



United States Department of Agriculture

#### Forest Service

Hoosier National Forest  
811 Constitution Avenue  
Bedford, IN 47421

Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier](http://www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier)



# Hoosier NF Highlights

Media Contact: Teena Ligman

Voice: (812) 275-5987

Cell: (812) 675-3826

[tligman@fs.fed.us](mailto:tligman@fs.fed.us)

Contact: Teena Ligman, 812-275-5987

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## Where Do Wood Products From the Hoosier Go?



By Jason Combs, Hoosier NF Timber Management Assistant

Two goals of the Hoosier National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan are to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems and to provide for human and community development. A tool the Forest uses to contribute to these goals is the harvest of forest products. The Hoosier harvests both pine and hardwood timber. The markets available to the timber purchaser dictate where wood products from the Hoosier go.

A large majority of the land base for the Hoosier was purchased under the authority of the Weeks Act of 1911 which authorized the federal government to purchase private lands and maintain them as national forests. Many of these properties were cutover, eroded lands. Non-native pines were commonly planted in these areas to stabilize the soil. The pines are now reaching maturity or never thrived since they weren't native to the area. The Hoosier is slowly harvesting these pine stands, creating native, early successional habitat in the process and a supply of pine wood products.

The market for pine in Indiana is limited with only a relatively small amount of pine acreage in the state so there has been little market development. Still, there is a good diversity of pine products made from pine trees harvested from the Hoosier. Hoosier-grown pine has been sent all the way to Wisconsin for use as utility poles. Dimensional lumber has been made in Kentucky from Hoosier pines. Some of our timber purchasers also send debarked, chipped

trees to Kentucky for paper production. Pallet stock from pine and lower grades of hardwoods is manufactured locally and shipped as far as Texas and the east coast.

Cedar trees are also sawn locally for lumber and a variety of specialty products. Hardwood utilization varies widely and depends on the species, quality, length and thickness of sawn timber, customer preferences, and the markets of the timber purchaser. Veneer is produced from the very best quality trees and used for products like cabinets and furniture. Baseboards, doorjambs, and hardwood flooring are all produced from a variety of species. White oak is used for making staves for wine and whiskey barrels. Another market for some purchasers is sawing wood for the creation of equipment mats for cranes or other heavy equipment.

Bark and sawdust from mill operations are utilized as well. The sawdust is used for animal bedding, or used in the creation of wood pellets for grills or home heating. Bark is used for landscaping.

Wood products are sent to every state bordering Indiana, as well as to other states and exported to other countries. Raw logs are also exported as well. The export destination depends on the species and market conditions. China and other East Asian countries are big importers of raw logs, as well as European countries.

Before each forest management decision, the Hoosier evaluates forest conditions and needs to determine which actions will best preserve and promote forest health. Timber harvests are only permitted in areas where foresters and biologists agree that harvesting is in the best interest of the ecosystems and where they are allowed in the Forest Plan. The Forest Service is committed to sustainable use of natural resources and responsible land management.

For more information on the Hoosier's timber program, contact Jason Combs at (818) 547-9242, or [jdcombs@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdcombs@fs.fed.us).

## Photos and Captions



Saddle Sale.

Hardwood logs harvested on the



waiting to be hauled to a mill.

Hardwood logs gathered at a landing,



Equipment called a Forwarder which extracts logs from the woods and carries them to the landing site in their bunk.