



SUCCESS STORIES

REPORTING EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRESS IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE



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Banquet Celebrates Growing Partnership



Dr. Kip Adams delivers a speech at the KQDC banquet this month in Bradford.

“We want you all to come back in 2004.” Those were the final words area deer hunters heard as the Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative (KQDC) hosted a hunter banquet early in February at the Penn Hills Club in Bradford, Pa.

The dinner and awards banquet completed a year-long effort by the KQDC to forge a closer tie between the hunters and private and public land owners to bring deer management into “the twenty-first century,” in the words of Dr. Susan Stout of the Allegheny National Forest Forestry Sciences Lab in Irvine, Pa.

More than 230 hunters, volunteers and guests were on hand to celebrate the event and hear featured speaker Dr. Kip Adams, Northeast Regional Director of the Quality Deer Management Association, address the important role hunters play in scientific deer management.

Dr. Adams stressed that by being selective in their deer kills, hunters can improve the quality of the deer herd in the KQDC for future generations of hunters and, while they may not see large numbers of deer, the whitetails they do see will be healthier, and hunters should have the opportunity to harvest larger bucks.

The KQDC program invites hunters to harvest does so the deer population more closely balances with habitat.

“This emphasis on doe harvest reduces the total number of deer and brings into balance the ratio of deer per square mile,” Dr. Adams told the attentive audience. He enlivened his rapid-fire talk with an interactive session, asking hunters to identify deer they would “Shoot” or “Don’t shoot” while he flashed pictures of deer on a screen.

Dr. Tim Pierson, head of the KQDC leadership team, welcomed the hunters, while Northwestern Pennsylvania outdoor writer Mike Bleech served as master of ceremonies.

For the 2003-04 hunting season, KQDC activities began last March, when volunteers scoured the area for deer pellets to establish a count. Others, riding in vehicles, sought to establish a relationship between does and fawns seen.

During the summer, these same volunteers again visited the KQDC area to determine a buck-to-doe ratio. According to Dr. Adams, the current ratio is four does to one buck. The goal of the KQDC is two does to one buck.

Hunters took part in the 2003 Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), which gave them more opportunities to shoot does. Nearly 3,000 KQDC hunters received coupons under the Allegheny’s first-ever DMAP as approved by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

This program allows private landowners or public land management agencies to enroll in the DMAP program so they can receive coupons to harvest additional antlerless deer to help achieve land management objectives. Hunters were asked to bring their harvest to one of three check stations in the KQDC.

The goal of the KQDC is to improve the condition of the deer (heavier deer, larger racks, better buck/doe ratio) and improve the quality of the habitat. Deer populations, habitat parameters and hunters’ satisfaction are being monitored as this program enters its fourth year.

For more information contact Bill Massa at (814) 723-5150

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Timber Marking Advances on the Wayne

On February 3, the Wayne National Forest incorporated portable data recorders (PDR) in their timber program in an effort to boost efficiency.

Joe Kennedy, who was instrumental in designing the cruise program for the PDRs visited the Forest and trained the timber people on how to use the PDRs. The PDRs are setup for tallying timber for timber sales and are very efficient and user friendly.

The old way of tallying the timber required the sale administrator to send the volume cards to the Supervisor's Office for computing and was very time consuming. Now, the data is collected in the field and then downloaded to a timber cruise program and the volume is computed on the spot.

At first it took awhile to get accustomed to the PDRs, but soon the system became very easy to use. The training was a group effort by the Ironton, Marietta and Athens Ranger Districts. The Wayne was successful in using the PDRs in two of their large fuel-treatment timber sales.

The fuel-treatment projects were aimed at reducing high-fuel loads created by the Presidents' Day ice storm by cutting and removing severely damaged trees on the Ironton Ranger District. Dead trees, both standing and down, could have led to larger and more intense wildfires, resulting in more difficult and dangerous firefighting.

