



# Hoosier National Forest

## 2009 Year in Review



# From the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger



Anne Carey and Ken Day

Improving the effectiveness of the Forest's business operations is a constant goal. In 2009, with help from the Small Business Administration, the Hoosier hosted two contracting workshops, attended by about 25 small

business contractors, on how to apply for government contracts. The workshop resulted in an increase in competitive bids for Forest work and new opportunities for small businesses.

The Forest benefited from two additional sources of funding in 2009—one added to our regular appropriations and the other from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Recreation Site Improvement funds of \$1.7 million will enable the Forest to replace several 40- year old toilet/shower buildings. ARRA funds totaling \$1.74 will improve our road and trail sys-

tems and help reduce the risk of wildfire. