Hoosier National Forest

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

OUTREACH NOTICE

Public Affairs Officer

GS-1035-11/12

For the Greatest Good…

The Hoosier National Forest (Forest) is seeking interested individuals for an exciting career in Public Affairs. The position is a **permanent full-time appointment**. The duty station is located at the Hoosier National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bedford, Indiana. For additional details on the position, please call Mike Chaveas, Forest Supervisor at (812) 276-4749.

This Outreach Notice will help determine the potential applicant pool for the position and establish the appropriate recruitment method for the job advertisement. Informed by the results of this outreach, the position will be announced for applicants from either current government employees (MERIT) or the general public (DEMO). If you are interested in the position please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to Pam Kruse, pkruse@fs.fed.us no later than December 14, 2015.

All respondents will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement becomes available. There will be a separate process to apply for the position.

Please reply to this outreach by December 14, 2015.

What is a Hoosier?

We are! Here on the only Forest named for the people of the state in which it is located, we pride ourselves on service to our communities and in stewarding this land and these resources for all the American people for generations to come.

Working for the Hoosier:

South-central Indiana is almost certainly not what you're expecting. With rolling, forested hillsides, a richness of cave and karst resources, historic sites, awe inspiring trails and top notch camping opportunities this National Forest is a hidden and little known treasure of the system. Hoosier employees have a long history of camaraderie and cohesive working relationships leading to a highly productive, rewarding and enjoyable working atmosphere where you'll be surrounded by dedicated and passionate people. As a small Forest, opportunities abound to gain exposure to the diversity of work and opportunities that the US Forest Service presents to its employees. The Hoosier workforce is a great mix of employees who have been on this Forest many years and have a deep knowledge of the area and its history and those that have experiences drawn from all parts of the country. Working on **the Hoosier can be a gateway to opportunities** with the Forest Service anywhere in America, **or an introduction to a place you'll fall in love with** and want to stay for many years.

Quality of life in southern Indiana is enjoyable and affordable. Whether you prefer small towns, a remote setting, or a larger more vibrant city with a major University and all the culture, entertainment, sports and restaurants that comes with such a setting; **working for the Hoosier you have choices,** with towns of various sizes within a reasonable commuting distance.

Love Outdoor Activities? Besides the hundreds of miles of trails, excellent campgrounds, multiple lakes for boating and fishing and other recreation activities on the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana has a diverse array of State Parks and Forests which complement those of the Forest Service. You can even find a downhill ski resort in Paoli and nationally recognized mountain biking trails in and around Brown County.

Like Sports? Location doesn't get any better than this if you like sports of all kinds. Big Ten and ACC college athletics of all types can be found nearby at Indiana University and the University of Louisville. Indianapolis is a short drive away, home of the NFL's Colts and NBA's Pacers as well as the Indy 500, the Brickyard 400, and a Triple A minor league baseball. Major League Baseball is only a little further in Cincinnati.

Music, Theater, Comedy, Gaming and more? Indiana University is home to *the* premier music school in the country, offering public performance of all genres, plays, operas and ballet. The college town of Bloomington draws national and international performers of all kinds year-round on par with larger cities but without a need to fight traffic to access any of it and has a vibrant international restaurant scene. French Lick is home to a large casino and PGA golf course, and the adjacent West Baden Springs hotel offers a luxury hotel and spa. The area is home to a growing number of excellent breweries and wineries as well.

Public Affairs Officer Position and Responsibilities:

The Forest Public Affairs Officer oversees the public and legislative affairs program, FOIA, front desk management, conservation education (recently recognized with a Chief's Honor Award), and related programs for the Forest. The Public Affairs Officer is part of a vibrant Forest Leadership Team that sets policy, direction, and strategic vision and priorities for the Forest. Don't let the size of the Hoosier fool you, the variety of publics and issues will keep you involved. If you want to be part of a hard-working team of dedicated individuals, this is the place. The mosaic of public and private lands creates an opportunity to work across landscapes with diverse partners from urban and rural settings.

The official position description for this position includes the following duties:

- The incumbent is responsible for providing leadership for planning, designing, and executing a comprehensive public affairs program for communicating the organization's programs, policies, and activities to the surrounding publics.
- Serves as the Public Affairs Officer at a Forest (with complex public affairs issues) with responsibilities to the Forest Supervisor for planning, coordinating and directing public affairs support for all natural resource program areas on the Forest to include community relations; media operations and facilitations; information strategies; liaison between local organizations, federal/state/local government officials, special interests groups, the public; legislative liaison, etc.
- Serves as the principal staff advisor and spokesperson to the Line Officers on all matters involving public issues and the creation of communication policy. Organizes, coordinates and implements effective employee and public meetings, workshops, field trips, or other forums designed to foster employee and public participation.
- Initiates programs of action to earn community respect and confidence, taking into consideration the differing needs and goals of various publics. Promotes and maintains effective working relationships with representatives of government, members of Congress, civic organizations and other agencies, and with representatives of the media and special interest groups. Develops and implements communication plans to inform affected publics of ongoing initiatives.

This position supervises several diverse positions on the Forest and is the point of contact with the Eastern Region Public and Government Relations staff.