The timber marking prescription was to remove merchantable trees over six inches in diameter that are already down, or standing trees with less than 25 percent live crown. Merchantable timber will be cut and removed as soon as soil conditions are dry enough for logging equipment.



Wayne NF employee Ed McFann marks timber on the Ironton Ranger District.

For more information contact Eddie Park at (740) 534-6534

Minnesota Rescue Teams Undergo Ice Training



Rescue workers in mustang suits practice emergency response drills on the Chippewa NF in January.

On January 17, the air temperature was 0 degrees with a brutal 25 below zero windchill on the Chippewa National Forest, but for the 100 brave souls participating in the 3rd Annual Ice Rescue Training, it couldn't have been better.

It was a perfect day for ice rescue training. The ice training hones the skills of law enforcement, fire department and rescue squad personnel in extreme winter conditions and is the only training of its kind in Minnesota.

For Chippewa employees Paul Nordeen,, Tom Schackman, Kent Lederman, Ray Burpo, and Gary Roerick, the ice training exercise meant a lot of pre-work. This event could not have happened without the efforts of this group; they spent the full day prior to the event cutting four large ice holes, and sawing thru 23" blocks of ice.

One of the ice holes was large enough for the airboat to drive in and recover a snowmobile from the water. This was no small feat!

The course featured under-ice divers, search and rescue, snowmobile crash trauma response and cold water rescues. It included specialized equipment such as

Hovercrafts, Nebulus floatation devices for snowomobiles, Ice Angels Air Boats and bright red floating 'Gumby Suits.'

The training allowed emergency responders and law enforcement personnel to test the limits of their equipment and to make coordination and communication between agencies work smoothly in the event a real emergency presents itself.

For more information contact Melissa Rickers at (218) 335-8625



A 70-Year Old Murder Mystery?



Henry Christensen recalled a story from the 1930s about a Forest Service Ranger killed on what is now the Bridger-Teton NF.

Hoosier National Forest Engineering Technician Russ Christensen asked if I would help solve a mystery. Christensen proceeds to tell me about his dad, Henry, who turns 93 in March. Henry trapped in the Tetons beginning in the winter of 1932-33, and returned each winter for 3-4 years. He had a cabin on Jackass Creek in what is now the Targhee National Forest.

Early in 1933, Henry met another trapper named Jim Allen who asked him to deny having seen him that winter if anyone asked. It seemed an odd request, but later when Christensen came down from winter trapping he heard that a Forest Service ranger had been killed. The story was that the ranger had been killed in the next drainage over from where he'd trapped all winter. This would have been the Bridger Teton National Forest side of the mountain range.

Over the past 70 years, Christensen wondered if the killing had ever been solved, and whether there was connection with Jim Allen. Allen was killed in a bar fight in Texas in the mid-1930s.

Intrigued by the story, I eventually made contact with Bridger-Teton historian Jamie Schoen, who quickly answered with an account of an event that took place on that Forest in 1929. The dates didn't quite match, but the place and circumstances did. Here is Jamie's story, an excerpt from an unpublished book entitled "History of Teton National Forest." It describes the death of Ranger Copenhagen, who committed suicide in 1929. Copenhagen was working just east of Jackass Pass.

"Copenhagen was a Forest Service guard who worked the Berry Creek country in summer, and as game patrolman when hunting started in the fall. He was packing out from there as his job was finished. He had forded the Snake River and evidently got his ropes and pack outfit wet and had gotten off to fix or tighten his pack and accidentally cut his arm. He panicked from the blood and thought he was going to bleed to death, so he unpacked his horse, took off his blanket and saddle and put them on the ground. He then lay down on the blanket with his head on the saddle, put his rifle between his knees and shot off the top of his head.

