisors>

Forest management plans, April 2020: <https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/mgmt-plans>

Michael S. Delaney

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Friends of White's Woods

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Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street

Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Phone: 717-787-2869

State Bureau of Forestry

Rachel Carson State Office

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[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/group-files-suit-over-forestry-plan/article\\_cd676cda-0507-547d-b980-fbf4346a7e83.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/group-files-suit-over-forestry-plan/article_cd676cda-0507-547d-b980-fbf4346a7e83.html)

FEATURED

## Group files suit over forestry plan

PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 26, 2020

The latest shot in an ongoing dispute between White Township and the citizen group Friends of White's Woods Inc. was red Friday in the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas, where a Pittsburgh environmental law firm led a complaint on FWW's behalf against the township board of supervisors.

According to a press release issued by FWW over the weekend, attorney Tim Fitchett of Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services led the complaint, which seeks a declaratory judgment.

“The proposed operations of the township will cause irrevocable harm to the White’s Woods,<sup>151</sup> according to court papers provided by Indiana County officials to the Gazette this morning.

The filing itself covers nine pages, while other materials are attached.

FWW claims the township violated the state’s Sunshine Act or Open Meetings Law in its handling of agreements with Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center, which has served as township consultant on the removal of invasive species from township properties, as well as contractor on announced plans for approximately 50 acres of the 250-acre White’s Woods Nature Center, which straddles the northern border of Indiana Borough.

FWW said Fitchett’s complaint also claims violations of the state’s Municipal Planning Code. The citizen group is seeking an injunction to stop Millstone plans for White’s Woods, saying township plans for invasive species removal and timbering there would cause irreparable harm to the nature center.

White Township Manager Milt Lady could not be reached for comment by press time today, but township officials may have been caught unaware of the filing.

“I’m not aware of anything being filed,” said attorney Matthew A. Ross of Delaney & Fritz PC, White Township’s solicitor. “This is the first I heard of it,” he said early today when contacted by the Gazette.

According to FWW, the group’s president, Sara King, requested minutes and documents from the township board through an open records request because agenda and minutes of White Township meetings are not archived on the township website.

She said she received those documents April 22 “and the FWW Board noticed that critical actions on White’s Woods were taken during Executive Session at board meetings on June 12, Sept. 11, Feb. 12 and March 11.”

That was the same day that the White Township board approved a \$20,000 contract with Millstone for what was termed the first phase of the planned overhaul of White’s Woods. FWW questioned whether the township in doing so was trying to get around state contract laws regarding how large a bid can be.

There Millstone's Mike Lawer restated his intentions for White's Woods. He said it doesn't include<sup>152</sup> traditional logging but rather to establish forest health, aesthetics and safety.

The township board has been holding virtual online meetings because of a COVID-19 emergency. Its next scheduled meeting is Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

"What we want is to have a say in how our community nature center is run," FWW Vice President Andrew Davis told the Gazette in a recent interview. "It is the same say that we wanted to have in 1995 and again in 2007."

The group wants the board of supervisors to stop the project and "get scientists and conservationists involved" in a committee that could draft a plan for the community reserve.

Board members contend that issues involving Millstone, a township consultant on removing invasive species, are treated the same way any other major township project is treated, such as road or sewer matters.

"Our meetings are public," Supervisor Sandi Gillette said on April 22. "It was all open and above board. If you want to know what will happen at these meetings, come."

At that same meeting board Chairman George Lenz said he thought any further public airing of the matter would be redundant, saying "the only way I would support a public hearing at this point is if (the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) requested us to have one."

DCNR has to sign off on any plan for White's Woods.

A portion of the nature center, approximately 25 acres, is within Indiana Borough. The dispute has been a topic of conversation at Indiana Borough Council meetings.

"If they cut down as many trees as their new plan indicates, it will cause serious stormwater problems downstream," Borough Councilwoman Kaycee Newell said at the May 5 meeting.

"The runoff issues become a legal issue to me," Borough Council President Peter Broad said. "It is going to have a significant impact on the health and safety of the borough."

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/dcnr-talks-on-role-in-forestry-plan/article\\_22456fa4-6558-5bbe-97af-96c456378628.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/dcnr-talks-on-role-in-forestry-plan/article_22456fa4-6558-5bbe-97af-96c456378628.html)

FEATURED

## DCNR talks on role in forestry plan

PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 27, 2020

A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said his agency is “actively working” with White Township on its plans for the White’s Woods Nature Center.

“DCNR has been actively working with the township so they can appropriately address threats to the health of the forest including but not limited to invasive plants, deer impacts and lack of adequate regeneration to ensure long-term sustainability,” department Press Secretary Terry Brady said late Tuesday.

DCNR approval is required before the township and its contractor Millstone Land Management LLC can move ahead with plans for an overhaul of portions of the wooded recreation area straddling the township's border with Indiana Borough's northern neighborhoods.

"DCNR has received draft information regarding their planned work at White's Woods and other township properties," the spokesman continued. "Coordination is occurring with our Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of Recreation and Conservation to advance the development of a draft plan that would reflect what DCNR typically sees in other forest stewardship plans."

Those plans have drawn fire from the citizen group Friends of White's Woods Inc., which filed suit in Indiana County Court of Common Pleas last week, seeking to block "all invasive species removal and timbering operations" in the park. It claims that the court's failure to do so "could result in irreparable damage" to White's Woods.

The lawsuit also asks the court to award FWW "its attorney's fees and costs of litigation" and "such other relief as may be just and proper."

Brady also stressed that "the property must be managed consistent" with Project 70, also known as the 1964 Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act, under whose terms the township purchased the 250 acres now known as White's Woods.

"The Project 70 act requires a property to be stewarded for recreation, conservation and historical purposes," Brady said. "It does not expressly prohibit forest management for purposes of maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem consistent with the recreation and conservation objectives of the act."

FWW officials also said they do not oppose logging, per se.

"A proper stewardship plan may recommend that some timbering be appropriate," retired attorney and FWW board member Robert Lambert said in a recent interview. He insisted, however, on "a stewardship plan, prepared by individuals with the necessary background in ecology, conservation, forestry and park management," that could be developed in conjunction with both the board of supervisors and FWW.

Township officials and Millstone's Mike Lawer have said that their plans will maintain a healthy forest ecosystem.

“What we are doing is not traditional logging,” Lawer said April 9. “Our intentions are not for<sup>155</sup> economic benefit, but to establish forest health, aesthetics and safety.”

Township Manager Milt Lady said April 9 that what Millstone planned was a different approach from what was proposed, but never carried out, in a forestry management plan 10 years ago, also opposed by FWW.

The matter has been a topic on agendas of the Board of Supervisors for the past year. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7:30 p.m.

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PAT CLOONAN

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-table-forestry-plan/article\\_af4686e5-ee93-5fc2-8565-229b1f169366.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/supervisors-table-forestry-plan/article_af4686e5-ee93-5fc2-8565-229b1f169366.html)

FEATURED

## Supervisors table forestry plan

PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

May 28, 2020

The White Township board of supervisors tabled public display of a proposed stewardship plan for White's Woods at Wednesday's meeting.

Four of the five supervisors agreed that the township should wait until a forester from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has the opportunity to review the township's proposal for portions of the 250-acre township recreation area and make comments.

Manager Milt Lady told the board the plan was submitted to the forester earlier this week.

“I think we need to get it out,” board Chairman George Lenz said.

“I think we should wait until we have the forester’s comment,” Supervisor Eugene Gemmell said, as he moved to table the motion until the supervisors’ next meeting on June 10 at 1 p.m.

Supervisor Sandi Gillette seconded the motion and colleagues Rich Gallo and Gail McCauley also voted to table the matter.

The meeting opened with what essentially was “no comment” from the board about the lawsuit filed Friday by the Friends of White’s Woods organization in Indiana County Court of Common Pleas.

That’s FWW’s contention that the township violated the state’s Sunshine Act in its handling of agreements with Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center; that board actions violated the state’s Municipal Planning Code; and that plans for invasive species removal and timbering there would cause irreparable harm to the White’s Woods Nature Center.

“We have not been formally given a copy of your suit,” Lenz said.

Solicitor Matthew Ross said he went to the Indiana County Court House for a copy of the FWW filing, but, in any case, Lenz said, “it becomes a matter that already is in (litigation).”

Much of the discussion of White’s Woods centered on stormwater problems, particularly along Edgewood Avenue and Forest Ridge Road in a housing development just east of the township park.

“A lot of water ran down from up in White’s Woods,” resident Fred Heilman said.

Assistant Township Manager Chris Anderson said the overflow follows saturation of the nearby grounds, after what have been “historically ... higher-than-normal rainfall” in recent years.

Resident Jay Dahlheimer told the board, “My neighbors are scared to death” of new flooding.

The board chairman saw another factor that was there before any homes were built, saying those on the township planning commission at that time should have considered it.

“Can we assume there were springs there before the subdivision?” Lenz said. “Whenever there was a subdivision put in, it should have been addressed.”

As later pointed out by FWW Vice President Andrew Davis, plans there also will have to be vetted<sup>158</sup> for erosion and sedimentation by the Indiana County Conservation District, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

“(Contractor Mike Lawer of Millstone) cannot start any work until the conservation district reviews that plan and offers comment or makes a recommendation,” Lady said.

Township officials then pressed FWW members, particularly Dahlheimer, regarding what they have proposed. Lenz and Gillette said they understood they would hire a conservationist/forester to work with the township.

Davis listened in to the meeting. He later said his proposal was misunderstood.

“When I spoke with Sandi Gillette, I told her we would be willing to work with the township,” the FWW vice president said. “I never promised anything. I hadn’t made a formal proposal. We’re doing everything that we can to get public input and get additional experts to provide their input.”

Three experts, faculty members from the biology department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, provided their input in a letter to Lady.

“From an ecological standpoint, White’s Woods is obviously in need of evidence-based and scientifically sound forest management to improve its health and strengthen its resilience,” wrote Jeffery Larkin, Thomas Simmons and Michael Tyree. “However, the combination of opening up the canopy to allow sunlight penetration to the forest floor, disturbing the forest floor by mechanical mulching of invasive plants, and rototilling the soil as proposed in the Millstone plan, and not excluding white-tailed deer will unquestionably create conditions that are ideal for invasive plant colonization and proliferation, and are detrimental to forest regeneration and sustainability.”

The letter was written on university stationery. Lenz said that prompted IUP President Dr. Michael A. Driscoll to disavow it, saying he didn’t want IUP personnel involved in a political situation.

Still, Davis said, some positive steps have been taken.

“I think things are moving in a better direction,” he said.

Gallo said he did not appreciate those “questioning our credibility.” But, McCauley said, “we<sup>159</sup> are five people who have the best interest of White Township at heart. The people of White Township understand, we hire good people.”

In other business Wednesday, the supervisors approved:

- A final payment of \$9,000 that had been held back as a retainer, when the township voted to pay the contractor of the traffic signal job at Warren Road and Ben Franklin Road South. Lady said PennDOT asked the township to make the final payment, so the transportation department could close its books for fiscal 2019-20.
- A resolution for a sewage facility that would be part of the planning for the Westmoreland County Community College and Challenger Learning Center adjacent to the Indiana County Technology Center. The board voted 4-0 with Lenz abstaining because he had done a real estate appraisal on that property.
- A motion to open the township office to the public during daytime hours if Gov. Tom Wolf issues a green phase order for Indiana County on June 5. Lady said the office would resume daytime hours on June 8.

Also, the supervisors proposed a meeting Aug. 12 at 1 p.m. with Citizens’ Ambulance Service officials. Lady said the regional ambulance service is still coping with financial problems, and “still looking for a way to survive.”

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/dcnr-studying-plans-for-whites-woods/article\\_3a746aa4-abf0-11ea-baa1-c7123fd4dc7c.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/dcnr-studying-plans-for-whites-woods/article_3a746aa4-abf0-11ea-baa1-c7123fd4dc7c.html)

## DCNR studying plans for White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Jun 11, 2020

Plans for the White's Woods Nature Center are being studied by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

At Wednesday's meeting of the White Township board of supervisors, township Manager Milt Lady said a draft stewardship plan for the 250-acre tract was submitted May 26 to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry.

Lady said no comment had yet been offered from DCNR. The future of White's Woods is the focus of what has become a legal fight between the township; its consultant, Millstone Land Management LLC; and members of Friends of White's Woods Inc.

FWW is seeking a preliminary injunction against Millstone plans for removal of what it called <sup>161</sup>“non-desirable” trees, as well as invasive plant species such as Japanese barberry.

It did not object to Indiana County President Judge William J. Martin continuing until July 22 a Court of Common Pleas hearing that would have coincided with Wednesday’s board meeting.

One board action Wednesday was to approve the suggestion by solicitor Matthew Ross of Delaney & Fritz PC to formally employ attorney Bernard Matthews from the Greensburg law firm of Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck PLLC.

Supervisor Gail McCauley moved to do that, while Supervisor Sandi Gillette seconded that motion.

Matthews already has been involved in the township’s defense against the FWW lawsuit. Township officials described Matthews as “very capable.”

“Mr. Matthews has worked for the township in the past,” board Chairman George Lenz said.

Meanwhile, FWW board member Fred Heilman wondered when that draft stewardship plan would be posted on the township website. Lady said it would happen “once we receive comments (from DCNR) and revise it accordingly.”

FWW Vice President Dave Dahlheimer wondered why a Millstone forester still was marking trees in the tract.

“I was not aware of that,” Lady said.

At a meeting last month, FWW members contended that Millstone had marked far more trees than it had told the township manager.

Meanwhile, Heilman asked why the township hadn’t contacted DCNR sooner.

“We went with their forester two years ago,” Lady said. “There have been several times that he’s been there.”

FWW member Sierra Davis said a DCNR forester was there recently.

“I am aware of that,” Lady responded.

The supervisors said they weren't aware of it.

"How did you know?" Lenz asked Davis.

"I hike up in the woods about every day," she responded.

"You actually know more about that than we do," Lenz said.

Did the DCNR forester have anything to say? "He said he had no comment at this time," Lady responded.

"(DCNR) did ask for a 10-year plan for stewardship," Dahlheimer observed.

"They provided a template," Lady responded.

Davis asked what progress had been made with plans to put meeting minutes on the township website, something discussed several meetings ago.

"We are working on it in-house," Lenz said.

"There is a third party involved (with webmaster duties)," Lady said.

Lenz said meeting minutes are public records and printouts of those minutes are available from the township office.

Lady promised that a stewardship plan for White's Woods "will be announced on the website the next day" after the supervisors act on it.

The White's Woods discussion took up much of a public session that lasted nearly 45 minutes. The board then went into an executive session that lasted 80 minutes.

Asked about it by Dahlheimer, Lady said it had nothing to do with White's Woods.

In a brief session that followed the closed-door meeting, Ross suggested a motion allowing the township manager to secure appraisals for a property the township was interested in purchasing.

Township officials declined to give details about the property in question. McCauley moved to seek<sup>163</sup> the appraisals and Gillette seconded that motion.

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PAT CLOONAN

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## White's Woods forestry: Dave Babyak

Posted on [June 14, 2020](#)



Forester Dave Babyak stands at the boundary between his backyard and White's Woods recreational forest, June 9, 2020. Photos by David Loomis.

By David Loomis

WHITE TOWNSHIP – David J. “Dave” Babyak, 71, is not even thinking of retiring from forestry, his calling for 48 years.

“Retire?” asked the Babyak Forestry Services owner during a June 9 interview on the screen porch at his new home in White’s Woods, the subdivision, that abuts White’s Woods, the recreational forest at the center of a decennial controversy. “It’s not like work to me.”

Twelve years ago, Babyak was doing something like work on the publicly owned, 250-acre recreational forest straddling Indiana borough and its bordering township. He [recommended](#) removing 21 percent of the forest’s timber and selling it to raise revenue.

For \$1,500 township supervisors hired Babyak — a graduate of Penn State’s forestry science program, a charter member of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters, chair of the Southwest Pennsylvania chapter of the Society of American Foresters, associate director of Indiana County Conservation District — to prepare the plan and manage the forest inventory.

Residents were vocal in opposition. Supervisors shelved the plan in 2009.

In Tuesday's interview, Babyak did not dwell on that controversy, the second of three in as many decades to spark a local political firestorm. He was more focused on the [latest controversy](#).

Following is an edited version of the interview:

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**Question:** Were you invited by [township supervisors](#) to submit a bid on the latest White's Woods cutting and clearing project?

**Babyak:** Bids were solicited on the [invasives](#) part only. They never solicited [RFPs](#) on the forestry work, that I know of. And I probably would have known. I was president of the Southwest Pennsylvania chapter of the Society of American Foresters. I know just about every forester in the region.

**Question:** Do you know forester Mike Lawer, of [Millstone Land Management](#), the contractor for the township on the invasives project?

**Babyak:** Yes. He worked for me one summer, three or four years ago.

**Question:** Your name and company appear on the 2019 state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [list of foresters in Pennsylvania](#). But his name and company do not appear on the same list. Does that list suggest something about qualifications of foresters?



Dave Babyak on his screen porch in the White's Woods development in White Township, June 9, 2020.

**Babyak:** I don't know. I get a lot of my jobs from that list.

The big problem in Pennsylvania is that there is no forestry registration. We tried to establish licensing for foresters. We met a lot of opposition.

I've been lobbying for this for all of my professional career. You need a license to give a haircut. But there's no licensing for forestry in Pennsylvania. You get a bad haircut, it grows back in a month. You do bad forestry, it'll last a lifetime, or at least decades.

West Virginia has a registration law. It requires a minimum education of a B.S. in forestry, or an associate degree with five years of experience; testing, and continuing education.

The state Council of Professional Foresters tried to get the same in Pennsylvania. We got it to the legislature. But we couldn't get it out of committee. The [Pennsylvania Forest Products Association](#) lobbied against the bill. Our group disbanded about a year ago.

I can't see how people say we want good forestry but no regulatory mechanism on foresters. I'm all for freedom to control my business. But the government doesn't control clear-cutters.

**Question:** What lessons do you take away from your involvement in the 2008-2009 controversy over the proposed logging of White's Woods?

**Babyak:** If I were to do it again, I wouldn't put any values on the timber. That immediately sends up flares. I also would have pulled in the [Audubon Society](#) for a bird census.

Some critics say White's Woods should be left alone. But you can't put your head in the sand. In the early 1990s, we lost white oaks to gypsy moth infestation. A spray program for \$7 an acre could have saved the trees.

There's no real pests in White's Woods now. But you need a professional to inspect about every two years.

[Friends of White' Woods](#) is a misnomer. They have done nothing positive. They don't do anything to improve the trails, to improve the steps.

And they're wrong about [Project 70](#). The law is for education and *conservation*. Friends of White's Woods, they don't know the difference between preservation and conservation.

**Question:** How about recreation?

**Babyak:** White's Woods is a community forest. Why is hunting outlawed? Aren't hunters part of the community? Apparently they're second-class citizens.

In my [2007 plan](#), I proposed plaques, deer enclosures – to show what deer do to the forest. The deer are the crux. Until you control the deer, you're not going to control the invasives.

Invasive species are there because the deer don't like them. The supervisors need to address the deer in White's Woods. And if they approve opening the forest canopy, then the disturbed soil and dappled shade are perfect for [Japanese stiltgrass](#). It will be very difficult to control.

Those are the two biggest items in the forest itself.



Japanese stiltgrass, new growth emerging from old matted growth.

**Question:** Does the Millstone management plan address these concerns?

**Babyak:** Management plan? Where is it? People stop me on the street to ask, what about the management plan? I can't comment because I haven't seen any management plan.

On April 30, I wrote a letter to township supervisors asking to review the management plan for the current White's Woods project. Their reply? Zero.

**Question:** What about the documents that Millstone Land Management has submitted?

**Babyak:** You mean its "[sustainable forest management overview](#)"? That's no management plan. That's an introduction, maybe.

**Question:** What's missing?

**Babyak:** Everything. And that [map](#), it's not very professional-looking. I would never submit anything like that and expect to be paid for it.

