ORDER NO. 09-12-117

Order of the Forest Supervisor
Closing an Area to entry, to wit:
Hoosier National Forest - Indiana

Under the authority of the Act of Congress dated June 4, 1897, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551), and pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations set forth as 36 CFR part 261, Subpart B (36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b)), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on the Hoosier National Forest located within Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, and Perry Counties, Indiana.

1. Entering any cave on National Forest System lands within the Hoosier National Forest between the dates of September 1 and April 30.

   36 CFR 261.53 (a), (b), and (d).

THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT FEDERALLY ENDANGERED, THREATENED, OR SENSITIVE BAT SPECIES. THEY ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN 36 CFR PART 261. THIS CLOSURE WILL BE EVALUATED ANNUALLY FOR THREE YEARS. AFTER THREE YEARS FROM THE SIGNED DATE, THE ORDER WILL TERMINATE, UNLESS IT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN WITHDRAWN BY A TERMINATION ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR.

Pursuant to the provision of 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit from the authorized Forest Service officer specially authorizing an otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force working in the performance of an official duty.
3. Forest Service employees conducting surveys or monitoring in accordance with their duties and as approved by the Forest Supervisor, while following all necessary decontamination procedures.

Violations of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual and $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (16 U.S.C 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559, and 3571).

Dated this 19th day of December, 2017 at Bedford, Indiana.

Forest Supervisor
Hoosier National Forest