Description of the Forest:

The Hoosier National Forest encompasses over 203,000 acres in South Central Indiana stretching south from Bloomington to the Ohio River and is located within a drive of two hours or less from Cincinnati, Ohio; Evansville and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Louisville, Kentucky. Two ranger districts include the Brownstown District in Bedford, Indiana and the Tell City District in Tell City, Indiana.

The Hoosier National Forest sits in the hills of Southern Indiana. The Forest provides a range of opportunities and resources for people to enjoy. The many recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain bike riding, and viewing scenery. The only congressionally designated wilderness in Indiana, the 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness provides opportunities for users desiring higher levels of solitude. In addition the Forest has over 265 miles of trails for hiking, biking, or horseback riding.

The Hoosier works to provide integrated resource management on the complex mosaic that make up National Forest System Lands in Indiana. Only 31% of the land within the Forest Boundary is National Forest System land, this scattered ownership pattern adds a complexity to the management of this valued natural resource. Forest managers are responsible for protection of some very unique resources. The Hoosier is located in an area rich in caves and karst features. These underground features are largely unknown to most Forest visitors but are home to many species that are specific to these habitats.

The Hoosier has four endangered species: the fanshell and rough pigtoe mussels reside in rivers to the south; the gray and Indiana bats and their habitat occur throughout the Forest. The wildlife program on the Forest focuses on management to provide habitat for the species above as well and other species that occur throughout the area.

The Forest works to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems. The vegetation management on the forest focuses on promoting native oak and hickory regeneration, reducing nonnative pine planted to restore over farmed lands, and reducing nonnative invasive plant and animal species.

The Hoosier National Forest organization is non-traditional with emphasis on placing resource specialists closer to the ground. Certain Forest-level staff functions that traditionally reside in a Supervisor's Office work in a team environment and serve as District-level program managers. This serves to broaden District interdisciplinary teams and improve technology transfer, customer service, and quality of stewardship. We view the Districts as the backbone of the Forest Service organization and emphasize customer service at that level. **Additional information and an orientation video of the Forest may be found at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.**

Bedford Office

The Hoosier National Forest Supervisor's Office is co-located with the Brownstown Ranger District Office in Bedford, Indiana. Bedford is a full-service community of approximately 14,000 residents. Bedford has excellent schools, outstanding shopping, cultural amenities, and small town atmosphere. Bedford is in the Eastern Time

zone and features a broad-based economy. Major area employers include GM Powertrain, Indiana Limestone, Manchester Tank, and Stone City Products. Bedford is known as the "Limestone Capital of the World" because of the abundance and quality of the limestone which has been used on many landmark buildings in the U.S., including the Empire State Building and the Pentagon.

Bedford has five elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school (includes area vocational school) and Bedford City College, which offers adult education and college credit courses. Eighteen miles north of Bedford is Bloomington, home of Indiana University. In addition, Bedford is within commuting distance of six degree granting institutions. Indianapolis is approximately 70 miles north and is the state capitol.

Housing prices, for purchase or rent, are reasonable and affordable. Local services include a wide variety of places of worship, a library, two hospitals providing comprehensive medical services, and a variety of banking, shopping facilities, and restaurants.

There are several communities within communizing distance of Bedford. Links are provided below:

Bedford, Indiana

Bloomington, Indiana

Mitchell, Indiana

Seymour, Indiana

Climate:

The temperature in Indiana varies north to south. Although Indiana sometimes has temperatures below zero during the winter, the average temperatures in January range between 17°F and 35°F. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year, with the southern part of the state generally being drier. The average annual precipitation statewide is 40 in, ranging from about 35 in (89 cm) near Lake Michigan to 45 inches along the Ohio River; during 1971–2000, Indianapolis had an average of 41 inches annually. The annual snowfall in Indiana averages less than 22 inches.

Education:

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities with southern Indiana schools ranking high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering quite reasonable in-district tuition. Indiana University, located in Bloomington, offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctoral programs. Day care facilities also are available in most communities.

Places of Worship:

Churches representing all major denominations; as well as Jewish, Islamic and even Buddhist places of worship; can be found in communities across the area.

Economy:

Real estate in the area is moderately priced as are utilities. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries and craft breweries have opened, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

Healthcare:

Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility IU Health Bedford Hospital and St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, in Bedford, along with full service hospitals and medical practices in Bloomington. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care in the general area of the Hoosier include Perry County Memorial in Tell City, Indiana; Deaconess in Evansville, Indiana; and University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.

Recreational and Cultural Activities:

The region has many opportunities for outdoor activities as well as small town festivals and fairs. In addition there is easy access to larger cities including Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and St. Louis, Missouri.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Please complete your response by December 14, 2015. Responses may be sent via email, USPS, or fax.

E-mail: pkruse@fs.fed.us Fax: (812) 275-3423
Mail: Pam Kruse
Hoosier National Forest
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421

This Outreach is for the following position:

- **Forest Public Affairs Officer, GS-1035-11/12, Permanent Full-time Position**
- **Region 9, Hoosier National Forest, Bedford, Indiana**

Name:_____ **Date:**_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:_____**Email address:**_____

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No
If YES, CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT:_____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE:_____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:_____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____USFS ____BLM _____OTHER:_____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:	**____PERMANENT**	**_____TEMPORARY**	**____Other**

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:

_____PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
_____VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
_____DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
_____VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
_____FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
_____STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
_____OTHER _____

How did you learn of this opportunity?: _____

_____

Thank you for your interest in this position.