I would describe the soils, the vegetation, the number of trees per acre, different slopes – you have to be specific for each different stand. That's why this is not a management plan.

The supervisors say they are being transparent. But these documents are not on their website. The Friends of White's Woods has had to request them and [post them](#). How transparent is that?

**Question:** How detailed was your plan compared to Millstone's "overview"?

**Babyak:** Mine was about 30-35 pages. Millstone's is two and a half pages.



I'm not talking about Lawer. He's doing what they want, I presume. I'm talking about the supervisors. They are not sending a clear message at all. It's vagueness about a few trees and invasive species. To me, as a forester, that doesn't mean anything.

Map of White's Woods, submitted to White Township officials by Millstone Land Management LLC, of Marion Center. The map's seven tracts suggest areas within the 250-acre forest where Millstone plans to do work. Source: Friends of White's Woods website. Click to enlarge.

Did you read the recent [letter to the editor](#) from Tim Murphy, of Clarksburg? He has a master's degree in forestry from Penn State. He wondered why he wasn't invited to submit a plan. And they didn't invite me.

No sour grapes, though. I just care that White's Woods gets a good plan.

**Question:** What do you think supervisors have learned from a decade ago and from the latest controversy?

**Babyak:** I'm surmising that they have a bad taste in their mouths, and they are bitter at Friends of White's Woods.

But Friends of White's Woods needs to compromise a little bit. They have that typical liberal fear-mongering — like on runoff into White's Run. Logging operations don't cause runoff, *per se*.

Logging is not disturbance in itself. It's no big deal. It's natural. White's Woods is an even-age forest, for the most part. It was clear-cut. [Walter Schroth](#) told me his father clear-cut the forest in the 1950s.



A 2.3-inch bore drawn by Mike Babyak from a poplar tree in White's Woods behind his home. By the bore and the tree's diameter, Babyak estimated the tree's age — and the surrounding forest — at 69 years. Click to enlarge.

**Question:** Won't this latest plan for a [shelterwood cut](#) in White's Woods hit you literally in your own backyard now?

**Babyak:** I don't care. But shelterwood removal is always followed by overstory removal. A shelterwood harvest is usually two but sometimes three harvests. The overstory — big trees — are harvested on the last cut. Hopefully, there are young trees established in the understory then so it is not considered a clear cut. A shelterwood cut adds light to the understory, lets seedlings get established, and

then you remove the rest of the trees.

Removing [56 percent](#) of the tree volume would be pretty severe. That's a shelterwood cut.

I'm not saying this is what they are doing. But by definition, this is what this means. It's not spelled out. A management plan will have a 10-to-15-year plan.

Supervisors have seen this before. They need a stewardship plan. A natural diversity index of mammals, plants – everything – is needed. It's missing.

White's Woods is more than a forest. It's a community forest. Everybody should have a say.

**Question:** Would you support a public hearing to give the community a say?

**Babyak:** I don't think supervisors want a hearing at all. And I don't have a problem with no hearing. I've had people yelling at me. I don't think it would accomplish much.

I think a small committee should be appointed, to include Friends of White's Woods, Indiana borough, Mike Lawer, a recreation specialist – maybe five people.

**Question:** Would you serve on the committee?

**Babyak:** I'd have to think about that.

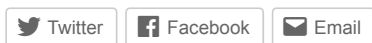
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*David Loomis, Ph.D., emeritus professor of journalism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, is editor of The HawkEye.*

*The HawkEye invites comments on this and other issues of community interest. Email [doloomis@iup.edu](mailto:doloomis@iup.edu) or click on the "contact us" drop-down menu, above.*

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## White's Woods forestry: Mike Lawer

Posted on [June 14, 2020](#)



Forester Michael "Mike" Lawer and his dog Hank admire a healthy, 244-year-old Northern red oak near the caretaker's house at the White Township Recreation Center on East Pike, June 12, 2020. White Township has contracted with Lawer's company, Millstone Land Management LLC, of Marion Center, to develop a 30-acre tract at the rec center to include bike paths, a pond, a picnic area and other improvements. Township supervisors also have tapped Millstone to cut and clear White's Woods. Photos by David Loomis.

By Sara Stewart

INDIANA — Michael "Mike" Lawer, 30, is the owner of Millstone Land Management in Marion Center. A native of Indiana borough, he is a graduate of Duquesne University and Penn State, from which he received an associate's degree in forestry.

"I am a third-generation Lawer family business owner in Indiana County," he tells the HawkEye, "and damn proud of it."

His grandfather and father founded companies that manufacture chalk and marker boards.

Lawer is currently contracted with White Township to oversee forestry projects at all of the township's properties, including its Recreation Center on East Pike Road and White's Woods Nature Center.

Lawer's plan for the woods has incurred substantial public backlash. A lawsuit has been filed by the Friends of

White's Woods citizen advocacy group. And Lawer's 56-page plan for White's Woods is under review by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which recently sent a representative to inspect the proposed site in the woods.

Lawer said he expects his 56-page plan to be released at the next meeting of the [White Township Board of Supervisors](#) on June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

On June 9, Lawer spoke by phone about the plan, which aims to reduce the number of trees and remove invasive species in White's Woods. Following is an edited version of the interview:

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**Question:** There's been a lot of controversy surrounding your proposed work in White's Woods. What's been your reaction?

**Lawer:** You could say I'm frustrated, or I'm hurt, but those would be inaccurate. I'm even more focused and more passionate than ever about this project, out of respect for the people of Indiana County and White Township. I see people post on Facebook that "they're doing this for profit," or that "I was walking in White's Woods and I saw trees painted and I'm outraged." I called my buddy and said, "I read your Facebook post." He's like, "White Township is cutting all the trees down!" I'm like, "Huh? That's just an overview, it was based on findings, just recommendations. That's not the actual report submitted to the DCNR two weeks ago." This is the same conversation I have with everybody. I talk to my 91-year-old grandma and *her* perception is skewed.

**Question:** What percentage of the trees are you aiming to take out?

**Lawer:** In the initial overview, we made our finding based on the basal area. [[According to Penn State extension service](#), basal area is "a measurement of the cross-sectional area of a tree trunk in square feet at breast height"]. Stem count-wise, I'd say around 500. It depends on what your definition of a tree is. For one stump, you have multiple stems coming out of it. You can go in and find evidence to make it a thousand trees if you wanted.

It's like living in the slums of the biggest overpopulated area. Too many trees. We want to take the basal area to something around 60. That removes almost 50-60 percent of the population of the crown ratio.

It's like social distancing. Everybody six feet apart. You want to stay healthy. Trees need to have some space, they need to not brush into each other. When we made our initial proposal saying we need to take close to half of the volume, that was similar to what Babyak proposed. [Forester Dave Babyak in 2007 proposed removing 21 percent of White's Woods tree volume in a plan that was not adopted by White Township supervisors. Read Babyak's June 9 interview with The HawkEye [here](#).]

If you look at the total amount I have proposed to be cut, within the 50 acres [tract 1 of 7, as shown on Millstone's [map](#)] I have marked 2.4 percent of the total 240 acres. I marked trees due to insect damage, disease, decay, weaker species. So many different variables.

**Question:** What do the green- and the blue-dot markings on the trees mean?

**Lawer:** I always change cans of paint, to keep me in line. One day I'll use green, one day I'll use blue. I make sure I don't overlap. It's more a line-of-sight thing, it has nothing to do with anything fun.

**Question:** Can you describe your reasoning for the soil roto-tilling included in your White's Woods plan?

**Lawer:** First things first, treat the soil. You need to treat the soil, it's a living organism.

There's no scholarly research on this, but I bought this machine to take out invasive plants, and my operator, in reverse, noticed it was doing a good job rototilling. I said to my operator, who's like a redneck genius, "Is there any way we can get it to go nice and flat?"

What we're doing in White's Woods can be seen by the caretaker's property [at the township recreation center on East Pike]. There's a little patch of woods in there, and we reinvigorated the soil, and you'll see it has exploded with new tree growth and new ground cover. It's all desirables and has less than 5 percent regeneration [of invasive species].



Lawer describes part of a 30-acre tract cleared by his company in March to develop recreational facilities, including a pond, picnic area and bike trails, behind the White Township Recreational Center on East Pike.

**Question:** You met with some of the Friends of Whites Woods members, and IUP scientists. What was your impression of those meetings?

**Lawer:** I don't want to be rude, but it's kind of embarrassing to hear someone who claims to be a biologist say things like, this is a natural or a wild area. [The terms are defined under [state law](#).] That's like saying you're a vegan while you're eating a piece of jerky.

There are only a few natural areas that exist [in Pennsylvania]. There are only maybe two old-growth forests remaining in Pennsylvania. The vast majority of the state was clear-cut several times. White's Woods has been

clear-cut several times, that we know of. It's been poorly managed. It's a forest where high-grade loggers have gone through and picked nice trees out and left junky trees.

A healthy forest is a diverse forest. You have biodiversity. When I do my tree tally, it should have 15-20 different species of trees. When we assessed the volume of the timber it was less than 10 species. It's very unhealthy. That's why we're creating tree nurseries.

When I go into the woods with [Friends of White's Woods member] Andy Davis, he's a really nice guy, he's passionate, he doesn't want the forest to be hurt. He doesn't want to lose this resource through its being mismanaged. But the worst thing you could do is get too many cooks in the kitchen.

Nobody really has done what I do. I'm the only one that has done stewardship for the Allegheny National Forest. I've managed over 50,000 acres in Armstrong County alone. I'm not a traditional forester, I didn't go to school to be a traditional forester. I have training working for the sawmill people, you know, doing what people would say is traditional forestry. But I am by no means a traditional forester. I am an outside-the-box-thinking forester.

I told Davis, "You can't make decisions based on emotions." He's kinda telling me that I don't know what I'm doing. I don't want to see White's Woods mismanaged or put in the wrong hands. This is my baby.

[IUP biology professor] Jeff Larkin too — I met with him separately, and it was like, "Hey Mike, this is great, we agree with everything you have marked, but we're kind of offended that White Township didn't ask us to be a part of this." It's like, well, let me do my job. I have evidence that backs up that what I'm doing will work.

He said, "You do this and you're gonna have invasives everywhere. Nothing's gonna grow in here." I said, as long as I'm treating the soil compaction, it's the only way to get regeneration in here. [At the East Pike recreation complex], less than 1 percent of the area I treated is regenerating non-desirable plant species. We planted \$6,500 in wildflower species. Nobody's talking about, "Boy, isn't that gonna be freaking awesome." Nobody has ever done this process that I do. It's definitely different.

These IUP guys lied their asses off, lied to my face. Said one thing and wrote this report that said an entirely different thing. That's a pretty low blow.

**Question:** And you also had differing opinions with Dr. Larkin about deer?

**Lawer:** They said, "We'd like to collaborate with you on putting up deer fence." I don't agree with the deer fence idea. When you're managing a place like White's Woods, people like to see deer. I don't want to take that away from people. So why would I want to put up a 50-acre fence to exclude something that's part of my management plan? I want to promote growth for wildlife.

Their idea is to exclude deer so everything will grow in the 50 acres. What I found, based on evidence and management, is if you create more food, it creates more competition for plants to grow straighter. It's like, hey, let the deer in there.

I said, let's kill some deer. It will create a healthier population of deer. Right now, the forest is unhealthy. We have an unhealthy population of deer. When you have issues like chronic wasting disease, the best thing you can do to protect that resource is to remove some of that resource.

I talked to DCNR, and we're going to have a designated hunting season. There will be a shooter test, a written examination and a designated area to hunt in. There will be a drawing. Odds are it will be doe-only, because our sex ratio is off. We have 15 does for one buck. Every deer we shoot we can test to see if they have chronic wasting disease.

There are states that have a thing called Earn a Buck. They say, if you want to hunt in our state, if you want to shoot a buck, you have to shoot a doe first.

White tailed deer need to eat eight pounds of woody browse a day to survive. They're not getting it in White's Woods. There are deer going into people's backyards. Lyme disease is through the roof.

**Question:** How do you respond to the charge that this project's main aim is to sell the timber for profit?

**Lawer:** I hold this project as sacred, and [the media] compared it to income-generating harvest. That's not the case. You don't hear anything in the paper about these bike trails I'm working on right now, the community gardens I'm going to be putting in, all the other awesome stuff.

Any income generated from the sale of timber, they're selectively objective marked trees. It's hard to compare that to what's done traditionally. When you hear "logging," you think about those big clear-cuts that don't have the science. They don't have a full-time herpetologist working for them like I do. We're trying to build sustainable parks.

This is going to be the poster child for sustainable objective forestry. I made that up in a meeting. It was just



Lawer and Hank rest on a piece of his company's heavy machinery used to

a theory. The idea behind it is, OK, there's going to be pollinator gardens, all this cool shit we're going to build, and it will cost money, and these permits cost money —

clear a 30-acre tract behind the White Township Recreational Center on East Pike. A cell tower rises in the background.

all of these costs, you have the resources for. I go in and assess the timber, and get a value based on volume. You have a million dollar total value, and after the cut, skid and haul, after you pay someone to do the cutting and skidding, assume half of your money is gone. Now you only have \$500,000. What are your objectives?

So I went into White's Woods. I said, "Let's come up with all these cool ideas. And let's get a thorough idea of how much that's going to cost."

At East Pike, I assessed the timber — not total, but what needed to be cut. What was a dangerous tree, an ugly tree, trees that might fall on the road. And said, "How can we squeeze as much money as we can out of these trees that need to go?"

I came up with a value with the work that I did. As far as removing the invasives, I think it was \$17,000 they paid me. I marked and tallied [the trees] and, hey, all of a sudden we made back that money we have to pay Mike Lawer! This is a beautiful thing.

That's where the sustainable relationship comes in. Kids can stay in these summer camps [at East Pike], and they [the township] take the trees from White's Woods and sell them to this sawmill, thermo-treat the lumber, and build these cabins. "Wow, this wood came from White's Woods." That's what the supervisors have hired me to do.

**Question:** Did you anticipate people getting so upset about this proposal?

**Lawer:** The first thing I said to the supervisors was, there will be a serious problem. You will get bothered. People are going to freak out, people are going to get so mad at me.

I'm willing to stick my neck out, because I know with my team and my passion, if you just believe in me, that's all you really need. You gotta believe in your heart. It isn't just like I woke up one day and decided to start spray-painting trees.

The biggest hippie liberal in my high school called me and said, "I hear you're trying to do this White's Woods thing." He said, "I got your back, tell me anything you need. As soon as I found out you were the one doing it, everything was good."

All these people writing letters to the editor — I'm like, for God's sake. If I heard all the trees were getting cut down in White's Woods, I'd probably chain myself to a tree, too.

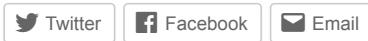
It's just another season that the invasives are still there. I said, hey, I've got other stuff to do. I'm going to build

those bike trails [at the rec complex]. I'm working on tree nurseries. Our big one is going to be at Getty Heights Park. It'll feature shade-tolerant and shade-intolerant plant species. And I'm contracted to teach environmental education.

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*Sara Stewart is a freelance journalist who writes for the New York Post, CNN.com and other publications. For The HawkEye, she has covered domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic and White's Woods. She lives in Indiana and is a member of the Borough Council.*

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## Draft of White's Woods plan to be available online

PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Jun 25, 2020

Go ahead and put the stewardship plan online.

That's what the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has told White Township officials.

And that's what the township board of supervisors approved Wednesday night, the posting of a 100-page draft of a five-year blueprint for woodlot management of all township properties, including the White's Woods Nature Center.

Township Manager Milt Lady said the DCNR forester has completed a preliminary review of the blueprint and a formal response is forthcoming from DCNR's Bureau of Forestry.

Meanwhile, a monthlong window has opened for comments about that blueprint, which Lady terms "a collaborative effort" between township officials and consultant Millstone Land Management LLC.

The stewardship plan will be put on the township website where through July 24 residents can read it and submit comments, either by email to [wtinfo@whitetownship.org](mailto:wtinfo@whitetownship.org), or mail to the township office, 950 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, PA 15701.

There was the usual exchange of questions and answers from the Friends of White's Woods organization to the board of supervisors, including some discussion of interviews reported on a local journalism blog.

That and the continued marking of trees in White's Woods prompted Lady to say Millstone's Mike Lawer "has a plan but no contract except for invasive species" his company has been clearing from township recreation properties.

FWW member Sierra Davis pressed the supervisors for why Lawer has continued to mark trees. Lady said he may have marked 600 trees, but only 250 of them are marketable.

Davis questioned a "lack of transparency" by the board of supervisors about the topic, but township Solicitor Matthew Ross of Delaney & Fritz PC said that question came too close to being about litigation, such as that where FWW has taken the township to Indiana County Court of Common Pleas, seeking a preliminary injunction against Millstone plans.

FWW's bid for such legal action is scheduled to go before the county court on July 22.

Ross said a brief executive session at the end of board business considered that litigation as well as a further discussion of a property the township wants to acquire. The township solicitor said he still was not ready to make public what property is being considered.

The board accepted an offer from General Code LLC to make a bulk addition of forms to the township website, rather than one-by-one as usually is done, for a total cost of \$250.

Also, Assistant Township Manager Chris Anderson said the township will have a presentation from a new website provider.

Answering one of Davis' questions, Lady said a reason why township meeting minutes hadn't been posted on the website is that there is no requirement to do so under the Second Class Township Code.

"It is being pursued," Lady said of doing so in the future.

Not all of her questions were about White's Woods. Pointing to the recent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the national discussion that has followed, Davis wondered why White Township hadn't endorsed the idea of being "a welcoming space," as neighboring Indiana Borough had.

Supervisor Sandi Gillette said she was not opposed to the idea, but that she hadn't felt the urgency to press it.

Board Chairman George Lenz said the borough was extending "verbal support, and that is admirable," but he said the township had put its money where its mouth is, with \$10,000 for the Chevy Chase Community Center, \$5,000 for the Indiana County Community Action Program's food bank, and donations to the Alice Paul House.

"It is nice to give verbal support," Lenz said. "I'd love to see the borough give such support. We have no reason to hang our heads."

Davis countered, "a verbal statement could mean even more."

FWW Vice President Dave Dahlheimer wondered if the board had discussed how it would use the money that would be raised selling trees.

"There is very little money to be made," Lady said, but he noted that things the township would do with the proceeds, including a nursery to raise new trees, is part of the planning that the township has shared with FWW.

White's Woods wasn't the only topic for public comment Wednesday. Another group of residents were pressing their concern — again — about an expansion of township sewer service, or as one resident put it, “city sewage,” to Simpson Road, which is served by “city water” as piped in by Pennsylvania American Water or Indiana County Municipal Services Authority.

“I have septic,” resident Jim Davies said. “I don't have problems.”

He was in the minority among Simpson Road residents.

“I have spent 40 years trying to get city sewage,” said Greg Shirey, who recently met with Lady as well as state Sen. Joe Pittman, R-Indiana, who said there are grants that could be obtained to help cover the cost.

And as Lady found out when the topic came up in 2003, it could be \$40,000 per customer to replace septic tanks.

“That road is a short cut for everyone,” resident Patti Morris said. However, as she also noted, there might not be an expansion of sewer service unless someone steps in to develop properties for housing along Simpson Road.

Shirey's wife, Marion, said they can't have more than two people in their home at any one time, without overtaxing that septic system. She also wondered why it was so cost prohibitive.

It was pointed out that the Indiana Borough sewage treatment plant is about a mile away — on the other side of railroad lines and a stream.

“I have no problem with septic,” resident Dave Sobolewski said. “My only problem is that it's old.”

More recently, another petition has been circulated, as well as letters for those living along Simpson Road. The township manager said four letters have been returned so far, out of 13.

In other sewer-related business Wednesday, a resolution had to be reconsidered for a facility that would be part of the planning for the Westmoreland County Community College and Challenger Learning Center adjacent to the Indiana County Technology Center.

As it was written last month, Lady said, there was an error by the project engineer. The corrected resolution was passed unanimously.

