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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hoosier National Forest Plans Prescribed Burn at Mogan Ridge

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**Tell City, IN—March 4, 2009** The Hoosier National Forest plans to do a prescribed burn at Mogan Ridge in Perry County in the next few weeks as temperatures warm. According to Mike Davis, Fire Management Officer on the Forest, approximately 750 acres are planned for this spring's burn.

Mogan Ridge is a large area of national forest system land north of Tell City. The area is known ecologically as a barrens community because of its shallow rocky soils and droughty conditions. Globally, barrens communities are one of the rarest ecosystems. Biologists believe that the greatest threat to barrens ecosystems is woody encroachment due in part to many years of fire suppression and the interruption of a frequent fire regime that contributed to the creation of barrens communities. To maintain these areas, the Hoosier has re-established a burning program in the barrens communities and cyclically burns these areas. In the fall, the area north of the Mogan Ridge Road was burned, this spring, the area south of the road will be burned.

The exact date of the burn will be dependant on weather and fuel conditions. Ignition will be primarily by hand using drip torches. According to Mike Davis, "Once we know the date that we'll start the burn, we'll let the public know." Davis also encourages anyone with medical issues that might be affected by smoke such as asthma or emphysema who lives in the area to contact the Forest so we can make certain that they are aware of the burning date. "Spring burns normally don't have a lot of smoke impacts, but we want to do everything we can to minimize affects on our neighbors," noted Davis.

For more information on these prescribed burns or to report a medical condition that could be affected by the burns, please contact Mike Davis at 812-547-9247.

Also this spring, the Hoosier plans several other smaller prescribed burns in the northern part of the Forest in Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, and Monroe Counties. The Hoosier National Forest currently manages 202,214 acres of land in nine counties in south central Indiana.

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