

Hoosier National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2023

View from the Hickory Ridge Lookout, Hoosier National Forest, Indiana. USDA Forest Service photo.

Partnering for Restoration

In the late summer of 2023, the Hoosier National Forest hosted the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for one week to assist in projects in the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. This work included treating over one acre of invasive plants such as autumn olive, wineberry, and multiflora rose with herbicide and pruning. Recreation fees funded \$5,000 worth of materials and labor for the project.



SCA crew members posing (above) after invasive plant treatment (right) at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. USDA Forest Service photo.



Contracted Mowing

In 2023, the Hoosier National Forest spent \$20,000 on mowing and cleaning contracts to maintain and improve quality public camping experiences at several developed sites including Shirley Creek, Springs Valley, and Youngs Creek Campgrounds and Trailheads. This included weekly mowing and cleaning by contractors throughout the summer. All the work performed is made possible by recreation fee program dollars.



A freshly mowed campground on the Hoosier National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo.

Equipment Purchases and Repair

The forest purchased or repaired several pieces of equipment using a portion of recreation fee dollars. Some of the items include a new mini-excavator for trail work as well as brush saw and chainsaw repairs for use with trail work and hazard tree removal. Mule team items such as hay, a new bale feeder, and shod/trimming were also funded by recreation fees.



Equipment and care for the mule team (left) and a new mini-excavator (right) funded by recreation fees. USDA Forest Service photos.

Recreation Fee Dollars

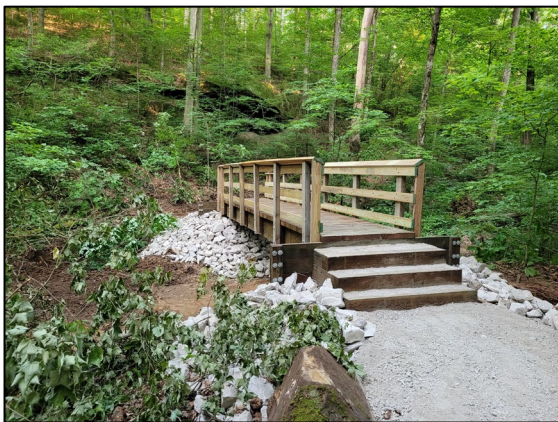
Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

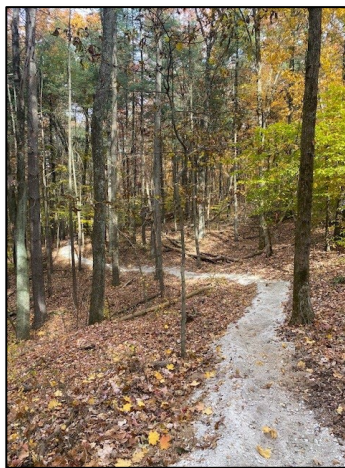
Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

Additional Accomplishments

- Cleared 180 miles of trails and mowed 50 miles of trails.
- Replaced culverts across the forest.
- Installed new trailhead kiosks with maps and signs.
- Conducted hazard tree assessment and removal at campgrounds and trailheads.
- Patrolled multi-use trails checking for compliance of rules and regulations.
- Monitored outfitter and guide field operations.



A new trail bridge on the Hemlock Cliffs Trail. USDA Forest Service photo.



Cape Hollow Trail on the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana. USDA Forest Service photo.

Regional Map



Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$50,515	\$5,695,265
Special Uses	\$1,234	\$494,036
Interagency Passes	\$13,740	\$327,521
Total	\$65,489	\$6,516,822

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair and Maintenance	\$43,721	\$3,978,214
Visitor Services	\$3,746	\$1,249,990
Law Enforcement	\$4,401	\$370,418
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$103,512
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$47,754
Collections/Overhead	\$5,813	\$844,068
Total	\$57,681	\$6,593,956

Contacts

[Hoosier National Forest](#)

Recreation Fee Program Contact
812-276-4765

Email: luke.haworth@usda.gov

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier

Regional Contact

Email: krystal.fleeger@usda.gov