## Friends of White's Woods responds to Mike Lawer

Posted on [June 29, 2020](#) by [David Loomis](#)



Friends of White's Woods yard sign, North Eighth Street, Indiana, Pa. June 28, 2020. Photo by David Loomis

### ***An opinion***

By Jessica Jopp, Sara King, and Norma Tarnoff

INDIANA — We have reviewed the claims made by Millstone Land Management owner Mike Lawer in his [interview published June 14 in The HawkEye](#). Our critique of that Q&A is based on documents in the public record up to that point. In the coming week we plan to respond to Millstone's [management plan released by White Township on June 25](#).

- First, the opening paragraphs of the Lawer interview suggest that public outrage is misplaced. But Lawer confirms exactly why the original Millstone plan documents cause alarm: He confirms that his initial plan called for taking “close to half of the volume” of the timber in White's Woods.

This would devastate the park. An independent forester who reviewed the plan [said](#), “It will look like a bomb went off.”

Lawer attempts to minimize public concern by saying that the figures in Millstone's “[management overview](#)” were “just recommendations.”



A student chawks a sidewalk in the Oak Grove at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1995 during the first of three efforts to log White's Woods. The second was in 2007-2008. Photo by Tom Turify.

- Furthermore, Lawer's numbers don't work. In 2007, forester [Dave Babyak](#) submitted a proposal to timber White's Woods. He recommended taking 21 percent of the total volume of the forest.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources rejected the plan as "excessive" and not consistent with the goals of [Project 70](#) — to protect land for recreation, conservation or historical purposes.

Now, Lawer proposes to take twice as much — "[close to half the volume](#)" of the forest. If the 2007 plan was excessive, Lawer's new plan is beyond excessive.

- Two members of FWW spent several hours and counted approximately 680 trees defaced with blue or green paint in White's Woods. When asked about his tree markings, Lawer said: "I marked trees due to insect damage, disease, decay, weaker species."

We invite readers to go into the woods and look at all the towering, straight, healthy marked trees. In fact, in Millstone's [April 16 plan](#), the trees in White's Woods are described this way: "The current timber stand is heavily stocked with mature standing timber."

- Lawer claims: "It's a forest where high-grade loggers have gone through and picked nice trees and left junky trees." Later, Lawer says: "I go in and assess the timber .... You have a million-dollar total value."

This invites a reader to question the characterization of the trees as compromised and “junky.”

- Lawer describes a “sustainable relationship” as an exchange whereby timber from White’s Woods would be sold, taken “to this sawmill” and made into cabins. He claims that is what he was hired to do. The point, says Lawer, is to “squeeze as much money as we can out of these trees.”

Experts in the field would argue that “sustainability” means taking a holistic approach to forest health with an eye toward maintaining its long-term biodiversity and dynamic growth. Lawer is describing not a practice of environmental sustainability but rather *extraction*, plain and simple, because he is rendering the woods as a commodity to be exchanged in an exploitative market.

We certainly understand that there has been extraction practiced in large state forests. But let us be reminded that this is a community park. Lawer’s argument is that White’s Woods should be managed for long-term timbering. Indeed, in an April email with a correspondent shared with FWW members, Lawer wrote, “I am ... managing a multi-million dollar resource that is losing thousands every year.”

- Elaborating on his scheme, Lawer says in The HawkEye interview: “There’s no scholarly research on this.” Later in the interview, he claims to “have evidence that backs up that what I’m doing will work.”



Forester Mike Lawer, White Township Recreation Center, June 12, 2020. Photo by David Loomis.

What is his plan based on? Is this a reference to anecdotal evidence only? Lawer insists that neither education nor expertise are important, and he regards local, highly respected professionals — some who have garnered international acclaim — with open contempt: “I don’t want to be rude, but it’s kind of embarrassing to hear someone who claims to be a biologist say things like, this is a natural or a wild area.”

- “What we’re doing in White’s Woods can be seen” at the East Pike complex, Lawer claims. The East Pike recreation complex is an entirely different property than White’s Woods. Lawer openly admits in the Q&A that his idea to rototill the forest floor of White’s Woods is not based on any scientific evidence. Instead, it’s based on “redneck genius.”

An assessment by IUP scientists posted on our [website](#) explains why his method would have disastrous results.

- Lawer asserts that “the worst thing you can do is get too many cooks in the kitchen.” And a bit later: “This is my baby.”

Actually, it is a public park. It is the position of FWW that no single person should determine the management plan for the White’s Woods Nature Center.

- Lawer told FWW board member Andy Davis, “You can’t make decisions based on emotions.” Later in his Q&A Lawer declares: “If you just believe in me, that’s all you really need. You gotta believe in your heart.”

Concerned citizens ought to ask: what exactly is the basis of the decisions he has made? What informs his approach to the stewardship of public land?

- To explain the origin of his plan, Lawer says, “This is going to be the poster child for sustainable objective forestry. I made that up in a meeting. It was just a theory.”

By contrast, other foresters and biologists insist that good data must serve as the foundation for any forest stewardship plan. The constituents who use this much-loved nature center have every right to expect that any stewardship proposal would be drawn up through a thoughtful and deliberate process and that it be evidence-based.

IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW [published](#) in The HawkEye on the same day, forester Dave Babyak said Friends of White’s Woods should be part of a group to determine the goals and plans for a stewardship plan for White’s Woods.

FWW believes that all stakeholders, including Indiana Borough, park users and perhaps many others should be involved in developing a stewardship plan – and that experts in conservation, park management, ecology, hydrology and other evidence-based specialties should be involved, as well.

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*Jessica Jopp, of Indiana, is a board member of Friends of White's Woods. She teaches in the English Department at Slippery Rock University.*

*Sara King, of White Township, is president of Friends of White's Woods. She is an emeritus professor of psychology at Saint Francis University.*

*Norma Tarnoff, of White Township, is a long-serving board member of Friends of White's Woods.*

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/fww-adds-complaints-to-lawsuit/article\\_c2e4897a-bd37-11ea-9639-5378d3ddc226.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/fww-adds-complaints-to-lawsuit/article_c2e4897a-bd37-11ea-9639-5378d3ddc226.html)

## FWW adds complaints to lawsuit

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)  
Jul 3, 2020

The citizen group suing White Township's board of supervisors over its plans for the White's Woods Nature Center has amended a lawsuit seeking a halt to those plans.

In a news release issued late Thursday, Friends of White's Woods said the complaint filed May 22 in the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas was amended Wednesday to include reference to the township's bidding process.

As filed by Pittsburgh attorney Tim Fitchett of Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services on FWW's behalf, the group wants a judge to rule on the board's failure to obtain proper telephonic bids for invasive species removal.

Fitchett also wants a ruling on the township's failure to obtain requests for proposals for a consulting forester.

FWW said it still seeks a declaratory judgment against the township, but now also claims violations of the Commonwealth Procurement Code as well as violations of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and the Municipal Planning Code.

Fitchett cited the Sept. 19, 2019, board approval of a consulting agreement with Millstone Land Management LLC of Marion Center for "management of invasive plant species and timber on all White Township-owned properties."

He said the Commonwealth Procurement Code requires a request for proposals from qualified professionals — which in this case would have included foresters.

FWW is quoting a June 14 interview in the blog The HawkEye with David Babyak, who had been hired by the township in July 2007 to investigate ash trees there and possibly modify an adopted forestry stewardship and management plan.

Babyak told the online publication that he would have known about requests for proposals because of his past role as president of the Southwest Pennsylvania chapter of the Society of American Foresters — but that no RFPs ever were solicited.

Township Manager Milt Lady said he could not comment because the matter is under litigation.

Greensburg attorney Bernard P. Matthews Jr., who has been retained by the township board to oppose the Friends motion for a preliminary injunction, said he had not read the amended complaint.

The FWW news release notes that White's Woods is the only White Township wooded area that was purchased with Project 70 funds, authorized by the 1964 Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act.

Fitchett and the Friends note that Project 70 regulates the usage of the woods, and states that the lands must be utilized for recreation, conservation, and historical purposes, and contribute to meet the recreation or conservation needs of the community.

However, Babyak told The HawkEye (run by former IUP journalism professor David Loomis), “the law is for education and conservation. Friends of White's Woods, they don't know the difference between preservation and conservation.”

FWW reiterated claims that the township violated the state's Sunshine Act or Open Meetings Law in its handling of agreements with Millstone, which has served as township consultant on the removal of invasive species from township properties other than White's Woods.

It also claims violations of the state's Municipal Planning Code, and says township plans for invasive species removal and timbering at White's Woods would cause irreparable harm to the nature center.

The matter is scheduled by county President Judge William Martin for a hearing July 22 at 9 a.m.

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PAT CLOONAN

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/forester-discusses-whites-woods/article\\_da84ae0c-c1f1-11ea-bd0c-671a1c253be8.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/forester-discusses-whites-woods/article_da84ae0c-c1f1-11ea-bd0c-671a1c253be8.html)

FEATURED

## Forester discusses White's Woods

By PATRICK CLOONAN [pcloonan@indianagazette.net](mailto:pcloonan@indianagazette.net)

Jul 9, 2020

Wednesday's meeting of the White Township board of supervisors could be called a preview of coming attractions, amid a feature-length session that took two hours.

There was a presentation by a Bellwood company that appears likely to win a contract to redo the township website, and a forester's appetizer for a presentation he is scheduled to make at the July 22 board meeting.

And there was an extended discussion about establishing a new township recreation board or commission.

"We can have your website running in just a couple days," Peter Jones of Muni-Link told the board during his audio-visual presentation for offering website and billing services to the township.

Helped by fellow staffer Ashlie Hildebrand, Jones told the history of a company that in 12 years has taken on 380 new customers, including the Blairsville Municipal Authority and the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.

Township Assistant Manager Chris Anderson said multiple local municipalities also are looking at Muni-Link.

It would provide a new website and handle such chores as the 6,000 bills regularly sent out for sewer, recycling and stormwater needs.

Board members appeared to like what they saw, but Manager Milt Lady said no decision would be made before the July 22 meeting, which will come during a busy day for White Township, as an Indiana County judge mulls over a request by Friends of White's Woods for an injunction halting Millstone Land Management LLC plans for the nearly 250-acre White's Woods Nature Center.

Also, bids will be opened during the day for what the township hopes will be a \$100,000 paving contract, covering 1.25 miles of roadway on McGregor Street, Thompson Road, Woodland Road, Whippoorwill Street, Oriole Avenue and Meadowlark Street.

In the evening, Michael T. Wolf of Appalachian Forest Consultants of suburban Johnstown is scheduled to return to expand upon a 10-minute presentation he made Wednesday about forest health and how to make the best forestry decisions.

"I don't come as an adversary," Wolf said Wednesday, after being introduced to the board by Andrew Davis of Friends of White's Woods. "Your properties are stellar, they are beautiful," Wolf told the board. He called White's Woods "a beautiful, mature forest" with value at multiple levels.

"It is a mature forest with a healthy overstory," said Wolf, a Penn State forest science graduate who taught courses in that science at Penn State, then 13 years ago went into private consulting. However, "You also have a forest that has a very unhealthy situation in its understory, and that's looking down at the forest floor."

There, it appears, is a reason why Millstone was brought in originally, to eliminate invasive species on township properties, could be brought to naught.

"There is not a new forest present, set to replace your existing overstory," Wolf said. "If we have major impacts from disease or insects, ice, windstorm, you name it, your overstory gets damaged, creates light on something, and currently, it would be creating light either on a void where there is nothing, or it is going to be putting light on invasive plants."

The recreational use of White's Woods and other township properties helped board Chairman George Lenz transition the meeting into a discussion that ended up sizing up possible replacements for the parks and recreation commission that used to involve the township, Borough of Indiana and Indiana Area School District.

First, Lenz said, "I really think hunting is a form of recreation."

He said he wanted the township to work with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to bring some sort of controlled hunt to all township properties.

Supervisor Sandi Gillette questioned how the deer population could be controlled. Supervisor Richard Gallo said he wanted to see controls on another creature that feeds on deer — and humans, for that matter.

Gallo said two members of his family had come down with Lyme disease.

Lenz then brought up an idea Supervisor Eugene Gemmell suggested, for a possible township replacement to the \$35-a-month wellness program that had been closed at Indiana Regional Medical Center because of the pandemic. It would involve buying the wellness program equipment from IRMC, but Lady said the hospital nixed that idea.

“They claim it is reopening Aug. 1,” said Lady, who added that he still was interested in some sort of partnership with IRMC.

Returning to the subject of ticks, Lenz said warning signs should be erected in recreational areas.

Then, the board chairman said, quoting another idea from Gemmell, “we need a group that works with (Recreation Director Ryan Shaffer) on recreation.”

Lady said there were multiple ways of achieving that, some possibly through the comprehensive plan process Anderson has been overseeing.

“It is critical to look at that,” Gallo said.

Supervisor Gail McCauley noted that Gallo once was on the regional recreation commission, while serving on Indiana Borough Council.

The idea, all board members agreed, was to get people who were going to be committed to the idea. Anderson said he has 10 people working on the comprehensive plan.

Either way, Gillette said, “we want to make Ryan’s life easier, not more difficult.”

Given the interest in hockey, soccer and ball field activities, Lenz thought there could be interest in a new panel.

There was an illustration in the audience of a lack of interest. Lady said John Somonick, who is active on a lot of township committees, volunteered to be on the recreation commission, but was disappointed with a lack of quorum at several consecutive meetings and resigned.

“We need a viable board,” McCauley said. “Like John said, people were not dedicated.”

Elsewhere, Lady said there had been 16 responses to the idea of extending sewer service along Simpson Road, but only four respondents said they wanted it.

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PAT CLOONAN

## **White's Woods forestry: Michael Wolf**

Posted on July 11, 2020 by David Loomis



Michael T. Wolf, forester with Appalachian Forest Consultants, Stoystown, PA. Submitted photo.

*On July 8 the author, a [forestry consultant](#) from Johnstown, made a 10-minute summary presentation before the White Township Board of Supervisors. He evaluated a [June 25 plan by Millstone Land Management](#), of Marion Center, to log White's Woods and other township recreational lands. Following are excerpts from a nine-page July 2 letter to [Friends of White's Woods](#) in which the author details his review.*  
By Michael T. Wolf

JOHNSTOWN — Millstone's [plan](#) was written to apply to all of White Township properties, and therefore this review can apply to all locations. However, White's Woods is obviously at greatest risk for catastrophic results.

### **Landowner's Goals for Woodlot Management of White Township Properties, pages 2 and 3:**

The reality is, these are not forest stewardship goals, and maybe that is on purpose. The plan is titled a "Stewardship Plan" and not a Forest Stewardship Plan. Given this list of "goals," it would appear you not only need a qualified forester's review, but also that of a qualified Municipal Planner....

Landowners' goals are the building blocks of any successful plan. While the basis of each is fine, I do not see a clean, crisp presentation of goals here. Since a plan is built upon the goals, they should be well thought out and presented. As presented in Millstone's document, they are quite scattered and unfocused.....

Worse than this, the parting thoughts in goals #1 and #2 refer to a much-too-simplistic way forward – a contract with Mike Lawer. A solution of blind trust, in any consultant, presented in the landowner goals section of the plan is misplaced....

#### **Millstone Land Management Objective for White Township Properties, page 4:**

None of the information presented represents objectives, as the title of the section implies. Additionally, there are some foreign concepts presented such as (forest) mulching and mowing, selective objective timber harvesting, and utilizing sustainable selective harvests.

Obviously the plan author has presented new ideas. While new ideas are often welcome when attempting to solve tough issues, a public property is hardly a place for experimentation. First, experimentation was not stated in the landowner's goals. Second, there are time-tested, logical, biologically sound practices that are available and could be employed.

Anytime a “forester,” timber buyer, or logger uses the word “selective” to describe a harvest, the landowner should pause and notice a red flag. The word selective has been used by many to promote an idea of professional choice related to harvest decisions. The term has been used to put landowners at ease, i.e., “We won’t clearcut, but rather we will be selective.”

The term selective harvest has been discussed, by forest health advocates, as the polar opposite of proper, sustainable harvesting for decades. In a 2016 Penn State Extension article by Dr. James C. Finley, professor emeritus of PSU Forest Resources, titled “Forest Stewardship: Timber Harvesting: An Essential Management Tool,” Dr. Finley writes, “This misleading term –selective cutting—refers to a practice that has no basis in scientific forestry.”

Proper harvesting can only fall into one of two categories – thinning or regeneration harvesting. The goal of a thinning is to create additional space and increased growth for overstory trees. The goal of a regeneration harvest (shelterwood, seedtree, or clearcut) is to start a new forest. Any harvest plan that does not include the proper terms of thinning or regeneration harvesting and instead uses the term selective harvest should at least raise concern....

In a mature forest setting, tilling the soil to a depth of 6 inches (as stated in multiple Millstone documents) should again raise a red flag.... There is not a soil compaction problem in White's Woods. Soil compaction is the result of running heavy equipment like skidders, dozers, or even a skid-steer over the forest. These activities have been absent for many decades in White's Woods....

Contrary to popular belief, the top six inches of forest soil contains many tons of roots per acre. These roots, close to the surface, are an important asset for healthy trees. Damaging these roots through compaction and breakage through tilling could have devastating effects on the health and vigor of all the trees of the forest. Root damage results in top dieback, increased root rot, and unnecessary tree stress which invites problems from a host of dangerous pathogens.

In addition, some of the invasive plants, like Japanese stiltgrass and garlic mustard, are excellent seeders. These invasive plants produce an abundance of small, hard seeds year after year. These seeds can lay dormant for a decade – waiting for best conditions to germinate and spread. Running equipment across the soil and disturbing the soil will greatly increase these troublesome competitive plants....



Sunset, White's Woods, June 30, 2020. Photo: Cheri Hinchman Widzowski/Facebook

### **The Properties Within the Landscape, page 7:**

What Millstone's section lacks is a discussion of how proposed activities can and will impact many surrounding properties. If, for example, a misguided treatment strategy were to be employed that actually decreased forest health (through root damage) or increases invasive plants (through seed spread), there would be a negative impact on surrounding properties.

On the flip side, a process that maintains or improves the natural resources on White Township properties can and will have a positive impact on the surrounding landscape. There should also be substantial discussion on the water resources within and outside the White Township lands....

### **Management of Goals and Objectives for Two WT Properties, pages 14-17:**

#### White Township Recreational Complex, page 14

In Phase 1, I don't see how a process of mowing/mulching followed by Conservation Mix seeding could result in any substantial long-term improvements. Mowing/mulching does not eliminate invasive seed; instead, it will spread it. Seeding with an Ernst Conservation seed mix can produce a beautiful initial site with good germination, but these plants get eaten or out-competed within just a couple years. Think about the vast wildflower plantings PA DOT used to do on PA highway medians — beautiful year 1, about 50 percent as nice in year 2, gone by year 3....

In Phase 2, there's the subject of a timber harvest. Whatever you add light to is what you will grow. If you want to know exactly what will grow back after a timber harvest, it is quite simple — just look at what is on the forest floor before the harvest, and you can know for sure. If there are invasives, you will grow invasives. If there are competing plants, you will grow competing plants. If there is nothing, you will make the perfect environment for increased invasives.

Even if you kill all the invasive and competing plants first, you should definitely not add any light until you have an abundance of desirable, protected seedlings in place. The reason is simple: The invasives will come back much faster than any desirable native plant that is a target for deer. And if you plant wildflower seed and then add light, you will get both wildflowers (temporarily) and invasives resprouting or germinating. The invasives will dominate after a short term.

#### WT Recreation Complex Timber Assessment, pages 16, 17

In Millstone's projections, after cut/skid/haul costs, the stumpage value of the timber sale is estimated at \$9,259.26. Of all the forest consultant fees I'm aware of, the highest cost for a forester to prepare a timber sale prospectus, create contracts, and oversee the harvest work is approximately \$1,400 on a sale this size. While a "forester" can charge whatever he/she wants in an open market, it should raise a red flag for a landowner to be paying almost 80 percent instead of industry standard 10-15 percent. Of course, there may be undocumented costs/fees involved that are not listed in the projections.

