



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Eastern
Region



Final Environmental Impact Statement

Land and Resource Management Plan

Hoosier National Forest

Caring for the Land and Serving People



Hoosier National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan
Final Environmental Impact Statement

**Eastern Region
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
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Hoosier National Forest	Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, and Perry Counties, Indiana
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**Hoosier National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan
Executive Summary**

**of
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin,
Monroe, Orange, and Perry Counties, Indiana**

USDA Forest Service
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This Final Environmental Impact Statement documents the analysis of the Proposed Forest Plan and alternatives to it. Years of discussion and public involvement resulted in the identification of three issues that guided the analysis and development of the Forest Plan. These issues were:

- Watershed Health
- Ecosystem Sustainability (especially maintenance of viable populations of species and management of vegetation)
- Recreation Management (especially OHV use and trails of all types)

At the time of the analysis, the Hoosier National Forest (the Forest) contained approximately 199,150 acres in southern Indiana. The analysis and the FEIS pursued and were organized by eight goals:

- Conserve endangered and threatened species habitat
- Maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems
- Maintain and restore watershed health
- Protect our cultural heritage
- Provide for a visually pleasing landscape
- Provide recreation use in harmony with natural communities
- Provide a useable land base
- Provide for human and community development

The Forest developed Alternative 1 as a continuation of the 1991 major amendment to the previous Forest Plan. Representing no appreciable change in management from the previous Plan, Alternative 1 was considered the No Action alternative. The Forest created Alternative 2 as an approximation of what had been requested by local environmental organizations; it would allow virtually no vegetative management. Alternative 3 would increase vegetative management and provide for an ATV trail system. Alternative 4 would provide for multiple resources and uses but would emphasize early successional habitat and do more to revive fire-dependent forest species. The Forest developed Alternative 5 when modeling and analysis showed that with Alternative 1 viability of early successional species might not be maintained, so Alternative 5 was created, which includes, along with Alternatives 3 and 4, a 13,000-acre area where most even-aged management would be concentrated to benefit those species. Alternative 5 otherwise differs little from Alternative 1 and would implement the same acreage of vegetative management. The Forest Supervisor has identified Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative. For further information, contact Judi Perez at the Forest Supervisor's address shown above. Telephone: (812) 275-5987. E-mail: r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us. The full EIS is available on the web at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/forestplaninfo.htm>