



*Hoosier  
National Forest  
2008  
Year in Review*

# From Forest Supervisor Ken Day



Anne Carey, Judi Perez, and Ken Day

For six months of 2008, Judi Perez served as Acting District Ranger while maintaining her duties as Forest Planner. Thanks to Judi's organizational skills, the demands of both jobs were met and duties executed well.

The Hoosier National Forest welcomes Anne Carey as the new District Ranger for the Brownstown and Tell City Ranger Districts. Anne comes to the Hoosier from the Cleveland National Forest in California where she was the Recreation Planner. Anne has a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from the University of Missouri at Columbia. She is stationed at the Tell City Ranger District office.

This year's annual report is presented in the context of the eight Forest goals which represent the purpose of the Forest.

- Conserve habitats of threatened and endangered species
- Maintain and restore watersheds

- Provide a usable landbase
- Maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems
- Protect and interpret our cultural heritage
- Provide for human and community development
- Provide for visually pleasing landscape
- Provide for recreational activities in harmony with nature

The forest goals tie in to the Eastern Region's Courageous Conservation Goals (table below) and Forest Service mission: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of our nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and past generations.

The following pictures and stories of Forest projects provide a glimpse of some of the accomplishments during 2008 that were possible thanks to our dedicated employees and committed partners.

Kenneth G. Day  
Forest Supervisor

## Courageous Conservation Goals

Forest Goals	Protect Ecosystems across Boundaries	Connect Citizens to the Land	Walk the Talk for Sustainability	Revolutionize Effectiveness and Efficiency	Be an Employer of Choice
Conserve habitats of T&E species	X		X		
Maintain and restore watersheds	X		X		
Provide a usable landbase		X		X	
Maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems	X		X	X	
Protect and interpret our cultural heritage		X			
Provide for human and community development		X			X
Provide for visually pleasing landscape		X			
Provide for recreational activities in harmony with nature	X	X	X		

# Maintain and restore watersheds and Conserve habitats of threatened and endangered species

## Houston-Pin Oak Riparian Area

The Houston-Pin Oak Riparian Area was a 60-acre floodplain restoration, wetland, and stream restoration project. Prior to Forest Service acquisition, the landowner row-cropped these bottomlands using open ditches to drain these fields and remnants of forested wetlands. The project lies within the Little Salt Creek watershed which directly feeds



*Wetland pool (left) and interpretive sign (right).*

Lake Monroe, the municipal water supply for Bloomington, Indiana and other communities serving over 120,000 customers.

The project resulted in the restoration of a wetland and stream protection in a municipal watershed heavily impacted by agricultural use. Monitoring has shown a significant increase in the diversity of waterfowl and native vegetation. Interpretive signs describes the locally rare resources present, such as mature pin oaks in a wetland environment.



## Provide a Useable Landbase

To consolidate the Forest's landbase, a 22-acre tract was acquired in Lawrence County and planted in hardwoods by Hoosier employees as part of Earth Day 2008.

### Forest's New Administrative Site

The land for the future Brownstown Ranger District and Supervisor's Office administrative site was acquired on April 15, 2008. The United States acquired 43.88 acres of land and ingress/egress easements for \$430,000. The site is located between Bedford and Mitchell on the west side of SR 37.



*Ron Ellis and Les Wadzinski plant a tree seedling on Earth Day 2008.*



*Location of future Hoosier N.F. administrative office.*

Approximately 25 acres are forested, while the remainder is open land with scattered hardwood trees. There is sufficient land for an administrative building, three warehouses, employee and visitor parking, barn, pasture, and corral. An additional feature could include an interpretive/employee wellness trail.

The main offices will be a Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certified. The most current energy efficient design and materials will be used. A construction start date has not been determined.

# Maintain and Restore Sustainable Ecosystems

## Combatting Gypsy Moths



*Adult gypsy moth*

Surveys for gypsy moths on national forest, state, and private lands have been ongoing since the 1970's. In 2006, gypsy moths were found in Monroe County. Trapping in 2007 determined that a population of gypsy moths was developing in the area and that treatment was prudent.

Gypsy moths are well known pests in the north-eastern United States and have impacted thousands of acres of oak forests. To disrupt mating of the moths and eradicate them, scientists rec-

ommended using pheromone flakes. These plastic flakes are baited with synthetic female gypsy moth pheromone (the scent that attracts male gypsy moths) which disrupts the moth's mating behavior. The flakes were deposited over 1,535 acres of the Forest by aircraft on June 23, 2008.