#### Whites Woods Tract #1, pages 18 – 22

This is more like a harvest plan.... There is much worthy of debate....

Yes, [deer] are a problem. Conservation mix seeding cannot begin to solve the problem. It is good that Millstone's wording includes "other methods may be evaluated, such as

deer fencing or a controlled deer harvest.” However, this is like considering the purchase of insurance after having a car wreck.... New control methods will just be too late following increased light.

There seems to be at least a misnomer in the “total standing value” designation. In Millstone’s projections, after cut/skid/haul costs, the stumpage value of the timber sale is estimated at \$39,965.44. Of all the forest consultant fees I’m aware of, the highest cost for a forester to prepare a timber sale prospectus, create contracts, and oversee the harvest work is approximately \$5,990 on a sale this size.

While a “forester” can charge whatever he/she wants in an open market, it should raise a red flag for a landowner to be paying almost 38 percent instead of industry standard 10-15 percent. Of course, there may be undocumented costs/fees involved that are not listed in the projections.



Sunset, White’s Woods trail, June 18, 2020. Photo: Cheri Hinchman Widzowski/Facebook.

## **Recommended Schedule, pages 27, 28**

### Quick debate points

- In only the second year of the schedule (summer/fall 2021), regeneration harvesting on 50 acres of White's Woods will be begin. The added light will NOT be on desirable seedlings and saplings, but rather (maybe) some wildflowers and of course invasives.
- Question: What does "evaluate timber" mean (fall 2022 and fall 2024)? Is this a code for timber harvesting? Page 23 (2a) recommends to "evaluate and select trees for a timber harvest." If all acres of White's Woods receive a combination of mechanical/chemical treatment as proposed, we can only assume "all acres" of White's Woods are to be harvested similarly to White's Woods Tract 1. Based on all above information in this review, this is a scary thought.
- A sustainable forest regeneration plan for a property like White's Woods should take 10-15 years, not just 4 as proposed in this schedule. And, this is for each unit. To sustainably regenerate a forest of any size, or any portion of a forest of any size takes at least 10-15 years.... Anything less is an impossibility with a forest in its current condition. It is very important to remember, there has to be desirable seedlings in place before any light is added. This takes time.

## **Appendix 3 – Millstone Land Management Sustainable Forestry Philosophy**

### Paragraph 1: Soil

I called soil scientist Ron Andrasko (Andrasko and Associates Inc.) to discuss Millstone's basis for soil aeration (to a depth of 6"). Millstone claims that the soil in White's Woods and other White Township properties are compacted and lays blame on soil compaction for lack of desirable regeneration.

I described the White's Woods property to Ron, including past logging history. Ron's response was, "It is a ludicrous claim." Ron said, "It has nothing to do with compaction of soil." He added, "Taking a machine into a forest area results in compaction. Only manipulation (of any kind) of forest soil results in compaction. Only time, through annual freeze/thaw and shrink/swell decreases compaction."

### Paragraph 2:

Native hardwood seedlings, resulting from White's Woods overstory seed production, germination and growth are the only solution. The seed mix prescribed by Millstone will not result in desirable natural regeneration of the types of trees currently found in White's Woods. However, skipping the soil aeration, skipping the overseeding, and simply erecting a deer exclusion fence and killing competing plants WILL provide the desired results.



Sign at North 12th Street entrance to White's Woods Recreational Area, White Township, Pa. Nov. 20, 2019.

Photo by David Loomis.

### Paragraph 3:

Light is the enemy to an unhealthy forest understory.... The understory in White's Woods ... is obviously unhealthy. ALL of our native PA trees can germinate and begin to grow in a shaded understory – especially when the shade level (height) is high, like that created by the overstory tree canopy. A tight canopy is NOT the issue in White's Woods. I recommend to NEVER add light to a forest floor until after desirable seedlings are sufficiently present....

### CONCLUSION

Because the properties are so incredible, there is much to lose if a wrong direction is chosen. I honestly do not see ill-intent, just a lack of fundamental understanding of silviculture, sustainable forestry practices, and how forests grow and develop.

The “Forest Stewardship Plan” you asked me to review is intensive and was obviously written with passion. When this type of passion is mixed with the right knowledge and strategy, there is no doubt a positive outcome can be reached. However, as this review ... points out, while the proposed strategy may be well-intentioned, for many reasons, it will not produce a positive outcome.

---

*Michael T. Wolf is a partner in Appalachian Forest Consultants, Stoystown, Pa. Friends of White's Woods is a client.*

## Project 70 Land Acquisition Assistance Grant Application

Filed by White Township

August 20, 1965

(Excerpted pages)

The following excerpted pages from the White Township Project 70 Land Acquisition Assistance Grant were provided to Friends of White's Woods by Greg Gove, former Chief, DCNR Grants Projects Management Division on December 12, 2008. The application notes that White's Woods "will be left to a large degree in its natural state." The application also indicates that this area is "ideal for passive recreation."

<p align="center">COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION</p> <p align="center">For Project 70 Land Acquisition Assistance Grant (Act No. 8 Special Session of 1964)</p> <p align="center">PART I SITE AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL</p>	Location of land to be acquired WHITE TOWNSHIP	
	Estimated Cost of Proposed Acquisition \$34,600.00	
	Number of Acres 430	Project Number A-138

A IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICANT	B TYPE OF SUBMISSION
<p>Legal Name of Applicant White Township</p> <p>Mailing Address White Township Municipal Building Indian Springs Road Indiana, Pa. 15701</p> <p>County INDIANA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revision of approved application dated 196 , for purpose of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Change in amount or location of land to be acquired</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Change in proposed use</p>
C PURPOSE OF APPLICATION	D PROPOSED LAND USE
<p>Application for site and development proposal approval for the area(s) specified herein.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation purposes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation purposes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Historical purposes</p>

## E SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The documents described in the Schedule of Supporting Documents on Page 2 are in support of and are a part of this application.

## F NAME, TITLE &amp; MAILING ADDRESS of person receiving correspondence

Name CLIFFORD P. FLEMING Street INDIANA SPRINGS ROAD

Title CHAIRMAN WHITE TWP. SUPERVISORS City INDIANA, PENNA. 15701

## G EXECUTION OF APPLICATION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Applicant has caused this application to be executed  
on April 8, 1965 .

White Township

Legal Name of Applicant

By Clifford P. Fleming

Title Chairman White Twp. Supervisors

Approved by the Bureau of Community Development, Department of Commerce.

Date

8/20/65

Director

Daniel Rogers  
Director

## 7 0 REC

1. That the TOWNSHIP OF WHITE hereby  
legal name of applicant  
approves the filing of an Application For Project 70 Land  
Acquisition Assistance Grant.
2. That the CHAIRMAN OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS is hereby  
title of officer  
authorized and directed to execute and file Form BCD-70-2,  
Application For Project 70 Land Acquisition Assistance Grant,  
Part I, Site and Development Proposal, with the Bureau of  
Community Development, Department of Commerce, as  
specified in said Act, and provide the information and  
documentation required in said application for approval of said  
Bureau.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the White Township, name of governing body at a duly convened meeting held on the day of April 8, 1965, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Chaffin P. Fleming  
Chairman Township Supervisors  
Title

# POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

## TOWNSHIP OF WHITE

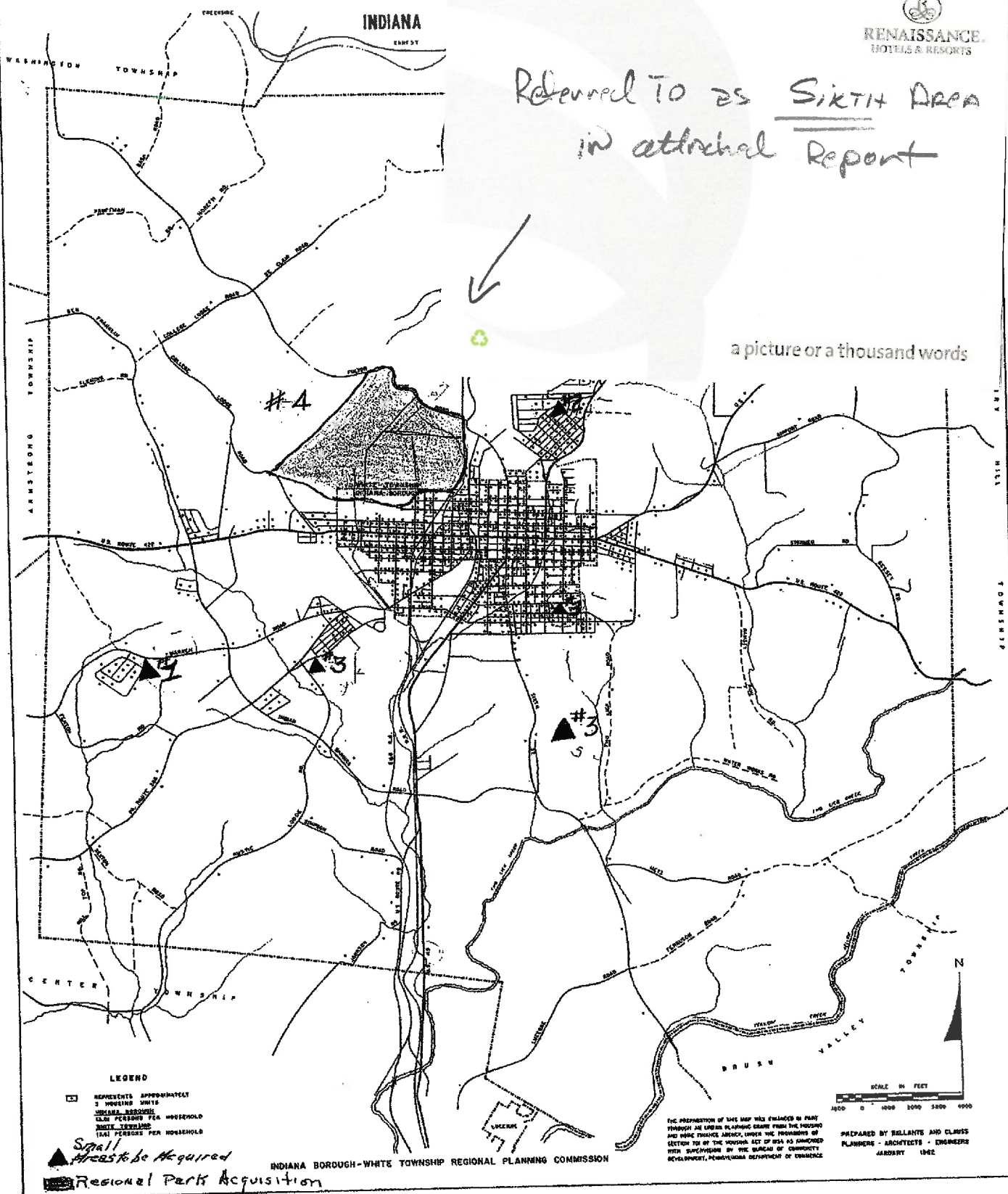
INDIANA



RENAISSANCE  
HOTELS & RESORTS

Referred to as Sixth Area  
in attached Report

a picture or a thousand words



## White Township Supervisors

John H. Gibson, Secretary-Treasurer

525 NIXON AVENUE  
INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA

### ITEM 4

- A. Five of the areas to be acquired will be retained as open space and used for parks and neighborhood playgrounds and will include the following improvements.
1. Hard surface multi-purpose area large enough for basketball and other varied activities.
  2. Picnic shelters with benches and outdoor stoves.
  3. Horseshoes pitching court.
  4. Cement block building approximately 10' X 20' to house boys and girls lavatories and a small storage area.
  5. Wading pools and outdoor water fountains.
  6. Baseball and softball diamonds.
  7. One or two of the large areas will have acreage remaining in its natural state for passive recreation.
- B. Areas to be acquired are farm and wooded areas and over seventy-five per cent of the land is level.

*Clifford P. Fleming*  
CHAIRMAN \* WHITE TOWNSHIP

*Area #6 next sheet*

# White Township Supervisors

John H. Gibson, Secretary-Treasurer

525 NIXON AVENUE  
INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA

## ITEM 4

Sixth Area - Regional Park = White Woods

- A. This area will be left to a large degree in its natural state, and will include the following improvements:
1. Nature trails and hiking path.
  2. Picnic shelters, outdoor lavatories, benches, stoves for outdoor cooking.
  3. Camping areas.
  4. Other improvements will be made as the need arises.
- B. Area is wooded and there are no structures on the land. This area is ideal for passive recreation.

  
CHAIRMAN - WHITE TOWNSHIP

SPB 4-129

Date September 2, 1965

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PLANNING BOARD  
PROJECT 70 PROPOSAL  
Staff Report

Submitting Agency

Department of Commerce

Project Identification

#A-138, White Township, Indiana County

Description

428.5 acres on six separate sites in the suburban area surrounding Indiana Borough.

Sites #1, #2, and #4, sites of 10, 2, and 10 acres respectively, to be developed as neighborhood parks in new residential areas. Development will include picnic shelters, wading pools, and ball fields. Site #3, 1.5 acres to be developed as a neighborhood park in an older residential area. Site #5, 5 acres to be held for future development. Site #6, 400 heavily wooded acres directly adjacent to northern boundary of Indiana Borough, to be left generally in its natural state. Improvements will include nature trails, picnic shelters, and camping areas.

Estimated total cost of acquisition is \$34,600, a portion of which is expected to be obtained through the Federal government under Title VII, Housing Act of 1961. (The PROJECT 70 grant will be limited to \$13,300, the amount originally allocated to this applicant.)

Summary of Local Review

Project has been reviewed and endorsed by the White Township Planning Commission and the Indiana County Planning Commission.

Summary of State Review

Project has been reviewed by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Forests and Waters and the Department of Highways\* and does not appear to be in conflict with their plans and programs. Site inspection has been made by the Bureau of Community Development, Department of Commerce.

Recommendation

Project appears to be consistent with the purposes of the PROJECT 70 Act. Staff recommends approval.

\* A four-lane divided relocation of the Indiana North-South Bypass is proposed in the vicinity of Site #4.

Whites  
woods

≈

Apparently  
original  
plan was

to acquire

parts of the

current campus

lodge properly

as well.

## WHITE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The White Township Planning Commission cooperated with the White Township Supervisors in the selection of sites proposed in this application. These sites are recommended as part of the Recreation Phase of the Comprehensive Plan for White Township. The sites were selected on the basis of their excellent potential to provide the type of open space and recreation needed to serve present and future development of White Township.

The type of development proposed is approved by the planning commission and recommended for development.



Frank Latshaw, Chairman  
White Township Planning  
Commission



# INDIANA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

519 PHILADELPHIA STREET - INDIANA, PENNA. - TELEPHONE 465-5651

The Indiana County Planning Commission reviewed the White Township Project 70 Application at its last meeting held on February 15, 1965. The staff of the county planning commission has worked with the township supervisors and township planning commission in the selection of sites included in this application. Based on the review of the staff, the county planning commission has approved the selection of these sites, and it is the opinion of the county planning commission that these sites have excellent potential for the type of recreation use and development that is proposed.

  
 Isadore R. Lenglet  
 Planning Director

C.J. POTTER, CHAIRMAN   D.R. TOMB, VICE CHAIRMAN   JAMES McELHOES, SECRETARY   ROBERT BENTON   HOMER KUNKLE  
 DANIEL McDEVITT   WILLIAM McMILLEN   ANDREW WANCHISN   WARD H. NEVINS   ISADORE R. LENGLET - PLANNING DIRECTOR

## Appendices

## Appendix A

### Friends of White's Woods: Brief History

## **A Brief History: Friends of White's Woods**

White's Woods Nature Center (WWNC), a 250-acre park, was purchased for White Township in 1968 with Project 70 money, which stipulates that the land be used for "recreation, conservation, and historic preservation."

### **1995**

Friends of White's Woods (FWW) was formed by citizens of White Township and Indiana Borough in 1995, in response to an attempt by the White Township Supervisors to log 650,000 board feet with an estimated value of \$159,000 in the first phase of a multi-phase plan. However, our attorney brought to their attention Second Class Township code section 1915, which stated:

"Whenever the township supervisors deem it expedient to sell or lease any forest, or part thereof, or products therefrom, they shall so declare by an ordinance... No ordinance shall be effective in legalizing such alienation until it has been approved by a majority vote of the people..."

The Supervisors mailed a survey to voters, finding that 62% (1527 of the 2463 total respondents) did NOT want White's Woods selectively timbered (31% approved of the timbering plan while 7% had no opinion).

The Supervisors voted not to timber on July 12, 1995.

### **2007-2008**

In March 2007, the Supervisors entertained a proposal to remove 550,000 board feet (21% of the park) with an estimated value of \$166,000, in response to a search they initiated in May of 2006. Over the ensuing year, FWW, with support from Indiana Borough, repeatedly approached the Supervisors, suggesting we work together to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the park. Our attempts were met with responses ranging from mild resistance to contempt.

In January 2008, the Supervisors sent a letter to DCNR asking for clarification regarding the relevance of Second Class Township Code section 2207, which allows harvesting of timber on municipal lands, to the management of White's Woods. In February 2008, DCNR responded to this request, noting that DCNR's counsel advises that "... Section 2207 of the Second Class Township Code... does not apply to the matter of the forest management plan for White's Woods."

Ultimately, in April 2008, the plan was halted by a ruling from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which stated:

“The plan is not consistent with the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act... is not consistent with the definitions of recreation and conservation in the Act... The issue is not whether timber can be harvested on Project 70 land, but rather that the amount, as currently proposed, is excessive.”

DCNR requested the plan be revised to meet standards and resubmitted for approval before any further action. The Supervisors did not submit a revised plan until DCNR requested that they do so on April 27, 2020.

## 2020

On April 8, 2020, FWW observed trees in WWNC with green paint marks. Over the ensuing two months, as more and more trees were marked, we learned that the Supervisors had been planning an extensive timbering project in secret since December 2018. Most of the decisions regarding this plan had occurred in closed session, so public information regarding the plan to harvest timber in White’s Woods was severely limited.

On May 8, 2020, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services, representing FWW, sent the Supervisors a letter noting that “[w]e believe that if the Township moves forward with their attempts to timber White’s Woods, they will have violated Article I Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, and the Project 70 Land Acquisition And Borrowing Act administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.” This letter, to which the Supervisors did not respond, invited the Township to “reach out” to FWW or Fair Shake to discuss management of the WWNC.

On May 22, 2020, FWW filed a complaint alleging Township violations of the Sunshine Act and the Second Class Township Code.

In response to pressure from FWW and a request from the DCNR Chief of Community Parks and Recreation, the Township prepared a Draft Stewardship Plan for all White Township parks that was posted for public review for from June 25 to July 24. The plan calls for the removal of 125,668 board feet of timber PLUS 131.1 tons of wood pulp from a 50-acre section (Unit #1) of the White’s Woods Nature Center. It also details a plan to rototill the forest floor to a depth of 6 inches that, combined with “opening” the canopy to allow more light, aims to reduce invasive plant species.

As with previous plans, the current one has been criticized by forestry experts as unsuitable for the White’s Woods Nature Center, and the proposed method of removing invasive species not only ineffective, but likely to cause further proliferation of invasive plants

## Appendix B

### FWW Draft Plan Evaluation: Extended Reports

#### Analysis of Goals

#### Invasive Treatment

#### Comparison of Plans

## Analysis of Goals

### Part I: Stated Goals

**Note:** The technical portions of this critique are based on evaluations submitted by IUP faculty (Mike Tyree, Jeff Larkin, Tom Simmons and Christina Ruby) and Appalachian Forest Consultants (Mike Wolf), who are the referenced “consultant foresters” used by FWW.

A well-crafted proposal, whether for academic research, business planning, or stewardship of a park, is driven by its goals and objectives. A well written proposal describes goals in general terms, and which then drive the development of measurable, attainable, appropriate objectives. Following are the goals stated in the Millstone Plan, accompanied by the critique of forestry, conservation, and research experts.