"Supervisor McCain rounded up a search party when Copenhagen didn't show up a week after he was due and went looking for him. They followed some Camp Robber birds who were acting strangely and found the body. They investigated what had happened and saw where he had ridden up on horseback, tied up his horses, unpacked them and turned them loose. His camp outfit was piled neatly and a tarp thrown over it. He had left a note about cutting his arm and bleeding badly. He had panicked and didn't use good judgment as he could have mounted his horse, held his cut arm with his hand and ridden to camp in twenty minutes. He had shot off many bullets to signal for help."

The Courier newspaper gave this account: "On November 20, 1929, the body of S.E. Copenhagen, game patrolman of the Teton National Forest Service, which was found covered with snow in the wild Jackson country, gave evidence of intense suffering experienced by a wounded man alone in the wilderness, returning searchers said Tuesday. Copenhagen shot and killed himself ten days before to prevent a more horrible death, his associates in the Forest Service said. A note, signed with his name, said he had slashed his arm while cutting a rope and gave directions for finding his pack. Beneath his body was a pistol. Had he not stopped to take the pack from his horse, he could have reached the lake shore camp, rangers pointed out. Three shots were heard by workmen on the lake front November 8. The victim was about 45 years of age and joined the service three years ago when he come here from Montana."

We're still not sure if this is the murder Henry Christensen remembers, but it shed light on some interesting history, and both Henry and Russ Christensen were impressed that Schoen was so helpful digging through historical records to assist them with their search for what really happened.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579





Ohio Birders Hatch New Initiative

In October 2003, the first organizational meeting of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) brought together stakeholders interested in bird conservation in Ohio.

In response to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), and using the Wisconsin Initiative as a model, the Ohio Working group of Partners-in-Flight decided to grow and move toward an all-bird and landscape level habitat approach to conservation efforts in Ohio. And thus the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative was born.

The Wayne National Forest has been a strong supporter—as well as a charter member—of the Partners-in-Flight steering committee, and is very encouraged to see the collaborative approach now being formulated in the state.

Much enthusiasm has been garnered between governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and agencies in fostering partnerships between all groups interested in promoting and conserving birds in Ohio. Sleeves were rolled up in January to hash out and finalize a mission statement, goals, and an operating and committee structure for the Initiative.

Local, state and national dignitaries have been invited to a statewide signing celebration later this spring.



The Wayne's Big Bailey wetland is home to a wide variety of bird species.

For more information contact Lynda Andrews at (740) 753-0550

Mark Twain to Study Expanded OHV Trails

Mark Twain National Forest has completed scoping on a proposal to open three new trail areas to study Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. The proposal will designate approximately 140 miles of existing roads and trails for OHV for a three-year study period. Only about five miles of new trails would be constructed as part of this proposal.

The study period would allow recreation managers to monitor any changes to soil, water quality and vegetation during the three years. Managers would monitor the amount of illegal trails developed by OHV users within the three areas. At any time during the three years, trail use could be terminated if unacceptable levels of resource damage occur. The proposal includes closing 67 miles of roads and trail to OHV use and reducing the number of crossings of permanently flowing streams from 37 to 12 within the three proposed trail areas.

Various trail management techniques are proposed to be used during the study period, including seasonal trail closures during wet or thawing periods, trail hardening techniques, and “Tread Lightly!” environmental ethics education.

“Over 600 comments were received about the proposal,” said Nancy Feakes, Forest recreation program manager. “The comments were widely varied. Some comments suggested that the entire 1.5 million acres of the Mark Twain should be open to all OHV use, including off road use. Some comments suggested that the entire 1.5 million acres of the Forest should be closed to all OHV use. Concerns about noise, soil erosion, water quality and trespass were also mentioned in the comments.”

Feakes said a team of natural resource experts from the Forest is now working to formulate alternatives to the proposed action, which would include a “no action” alternative. An Environmental Assessment to analyze the effects of the various alternatives on the environment is currently underway.

Mark Twain currently manages Chadwick Motorcycle and ATV use area, near Springfield, Missouri, with about 125 miles of trail, and Sutton Bluff Motorcycle and ATV use area near Centerville, Missouri, with about 26 miles of trail.