*Pheromone flakes*

Monitoring is underway to gauge the project's success. Traps were placed in the area in 2008 and will be again in 2009. The results of the trapping will tell if the project was effective in eradicating the moths from Monroe County.

## Restoring Barrens Communities

The Forest used prescribed burning to maintain areas of fire-adapted dry forest and restore rare barrens communities. Biologists believe that the greatest threat to globally rare barrens ecosystems is woody encroachment because of lack of fire. Other increasing threats are the invasion of non-native invasive plants. Prescribed burning contributes to achieving both of these management goals.



*Burning at Mogan Ridge in 2008.*

*Hager tract was mowed for fuels reduction and non-native plant control*



## Treating Invasives

Non-native invasive plant controls were completed on 712 acres using mowing, hand pulling, and herbicides. Some of the target species were:

- Japanese honey suckle
- Multiflora rose
- Yellow sweet clover
- Japanese stilt grass



Hand pulling of garlic mustard on several acres around the Deam Wilderness was accomplished by volunteers through a partnership with Indian University—School of Public and Environmental Affairs (student volunteers shown above) and by the Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen.



*Herbicides are being used to treat 77 acres on Tipsaw, Indian, Celina and Spring Valley lakes to control Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive plant that attaches itself to boats and can be*

*found around lake shorelines and boat ramps.*

# Protect and Interpret our Cultural Heritage

In 2008, about 1,200 acres were surveyed for prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Half of the Forest, approximately 100,000 acres, has now been surveyed and over 2,000 sites documented. These sites are managed for their information and interpretive potential and are considered prior to any ground disturbing activities such as timber harvest and wetland restoration. Site types range from rockshelters utilized by early Native Americans to pioneer African American and European American farmsteads. Some examples are cemeteries, quarries, and Civilian Conservation Corps developments. Two new interpretive signs were developed and placed at Brooks Cabin and the Hickory Ridge Fire

Tower. There were no reported incidents of archaeological site disturbance or intentional looting.



*Historic chimney on the Hoosier.*

# Provide for Human and Community Development



*Log landing with pine in German Ridge area.*



*Zach Rigg works with Quail Unlimited partners on the development of a forest opening.*

Timber sales provide the means to manage forest vegetation to maintain and restore ecosystems, improve and maintain wildlife habitat, and provide products and services to local communities. In 2008, 1.6 million board feet of timber was sold. The volume was enough to build one hundred 2,000-square-foot houses. There were three primary purposes for the sales:

- Hardwood restoration—removing nonnative pine to promote establishment and growth of oaks and hickories
- Forest opening maintenance, improving wildlife habitat benefiting American woodcock, yellow breasted chat, and Indiana bat
- Allow for a Lawrence County road realignment



*Blackberries are prolific after a timber sale and are enjoyed by wildlife and humans alike.*

# Provide Visually Pleasing Landscapes

## Ohio River unites three states and three Forests

The Forest Service gathered a group in July 2008 in Corydon, Indiana from across Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Their common interest was the 967-mile National Ohio River Scenic Byway (ORSB). For the first time, each of the three boards, their volunteers, and the three national forests along the byway were able to see what other states were doing, and share accomplishments. For most of two days they worked together on how they could develop and share a common vision and goals. The Americas Byway's Resource Center facilitated the workshop.

This workshop was just the beginning in an ongoing effort to work together and accomplish things as one cohesive tri-state byway. The Hoosier looked at the workshop as a step toward working with communities that value and care about places in and near Forest lands that can then connect with the visiting public.



*Rhonda Belford entertained the group at break with a song she wrote about the Ohio River Scenic Byway.*

# Provide Recreational Activities in Harmony with Nature

## Kids Unplugged

On April 30th, 2008 the Forest hosted a field trip for local 5th and 6th graders, through a new outdoor program called Kids Unplugged. A total of 132 students and six teachers attended a day of hands-on outdoor learning sessions at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. Ten stations ranging from campfire cooking to outdoor games were offered. Sessions were designed to meet Indiana state-wide curriculum requirements and to get more kids into the woods.

*Kids Unplugged participants with new backpacks.*

*Kids learn about backyard birds*



*Students examine outdoor cooking ingredients*



*Before and after trail work was done.*

## Youth Conservation Corps Maintain Trails

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a work-learn-earn program that allows youth, ages 15-18, to gain an understanding and appreciation of the national forests. Since 1970, the Forest has hosted a YCC program.