1. One of the White Township Board of Supervisor's goals is to improve the overall health and sustainability of all township owned properties. Some of the threats to the woodlots and trees that are within the properties are dead, diseased and crowding trees. They impact the safety and aesthetics of the parks, recreation areas, nature center and municipal properties. Safety of the users visiting and participating in the recreational activities available at all the properties is a responsibility of the Supervisors that is taken seriously. Some of the most significant and immediate threats to the woodlots, trees and adjacent areas are deer overpopulation, invasive species (plants, insects and disease) and climate changes. The Supervisors want to ensure the long term health and viability of the township's woodlot and trees by prudent management to preserve and protect our natural resources. To accomplish that goal the Board has contracted with a Consultant Forester, Mike Lawer, owner of Millstone Land Management, LLC.

*One of the White Township Board of Supervisor's goals is to improve the overall health and sustainability of all township owned properties.*

Each of the township-owned properties, including the multiple recreational areas, was obtained for a unique purpose, and therefore requires its own unique management strategy to maintain health and sustainability. Specifically, as stated in the Project 70 funding application, White's Woods is a park that was intended to be maintained in its natural state for passive recreation; as such, it requires different strategies from all other properties, which are intended for active recreation. Responses herein will evaluate the goals as they pertain to WWNC.

*Some of the threats to the woodlots and trees that are within the properties are dead, diseased and crowding trees.*

Dead trees are part of nature and provide habitat for wildlife. Consultant foresters have denied the presence of diseased trees and have stated that the forest is not over-crowded.

*They impact the safety and aesthetics of the parks, recreation areas, nature center and municipal properties.*

Consultant foresters report no safety issues within WWNC. If the supervisors find the aesthetics of natural habitat to be offensive, they should probably avoid nature.

*Safety of the users visiting and participating in the recreational activities available at all the properties is a responsibility of the Supervisors that is taken seriously.*

Interesting. The township should probably devote its attention to the piles of rubble left at the East Pike area after timbering and the condition of the active recreation equipment, ball fields, etc.

*Some of the most significant and immediate threats to the woodlots, trees and adjacent areas are deer overpopulation, invasive species (plants, insects and disease) and climate changes.*

Deer overpopulation does result in destruction of seedlings; according to consultant foresters, only deer fencing can correct this problem. Invasive species, although dispersed throughout the park, are not a threat to the trees. The health of the overstory is described as “way above average” and no evidence of insects and ‘disease’ is noted. Mature forests help to reduce the effects of climate change and greatly improve air quality.

*The Supervisors want to ensure the long-term health and viability of the township's woodlot and trees by prudent management to preserve and protect our natural resources.*

The methods proposed are not suitable for WWNC.

*To accomplish that goal the Board has contracted with a Consultant Forester, Mike Lawer, owner of Millstone Land Management, LLC.*

Management of WWNC requires expertise in conservation and recreation, not logging. As will be demonstrated in subsequent discussion, this individual lacks both educational preparation and experience to manage WWNC.

**Summary Goal 1:** This is a generic goal for all White Township recreational parks, and is meaningless due to the diverse nature of the parks. For this goal to be functional, there should be (a) separate sub-goal(s) for each park, with specific, measurable, achievable objectives for each goal.

2. The second goal of the Supervisors is to enhance recreation activities for all community members by improving availability and quality experiences. The Township for many years has owned and managed 17 acres of local community parks (3) and a 90-acre recreation complex having invested over \$1,000,000 since 1995 in property purchases and site prep, \$700,000 in capital improvements (matching funds), received \$1,742,800 in DCNR grants and over \$500,000 in community contributions all in the name of recreation and without a Township property tax. The Board of Supervisors are good stewards of the land and have provided sensible management in order to improve the quality of life within the community. This mission of the Supervisors has not waived and will continue to explore ways to create new, diverse and accessible recreation opportunities to all the citizens. The vision provided by our Consultant is a viable proposal for several of the properties that will be reviewed by the Board for current and future recreation development.

*The second goal of the Supervisors is to enhance recreation activities for all community members by improving availability and quality experiences.*

Destroying WWNC by removing timber, churning the soil, and thereby spreading invasive plants will detract from the quality experience in WWNC. If they are interested in improving availability, parking access should be expanded.

*The Township for many years has owned and managed 17 acres of local community parks (3) and a 90-acre recreation complex having invested over \$1,000,000 since 1995 in property purchases and site prep, \$700,000 in capital improvements (matching funds), received \$1,742,800 in DCNR grants and over \$500,000 in community contributions all in the name of recreation and without a Township property tax.*

It would appear that these monies were mostly used for developing active recreation parks, since cost of maintaining WWNC is minimal. If the Township wishes to cite its financial investment as evidence of good management, it needs to report for each park, in chart format, every project, with time frame, goal, cost, source of funding, and outcome. While avoiding property tax is a popular and emotionally charged political target, it is not relevant to this document.

*The Board of Supervisors are (sic) good stewards of the land and have provided sensible management in order to improve the quality of life within the community.*

The Board of Supervisors has on three occasions in 25 years attempted to timber WWNC, a park purchased for recreation, conservation, and historic preservation with Project 70 funds. None of the three ‘management plans’ may be described as either ‘sensible’ or appropriate for WWNC. This track record refutes the allegation that the Supervisors are good stewards.

*This mission of the Supervisors has not waived (sic) and will continue to explore ways to create new, diverse and accessible recreation opportunities to all the citizens.*

WWNC is diverse, being the only natural area among the White Township parks. It does not need “new, diverse and accessible recreation opportunities...” A better statement might focus on

the Supervisors' unwavering mission to "create new, diverse and accessible" ways to exploit WWNC for income.

*The vision provided by our Consultant (Lawer) is a viable proposal for several of the properties that will be reviewed by the Board for current and future recreation development.*

The "vision" provided by the Township's consultant is not well defined in this document, with the possible exception of timbering and rototilling. As noted by FWW's consultant, these strategies would be a disaster for WWNC. Its viability for the Rec Center on East Pike is debatable, at best, in light of the piles of rubble that remain and the invasive species explosion that has begun since the timbering a few short months ago.

**Summary Goal 2:** This report does not address any aspect of "enhance(ing) recreation activities for all community members by improving availability and quality experience" in WWNC, as stated in this goal. It is a plan to remove invasive species, by rototilling the floor of the park, and remove as much timber as they can get past DCNR – nothing more, nothing less. Forestry consultants have indicated that this will, in fact, destroy the quality experience currently in WWNC.

3. In the 2020 draft revision of the 2008 White Township Comprehensive Plan, the steering committee has recommended a Comprehensive Recreation & Park Plan be initiated in the near future. The goals of the Plan are to identify the methods, resources, organizational capacity and capital investment needed to accomplish both the short-term and long-term recreation and parks goals of the community. The planning process includes citizen involvement, inventory of existing conditions and facilities; analysis of issues and community needs, and specific recommendations that set forth actions, priorities and cost. The Plan will help guide recreation policies, programs and investments. In 2019, the Comprehensive Plan steering committee released an online survey to the public for feedback on the 2020 draft. The survey included questions on White Township sponsored recreational activities. The responses received stated 77% said recreation was important. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan will be provided to the county, adjacent municipalities and school districts to review and comment.

**Note:** The overlapping terminology used (White Township Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Recreation & Park Plan) makes it impossible to discern what the author is intending to be goal 3. Is it to develop a park plan in the future or is this document supposed to be the plan? This critique is based on the latter.

*In the 2020 draft revision of the 2008 White Township Comprehensive Plan, the steering committee has recommended a Comprehensive Recreation & Park Plan be initiated in the near future. The goals of the Plan are to identify the methods, resources, organizational capacity and capital investment needed to accomplish both the short-term and long-term recreation and parks goals of the community.*

At no point in the document are “short- and long-term recreation and parks goals of the community” identified. The portion of the plan pertaining to WWNC addresses only proposed timbering and rototilling of invasive plants. In that sense, “methods, resources, organizational capacity and capital investment” are identified, but they have nothing to do with goals related to park use for recreation.

*The planning process includes citizen involvement, inventory of existing conditions and facilities; analysis of issues and community needs, and specific recommendations that set forth actions, priorities and cost. The Plan will help guide recreation policies, programs and investments.*

Citizen input for WWNC was acutely lacking, to the point that the Township made every attempt to bury its intentions for WWNC in generalized ‘stewardship’ language, and made decisions in closed sessions. Analysis of issues is faulty, according to qualified forestry experts. Community needs for WWNC are never addressed. All actions, priorities and costs are related to timbering and invasive species removal. There is no mention of policy or programming pertaining to WWNC.

*In 2019, the Comprehensive Plan steering committee released an online survey to the public for feedback on the 2020 draft. The survey included questions on White Township sponsored recreational activities. The responses received stated 77% said recreation was important.*

Where is the survey instrument? Who designed it? How were potential respondents invited to participate? Where are the raw data? How many surveys were completed? Over what time frame? This is a totally absurd “report” of “research”. Neither the survey nor the results have any meaning presented in this fashion.

*The 2020 Comprehensive Plan will be provided to the county, adjacent municipalities and school districts to review and comment.*

Which Comprehensive plan? The Township Plan? The Recreation and Park Plan? This document (“plan”)?

**Summary Goal 3:** To repeat, it is unclear what the author is considering to be goal 3. If this document is supposed to be the “Comprehensive Recreation and Park” it fails to contain the information it purports to be necessary (methods, resources, organizational capacity and capital investment). If, in fact, the goal is to develop a plan in the future, this goal is irrelevant to the rest of this document.

**Conclusion:** The stated goals for this project are vague and poorly written to the point that they are virtually unintelligible. Because they lack measurable objectives, it will be impossible to implement this ‘plan’, much less determine degree to which goals are met. They are not formatted appropriately for a planning document, and the attempts to provide supporting evidence cite a plethora of irrelevant, largely undocumented, unproven claims. From the perspective of 25 years of fighting desecration in WWNC, this “plan” is a thinly veiled attempt at (1) selling timber and (2) providing employment for the “consultant,” which should more accurately be the stated goals.

## **Part II: Relationship of Goals to DCNR and Project 70 Guidelines**

In an April 27 letter to the township manager, Mike Eschenman, Chief, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, DCNR, restated the requirement to submit a management/stewardship plan that “holistically addresses community values of the forest (e.g., Open space, recreation, watershed protection, aesthetics, revenue generation, etc.), and how the proposed management actions such as invasive management, harvesting, or other treatments for various areas, etc. enhance or promote those community values.” He attached a sample plan for reference.

The plan that was posted to the township website bears little resemblance to the sample stewardship plan. As described in Part I, the stated goals are not community driven and are not specific to WWNC, a park which is uniquely different from the township’s other recreation properties. The stated goals are not even addressed in the subsequent verbiage, although a lot of technical terminology and ‘data’ about timber sales are included.

White’s Wood Nature Center was purchased with Project 70 funds in 1968. In the application (April 8, 1965), WWNC was described as “... heavily wood acres ...to be left generally in its natural state...” “...for passive recreation...” These statements are consistent with the intent of Project 70 funds, “Any land acquired with Project 70 funds is to be used for recreational, conservational or historical purposes...” (A Citizens Guide to Pennsylvania’s Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act, 2010).

The Millstone plan refers to DCNR as a source of funding for several projects in White Township parks. While it does comment that WWNC is “primarily used for hiking and biking” (p. 7), the document fails to acknowledge the purposes of Project 70 land, or of any aspect of conservation or preservation. The few objectives included, both implicit and stated, focus instead on “removal of invasive species and enhancing growth ... of timber” (p. 13) and mechanized mulching of the forest floor (p.18).

## **Conclusions**

The stated goals are not based on community values, which were never solicited, and they are not consistent with Project 70 land use. The township has been informed that DCNR is aware of the high degree of public interest in this project. The supervisors would be well advised to follow the accompanying recommendation to design a plan based on priorities of the park users.

**Friends of White's Woods has identified the following goals for White's Woods Nature Center:**

- 1. Establish a commission to govern park management, comprised of experts and interested citizens:**
  - a. Appropriately credentialed forester**
  - b. Recreation consultant**
  - c. Friends of White's Woods**
  - d. Conservancy organizations**
  - e. Indiana Borough Representative**
  - f. All other key experts (e.g. ecologists, hydrologists) and stakeholders of the WWNC.**
- 2. Seek conservation organizations interested in working with WWNC to provide financial support and monitoring services.**
- 3. Enact legislation governing management of WWNC as a natural area in perpetuity.**
- 4. Develop and implement a long-term management plan, with built-in periodic reviews and revisions, which maintains WWNC as a natural, passive recreation area.**

## INVASIVES IN WHITE'S WOODS BY NORMA TARNOFF

The invasive that will create the most damage to White's Woods is Mike Lawer of Millstone Land Management and his mulching machinery. Under the guise of concern for White's Woods, both Lawer and the supervisors have agreed on a plan to remove the invasive plants in the understory. However, 680 trees are marked for timber in just phase one of 7 phases, and by the time Lawer is finished over 50% of the trees will be timbered. This paper will present evidence that the Millstone plan to remove invasives will not work and will cause irreparable damage to the trees, trails and understory of White's Woods

Mike Lawer was interviewed in the HawkEye by Sara Taylor on June 14<sup>th</sup>. In reply to the question, "Can you describe your reasoning for the roto-tilling included in your White's Woods plan?" Lawer replied, "First things first, treat the soil. You need to treat the soil, it's a living organism. There's no scholarly research to this, but I bought this machine to take out invasive plants, and my operator, in reverse noticed it was doing a good job roto-tilling. I said to my operator, who's like a red neck genius, 'Is there any way we can get it to go nice and flat?'"

And so a plan was created by Mr. Lawer without research or evidence. The groundwork for his plan is the same for all parks in White township. "Using mechanized mulching equipment (see Appendix 8), areas affected by invasive plant species will be mulched up to 6 inches in order to uproot undesirable plants. The mulching process will aerate soil and address soil compaction issues. In addition, mulched material remaining on the surface of the soil will provide an excellent stormwater management practice that limits runoff and sedimentation."(p.18) "Upon completion of the mulching process, an over seeding of the treated area (seed mix to be specified) will take place to establish a new layer of native desirable plants." (p.19)

Friends of White's Woods enlisted the services of 3 accredited and accomplished professors at IUP. Jeff Larkin has a Ph.D in Animal Sciences, an MS in Forestry, and a BA in Biology. His field expertise includes Conservation Biology, Landscape Ecology, Restoration Ecology, and Forest Management. Thomas Simmons has both a Ph.D and a MA in Biology and a BA in Zoology. Michael Tyree also has a Ph.D in Biology. They have collaborated on a report evaluating White's Woods and the Millstone plan. Below are direct quotes from their report.

“Friends of Whites Woods requested that we evaluate from an objective and scientific perspective the land management plan for White’s Woods proposed by Millstone Land Management, LLC. We have significant applied research experience and expertise in the fields of forestry, forest ecology and restoration, wildlife ecology and management, and disease ecology. To evaluate the plan, we conducted a preliminary survey of the 50 acres White’s Woods Tract #1 in which trees are being marked for removal; met with Millstone owner Michael Lawer onsite to discuss his plan; visited the 34 acres White Township Recreation Complex Tract in which invasive species and the soil were mechanically treated earlier this year; and studied all relevant publicly available documents released by White Township to date. Below is a summary of our findings and recommendations which are limited because the Millstone plan is rather cursory and incomplete, and from our understanding is a work in progress.”

“From an ecological standpoint, White’s Woods is obviously in need of evidence-based and scientifically sound forest management to improve its health and strengthen its resilience. However the combination of opening-up the canopy to allow sunlight penetration to the forest floor, disturbing the forest floor by mechanical mulching of invasive plants, and rototilling the soil as proposed in the Millstone plan; and not excluding white-tailed deer will unquestionably create conditions that are ideal for invasive plant colonization and proliferation, and are detrimental to forest regeneration and sustainability. Once this takes place it will require constant, expensive, and intensive intervention to restore.”

The study goes on to say that, “while the views of these scientists versus Lawer are different, they are not mutually exclusive...there is still opportunity to work together and develop a common goal.” This report was given to both Mike Lawer and the Supervisors and the report and its advice was ignored. In fact in the HawkEye article Sara Stewart asked Lawer, “You met with some of the Friends of White’s Woods members, and IUP scientists. What was your impression of those meetings?” Lawer replied, “I don’t want to be rude, but it’s kind of embarrassing to hear someone who claims to be a biologist say things like, this is a natural or wild area. That’s like saying you’re a vegan while eating a piece of jerky.”

The biologists report emphasizes that the Millstone plan will not accomplish its goal of getting rid of invasives. Lawer’s machine will plow through the trails and

mulch the soil, thinking the roots of the plants will be destroyed. But in fact the seeds of these invasive plants will be nicely buried in that soil, and with the addition of sunlight from timbering, it will provide excellent growing conditions for these seeds. And given a short period of time, the invasives are back!

Further evidence is provided from a professional forester hired by Friends of White's Woods to evaluate the health of the woods and the Millstone Plan. Mike Wolf, a forester for 30 years, is now partnered with Appalachian Forest Consultants in Johnstown. He has a strong background in forest management and is a passionate forest health advocate. The parts of his evaluation that deal with the understory, or the condition of the ground and its plants, is described below.

"White's Woods is a 245 acre beautiful forest...The trails are well designed and provide excellent recreational access to the whole property. White's Woods forest is as beautiful as any I've seen in my career. The aesthetic value of the property is very high. Hikers and bikers experience large, beautiful trees along every path. The site/soil is obviously very productive for growing quality trees and the growth of trees (both in height and diameter) is impressive...In any forest there are overstory (tallest), and understory (ground-level) layers of vegetation... Typically, trees don't grow to the size of the trees in Whites Woods in only 70 or 80 years, but this indicates a very productive soil and nutrient component."

"The ground level vegetation in White's Woods is in very poor shape. Even though thousands of large trees are annually producing millions of seeds, it is almost impossible to find tree seedlings in the understory. What we do see in the understory are non-native invasive plants such as Japanese barberry, Japanese stiltgrass, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard. It is also easy to find native competing vegetation such as spice bush and hay scented fern. The bulk of the forest floor has evidence of invasive and competing plants. There are also some small sections where the forest floor appears bare. None of this is good."

"If given enough experience, it is easy for a forest manager to determine the culprit and to put blame where it is needed. There is nothing wrong with the tree seeds and there is nothing wrong with the soil. THE CULPRIT IS DEER. Deer have taste preferences...The average deer requires 5 pounds of desirable hardwood buds PER DAY during ALL months outside the growing season. So from October

through April, every year, each deer spends its days looking for its 5 pounds of desirable hardwood buds...there are basically zero desirable tree seedlings in White's Woods. This makes easy picking for any deer...to find each and every germinated bud...The seedlings are gone before they ever get a chance to grow."

"Ideally in a healthy forest system, there should be ample seedlings produced from the overstory seed production and germination. Contrary to popular belief, tree seeds do NOT need added light to germinate and tree seeds do NOT need added light to begin growing. In fact, the best understory condition would be to have tens of thousands of seedlings of desirable species 'at the ready' in case of and in preparation for an overstory impact of some kind. If the forest understory and the deer impacts were not out of balance, there would be enough seedlings to feed deer and to be in place to become the next forest, following an overstory impact."

Mr. Wolf goes on to say, "In fact, if you want to know exactly what will grow back after a timber harvest it is quite simple—just look at what is on the forest floor before the harvest, and you can know for sure. If there are competing plants, you will grow competing plants. If there is nothing, you will make a perfect environment for increased invasives. Even if you kill all invasives and competing plants first, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY NOT ADD ANY LIGHT until you have an abundance of desirable, protected seedlings in place. The reason is simple...the invasives will comeback much faster than any desirable native plant that is a target for deer. "

Therefore, as Mike Wolfe clearly shows, mechanized removal of invasives and rototilling the soil will provide excellent growing conditions for invasive seeds released in the removal. And by timbering and opening up the overstory, more sunlight will be added, encouraging these invasives to grow back in abundance. The Millstone plan for removal of invasives will have the exact opposite effect. Further, without seedlings, there can be no replacement of the timbered trees! Actually, Mr. Wolf states that the TREES IN WHITE'S WOODS ARE IN THEIR PRIME AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW FOR MANY YEARS.

