

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association Perspective

Liz Jackson
IFWOA Executive Director

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*Promoting stewardship of
Indiana woodlands*

Who are Indiana's private woodland owners?

- 85,000 family forest ownerships > 10 acres
- 4.1 million acres privately owned, 84% of total
- Top reasons for owning: beauty, wildlife, nature, legacy, home, privacy
- Aging: 25% ownerships over age 65

Source: Butler, Brett J.; Butler, Sarah M. 2016. Family Forest Ownerships with 10+ Acres in Indiana, 2011-2013. Res. Note NRS-214. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 2 p. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-RN-214>.

Top concerns of Indiana landowners

1. Trespassing or poaching
2. Property taxes
3. Keeping land intact for future generations
263K acres changed hands last 5 yrs, 400K acres likely in next 5 yrs
4. Vandalism and misuse, including dumping
5. Insects and diseases
6. Invasive plants

Additional concerns of IFWOA

1. Fragmentation/parcelization
2. Private property rights, right to practice forestry
3. Lack of oak regeneration
4. Deer
5. Getting woodlands managed





Five Anthropogenic Factors That Will Radically Alter Forest Conditions and Management Needs in the Northern United States¹

- Northern forest **lack age-class diversity** and will uniformly grow old without management interventions or natural disturbances
- The **area of forestland in the north will decrease** as a consequence of expanding urban areas
- **Nonnative, invasive species** will alter forest density, diversity and function
- **Management intensity for timber is low** in northern forest and likely to remain so
- Management for **nontimber objectives will gain relevance** but will be challenging to implement

¹ Shifley, et. al, Forest Science, October 2014



Management activities

- 66% of owners (52% acres) have taken NO action
- 21% of owners (33% acres) have sought advice
- 8% of owners (20% acres) have a management plan

Past & future activities

- Past 5 years: cut trees for own use, invasives, trails, cut for sale, wildlife habitat, none=20%
- Next 5 years: wildlife, cut trees for own use, invasives, trails, none=20%

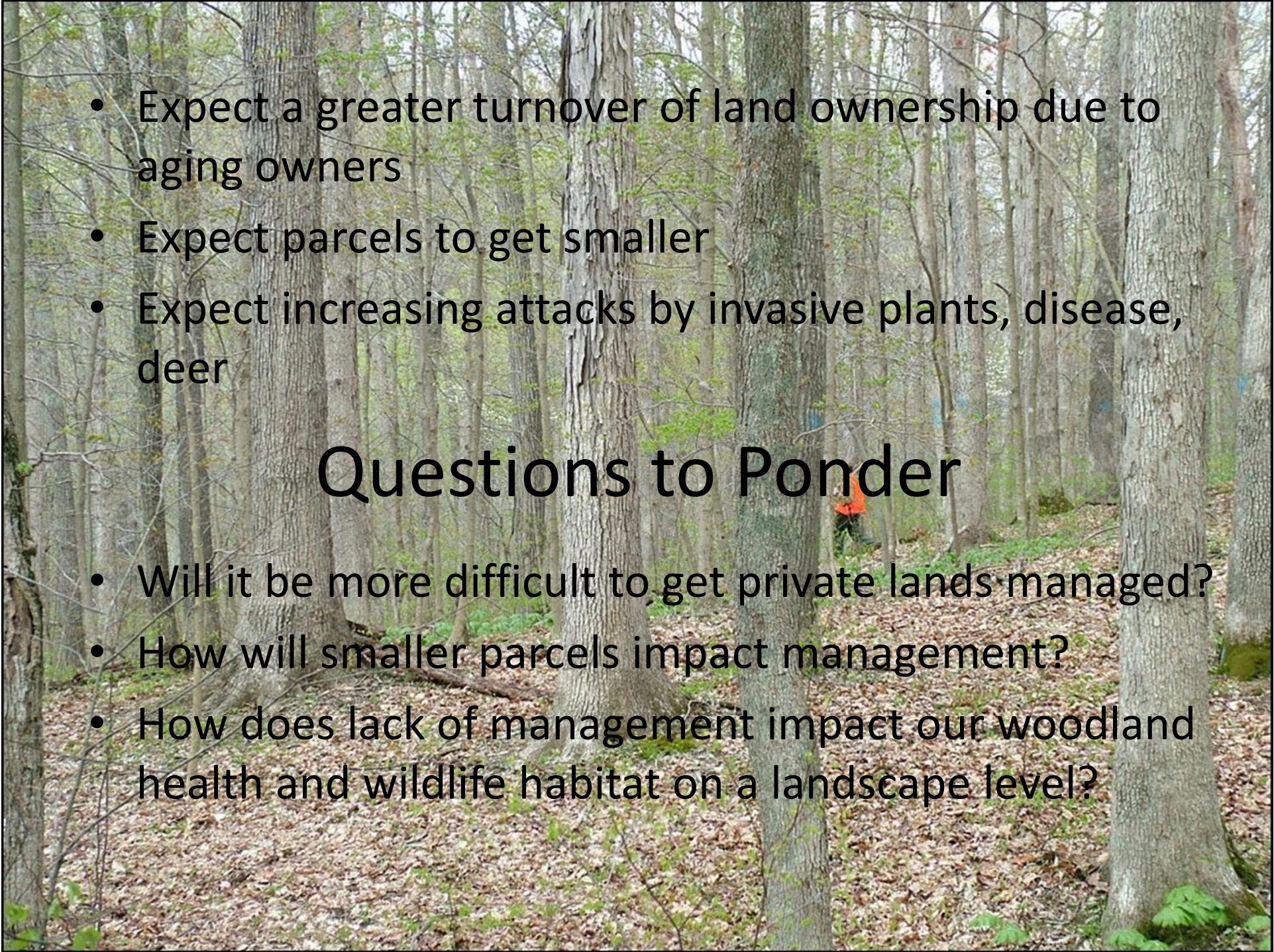


How can we keep land forested and managed?

- Make it economically viable
 - Taxes, cash flow, alternative uses
- Support favorable legislation
 - Right to practice forestry, taxation (property and estate), farm bill programs, liability
- Provide resources
 - Professional advice and info readily available

Advice for Woodland Owners

- How do they get their advice?
 - 656,000 acres someone visited
 - 598k acres talked to someone
 - 408k acres brochure or written material
- Who is involved in providing advice?
 - 773k acres state or local govt
 - 438k acres consultant
 - 204k acres family member or friend
 - 160k acres another landowner

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- Expect a greater turnover of land ownership due to aging owners
 - Expect parcels to get smaller
 - Expect increasing attacks by invasive plants, disease, deer

Questions to Ponder

- Will it be more difficult to get private lands managed?
- How will smaller parcels impact management?
- How does lack of management impact our woodland health and wildlife habitat on a landscape level?

Future Forest Action Planning

- Increase focus on forest health - need resilience due to: aging, drought, insects, disease, invasive plants
- Continued/renewed focus on private lands management- **4.2 million acres of impact**
- Water quality?
- Deer
- Funding?

