

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Base timbering decision on science, not emotion

I just checked your poll on the timbering issue in White's Woods. More than 60 percent think it would be detrimental to the forest.

This is, of course, the same thought process used in California. That's why they burn down so many acres and homes there.

The forest will shed itself of excess production by either stunting new growth or disease. Controlled harvesting is the most beneficial way to maintain a healthy forest, but, of course, the poll proves once again that the rank-and-file citizen will not be swayed by facts or the documented experiences of others.

If we ever get a real drought or disease going in White's Woods, I'm sure they will find

someone or something else to blame.

Leaving the management of a natural resource up to an emotional public is not prudent. Take a peek at the deer population. There are lots of them, but they aren't where they should be so they end up on the bumper of a car.

The township supervisors should base their decision on good science and not emotion. The same attitudes on this issue are present every time a golf course tries to thin out the trees that overhang the fairways and greens. People seem to be willing to destroy the turf rather than control the trees. Makes no sense, but then, most emotional things don't.

Paul F. Brown Jr.
Indiana