In a separate letter, Mike Wolf, recommends the following:

“If I were managing the forest, at most, I would suggest a couple small thinnings. I would leave the bulk of the property AS IS. I would also erect a small deer enclosure somewhere for observation purposes. I think there is some misinformation out there that the soil is ‘compacted’ and that’s the reason the understory is in such bad shape. The fact is the soil is great, evidenced by the productive timber growth, and the reason the understory is horrible is a combination of deer numbers and competing plants. A small deer enclosure would prove it once and for all. Millstone’s idea of mulching the forest floor will be a disaster—he will spread garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass ALL OVER THE PLACE and he will create compaction in the process.”

“if possible, I think a different approach would work best. Just let the timber grow, occasionally take care of dangerous trees along the trail, build a small deer enclosure...Final thought...until substantial understory work is done properly (not using a mulcher and throwing a non-native wildflower mix on it), light is the enemy to the forest floor. If you think the understory is bad now, wait until Millstone adds light...total disaster.”

Again, Mr. Wolf is a forester with 30 years experience. Both he and the IUP biologists agree that mulching and rototilling the understory of White’s Woods spells disaster. Invasive seeds will produce huge amounts of invasive plants. Thus it will increase their number, not rid the woods of them. Simple herbicide spraying of invasives will eliminate them without doing any damage to tree roots, trails, and the wood’s beauty and lushness. Lawer’s plan is an expensive plan that spells disaster. It is the hope of Friends of White’s Woods and many others that DCNR will not approve this plan. Also, it is our hope that finally the supervisors will agree to meet with the stakeholders and professionals such as biologists, a forester and specialists in ecology, recreation, and forest management to come up with a plan to maintain and even enhance this beautiful park. These woods should not be timbered to produce income for other recreational projects. These woods are to be savored and enjoyed by the people who use it, live around it, and benefit from the value it adds to our community. Fix the understory correctly and SAVE WHITE’S WOODS!

## **Millstone Land Management Documents: comparison of two plans for WWNC**

### **Same as in previous documents:**

—Exact **language of timbering** lifted from the previous “Sustainable Forest Management Overview”: “...enhancing the growth and performance of the timber” (13). In previous “Timber Valuation document” there was phrase “heavily stocked with mature standing timber,” and here we have “overstocked stand” (19).

—On Management Recommendations page, though “Sustainable Objective Timber Harvest” is now second to “mulching” on the list, the language reveals intent: “select trees for timber harvest, based on art and science **in order to promote forest economics**” (23).

—In the recent interview, Lawer says, in reference to tract #1, “I have marked 2.4 percent of the total 240 acres.” In this new plan, he lists total board feet for removal from tract #1 at 125,668 (21). **He is still using for a calculation the total board feet volume of the entire park that he used in the first plan, approximately 5.5 million.**

—Still pretend point is “health” (2, 18, 19)

—Language about forest “aesthetics”

—Language about trees that are “dead, diseased and crowding” (2)

—Numbering of tracts, same map (previous “zones” now called “tracts,” though both 4 & 6 are now 5 acres larger; Appendix 5, 73)

—**Reference to plan implemented for all tracts;** see Recommendations Schedule (27-28)

—**Two steps: Phase 1 Invasive Plant Treatment & Phase 11 Select Timber Harvest**

### **Notably missing from this version:**

—Total board feet volume figure for all of WWNC

—Total projected revenue figure for all of WWNC

—**Term “shelterwood” taken out (except in glossary); now “select” harvest**

—Order of items now invasive first (23) but not in all parts of document

### **Added to this version:**

—White’s Woods Timber Assessment—Tract #1 (20-21); on what basis can Millstone give estimates/“Timber Sale Projections”? In other words, who is contracted to do this work?

—Phase 11 Select Timber Harvest: “Wood products were individually assessed and valued based on species, quality and merchantability” (19).

—**Signature page references a “timber harvesting” plan over a “ten year period” (29)**

—Word “science” thrown in here and there (example, 47—Appendix 3)

—Intent is not to make money: “sustainable selective harvests...help offset the costs of land management. It is not the primary goal to make economic gains on the sale of timber, but rather to selectively harvest trees with the goal of improving forest health” (4).

—More references to recreation: trying to sound like Project 70 was taken into account?

—**Phase 111 Recreation & Stormwater Management:** “Newly formed trails will be reclaimed from the timber harvest process” (22, 27). So, the trails created to haul out the timber will then be made into new hiking trails?! And/or the creation of new trails requires the removal of timber. In other words, **the hauling of timber is the priority, and the after-the-fact trail creation is thrown in as a “recreation” benefit.**

—A section called **Additional Work—Research & Development Project:** “Sustainable land management practices will be conducted, measured and evaluated ...” (22). If the Rec Complex is already a “demonstration site,” as Lady saya, then why not hold off on any work in WWNC until full effects on Rec Complex are studied? We’ve been told that the work done there is planned for WWNC—so, same work, then study the “management practices” there!

—“Sustainable objective forestry methods” are used “where the value of the timber will provide the necessary resources needed to complete the primary objective” (18). **This is not environmental “sustainability” but rather extraction.**

### Summary:

In this version, there is still the purported goal of “forest health,” but with more emphasis on recreation, likely to sound as if the parameters of Project 70 funding have been taken into account. However, **much of the language makes clear that the priority is timbering.**

Of note is that the reference to a “shelterwood” harvest is removed, likely because a “select” harvest sounds less destructive. This does not mean that the projected removal is reduced from the earlier version! In fact, the overall volume of timber is not listed here, nor are any percentages. This is a linguistic shift, not a shift in intent.

From the glossary: “Shelterwood—A regeneration cut designed to stimulate reproduction by removing all overstory trees. This is achieved by a series of cuts over several years.” Under Phase 11 — Select Timber Harvest is this: “there is zero desirable regeneration, and there is little to no sunlight filtering to the forest floor due to the overstocked stand” (19). **Every indication is that this is STILL by design a shelterwood timber harvest.**

Clearly, this new iteration is meant to obscure the intent and make estimating the total damage more difficult. It is also worth remembering that in Babyak’s plan the percentage targeted for removal was stated directly, and this is precisely the number that the DCNR said was “excessive.” Leaving out any estimated revenue for entire acreage is also problematic, since there is reference to “evaluate timber” in all the designated tracts (27-28).

## Appendix C

FWW Change.org Petition: Signatures

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Susan Salome	West Roxbury	MA	02132	US	5/15/20
Christian Heilman	Bloomfield	NJ	07003	US	5/15/20
Jean-Yves Boulard	Belle Vernon	PA	15012	US	5/15/20
Tamara Whited	Belle Vernon	PA	15012	US	5/15/20
Jacquelyn Kuehn	Belle Vernon	PA	15012	US	5/15/20
Barbara Edelman	Oakdale	PA	15071	US	5/15/20
Lisa Schwerdt	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/15/20
Lisa McCune	Mckeesport	PA	15133	US	5/15/20
Lori Lazar	Pittsburgh	PA	15202	US	5/15/20
John Roche	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/15/20
Nathan Boykiw	Pittsburgh	PA	15221	US	5/15/20
Tracy Hockenberry	Pittsburgh	PA	15224	US	5/15/20
Mary MacLeod	Washington	PA	15301	US	5/15/20
Elizabeth Gehrman	Perryopolis	PA	15473	US	5/15/20
Jay Duvall	Johnstown	PA	15506	US	5/15/20
Tara Johnson	Harrison City	PA	15636	US	5/15/20
Allison Walton	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/15/20
Susan Dahlheimer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Dana Driscoll	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Eric Bonazza	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Todd Thompson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Rosemary Engelstad	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
corey lunchuck	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jason Worzbyt	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Samantha Muir	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Patricia Heilman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Katie Kohlenburg	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Mindy Wygonik	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jessica Jopp	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Sara Steelman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Donald Lancaster	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Cheri Widzowski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Veronica Rose	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Dan Broadbent	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Meg Reardon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Erin Krepps	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Vince Merringer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Alexander Clark	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Nicole Dann-Payne	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jonathan Warnock	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Denali Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
John Hockenberry	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jacqueline McGinty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Annette Almes	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Tammy Garzarelli	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Cybil Moore	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20

Elizabeth Wheeler	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Courtney Scherf	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Holly Prato	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Samantha Bertuzzi	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
William Double	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Elizabeth Woods	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Albert Patti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Aleksandra Kaniasty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Terry Clabaugh	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Maurice Porter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Rebecca Miloser	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Krys Kaniasty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Chuck Olson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Angela Whited	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Margaret Pesci	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Bernadette Walz	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Rawley Roebuck	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Nick Gardner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Michael Powers	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Roger Zare	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jennifer Perillo	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Casidhe Shetter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Evan Engelstad	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Nicole zaucha	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Stephanie Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Vicki Stelma	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Susan Moran	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Lee Vest	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Laurie Lafontaine	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Julie Crimarki	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Debra Heggenstaller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Tom Zaucha	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Michael Drawl	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Matthew Vetter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Megan Empfield	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Misty Castro	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Kevin McClure	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Janie McKirgan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Leilani Gardner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Peggy Mullen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
John Mimis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Alyssa Moretti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Angel Long	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Carolyn trimarchi	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Michael Kingan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Bill Mimis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Larry Turton	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20

Megan Wise	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Tim Palmer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Michael Weaver	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/15/20
Jackie Rohrabough	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/15/20
Oksana Moroz	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/15/20
Ginger Blatt	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/15/20
John Kuehn	Lucernemines	PA	15754	US	5/15/20
Sherry Shank	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/15/20
Julie Mimis	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/15/20
Dawn Crawford	Ebensburg	PA	15762	US	5/15/20
Samantha Inzana	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/15/20
James Hallahan	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/15/20
Cheryl Rhoades	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/15/20
Kevin Gibson	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/15/20
Taylor Lefebure	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/15/20
Patricia Lefebure	Hastings	PA	15931	US	5/15/20
Amanda Custer	Salix	PA	15952	US	5/15/20
Carla Muir	Seward	PA	15954	US	5/15/20
nikki roberts	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/15/20
Debra Wheeler	Martinsburg	PA	16662	US	5/15/20
Patty Fink	Osceola Mills	PA	16666	US	5/15/20
Rose Brown	York	PA	17402	US	5/15/20
David Trimble	Oxford	PA	19363	US	5/15/20
laurence kruckman	Madison	WI	53711	US	5/15/20
Michael Reardon				US	5/15/20
Coleen Seagren	Aliquippa	PA	15001	US	5/16/20
Lee Schweitzer	New Kensington	PA	15068	US	5/16/20
Serena Cheng	Carnegie	PA	15106	US	5/16/20
K. A. Castle	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	5/16/20
Tracy Gordish	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	5/16/20
Roddy Gibbs	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	5/16/20
Alec Hedman	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	US	5/16/20
Shawn Reming	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/16/20
Rachel Floyd	Pittsburgh	PA	15207	US	5/16/20
Allison Rakocy	Pittsburgh	PA	15210	US	5/16/20
Kyle Cameron	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/16/20
Francis Trimarchi	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/16/20
Brianna Hannold	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/16/20
Rachel Wasilko	Pittsburgh	PA	15217	US	5/16/20
Alex Olson	Pittsburgh	PA	15217	US	5/16/20
Alana Engleson	Pittsburgh	PA	15218	US	5/16/20
Marianne Keefer	Pittsburgh	PA	15234	US	5/16/20
Kathryn Kennedy	Pittsburgh	PA	15237	US	5/16/20
Sarah Morrow	Finleyville	PA	15332	US	5/16/20
Donna Tressler	Hopwood	PA	15445	US	5/16/20
Jennifer Grimm	Clearville	PA	15535	US	5/16/20
Kris Lupher	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/16/20

Neal Skacel	Pittsburgh	PA	15627	US	5/16/20
Joyce Gaydosh	Irwin	PA	15642	US	5/16/20
Norm Shaffor	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	5/16/20
Ken Marshall	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/16/20
Cindy Miller	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/16/20
Derek Weber	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/16/20
Susan Gatti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
paul campagna	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Amira Kaldas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Kym Staron	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Laura Harmon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Amanda Poole	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Peggy Schorsch	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Lynne Alvine	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Norma Tarnoff	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Carol Hummel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Linda Nance	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Peggy Thomas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Charles Tarnoff	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Heather Powers	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Natalia Kaniasty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Mona Adams	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Steve Holliday	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Daniel Mcanulty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Theresa Smith	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Marshall Chriswell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Stephanie Widzowski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
David Dahlheimer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Yvonne Branan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Eleanor Stelma	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Jen Celtnieks	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Kaiya Parks	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Ruth Thomas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Alexis Graham	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Richard Mauk	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Donna DonGiovanni	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Denise Watson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Laura Knight	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Lynn Botelho	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Catherine McClenahan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Ernest Walker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Margaret Stempien	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Janet Walker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Jean Wilson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Perry Muir	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Arie Van Wieren	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Henry Wong Doe	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20

Charles Manges	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Joe Gatti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Kaitlyn Ciano	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Jeff Dories	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Garrett Strittmatter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Kenneth Sherwood	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Ella Ferguson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Laura Cooper	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Joseph Trimarchi	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Carol Cummins	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Matthew Stumpf	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
marie Olson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Pam stefanik	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Chuck Conrad	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
William Farrell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Ellen Chinn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Andrea Hicks	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Joy Goodyear	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Maria Sherwood	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Carol Williams	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Noah Garrett	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Joan Bish	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Nicole Poulos	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Sara Webber	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Pamela Kauffman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Savannah Kyler	Pittsburgh	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Anna Manges	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/16/20
Michael Kuzemchak	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/16/20
Dom DeFazio	Ernest	PA	15739	US	5/16/20
Theresa Petrof	Glen Campbell	PA	15742	US	5/16/20
Anthony Steffey	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/16/20
Connie Hill	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/16/20
Nina Dziados	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/16/20
Austin Mimis	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/16/20
Sheila O'Hearn	Lucerne Mines	PA	15754	US	5/16/20
Gail Munzert	McIntyre	PA	15756	US	5/16/20
Rabia Bajwa	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/16/20
Leonard O'Connor	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/16/20
Julie Baker	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/16/20
Veronica Poole	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/16/20
Rachel Mimis	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/16/20
Sierra Kosmac	Sidman	PA	15955	US	5/16/20
Janet Muscatello	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/16/20
Catherine Raeff	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/16/20
sandra thornton	Greenville	PA	16125	US	5/16/20
jessica morgan	Titusville	PA	16354	US	5/16/20
Kristie Shaffer	Emlenton	PA	16373	US	5/16/20

Jame GORITY	Altoona	PA	16602	US	5/16/20
Cindy Lechene	Hastings	PA	16646	US	5/16/20
Alan Stright	State College	PA	16803	US	5/16/20
Joe Heilman	Washington	DC	20001	US	5/16/20
K Cahalan	Ft Mitchell	KY	41017	US	5/16/20
Jim Cahalan	Austin	TX	78739	US	5/16/20
ANNE COPE	BELLINGHAM	WA	98229	US	5/16/20
Brian Cope	Bellingham	WA	98229	US	5/16/20
Nathalie op de Beeck	Tacoma	WA	98406	US	5/16/20
Michael Dahlheimer	Buffalo	NY	14220	US	5/17/20
Michael Poulos	Gibsonia	PA	15044	US	5/17/20
Bonnie Bain	Gibsonia	PA	15044	US	5/17/20
Melanie Baker	West Mifflin	PA	15122	US	5/17/20
Tina Rhoades	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/17/20
Bob Robertson	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	US	5/17/20
Dawn Terrick	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	US	5/17/20
Anne Poremba	Pittsburgh	PA	15224	US	5/17/20
Amie Hackimer	Pittsburgh	PA	15228	US	5/17/20
Marjorie Cummins	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/17/20
Cecilia Sherwood	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Jessica Dories	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Charles Kanyarusoke	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
David Thompson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Courtney Burkhardt	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Dan Roan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Elizabeth Mount	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Allyson Barrante	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Malgosia Mikula	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Kathryn Edmondson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Penny Vick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Lauren Saylor	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
steven grace	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Robert Gendron	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Amy Varner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Rita Johnson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Laura Thomas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Dr. John Mills	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Ellen Ruddock	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Stacey Patrick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Armania Gazda	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Brenda Bloom	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Dan Sadler	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Margaret Kamysz	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Yolanda S Broad	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Brad Rives	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Anthony Perillo	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Faye Catlos	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20

James Domino	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Dan Tannacito	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/17/20
Joan Rittenberger	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/17/20
Ruth Barkey	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/17/20
Kim Husenits	West Lebanon	PA	15783	US	5/17/20
James Estep	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/17/20
Nicky Hill	Mineral Pt.	PA	15942	US	5/17/20
Elyse Shirley	New Florence	PA	15944	US	5/17/20
Alfredo Campos	New Florence	PA	15944	US	5/17/20
Cindy McGill	State College	PA	16803	US	5/17/20
Judy DeArmitt	Port Matilda	PA	16870	US	5/17/20
Elizabeth Yerger	Philadelphia	PA	19128	US	5/17/20
Diane Giever	Las Cruces	NM	88012	US	5/17/20
Sara King	West Mifflin	PA	15122	US	5/18/20
Amy Kerlin	Carnegie	PA	15205	US	5/18/20
Brandon Boudreaux	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	US	5/18/20
Keegan Bonnet	Smithfield	PA	15478	US	5/18/20
Megan Pesci	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/18/20
Jennifer Battin	Greensburg	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Robert Hinrichsen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Gail Berlin	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
James Nestor	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Colleen Donovan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Dan Weinstein	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Gerald Smith	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Janet Goebel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Tammy McClarren	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Lilly English	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Rich Manslow	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Christina Ruby	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Robert Major	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Susan Majoris	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Sarah Burglund	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Amy Pesci	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Brenda Rising	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Susan Comfort	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Deborah Self	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Laurie Roehrich	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Liz Cook	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Adrianna Branin	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Patty Sharbaugh	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Elaine Kerr	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/18/20
Abbigail Borbonus	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/18/20
Timothy Wedge	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/18/20
Nichole Wedge	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/18/20
Lynda Wedge	Johnstown	PA	15909	US	5/18/20
Kathleen Drozdiak	New Castle	PA	16105	US	5/18/20

Kimberly Seger	Kittanning	PA	16201	US	5/18/20
Dawn-Gale Cox	STATE COLLEGE	PA	16802	US	5/18/20
Joe Ruby	Akron	OH	44333	US	5/18/20
Annette Ruby	Akron	OH	44333	US	5/18/20
Adrien Sandoval	Los Angeles	CA	90096	US	5/18/20
Susan Zimny	Bridport	VT	05734	US	5/19/20
Alex Kruckman	Middletown	CT	06457	US	5/19/20
Joseph Trimarchi	Old Saybrook	CT	06475	US	5/19/20
Sienna Brock	Baden	PA	15005	US	5/19/20
Meladie Keefer	Donora	PA	15033	US	5/19/20
Lindsey Anchak	Elizabeth	PA	15037	US	5/19/20
Carol Olson	Elizabeth	PA	15037	US	5/19/20
Dawn Woods	Elizabeth	PA	15037	US	5/19/20
Kristin Holmes	Industry	PA	15052	US	5/19/20
Linda A Barber	Monaca	PA	15061	US	5/19/20
Michael Zuzack	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/19/20
Linda Kelley	Carnegie	PA	15106	US	5/19/20
Shirley Cole	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	US	5/19/20
Jill Simpson	Pittsburgh	PA	15214	US	5/19/20
Rochelle Solomon	Pittsburgh	PA	15217	US	5/19/20
Dianne Hall	Pittsburgh	PA	15241	US	5/19/20
Tim Kernan	Pittsburgh	PA	15241	US	5/19/20
Nicole Carrig	New Stanton	PA	15672	US	5/19/20
Donna Corridoni	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/19/20
Melissa Hall	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/19/20
Joan Adams	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/19/20
Judith Radell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Justine Arndt	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Leslie Wendel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Daniel Allshouse	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Tara Sadler	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Daniel Lawson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Daniel Murphy	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Lara Homsey-Messer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Hanna Deabenderfer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Linda Dickie	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Paul Arpaia	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Mark Zilner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Nicholas Zimny-Shea	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Carrie Zimny-Shea	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Sophie Manges	Pittsburgh	PA	15701	US	5/19/20
Karen Kocis	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/19/20
Greg McCracken	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/19/20
Katy Hefferin	Clarksburg	PA	15725	US	5/19/20
K Baker	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/19/20
Ala Small	Punxsutawney	PA	15767	US	5/19/20
Lauri Chose	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/19/20