Although the current public comment period is over, the public will be able to comment on alternatives in the draft Environmental Assessment. Information about the proposal can also be found on Mark Twain National Forest’s web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects.htm>.

For more information contact Charlotte Wiggins at (573) 341-7405



Area Girl Scouts Earn Hiking Badges

A group of Girl Scouts spent a day last fall on the Shawnee National Forest earning hiking badges.

Shawnee interpreters spent October 19 with 40 Girl Scouts from the Otakhi Council. When the Scouts arrived, they were excited and eager to learn about the Forest. The aim for each Scout for the day was to earn a hiking badge.

The Scouts arrived full of energy and ready to learn about the Forest on that cool October morning at the LaRue Pine Hills/Otter Pond Research Natural Area located in Union County, Illinois.

Since they were spending the day hiking in the vicinity of the popular, world-renowned “snake road,” Forest Service personnel explained the significance of the road. The “snake road,” Forest Road 345, is closed to vehicular traffic twice a year for snake migration. The purpose of closing the road is to protect several species of reptiles and amphibians as they migrate across the road between the swamps and the bluffs.

The Scouts actually hiked the scenic Inspiration Point National Recreation Trail. During the hike, the Scouts learned about trail maintenance techniques from Forest Service employees.

The trail ends on the top of a hill where the girls took advantage of the cool breeze to dry their sweaty faces. From this vantage point they observed a panoramic view of the Mississippi River basin and the colorful fall foliage painted by nature.

While the purpose of the Scouts’ visit to the Forest was to earn a hiking badge, the Forest’s goal was to instill outdoor skills, environmental ethics and to nurture a sense of land stewardship while helping the scouts. Some of the topics Forest personnel covered were plant identification, first aid, outdoor safety, preparing a backpack for an outdoor excursion, map reading, how to use a compass and trail maintenance.

Additionally, “Leave No Trace” was emphasized and practiced throughout the day.

Proof of the success of the Forest Service’s effort to inspire the Scouts with knowledge and skills to practice land stewardship was exhibited when more than a half dozen girls said, “I want to be a forest ranger when I grow up.” Other comments included “It’s very amazing and I had a blast!” “I loved to help with the (trail) work we did.” “I would like to go through the woods again with my family.”

At the end of the day, the Scouts had earned their hiking badges and the Forest employees had spent a great day with the girls. This was an excellent example of the Forest Service meeting the goals of protecting the land and serving the people.



Shawnee employee Linda Hauser identifies points of interest to Scout members earning their hiking badges on the Forest last fall.

For more information contact Suzanne Hirsch at (618) 833-8576





Workshop Focuses on Heritage Resources



Hoosier archaeologist Angie Krieger displays a unique t-shirt created to raise awareness of heritage resources on the Forest.

Protecting and understanding heritage resources was the focus of an All-Employee Meeting held on the Hoosier National Forest in February.

Forest Archaeologist Angie Krieger spent the day sharing information about archaeology, historic preservation, and issues related to heritage resource management. Krieger's goal was to heighten awareness of archaeological sites and promote their appreciation and protection.

Several archaeological sites were inadvertently damaged on the Hoosier in 2003 by employees, contractors, and special-use permittees. To avoid future damage, Krieger and Public Affairs Officer Frank Lewis worked to develop an action plan that included an employee workshop.

Acting Forest Supervisor Jim Denoncour kicked off the day by stressing the importance of protecting heritage resources. Lewis discussed the action plan by reminding every employee that they have the power and the responsibility to "stop the line" and contact the heritage resource specialist if archaeological resources or other sensitive remains are discovered during project implementation.

Law enforcement officer Donald Kidd spoke to the group about the problem of looting nationwide. Kidd cited the case of a prehistoric pipe that recently sold on Ebay for \$16,000 to highlight the fact that the illegal trade in historic artifacts is big business. He discussed procedures to follow in the event employees discover looters

or a looted site.

