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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Take Pride In America Day Set For May 2

Free volunteer camping at Hardin Ridge

Bedford, IN – April 6, 2009. The Hoosier National Forest, in partnership with the Corps of Engineers, will be hosting the 23rd annual Take Pride in America (TPIA) Day on Saturday, May 2, 2009. TPIA Day promotes volunteerism and gives people the opportunity to “take pride in America’s public lands.” TPIA Day kicks-off at 9:00 a.m. at Shelter house #1 in Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. The Recreation Area is 13 miles south of Bloomington, Indiana, just off Highway 446.

Bruce Whittredge, Forest Service TPIA Day coordinator, said the event is for all ages, and people are welcome to come as a group or individually. “Volunteers have a choice of several projects, such as Lake Monroe shoreline clean-up, trail maintenance, tree planting, wildlife habitat improvement, and picking up litter on the Forest. Small groups of volunteers are assigned to a project leader and work on projects they are most interested in.”

Transportation will be provided to the work sites; however, since space is limited, some people may need to take their personal vehicle. Volunteers need to wear sturdy boots/shoes, long pants and gloves and bring a sack lunch and water.

“Everyone working on TPIA Day projects is welcome to camp free of charge at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area as our guests Friday and Saturday night, May 1st and 2nd,” said Whittredge. “There will also be a free cook-out for all volunteers at Shelter house #1 Saturday evening with certificates of appreciation and other awards given out.”

For more information on TPIA Day, or to volunteer, call Ron Doyle at 812-276-4768 or 275-5987, or visit the Hoosier National Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.