Maggie Burnheimer	New Florence	PA	15944	US	5/19/20
Ashley Dupak-Lond	Butler	PA	16001	US	5/19/20
Sarah Huang	Altoona	PA	16648	US	5/19/20
Molly Raszmann	Smethport	PA	16749	US	5/19/20
Catherine Putt	York	PA	17401	US	5/19/20
Joel Husenits	Columbus	OH	43214	US	5/19/20
Rose Cahalan	Austin	TX	78723	US	5/19/20
Emma Zervanos	Aliquippa	PA	15001	US	5/20/20
Carol Darr	New Kensington	PA	15068	US	5/20/20
Carolyn Lieb	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/20/20
Jill Wolfe	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/20/20
Janice Dugan	Mckeesport	PA	15133	US	5/20/20
Takema Cain	Mckeesport	PA	15135	US	5/20/20
Kristina Richards	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/20/20
Amanda Telep	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/20/20
Corey Nile Wingard	Pittsburgh	PA	15220	US	5/20/20
Kristen Terwilliger	Pittsburgh	PA	15236	US	5/20/20
Erin Shiflett	Nineveh	PA	15353	US	5/20/20
Tracy Lahew	Farmington	PA	15437	US	5/20/20
Karen Caldwell	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/20/20
Tim Caldwell	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/20/20
Sean Haines	Acme	PA	15610	US	5/20/20
Jessica Brown	Derry	PA	15627	US	5/20/20
Jill Paronto	Export	PA	15632	US	5/20/20
Cameryn Reed	Irwin	PA	15642	US	5/20/20
Anne Haines	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Neil Gonda	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Colleen Pritts	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Linda Ferry	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Pamela Newhouse	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Rita McKnight	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Thomas Conway	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Donald Forster Jr.	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Rev. Jance Altenburger	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Lauren Schneider	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Melissa zimmerman	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/20/20
Rachael Marks	Murrysville	PA	15668	US	5/20/20
Elizabeth Nordstrom	Rector	PA	15677	US	5/20/20
Yvonne Evdemon	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/20/20
Erica Miller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Alexis Fleming	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
cassidy newman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Stacey Pepper	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Ken Eiselman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
HILARIO MOLINA	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
George Walz	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Daniel Widzowski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20

Sherri Goodlin	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Heather Lash	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Fred Fish	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Stacey Fulmer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Nicholas Moorhead	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Sarah Hefferin	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/20/20
Diana Kuzemchak	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/20/20
Shelli Fulton	Clarksburg	PA	15725	US	5/20/20
Cleo Yevchak	Commodore	PA	15729	US	5/20/20
Robin Malcolm	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/20/20
Deanna Buck	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/20/20
Sherye Petry	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/20/20
Ronald Nordstrom	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/20/20
Rebecca Smykal	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/20/20
Lindsey McFerron	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/20/20
Caitlyn McMaster	Bolivar	PA	15923	US	5/20/20
Breanna McGhee	Nanty-Glo	PA	15943	US	5/20/20
elizabeth baird	newflorencia	PA	15944	US	5/20/20
Robert Evans	Erie	PA	16507	US	5/20/20
Eden VanTries	altoona	PA	16601	US	5/20/20
Lecinda Yevchak	Julian	PA	16844	US	5/20/20
Jessica Pecsénye	Pittsburgh	PA	15068	US	5/21/20
Brandon Fettis	New Kensington	PA	15068	US	5/21/20
Suzan Stein	Mckeesport	PA	15131	US	5/21/20
Christian Brown	Verona	PA	15147	US	5/21/20
Blair Parker	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	5/21/20
Dylan Caldwell	Pittsburgh	PA	15203	US	5/21/20
nancy kennedy	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	US	5/21/20
Marielle Williamson-Rea	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/21/20
Sara Moreau	Pittsburgh	PA	15211	US	5/21/20
Rebecca Hilditch	Pittsburgh	PA	15211	US	5/21/20
Cort McCurdy	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	US	5/21/20
Laken Shirley	Pittsburgh	PA	15227	US	5/21/20
Michelle Tewell	Uniontown	PA	15401	US	5/21/20
Brittany Bush	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/21/20
Phil Monier	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/21/20
Mistie Johnston	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/21/20
Josh Cowell	Irwin	PA	15642	US	5/21/20
Anne Long	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	5/21/20
Christine Baker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Laura Ferguson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Sarah Dahlheimer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Sandy Peters	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
savannah jacoby	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Sierra slone	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Richard Canton	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Erica connell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20

Megan Morris	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Matthew Myers	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Brittany Lynn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Rebecca Anthony	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
James Redding	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Hannah Zenisek	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Lauren Dillen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Marietta Shirley	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Molly Kozel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Tom Miller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Lauryn Osborne	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Breana Beere	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Julie Billon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Alexa Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Ashley Ron	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Bethany Geiger	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Katie Tidwell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Jordyn Moretti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Samantha Bennett	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Michelle Fetter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Erika Gabriel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Chynna Sherry	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/21/20
Eileen Iandiorio	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/21/20
Kathleen Reston	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/21/20
Mariah Southam	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/21/20
LuAnn Ireland	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/21/20
Kayla Akins	Indiana	PA	15717	US	5/21/20
Catherine Hullenbaugh	Clarksburg	PA	15725	US	5/21/20
Zachary Adamson	Clymer	PA	15728	US	5/21/20
Esther Long	heilwood	PA	15745	US	5/21/20
Mary Jane Bourdess	Heilwood	PA	15745	US	5/21/20
Ann Vance	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/21/20
Ashley Cruz-Latham	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/21/20
Richelle Stewart	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/21/20
Misty Hunt	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/21/20
linda gordish	lucernemines	PA	15754	US	5/21/20
Roy Whited	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/21/20
Rebecca Shank	Rossiter	PA	15772	US	5/21/20
Meredith Redd	Johnstown	PA	15902	US	5/21/20
Allison Houser	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/21/20
Cara Lanzendorfer	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/21/20
Angie Pierce	New Florence	PA	15954	US	5/21/20
Greg Mumau	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/21/20
Kayley Thomas	Butler	PA	16001	US	5/21/20
Tammy Smulik	Tyrone	PA	16686	US	5/21/20
Sydney op de Beeck	Belle Vernon	PA	15012	US	5/22/20
Sue Fuchs	Gibsonia	PA	15044	US	5/22/20

Alex Manalo	Gibsonia	PA	15044	US	5/22/20
Roberta Pitts	Pittsburgh	PA	15071	US	5/22/20
Riley Bartoo	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/22/20
Cassie Battaglia	Glenshaw	PA	15116	US	5/22/20
Austin Brown	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	5/22/20
Jesse Coyle	Pittsburgh	PA	15214	US	5/22/20
Tina Eckberg	Pittsburgh	PA	15215	US	5/22/20
Cassandra Cochran	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/22/20
David Ball	Cherry Tree	PA	15224	US	5/22/20
Morgan Cikowski	Pittsburgh	PA	15224	US	5/22/20
Jacob Williamson-Rea	Pittsburgh	PA	15232	US	5/22/20
Fran Chismar	Pittsburgh	PA	15235	US	5/22/20
Brent Stiles	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/22/20
Lindsey Caylor	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/22/20
Casey Crimboli	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/22/20
Devin Angiolieri	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/22/20
Annette Flynn	Irwin	PA	15601	US	5/22/20
Ed ryan	Irwin	PA	15642	US	5/22/20
Hannah DeAngelo	Irwin	PA	15642	US	5/22/20
Tyler Thompson	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	5/22/20
Eunice Spory	Murrysville	PA	15668	US	5/22/20
Alex Williams	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/22/20
Jeremiah Kimmel	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/22/20
Brett Kimmel	Spring Church	PA	15686	US	5/22/20
Hazel Rogerson	Portland	OR	97203	US	5/22/20
Carrie Bloomquist	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
David Stein	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Michele Oswald	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Zachary Afshar	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Adriane Weaver	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Ryan Minniti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Logan Holmes	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kerian Everett	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Christie Falgione	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Katherine Eiswert	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Tim Bishop	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Brandon Dunlap	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jordan Morganti-Martineau	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Robert Jones	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Madison Brewer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Blair Ballas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Samantha Magill	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Gabriella Millette	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Nicholas Mangina	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jake Kelly	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Johnny Angelo	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Dakota Sunday	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20

John Martineau	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Noah Hoover	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Cayla Arthurs	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Cameron Contrucci	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jess Truby	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kelsey Fess	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Nathanael Arthurs	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Eric Kerr	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Alexis Fisher	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Dempsey Johnson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Michael Scott	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Wendy Moreau	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Karina Peterman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Joshua DeBuyser	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Eli Wirginis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Lauren Peightal	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Patrick Rounds	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Eric McQuiston	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kira Cunningham	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Emma Kenley	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Emily Himes	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jenna Dunsmore	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kolby Skultety	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Joe Plivelic Jr.	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Judy Holliday	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Emily Baird	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Willis Bearfield	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Morgan McGinnis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
John Kusnir	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Andrea Roessing	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Hannah Colen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Susannah Nickas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Keaton Libengood	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Joe Capitosti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Ashley Wolfe	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Trajan Jones	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Elizabeth Stauffer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Grant Hess	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Karen Jashinski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Brooke Omasta	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Lauren Makara	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Logan Pollack	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jill Stiffler	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Lucy Moore	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Nikki Fetterman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Rebecca Carnahan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Paige Frederick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20

Kit Douglas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Breanna Hess	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Miles Dietz	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Tara Senn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Lori Zambory	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kevin Moreau	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Joe Cook	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Skyla Toth	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Hannah Bergey	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Adam Flynn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Aaron Berezansky	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jess Prutsman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Karlene Gutierrez	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kevin Berezansky	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Deb Filler	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Luke Kunkle	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kathryn Lind	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Elance Snyder	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Jen Musser	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/22/20
Kathleen Tra	Indiana	PA	15705	US	5/22/20
Rick Shirley	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/22/20
Zechariah Faulkner	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/22/20
Michelle Minzer Stauffer	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/22/20
Luke Walsh	Clymer	PA	15728	US	5/22/20
Chris Schink	Creekside	PA	15732	US	5/22/20
Eden Pohley	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/22/20
Melissa Lutz	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/22/20
Brian Smith	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/22/20
Kennedy Fletcher	Homer city	PA	15748	US	5/22/20
Brice Carnahan	Homercity	PA	15748	US	5/22/20
Aaron Lindley	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/22/20
Champaine Miller	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/22/20
Bali Primm	Punxsutawney	PA	15767	US	5/22/20
Leslie Lewis	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/22/20
William Ferguson	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/22/20
Stephen Lansberry	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/22/20
Ben Krisay	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/22/20
Tomi Stern	Johnstown	PA	15906	US	5/22/20
Jule Panaro	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/22/20
Cassidy Kunkle	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/22/20
Maggie Grebenz	New Wilmington	PA	16142	US	5/22/20
Wiley Frumkin	Knox	PA	16232	US	5/22/20
Nichole Crawford	Knox	PA	16232	US	5/22/20
Gaven Bowser	Rimersburg	PA	16248	US	5/22/20
Jack Horton	Altoona	PA	16602	US	5/22/20
Britney Elsbury-Orris	University Park	PA	16802	US	5/22/20
brenda rumfola	curwensville	PA	16833	US	5/22/20

Henry Packard	Covington	PA	16917	US	5/22/20
Brian Pistole	Arlington	VA	22204	US	5/22/20
Vincent Nagy	Aliquippa	PA	15001	US	5/23/20
Haley Walker	Bridgeville	PA	15017	US	5/23/20
Jacob Fitz	Latrobe	PA	15060	US	5/23/20
Kelly Donahue	Natrona Heights	PA	15065	US	5/23/20
Allison Huet	Natrona heights	PA	15066	US	5/23/20
sierra lindsay	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	5/23/20
Kathryn Amato	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	5/23/20
Stephanie Ritter	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/23/20
Elizabeth Fabiszewski	Pittsburgh	PA	15209	US	5/23/20
Sam Cope	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	US	5/23/20
Brooke Simpson	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	US	5/23/20
Kathryn Silay	Pittsburgh	PA	15215	US	5/23/20
annabel haberberger	Pittsburgh	PA	15228	US	5/23/20
Leah Dipofi	Pittsburgh	PA	15237	US	5/23/20
Allyson Donnelly	Pittsburgh	PA	15239	US	5/23/20
Bryce McCracken	Carmichaels	PA	15320	US	5/23/20
Hailey Moninger	New Freeport	PA	15352	US	5/23/20
Britt Mechling	Uniontown	PA	15401	US	5/23/20
Rebekah Greenawalt	Confluence	PA	15445	US	5/23/20
Hailey Gibson	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/23/20
Colin Moore	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	5/23/20
Jessica Green	Indiana	PA	15601	US	5/23/20
Kayla Garshnick	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/23/20
Christopher Spinelli	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/23/20
Vanessa Cronan	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/23/20
Joseph Glambin	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/23/20
Devon Rainey	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	5/23/20
Cheryl Clausner	Mount Pleasant	PA	15666	US	5/23/20
Zakary Metzler	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/23/20
Katelyn smith	Youngwood	PA	15697	US	5/23/20
Iris Rogerson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Paula Pushic	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Lindsey Gray	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Laura Shephard	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Samantha Kahle	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Julia Cornell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Kathy Boyd	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Katie Gibson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Catherine McCormick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
angela petroff	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jon Southard	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Teresa Roth	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Lily Rogerson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Rebecca Palmer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
JD Hilditch	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20

Kelly Forrester	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jung Colen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Phil Colen	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Emma Zuzek	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Christopher Slater	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Hilary Scheuermann	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Laken Berezansky	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Joziah Rodriguez	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Dylan Stapleton	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Kristin Cikowski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jeremy Sleasman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Annalise Tortorella	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Sharon Smith	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Chelsea Cornetto	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Sarah Zarpentine	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Brandon Aimino	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Michaela Shaw	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Sydney McFarlane	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Connor McQuaide	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Rachel McCracken	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Shania Zayac	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Mallory Kerr	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Douglas Adamson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Renee Swartz	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Alex Varner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Breanna Smathers	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Tian Schiera	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jarrood Barry	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Nathan Cribbs	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Judy Findley	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Evan Claypool	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Mea Cash	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
kate conrad	indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Maura Nutter	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Michael Cash	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Logan Hess	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Dominic Versace	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jadon Donaldson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jessica Wilkinson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Hannah Baumer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Joseph Bujdos	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Jorge Gutteridge	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Zachary Galasso	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Autumn Hazelet	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Lori Plueckhahn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Amber Plueckhahn	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Chase Cunningham	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20

Kenzi Wheeling	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Paige Love	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Steve Rogerson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Alissa Gornick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Sam Palmer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/23/20
Andre Reis	Johnstown	PA	15901	US	5/23/20
Tiara Suggs	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	US	5/23/20
elise robinson	Indiana	PA	15705	US	5/23/20
Abigail Nuss	Indiana	PA	15705	US	5/23/20
Quinn Earnest	Northern Cambria	PA	15714	US	5/23/20
Christian Clausner	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/23/20
Miranda Brownawell	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/23/20
Alaina Kiral	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/23/20
Cory Brewer	Creekside	PA	15732	US	5/23/20
Tabbi Miller	Home	PA	15747	US	5/23/20
Katelyn Kennedy	Home	PA	15747	US	5/23/20
Heather Hess	Lucerne mines	PA	15754	US	5/23/20
Joanna Morgan	Lucernemines	PA	15754	US	5/23/20
Tyler Schurr	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	5/23/20
Jennifer Frumkin	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/23/20
Melissa Ditmore	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/23/20
Catradora Canon	Saint Marys	PA	15857	US	5/23/20
Sean Odonnell	Colver	PA	15927	US	5/23/20
Braden Tomalson	New Florence	PA	15944	US	5/23/20
Robert Pharris	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/23/20
Cristy Abbott	Slippery Rock	PA	16057	US	5/23/20
Chelsie Aydelotte	Dayton	PA	16222	US	5/23/20
Jenn Dibert	Mayport	PA	16240	US	5/23/20
Harley Kessler	New Bethlehem	PA	16242	US	5/23/20
Kelsey Thompson	Williamsburg	PA	16693	US	5/23/20
Carolyn White	Madison	WI	53711	US	5/23/20
Desirae Giever	Las Cruces	NM	88012	US	5/23/20
Caroline Billon	Sacramento	CA	95817	US	5/23/20
Josh Poindexter	Belle Vernon	PA	15012	US	5/24/20
Valerie Corbin	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	5/24/20
marc bini	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	5/24/20
Dominick Manginell	Pittsburgh	PA	15202	US	5/24/20
Jessica Evans	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	5/24/20
Aavree Hill	Pittsburgh	PA	15215	US	5/24/20
katie west	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/24/20
Chelsea Sip	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/24/20
Melina Kennelly	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/24/20
Alycia Kurdilla	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/24/20
Amber Vore	Pittsburgh	PA	15221	US	5/24/20
Megan Ruddock	Pittsburgh	PA	15235	US	5/24/20
James Hughes	Pittsburgh	PA	15237	US	5/24/20
Chester Knotts	Somerset	PA	15501	US	5/24/20

Josh Reynolds	Apollo	PA	15613	US	5/24/20
Natasha Robinson	Apollo	PA	15613	US	5/24/20
Tori Feydt	Apollo	PA	15613	US	5/24/20
Brittany Christy	Apollo	PA	15613	US	5/24/20
Rachel Johnson	Jeannette	PA	15644	US	5/24/20
Kaitlyn Thompson	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/24/20
Elana Como	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Morgan Madill	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Janet Barber	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Erin Villemain	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Maria DeLucia	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Kiley Libengood	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Jeannie Bujdos	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Nicholas Barone	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Andrew Lallemand	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Joshua Lawson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Laney Crofut	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Shawn Empfield	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Austin Freeman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Elizabeth Heller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
William Cartwright	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Victoria Simon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Shawna Work	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Shannon Zacherl	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Vickie Work	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Kelly Hoover	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Brendan Cole	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Jonathan Biller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Emilee Risinger	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Brandon Vore	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
amy yackuboskey	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Natalie Brownlee	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
JulieAnna Kahl	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Devin McClain	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Melissa Craig	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Tyler Houck	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Kyle Anderson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Stacy Rising	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/24/20
Shannon Weiland	Northern Cambria	PA	15714	US	5/24/20
Alex Lang	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/24/20
Timothy Loguerio	Indiana	NY	15725	US	5/24/20
Lucille Shilling	Clymer	PA	15728	US	5/24/20
Cory Truitt	Elderton	PA	15748	US	5/24/20
Lori Luther	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/24/20
Ean Lee	Lucerne Mines	PA	15754	US	5/24/20
Scott Smith	Johnstown	PA	15902	US	5/24/20
Lindsey Eck	Ebensburg	PA	15931	US	5/24/20

