



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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Hoosier NF Highlights

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Where does the money go?



By Judi Perez, Public Affairs Officer

National Forests belong to the American public; they are yours, mine, and ours. So, you might ask, "Why can't I do what I want when I am visiting the Hoosier?" The agencies that are charged with managing the lands are also responsible for enforcing state and Federal regulations. Though they are often not as controversial or high profile as in western states, public lands in the Midwest have their share of rules to follow. These sometimes put the public at odds with the Federal Government.

Due to the relative remoteness, National Forest lands are often used as dumping grounds, illegal marijuana plots, places to cook methamphetamine and poach wildlife. All of these activities occur here on the Hoosier National Forest. Additional activities found locally include illegally riding all-terrain vehicles, commercial collecting of Forest products without a permit, and more.

So what happens when you get caught driving an all-terrain vehicle on the Hoosier, or dumping your trash there? You can be issued a ticket for up to \$5,000.00, summoned to federal court to explain your actions to the judge and jury, receive a court order to serve community service, or be sentenced to jail for up to 180 days.

Depending on the offense you would most likely receive a ticket and a fine. When you pay the fine where does the money go? Does it go into the Treasury? Does it go to the Forest? Does it help pay down the Federal deficit?

None of the above, these funds actually go into a special fund that is dedicated for use by victims of violent crimes that occur under federal jurisdiction. The range of violent crimes vary, some examples include murder or attempted murder, assault, drug crimes involving acts of violence, and weapons crimes.

The assistance the victims receive can include a number of things including assistance with medical bills, lost wages, counseling services, and more. Typically, the Victim's Services Department of the United States Attorney's Office, with jurisdiction over the area where the offense occurred, manages the assistance.

For more information on these programs contact Judi Perez, Public Affairs Officer on the Hoosier National Forest at 812-275-5987 or japerez@fs.fed.us.



Know the rules to avoid a fine.



The Indianapolis Federal Courthouse is one of four federal courts for southern Indiana. The other federal courts are located in Evansville, New Albany, and Terre Haute.