

**Current Status of Natural Areas Listed
 by Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols in
*Natural Areas in Indiana and their Preservation.***

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Introduction

More than eighteen years have passed since the inventory of natural areas was completed by Lindsey et al. (1). This inventory was statewide in scope, and as such, was one of the first of its type in the nation. The inventory was funded by a grant from The Ford Foundation. In the preface, Gordon Harrison of The Ford Foundation noted that the inventory provided a basis for assigning protection priorities, helped to prevent destruction of natural areas through inadvertence, and was intended as a guide for those able to work toward saving some of what was left. In the years following publication, its significance has been demonstrated. Today, 18 years later, over half of the 155 areas listed in the study have at least some measure of protection, and only a handful have been destroyed.

Compilation

The files of the Division of Nature Preserves provided the data for this report. Information in these files came from years of field surveying by Division staff and many other natural area workers.

Results

Each natural area listed in the main body of Lindsey et al. (1) was categorized according to its current protection status. Highly protected areas (Table 1) include

TABLE 1. Natural areas that have some type of permanent protection. * = dedicated state nature preserve, # = partially protected only. DNR = Department of Natural Resources, NA = Natural Area, NNL = National Natural Landmark, NPS = National Park Service, TNC = The Nature Conservancy

LINDSEY NAME	CURRENT NAME	COMMENTS
* Ancient Pines Nature Area	Dunes	NNL
* Barker Woods	Barker Woods	
* Bear Creek Canyon	Portland Arch	NNL
* Beckville Woods	Calvert and Porter	NNL
* Beechwood Nature Preserve	Beechwood	
* Bendix Gift Park Woods	Bendix Woods	
*# Big Walnut Natural Area	Big Walnut	NNL
Bird Marsh Nature Area	Bird Marsh Nature Area	State refuge
* Blue Bluff	Blue Bluff	
Blue River	Blue River	State scenic river
*# Carnes Mill Site	Carnes Mill	Forest Service NA
* Cedar Bluffs	Cedar Bluffs	
Cowles Bog and Dunes	Cowles Bog	NPS, NNL

TABLE 1—Continued

LINDSEY NAME	CURRENT NAME	COMMENTS
* Donaldson's Woods	Donaldson's Woods	NNL
* Ecology Coves	Dunes	NNL
* Edna W. Spurgeon Reserve	Edna W. Spurgeon	
* Fall Creek Gorge	Fall Creek Gorge	
* Falls Canyon Nature Area	Rocky Hollow-Falls Canyon	NNL
# Falls of the Ohio	Falls of the Ohio	Natl. Wildlife Cons. Area
* Fern Cliff	Fern Cliff	NNL
* Forty-acre Prairie	Beaver Lake	
* Fox Island	Fox Island	
*# Green Bluff	Green's Bluff	
* Grider's Woods	Grider's Woods	
Guthrie Woods	Guthrie Woods	TNC
Hanging Rock	Hanging Rock	ACRES leased NNL
# Hemlock Cliffs	Hemlock Cliffs	Forest Service NA
*# Hemmer Woods	Hemmer Woods	NNL
Hoot Woods	Hoot Woods	TNC, NNL
* Jackson Woods	Laughery Bluff	
* John Potzger Woods	Dogwood	
* Laketon Bog	Laketon Bog	
* Little Bluestem Prairie	Little Bluestem Prairie	
Little Calumet River	Little Calumet River	NPS
* Lloyd W. Bender Preserve	Lloyd W. Bender	
* Lonidaw Nature Preserve	Lonidaw	
Lubbe Woods	Lubbe Woods	DNR Nature Preserves
* Marsh Lake	Marsh Lake	DNR Wetland Cons. Area
* Merry Lea Nature Center	Merry Lea	partial ded.
* Nasby Overlook Prairie	Mongoquinong—Nasby Fen	
* New-Oak-Road Bog	Swamp Rose	
* Olin Lake & Browand Woods	Olin Lake	
* Pedestal Rock Nature Area	Pedestal Rock	
* Pilot Knob Nature Preserve	Hayswood	
* Pine Hills Nature Preserve	Pine Hills	NNL
Pinhook Bog	Pinhook Bog	NPS, NNL
Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest	Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest	Forest Service NA, NNL
*# Prairie Border Nature Area	Tefft Savanna	
* Rocky Hollow	Rocky Hollow-Falls Canyon	NNL
* Spicer Lake	Spicer Lake	
* Tamarack Bog	Tamarack Bog	NNL
* Weaver Woods	Shrader-Weaver	NNL
* Wesselman Park Woods	Wesselman Park Woods	NNL
# Wing Haven	Wing Haven	ACRES owned, NNL
* Woodland Bog	Woodland Bog	
Wygant Woods	Wygant Woods	DNR Reservoirs NA
* Yellow Birch Ravine	Yellow Birch Ravine	
* Yellowwood Nature Area	Ogle Hollow	

