



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Hoosier National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 1920-2-1

Date: March 16, 2006

Dear Partners,

Thank you for requesting a copy of the Hoosier National Forest revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). We are pleased to announce the release of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hoosier's revised Forest Plan. The ROD, Final EIS, revised Forest Plan, and supporting documents are also found on the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier>.

The revised Forest Plan will guide the management of the Hoosier National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. The 2006 Forest Plan is strategic in nature, and places emphasis on ecological, social, and economic sustainability over the long term. The Final EIS documents the analysis and discloses the anticipated effects that were among the bases for the Regional Forester's selection of Alternative 5 as the revised Forest Plan.

The Regional Forester selected Alternative 5 because it presents a balanced approach that protects and helps restore habitat for wildlife species including those that are Federally endangered or threatened. The Plan also provides outstanding recreation opportunities and protects forested watersheds. The ROD documents the Regional Forester's selection and explains the rationale for his choice.

Implementation of the revised Forest Plan will begin 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS is published in the Federal Register. That date is expected to be approximately March 24, 2006.

The Regional Forester's decision is subject to appeal pursuant to the provisions of 36 CFR 217. See the last two pages of the ROD for information on eligibility to appeal the decision and on how to appeal. For additional information, or if you have further questions, please contact Judi Perez at (812) 275-5987.



The title page for the documents should have identified the following Cooperating Agency:

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management:

Provided expertise on management of Federal minerals, including oil and gas. The BLM reviewed and provided input regarding the future expectations on the Forest. Their input is provided in Appendix C of the Final EIS.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Hoosier National Forest. We look forward to your continued partnership in implementing the new Plan.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kenneth G. Day
KENNETH G. DAY
Forest Supervisor