

2007 IFA Accomplishments

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2007 has seen some good legislation passed in SB 17. We are so happy to have this legislation pass, and applaud any efforts that IFA put forward to help this legislation along. However, we will not be adding this to our accompaniment list as we had only just been hired as the bill passed to the Governor's desk. What we have listed below are our accomplishments and activities for the 2nd half of the year. We spent a lot of our time getting to understand the political landscape of IDNR, and having conversations with legislators that have been supportive in the past. We hope that after laying this groundwork, we will be able to build strong relationships and coalitions with politically astute people and institutions. Below is a list of our activities these past 6 months.

- Meetings with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) staff. Had a large meeting with Leslie Sgro Deputy Director, Land Personal, Forestry Personal, and IDNR legislative liaison. Discussed how IFA can work with IDNR to increase forestry funding, staffing, and education.
- Held meetings with IDNR forestry personal to discuss their role within the agency and what IFA can do to support them.
- Tracking the status of SB 17 within the Governor's office and then later following the rule making process for the Public Act.
- Gave legislative updates to IFA members at annual meetings.
- Kept legislative committee and executive board up to date on the legislatures activities.
- Met with key legislators to brainstorm ideas on how to fund forestry positions in the 2008 legislative session.
- Read (and continue reading) all bills being introduced to watch for anything that might impact forestry (either positively or negatively).
- Encouraged IFA members to contact their legislators; either to thank them for voting yes on SB 17 or to invite them to a tour of their forests.