dedicated nature preserves, designated scenic rivers, areas owned by the National Park Service, state and nationally designated refuges and conservation areas, areas owned by private conservation organizations, and U.S. Forest Service designated natural areas. Moderately protected areas (Table 2) include those whose owners have agreed to protect

TABLE 2. Areas with a moderate level of protection. R = Registered area, # = Partially registered only, NA = Natural Area, NNL = National Natural Landmark, TNC = The Nature Conservancy

LINDSEY NAME	COMMENTS
Allee Memorial Woods	Wabash College NA
Big Four Cut, Wabash	NNL
R Bluffs of Beaver Bend	
Botany Glen, James S. Wilson Memorial Sanctuary	Marion College NA
Bradford Nature Preserve	Indiana University NA
Charles McClue Reserve	Steuben County NA
R# Cypress Slough	
Davis Forestry Farm, Compartment 1	Purdue University, NNL
Ginn's Woods	Ball State University NA
R# Goose Pond Cypress Slough	
R Half Moon Woods	
R Harrison Spring	NNL
Hayes Nature Preserve	Hayes Arboretum
John Cring Memorial Forest	Earlham College
R Kado-lato Woods	
Kramer Woods	willed to TNC, NNL
Lilly-Dickey Woods	Indiana University NA
R# Little Cypress Swamp Remnant	
R Long Swamp Woods and Pond	
Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary	Indiana Audubon
McCormick's Cove	DNR State Park NA
R Meltzer Woods	NNL
R Mt. Pleasant Swamp	
R Officers' Woods	NNL
Parson's Swamp Woods	City of Goshen Parks & Rec
Ross Biological Reserve	Purdue University
R Rush Woods	
Saint Mary's College Nature Area	Saint Mary's College NA
Sedgwick's Rock Preserve	Earlham College
R Shoemaker Bog	
R Sourwood Site	
R Spring Lake Woods and Bog	
Sugar Creek	Proposed Scenic River
Thornhill Nature Preserve of Huntington College	Huntington Collge
W.S. Blatchley Sanctuary	Blatchley Nature Study Club

them as part of the Indiana Natural Areas Registry Program. Also included in this category are registered National Natural Landmarks (NNL) and areas owned and managed as natural areas by universities, colleges, and governmental agencies. Areas

still in need of protection are listed in Table 3. Sites considered to have acceptable

TABLE 3. Areas still in need of protection. DNR = Department of Natural Resources

LINDSEY NAME	COMMENTS
Alexander Woods	
Beaverdam Lake	DNR Fish and Wildlife
Biehle Oak Woods	
Cabin Creek Raised Bog	
Cataract Lake Spillway Cut	Geologic
Cave River Valley	
Cleveland Quarry	Geologic
Conboy Woods	
Disko High Bogs	
Fawn River Below Orland	
Flood Plain Beech-Maple Stand	
Hulman Park Woods	
Kentland Structural Anomaly	Geologic
Kickapoo Falls	
Manlove Woods	
Ogden Woods	
Old Dam, New Harmony Cut-off	Geologic
Rosbrugh Woods	
Three Glaciers Cut	Geologic
Umbrella Tree Ravine	
Walker Woods	
Winona Welch Botanical Area	
Wyland Lake	DNR Fish and Wildlife

status, either due to their nature or ownership, are shown in Table 4. Finally, sites that have either been destroyed or severely degraded since 1969 were placed in Table 5.