Guest speakers included Bill Wepler, Curator of Historic Archaeology at Indiana State Museum, and Jim Mohow, Archaeologist with Indiana DNR-Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (State Historic Preservation Office). Wepler spoke about the science of historic archaeology through a discussion of his work at the Lick Creek African American Settlement on the Hoosier.

The Indiana State Museum recently received an Eastern Region Honor Award for this project.

Mohow discussed how to identify artifacts including projectile points, arrowheads, and knives as well as the much more numerous waste flakes. Mohow reminded the group that hundreds of flakes are produced in the manufacture of a single stone tool, so these are the types of artifacts most likely to be indicators of archaeological sites.

Most of the workshop however, was taught by Krieger, whose enthusiasm and commitment to her resource was contagious. She went over the laws related to heritage resources, presented an overview of the type of human habitation that preceded us in southern Indiana, and described what type of remnants each culture may have left. Krieger emphasized our role in protecting these pieces of history and challenged us all to learn more, and be aware of possible sites in whatever we're doing on the Forest.

Krieger received high praise from Mohow, who reminded us how fortunate we are to have someone of her caliber who is so professional and committed to the resource. Attendees received a T-shirt celebrating the day and a copy of "Looking at History: Indiana's Hoosier National Forest Region, 1600 to 1950."

The workshop successfully increased awareness of our responsibility to protect these non-renewable resources, and keeps heritage resource management fully integrated into all Forest projects.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579





Forest Interns Put Experience to Work



Mentor Jim Cline (left) and Hutton Fund intern Veronica Bullock examine fish taken from a stream on the Huron-Manistee NF.

An American Fisheries Society intern who worked on the Huron-Manistee National Forest has been selected to represent the Hutton Fund Scholarship program in June at the “Rise to the Future” reception in Washington, D.C.

Veronica Bullock has worked on the Huron-Manistee’s Baldwin/White Cloud District for the past two years.

The Hutton Fund is a mentoring program for high school students designed to stimulate interest in pursuing a career in fisheries science among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women.

Students selected for the program are matched with a professional mentor for a summer-long, hands-on experience in a marine or freshwater setting. A Hutton Fund Scholarship of \$3,000 is awarded to each student accepted into the program.

Biological science technicians Tom Walter and Jim Cline were the Forest’s program mentors.

In 2001, Isaac Stevens of White Cloud was selected for the program; in 2002 Bullock and Tara Stewart; and in 2003 Bullock was again selected. Bullock has been offered a full scholarship at Arkansas State University in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as a result of her participation in this mentoring program.

During her internship, the projects Bullock participated in were walleye-rearing ponds; installation of 20 fish habitat improvement structures of various types on Martin Creek and the White River located in Newaygo County in West Michigan; and establishment of electro-fishing stations and electro-fishing on Mena Creek and Bigelow Creek.

As part of future fisheries planning efforts, field reconnaissance on Mena Creek was done to determine the need for fish habitat improvement. A fisheries survey of Twinwood Lake, including a lake habitat assessment and collection of some limnological data using a LaMotte Colorimeter, were also accomplished.

Isaac Stevens worked on improving fish habitat on Martin Creek and the White River. Stevens was part of a small crew led by Walter and Cline. The crew installed large woody debris revetments, current deflectors and cover structures to increase habitat diversity, sinuosity and pool quality.

Stevens worked for the Baldwin/White Cloud District last year as a YCC enrollee and gathered experience in fisheries as well as wildlife. He has been able to put his experience from last year to work leading a group in habitat placement.

He also is enrolled in a “school-to-work” class this fall that will allow him to work three days per week with the Baldwin/White Cloud District to gather some experience in budgeting, planning, permitting and contracting fisheries projects.

For more information contact Mark Curtiss at (231) 775-2421

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