Heavy spring rains damaged recreation sites and trails on the Forest, including Charles C. Deam Wilderness (CCDW). Because this work occurred in a designated wilderness, only non-mechanized equipment could be used, adding to the challenge. The YCC repaired flood damaged trails in the CCDW and made improvements to prevent future washouts. Work on flood damaged areas in the wilderness included:

- Repairing 4.5 miles of washout on four different trails
- Constructing nine drainage structures and rebuilding a washed-out bridge
- Assisting with placement of 140-tons of gravel--all by hand and mules

# Working with Partners and Volunteers

## Working Together to Fight Invasive Species

Hoosier National Forest staff were instrumental in getting the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) up and running in 2008. This grassroots organization was established to coordinate efforts by numerous land-owning agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners on controlling invasive plants.

Spanning 36 counties in the southern 1/3 of the state of Indiana, the CWMA recognizes that invasive plants are a serious threat to the region. Southern Indiana's economy relies heavily on forest products, agriculture and natural resource-based tourism. By working across boundaries, the CWMA allows partners to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of management activities, pool available resources, and prioritize issues.



A volunteer from the CWMA removes bush honeysuckle from a natural area.

The Hoosier has helped sponsor workshops and plan educational activities. As awareness builds, the CWMA hopes to have more projects in the future and eventually get invasive species in southern Indiana under control.



Disabled youth volunteers and their job coaches come from two different schools on various days. They perform simple administrative tasks on the Forest to help them prepare for the work force.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Forest helps with ENVIROTHON

Envirothons are annual high school competitions held across the US and Canada focusing on core environmental subjects. Each year a current issue is selected at the national level; for 2008, the issue was recreational impacts on natural resources. Students compete first in regional contests, then State level, then the North American competition.



In 2008 students were required to make a presentation on their plan for a piece of land in their own communities, considering recreational impacts on natural resources.

In 2008, the Envirothon Committee asked if the Hoosier would take the lead. The Forest developed study materials, tests, presentations for each regional competition, and served as a judge in the state competition. Working with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts who host the competitions was a great experience for all concerned.

Envirothon competitions continue to be a phenomenal learning experience for everyone involved and one the Forest is proud to be involved with.

## Volunteer Hours and Value of Service Hoosier National Forest - 2008

Office	Volunteer Hours	Value of Service
Supervisor's Office	3,142	\$61,299
Tell City District	6,528	\$120,833
Brownstown District	2,758	\$51,051
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,428</b>	<b>\$233,183</b>

# Proud Moments

Each year, the Forest Service 13-state Eastern Region gives Honor Awards for outstanding contributions to human and natural resource management. In 2008, the Hoosier won awards in four out of five courageous conservation categories. The award winning projects are listed below by category.

*Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries:* Houston-Pin Oak Riparian Restoration. For wetland restoration and stream protection in a municipal watershed impacted by agricultural use.

*Connecting Citizens to the Land:* Kids Unplugged—Getting Kids into the Woods. For providing urban, underserved school students a day of hands-on outdoor learning.

*Walking the Talk for Sustainability:* 20 Years of Green on the Hoosier National Forest. For 20 years of recycling and making our employees and neighbors more environmentally aware.

*Being an Employer of Choice:* The National FFA Convention. For educating thousands of young people on natural resource career opportunities.

## Thake recognized for Community Service

Tom Thake, Forest Silviculturist at Tell City, was awarded the 2007 'Branching Out to the Community Award' for community service from the Hoosier.



Tom Thake with his community service award.

Thake has worked to rebuild lives through Habitat for Humanity. He currently serves on the Indiana Tree Farm Committee which encourages the development of outdoor learning facilities and promotes outdoor learning experiences of our school-aged children. He also works with the Lincoln Hills RC&D Forestry Committee, the Society of American Foresters, his church, and several other community groups.



Hoosier National Forest  
811 Constitution Avenue  
Bedford, IN 47421  
812-275-5987  
Toll Free: 1-866-302-4173  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier)

Hoosier National Forest  
Tell City District  
248 15th Street  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-7051

Federal relay system  
for the deaf  
1-800-877-8339



Bulk Rate Permit  
Postage and Fees  
PAID  
USDA Forest Service  
Permit No. G-40

