

January 28, 2026

Mr. John Mueller
510 Fox Lane
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear. Mr. Mueller,

Thank you for your letter dated January 26, 2026, requesting information about the future use of Mt. Tea State Forest.

You are correct in your assumption that there is nothing planned beyond primitive recreational uses for the state forest. And more specifically, we have no plans to repurpose or change the use of the state forest to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) park.

The Division of Forestry strongly believes in providing access to state properties and is seeking to improve the current road conditions. As I have stated at past meetings, constituents have made complaints about poor access and asked us to improve the road conditions.

General forest management will still be a part of the property plan and will include periodic timber harvesting, invasive species control and primitive outdoor recreational opportunities.

My hope is that this letter will put to rest any uneasiness surrounding the intent of the property and road improvements.

Best wishes,

John R. Seifert

John R. Seifert
Director
DNR Division of Forestry