



Hoosier National Forest Highlights

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Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness



By Stacy Duke, Wilderness Manager

Wilderness is an important part of American history. The United States was the first country in the world to define and designate Wilderness areas through law. In 1964, the Wilderness Act was passed “in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States.” This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Act describes wilderness as:

- “...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition...”
- “...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...”
- “...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable...”
- “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”

Today designated Wilderness areas make up over 109.5 million acres or about 5% of the United States. There are a total of 757 Wilderness areas in 44 states and Puerto Rico. One of these wildernesses is in Indiana; the Charles C. Deam Wilderness.

In 1982, the Charles C. Deam Wilderness was designated by Congress to be part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Located in the northern end of the Hoosier National Forest, the Deam Wilderness is nearly 13,000 acres. It is managed to preserve

a natural condition and provide opportunities for solitude. Primitive tools, such as cross cut saws and axes, must be used to maintain trails. Mules are also used in maintaining the trails. Motorized equipment, including chainsaws, is prohibited.

The Deam Wilderness provides long distance loop trails (approximately 38 miles) in a scenic hardwood forest with a variety of terrain. All general Forest rules and regulations apply to the Wilderness area. However, some etiquette and rules are specific to the Charles C. Deam Wilderness. For example, group size is limited to 10 persons or less. Since no mechanized equipment is allowed in the wilderness, trails are hike/horse only. Wilderness visitors are asked to practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics.

Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics include:

- ✓ *Plan Ahead and Prepare*
- ✓ *Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces*
- ✓ *Dispose of Waste Properly*
- ✓ *Leave What You Find*
- ✓ *Minimize Campfire Impacts*
- ✓ *Respect Wildlife*
- ✓ *Be Considerate of Other Visitors*

More information can be found at www.LNT.org.

For more information on the Charles C. Deam Wilderness contact Stacy Duke, District Recreation and Wilderness Manager at 812 276-4726 or sduke@fs.fed.us.



Wilderness 50th Anniversary Logo



View of the Charles C. Deam Wilderness from the Lookout Tower.