Discussion

A remarkably high number of the 155 areas listed in the inventory are today either highly protected (58 or 37%) or moderately protected (35 or 23%). Therefore, 60% (93) of the areas have at least some level of protection. Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that only 11 sites have been destroyed (7%). Twenty-eight (18%) areas are considered to be secure areas. They are in no need of further protection, either due to their characteristics or ownership. It is important to note that of the 21 areas Lindsey et al. (1) considered to be "number one priorities", 15 have been permanently protected, and none have been destroyed.

This success is due mainly to two factors. During the survey, many of the land-owners were contacted, making them aware of the specialness of their land. This insured that no areas were inadvertently destroyed. The work also served to motivate the preservation community, who set priorities and then concentrated their efforts on protection.

These protection efforts were aided by the passage of the Nature Preserves Act of 1967, which provided for the acquisition, management and permanent protection of nature preserves. Of the twenty areas that had been dedicated as state nature

TABLE 4. Natural areas that do not need further legal protection because of their ownership or site characteristics.

LINDSEY NAME

Ball State Wildlife Preserve
 Barnes Swamp
 Big Spring
 Bluecast Woods
 Cedar Marsh
 Cold Friday Natural Area
 Deam Oak Monument
 Duning Woods
 Elkhorn Falls
 Gannon (or Stayner) Lake
 Gene Stratton Porter State Mem. Woods
 High Bridge Botanical Area
 Honeywell Woods
 Lane Lake
 Lemon Woods
 Lye Creek Prairie Burn
 Merrillville Mire
 Mystery Mounds
 Purdue-Baker Wildlife Area
 Reinking Memorial Forest
 Shenk's Woods
 Stayner Dry Prairie
 Vermillion Falls
 Wear Woods
 White Squirrel Area
 Williamsport Falls
 Woods of the Giants
 Wyandotte Spring

TABLE 5. Severely degraded or destroyed areas.

LINDSEY NAME

Brushy and Halfmoon Ponds
 Cane Ridge
 Caster's Woods
 Clingenspell Woods
 McColm Bog
 Nurrenbern Woods
 Quog Lake
 South LaPorte Woods
 Sword Moss Gorge
 Tall Grass Sand Prairie
 The James Bird Woods

preserves by January, 1972, 13 of these had been listed by Lindsey et al. (1). Work continued toward dedicating as many natural areas as possible, and today, 44 of the original 155 areas are dedicated nature preserves.

As positive as this seems today, at the time of publication, the destruction of a large number of sites seemed imminent. On October 2, 1970, Lindsey wrote to Schmelz "the rate of loss has now reached at least three tracts annually. . . There are not enough left to sustain this attrition rate much longer". Fortunately, because of this survey and the people who have dedicated their time to preserving natural areas, Lindsey's "premonition" was never realized.

There are still 23 sites (15%) left that need protection. Commitment is stronger than ever among preservationists to save these areas, and Lindsey's work is as important as ever as a motivator and guide.

Acknowledgments

The authors gratefully acknowledge Drs. Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols for their important role in the field of natural areas preservation. William B. Barnes, first Director of the Division of Nature Preserves, is also acknowledged for his many years of hard work that resulted in the protection of so many areas. Finally, we are grateful to the many natural area workers who have continued to pursue natural area protection and management.

Literature Cited

1. Lindsey, A.A., D.V. Schmelz and S.A. Nichols. 1969. Natural Areas in Indiana and their Preservation. Indiana Natural Areas Survey, Purdue University, 594 p.