Austin molinich	Nanty-Glo	PA	15943	US	5/24/20
Nathan Miller	New Florence	PA	15944	US	5/24/20
Brandi White	Portage	PA	15946	US	5/24/20
Janet Faight	Revloc	PA	15948	US	5/24/20
Lisa Moss	Saint michael	PA	15951	US	5/24/20
Christine Witprachtiger	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/24/20
Kelly Clark	Renfrew	PA	16053	US	5/24/20
Lorraine Austin	Kittanning	PA	16201	US	5/24/20
Alyssa Hankey	Rural Valley	PA	16249	US	5/24/20
Aaron Reefer-Atkinson	Rural Valley	PA	16249	US	5/24/20
Alison Reken	Smicksburg	PA	16256	US	5/24/20
Sarah Knotts	Ashville	PA	16613	US	5/24/20
Alison Krug	Ashville	PA	16613	US	5/24/20
Julia Arnold	Cresson	PA	16630	US	5/24/20
Ty McGregor	Williamsburg	PA	16693	US	5/24/20
Lauren Prasko	State College	PA	16803	US	5/24/20
Karen Leisenring	Charleroi	PA	15022	US	5/25/20
Nicholas Cowoski	Pittsburgh	PA	15220	US	5/25/20
Summer Peterson	Pittsburgh	PA	15228	US	5/25/20
Laura Scott	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	US	5/25/20
Nina Braun	Pittsburgh	PA	15234	US	5/25/20
Rachel Coyne	Pittsburgh	PA	15239	US	5/25/20
Bradley Z	Canonsburg	PA	15317	US	5/25/20
Kayla Bosley	California	PA	15419	US	5/25/20
Jennifer Freno	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	5/25/20
Reegan Yaworski	Mount Pleasant	PA	15666	US	5/25/20
Cassidee Powell	Murrysville	PA	15668	US	5/25/20
Brian Bennett	Vandergrift	PA	15690	US	5/25/20
Noah Stricker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Kaitlyn Blair	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
kacey blair	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Rachel B	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Vince Rossi	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Alison Billon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Laura Yeomans	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Billie Villemain	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
David Beyer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Madeleine Jones	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Matthew Ridgway	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Brianna Adkins	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Jessie Jennings	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Vincent Thompson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Maria Blanciak	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Jared Cribbs	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Michelle Walker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Kevin Patrick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Jan Murphy	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20

Jill Cirelli	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Ashleigh Bowman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Alexander Atkins	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Danielle Morganti	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Roxann Tyger	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Brianna Adams	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Babette Groff	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/25/20
Colton Wiggins	Homer City	PA	15748	US	5/25/20
Alyssa Clark	Lucernemines	PA	15754	US	5/25/20
Lisa Thompson	McIntyre	PA	15756	US	5/25/20
Karyssa Isabella	Brockway	PA	15824	US	5/25/20
Steve Gertz	Falls Creek	PA	15840	US	5/25/20
Jessie Bearer	Johnstown	PA	15902	US	5/25/20
Morgan Ruis	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	5/25/20
Beverly Fetsko	South Fork	PA	15956	US	5/25/20
Nicole Black	Summerhill	PA	15958	US	5/25/20
Gabrielle Elliott	North Washington	PA	16048	US	5/25/20
Danielle Wilson	Kittanning	PA	16201	US	5/25/20
DayLynn Enriquez	Templeton	PA	16259	US	5/25/20
Gabriella Petrarca	Holidaysburg	PA	16648	US	5/25/20
Megan Dubuque	State College	PA	16801	US	5/25/20
Britany Alchier	Clearfield	PA	16830	US	5/25/20
Aiden O'Toole	New Kensington	PA	15068	US	5/26/20
Joseph O'Toole	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	5/26/20
Molly O'Toole-Sobczak	Pittsburgh	PA	15221	US	5/26/20
Stephannie layton	Pittsburgh	PA	15234	US	5/26/20
Debbie Henry	Connellsville	PA	15425	US	5/26/20
Jayme Kling	Youngwood	PA	15697	US	5/26/20
Marcy Repine	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Brian Groff sr	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Barbara Stile	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Renee Addleman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Sarah Schiros	indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Kristin McKelvy	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Andrea Rearick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Brandon Cribbs	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Kristen Bytner	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Michele O'Toole	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Denise Drew	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Jennifer Bracken	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Matthew Hawk	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Suzanne Burkhart	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Juliano Donatelli	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Aaron Breisch	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
Krystal Breisch	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/26/20
trista Bekina	Blairsville	PA	15725	US	5/26/20
Barb Davis	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/26/20

Sierra Grguric	West Lebanon	PA	15783	US	5/26/20
Adrian Coleman	Lake City	PA	16423	US	5/26/20
LYNN LANGFORD	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	US	5/27/20
John McNulty	Pittsburgh	PA	15226	US	5/27/20
Rickie Weaver	Connellsville	PA	15425	US	5/27/20
Lacey Emmerson	Vandergrift	PA	15690	US	5/27/20
Larry Breisch	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Carolyn Menta	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Sandy Kurdziel	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Willard Radell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Sieanna Bombardier	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Meghan DeFazio	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Alyson Pajak	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Bailey Edwardsb	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Frank Miller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/27/20
Shannon Gettemy	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/27/20
Emily Stiles	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/27/20
Pamela Loguercio	Clarksburg	PA	15725	US	5/27/20
Darrin Lettie	Punxsutawney	PA	15767	US	5/27/20
Kelly Mottorn	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/27/20
Amanda Smith	Brookville	PA	15825	US	5/27/20
Art Scott	Ford Citu	PA	16226	US	5/27/20
Ashlyn Smith	New Bethlehem	PA	16242	US	5/27/20
Brenden Brzozowski	Edinboro	PA	16444	US	5/27/20
Thomas Hanlon	Cresson	PA	16630	US	5/27/20
Ashley Guyaux	Aliquippa	PA	15001	US	5/28/20
Jessica Winkler	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	US	5/28/20
Nate M	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	5/28/20
Georgina Machen	Leechburg	PA	15656	US	5/28/20
Jessica Zelensky	Saltsburg	PA	15681	US	5/28/20
Laurie Bennett	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Rebekah Ace	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Darcy Gray	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Jamie Mulac	indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Marissa Pastva	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Lance Boone	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Kira Glass	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/28/20
Jessica Purcell	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/28/20
Tammy Goodwin	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/28/20
Cheryl Ruddock	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	5/28/20
Ryan Askey	Windber	PA	15963	US	5/28/20
Katelyn Pisarski	Erie	PA	16504	US	5/28/20
nathan venesky	Erie	PA	16508	US	5/28/20
Cristal Sandoval	Commerce	CA	90022	US	5/28/20
Kathy pennington	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/29/20
Elaine Bash	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/29/20
Brooke Cassidy	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	5/29/20

Sarah Meier	Pittsburgh	PA	15202	US	5/30/20
Sam Bastianini	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	5/31/20
Tyrah Fyffe	Pittsburgh	PA	15239	US	5/31/20
Haley Uher	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Katie Harbosky	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Brian Okey	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Thomas Clark	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Courtney Lockard	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Christina Keith	Indiana	PA	15701	US	5/31/20
Alisha Majernik	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	5/31/20
Rose Redfoot	Hermitage	PA	16148	US	5/31/20
Kurtis Ferry	Irvine	PA	16329	US	5/31/20
Haley Walters	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	6/1/20
Jenna Darrell	Scottdale		15683	US	6/1/20
Aaron Kovach	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/1/20
Jayne Shildt	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/1/20
Michael Bluto	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/2/20
Gabriella Petrof	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/3/20
Alyssa Rodgers	Homer City	PA	15748	US	6/3/20
Carol Guba	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/4/20
Michael Guba	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/4/20
Marcell Baas	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/4/20
Courtney Muir	Clymer	PA	15728	US	6/4/20
Linda Wagner	New Castle	PA	16105	US	6/4/20
alexis koelliker	Pittsburgh	PA	15233	US	6/5/20
Nick Matalik	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/5/20
Alyssa Matalik	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/5/20
Kory Hubbard	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/5/20
Sophia Widzowski	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/5/20
Eric Palmer	Aultman	PA	15713	US	6/5/20
Tracy Dawson	Aultman	PA	15713	US	6/5/20
Nick Mims	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	6/5/20
Dc Palmer	Homer City	PA	15748	US	6/5/20
Dayas Silvis	Marion Center	PA	15759	US	6/5/20
Jessica Silvis	Penn Run	PA	15765	US	6/5/20
L.A. Geist	Rochester Mills	PA	15771	US	6/5/20
Alison Kutch	Canonsburg	PA	15317	US	6/6/20
Ben Ripple	Uniontown	PA	15401	US	6/6/20
Pam Supko	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/6/20
Melissa Houser	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	6/6/20
Barry Colgan jr.	Clymer	PA	15728	US	6/6/20
Lisa Marie	Homer City	PA	15748	US	6/6/20
Susan Schneider	Punxsutawney	PA	15767	US	6/6/20
Logan Stear	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/7/20
Evan Ireland	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/7/20
Rob Windows	Punxsutawney	PA	15767	US	6/7/20
Russell Ward	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	6/7/20

Rosemary Voelker	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/8/20
David Benhayon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/8/20
Sally Mills	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/8/20
Ari Glasser	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	6/9/20
Swana Chopaitis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/9/20
Brian Bowersox	Erie	PA	16509	US	6/9/20
Mike hunchar	Cheswick	PA	15024	US	6/10/20
Leonard Maliver	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/10/20
Val Wilson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/10/20
Beth Seal	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/10/20
Marcy Rearick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/10/20
Mike Rearick	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/10/20
Paige Shanner	Ernest	PA	15739	US	6/10/20
Jasmine Mock	homer city	PA	15748	US	6/10/20
Imran Bajwa	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	6/10/20
Deborah Marron	State College	PA	16803	US	6/10/20
Rohit Mehta	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/11/20
John Scannapieco	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/11/20
James Love	Butler	PA	16001	US	6/11/20
Emily Marvin	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	6/12/20
Julianne Schulz	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	6/12/20
Nicole Pearce	Pittsburgh	PA	15239	US	6/12/20
Nyielah Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/12/20
Carolyn Kenney	Franklin	PA	16323	US	6/12/20
Jasmine Wilson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/13/20
Devon Robinson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/13/20
Steven Mckim	Houtzdale	PA	16651	US	6/13/20
Jordan Swartz	State College	PA	16801	US	6/13/20
Linda McPherson	Santa Rosa	CA	95409	US	6/13/20
Molly Ryan	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/14/20
Donald McPherson	Santa Rosa	CA	95409	US	6/14/20
Alison Downie	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/15/20
Jennifer Ross	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/15/20
Ashley McCann	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/18/20
Christina Sheldon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/18/20
Deb Rietski	Mount Pleasant	PA	15666	US	6/21/20
Jacqueline Lyle	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/21/20
Richard Loftus	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/21/20
Bobbie Zapor	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/21/20
Maura Tarnoff	Menlo Park	CA	94025	US	6/21/20
James Hebrank	Jeannette	PA	15644	US	6/22/20
Joseph Tepper	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/22/20
Bruce Loughry	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/23/20
Bruce Loughry	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/23/20
Michelle Dornsife	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	6/23/20
Michelle Dornsife	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	6/23/20
Elaine Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/25/20

amber baylis	Sarasota	FL	34240	US	6/25/20
Sierra Davis	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/26/20
Brenda Mitchell	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/26/20
james mowry	Windber	PA	15963	US	6/26/20
James Hackenberg	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/27/20
Charlotte Martin	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	6/27/20
Kabryna McCreary	Shelocta	PA	15774	US	6/27/20
Samantha Metzger	Pittsburgh	PA	15201	US	6/28/20
Carly Steffenino	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	6/28/20
Alex Payne	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/28/20
Linda Ben-Zvi	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/28/20
Chandler Toman	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/28/20
Norma Stubbe	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/28/20
Scott Harper	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/28/20
Tina Dobies	Clymer	PA	15728	US	6/28/20
Christopher Dobies	Ernest	PA	15739	US	6/28/20
Julie Alarcon	Irvine	CA	92606	US	6/28/20
Kelli Stubbe	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Eileen Czerniec	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Kayla Stewart	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Devon Duffy	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Carrie Schneider	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Patrick Schneider	White township	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Christina Boyer	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/29/20
Heidi Peterson	Home	PA	15747	US	6/29/20
Kendell Walker	Penn Run	PA	15765	US	6/29/20
Brandon Bellantine	Indiana	PA	15701	US	6/30/20
p parker boerner	indiana	PA	15701	US	6/30/20
Samantha Griffith	Strongstown	PA	15957	US	6/30/20
Deborah Dotson	Aliquippa	PA	15001	US	7/1/20
Saundra Marks	Gibsonia	PA	15044	US	7/1/20
Amy Fazio	New Brighton	PA	15066	US	7/1/20
Jodi Kutzner	Oakdale	PA	15071	US	7/1/20
Tammy Heastings	Rochester	PA	15074	US	7/1/20
Constance Donovan	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	7/1/20
Tiffany Merovich-Winter	Carnegie	PA	15106	US	7/1/20
Megan Lindeman	South Park	PA	15129	US	7/1/20
Lisa Hommel	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	7/1/20
Elisa Beck	Monroeville	PA	15146	US	7/1/20
Veronica Haberkost	Pittsburgh	PA	15202	US	7/1/20
Joannie Jenkins	Pittsburgh	PA	15203	US	7/1/20
Elaine Rybski	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	US	7/1/20
Matt Peters	Pittsburgh	PA	15207	US	7/1/20
Laura Almendinger	Pittsburgh	PA	15208	US	7/1/20
Stehanie Miller	Pittsburgh	PA	15209	US	7/1/20
Ellen Vegh	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	US	7/1/20
Nataliya Kostereva	Pittsburgh	PA	15217	US	7/1/20

Jennifer Robbins Mullin	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	US	7/1/20
Scott Taylor	Pittsburgh	PA	15236	US	7/1/20
Christopher Volpini	Pittsburgh	PA	15236	US	7/1/20
Debbie Baird	Pittsburgh	PA	15243	US	7/1/20
Melissa Voytek	Washington	PA	15301	US	7/1/20
Dana Bell	Washington	PA	15301	US	7/1/20
Frances Kranik	Vanderbilt	PA	15486	US	7/1/20
Kristen Hawken	Everett	PA	15537	US	7/1/20
Corey Barndt	Jenners	PA	15546	US	7/1/20
Kathy Gary	Markleton	PA	15551	US	7/1/20
Sarah Latuch	Rockwood	PA	15557	US	7/1/20
Jim Donovan	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Brynn Adams	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Ellen hauser	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Tupelo Donovan	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Carrie Kowalyk	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Jody Adams	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Emma Jakiela	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Lynna Thomas	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Jacob Bish	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Ryahjoy Laforet	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Mary Furlo	Greensburg	PA	15601	US	7/1/20
Keith Harker	Irwin	PA	15642	US	7/1/20
Julie Kolano	Irwin	PA	15642	US	7/1/20
David Campbell	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	7/1/20
Wendy Wareham	Latrobe	PA	15650	US	7/1/20
Lily Boulard	Ligonier	PA	15658	US	7/1/20
Jennifer Shoup	Murrysville	PA	15668	US	7/1/20
Kylen Sawtelle	Youngwood	PA	15697	US	7/1/20
Deanna Kane	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/1/20
Emily Lasinsky	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/1/20
Bailey Ruth	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/1/20
Angelina Bugli	Northern Cambria	PA	15714	US	7/1/20
Deborah Bolinger	Nicktown	PA	15762	US	7/1/20
Michael Krach	DuBois	PA	15801	US	7/1/20
Nick Wiant	Johnstown	PA	15901	US	7/1/20
Laura Malzi	Johnstown	PA	15902	US	7/1/20
Kurt Roberts	Johnstown	PA	15904	US	7/1/20
Cliff Majercsik	Johnstown	PA	15905	US	7/1/20
Brenda Guzik	Lilly	PA	15938	US	7/1/20
Mary Beth Baish-Westin	Lilly	PA	15938	US	7/1/20
Anna Molnaird	Lilly	PA	15938	US	7/1/20
Bill Wilkinson	Mineral Point	PA	15942	US	7/1/20
Alyssa Noel	Portage	PA	15946	US	7/1/20
Daryl Marker	Salix	PA	15952	US	7/1/20
Heather Harteis	Windber	PA	15963	US	7/1/20
Judy Pallone	Windber	PA	15963	US	7/1/20

Karen Shane	Valencia	PA	16059	US	7/1/20
Savannah Danko	Zelienople	PA	16063	US	7/1/20
Lori Coulter	Ellwood City	PA	16117	US	7/1/20
Ashleigh Walter	Ellwood City	PA	16117	US	7/1/20
Lindsay Deibler	Shippensburg	PA	16254	US	7/1/20
Ellen Butkus	Russell	PA	16345	US	7/1/20
Kathryn Strick	Erie	PA	16506	US	7/1/20
Bronwyn Katdare	Cresson	PA	16630	US	7/1/20
Greta Halbritter	Hollidaysburg	PA	16648	US	7/1/20
Sophia Rodezno	Hollidaysburg	PA	16648	US	7/1/20
Raylene Demorest	Bellefonte	PA	16823	US	7/1/20
Russell Miller	West Decatur	PA	16878	US	7/1/20
Stacy DiPasquale	Mount Pleasant	PA	29577	US	7/1/20
David Bizousky	Monongahela	PA	15063	US	7/2/20
Carly Roz	Bethel Park	PA	15102	US	7/2/20
Mecal McDade	Murrysville	PA	15668	US	7/2/20
Irene Gannon	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/2/20
Bonnie Orife	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/2/20
eric beall	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/2/20
Melissa Neilson	Portage	PA	15946	US	7/2/20
Jessica Rider	Butler	PA	16002	US	7/2/20
Joan Lis	Cresson	PA	16630	US	7/2/20
Lacee Bailey	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/3/20
Sondra Dennison	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/3/20
A K	Blairsville	PA	15717	US	7/3/20
Jennifer Pierce	State College	PA	16801	US	7/3/20
Jordan Chandler	Sylva	NC	28779	US	7/3/20
Julia Rodgers	Pittsburgh	PA	15236	US	7/4/20
Ryan Burns	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/4/20
susan miller	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/4/20
Joy Goodyear	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/5/20
Meagan Barkley	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/5/20
Alexa Piacquadio	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/5/20
Cassidy Weinzierl	Clymer	PA	15728	US	7/5/20
Marissa Sinisi	Hollidaysburg	PA	16648	US	7/5/20
Cereese Blose	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	US	7/6/20
Tim Carnevale	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/6/20
Emily Mathews	Kittanning	PA	16201	US	7/7/20
Lori Boucher	Allison Park	PA	15101	US	7/8/20
Sharon Jack	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	US	7/8/20
Andrea Washnak	Youngwood	PA	15697	US	7/8/20
Beth Murphy	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/8/20
Kent Tonkin	Altoona	PA	16601	US	7/8/20
Shari Hinish	Altoona	PA	16602	US	7/8/20
David Burnheimer	Secaucus	NJ	07094	US	7/9/20
lily marcotte	Ambridge	PA	15003	US	7/9/20
Kylie Horvath	Pittsburgh	PA	15203	US	7/9/20

Jennider Guyton	Canonsburg	PA	15317	US	7/9/20
Kelsey Cunningham	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Jennifer Cunningham	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Jenna Monteleone	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Pete Woytowish	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Dempsey Johnson	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Amanda McAnulty	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Jonelle Summerfield	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/9/20
Marcelo Morgueta	Mars	PA	16046	US	7/9/20
Shelley Moreau	Roswell	GA	30075	US	7/9/20
Julie Lorelli	Hastings	MI	49058	US	7/9/20
Mike Barry	White Township	PA	15701	US	7/10/20
Madison Ophaug	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/10/20
Amy Moretti	Kuala Lumpur		53000	Malaysia	7/10/20
Thaddeus Clements	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/11/20
Katarina Lutz	Brockton	MA	02301	US	7/13/20
marin smocer	Wexford	PA	15090	US	7/13/20
Jo Sandoval	Indiana	PA	15701	US	7/13/20
Dave Zambotti	Westchester	CA	90045	US	7/13/20
Elizabeth Lepley	Louisville	KY	40222	US	7/14/20