



Hoosier National Forest Happenings



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FISHING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

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Fishable Ponds, Lakes and Rivers

The Hoosier National Forest offers some of the best fishing locations in the state. The warm climate provides anglers with several more quality fishing days relative to the northern parts of the state. Numerous lakes, ponds, and streams on the Forest provide anglers with the opportunity to pursue largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, redear sunfish and other sport fish.

Fishable waters range in size from 1 to 10,000 acres and are scattered throughout the Forest. These may include former farm ponds, wildlife watering holes, or limestone quarry ponds. Some have easy, drive-in access and others are accessed by primitive walk-in trails. Forest maps, available at the Bedford and Tell City offices, and at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier, will help you locate these ponds and lakes. Included here are some of the more popular fishing sites:

- Lake Monroe 10,750 acres--launch ramp for boats at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, and several miles of lakeshore fishing. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources also manages several boat ramps on the lake.
- Tipsaw Lake 131 acres--boat access as well as camping, picnicking, swimming, and hiking. An excellent destination for a weekend of family fun.
- Celina Lake 164 acres and Indian Lake 152 acres--two adjacent lakes with a variety of facilities including boat ramps, picnic and camping areas, trails, and the historic Rickenbaugh House on Celina Lake.
- Springs Valley Lake 140 acres--boat ramp for launching small fishing craft.
- Saddle Lake 41 acres--fishing either from a boat or along the bank.
- Sundance Lake 5 acres--scenic lake ideal for family fishing.
- Rainbow Pay Lake--quarry pond under special use permit as a pay-to-fish business. Bass and other fish are stocked in this lake. A Kids Fishing Derby is held at the lake each summer.
- Mano Point on the Ohio River--boat launch, toilet facility, and parking area.
- Fishable rivers on the Forest--Lost River and Little Blue River. Although neither of these rivers have boat access points, each provides many miles of good fishing opportunities. When accessing these waters, be aware that private land is intermingled with national forest land and be careful not to stray from public land.

Fully Accessible Fishing Piers

Fully accessible fishing piers are available at some locations to provide anglers with disabilities a barrier-free opportunity to fish. Accessible piers may be found at Celina Lake and Sundance Lake. Hardin Ridge offers an accessible boarding platform at the boat ramp.

Working Together

The Forest Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (IDNR), have a long-standing partnership to provide fishing opportunities on the Hoosier National Forest. The Forest Service works to improve and monitor fish habitat and constructs and maintains access points. The IDNR surveys fish populations, determines harvest regulations, and coordinates stocking programs for many of the Forest's lakes and streams. Although the Hoosier National Forest manages fishing habitats on the Forest, IDNR regulates and manages sport fishing throughout the state. Everyone who fishes must have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. The rules concerning which fish are in season, and if there are any applicable length, take and possession limits, are available on the IDNR site www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/.



ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIER AT CELINA LAKE



Tipsaw Lake



Fishing on the Hoosier National Forest