

FRIENDS OF WHITE'S WOODS: QUICK TAKES

White Township Stewardship* DRAFT Plan

Released for Public Comment on June 24, 2020 for 30 days.

- The WT “Stewardship Plan” lumps together all WT recreation “woodlots”—and that can’t work. The White Woods Nature Center requires a far different management strategy than that needed for Getty Park or the S & T Recreation Center.
- A White’s Woods Stewardship Plan should be a comprehensive, evidence-based park management plan, 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.
- The “new” WT “Stewardship Plan” is like the old one: It focuses on the mechanized removal of invasive species and timbering. And the timbering is mostly targeted for the 250-acre White’s Woods Nature Center.
- **The “new” invasive species management plan is identical to the “old” one:**
Using mechanized “mulching” equipment, Millstone will chew up the entire White’s Woods forest floor. After removing the tree canopy, Millstone will sprinkle wildflower seeds. ALL experts say that this looks like a plan to PROMOTE invasive species growth.
- The highest volume of trees marked for cutting in the WWNC are high-quality, merchantable timber.
- **131 tons of “pulp,” valued at \$5 a ton will be removed. “Low quality” trees, up to a DBH (Depth at Breast Height) of 10 inches are scaled as “pulp.” This is the value of White’s Woods?**
- **125,668 linear board feet** is to be removed from the 50 acres now labeled “White’s Woods Unit 1.” A fifty percent harvest IS NOT selective.
- By contrast, 550,000 board feet, drawn from the **entire 250-acre White’s Woods Nature Center* was deemed by DCNR, in 2008, as “excessive” for a Project 70 park.**
- **That is, the “new” stewardship plan calls for a significantly larger timber harvest in White’s Woods than was rejected by DCNR in 2008 –and a preposterously larger timber harvest for a park designated in the original Project 70 application to remain largely “in its natural state.”**
- **Stormwater from WW timbering will be “controlled” by forest mulching: the idea is that tilled soil will limit runoff.**
- **The “new” plan, like the “old” one—(because it is essentially identical to the “old” one!)—will do massive damage to White’s Woods. The excessive timbering, destruction of the forest floor, and ripping out wide new skid trails will render the WWNC unrecognizable. According to one forester who reviewed the original plan, “there will be a lot of tears.”**

*WWNC was purchased with PA Project 70 funds that limit use to conservation, recreation and preservation.