

SAVE THE IUP CO-OP FOREST

A coalition of students, faculty, alumni, & the public.



Our newly formed coalition, *Save the IUP CO-OP Forest*, is contacting other Pennsylvania environmental and recreation groups to let you know about the planned timbering project at the IUP Co-op Park. More than 300 big trees along the 2.5-mile primary recreation trail have been marked, presumably for removal.

Both the recreational and the ecological impact to this forest will extend far beyond the loss of those big trees. According to an independent forester evaluation, this current plan will irrevocably harm the IUP Co-op forest in the long-term and have significant negative impact on its seamlessly connected sister forest, the White's Woods Nature Center, as well.

The scale of the project appears much larger than originally described. While the primary stated goal of the project is "safety," it appears that the vast number of marked trees are of high economic value. The timbering project appears to be one of "high-grading" or "diameter cutting," both of which are very harmful to a forest's long-term health.

The Co-op Park is an important educational resource. The forest serves as an outdoor classroom for sustainability, ecology, environmental science, biology, forestry, and plant identification. Students learn from intact forest ecosystems in ways that cannot be replicated in a classroom.

Mature second-growth forests are both rare and valuable. White's Woods, the 243-acre connected forest, has been invited to enroll in the Old Growth Forest Network because of the size and age of this second-growth's forest's big trees. White's Woods and the IUP Co-op forest, combined, provide an unfragmented 500-acre natural area, a very rare resource for an urban, university town in Pennsylvania.

In spite of numerous requests, the Co-op has not released the complete timbering plan to students or to the campus community.

Neither public input nor forest inventories have been gathered, even though both should serve as the beginning point for any forest stewardship plan. Independent review of this plan is needed and IUP faculty forestry experts, if invited, can do just that. Learn more about the Save Our IUP Co-op Forest coalition concerns at (web page to be created tonight).

How you can help:

Spread the word! Let people know what is happening!

Sign the petition! [Protect IUP CO-Op Park from Timbering!](https://change.org) (on change.org)

Contact IUP to let them know you care. Email the IUP Student Cooperative Association at <https://coop.iup.edu/about-the-co-op/who-we-are/> and/or any other IUP contacts that you think should help to protect the forest.

Contact savetheiupcoopforest@gmail.com for more information – or to join our coalition!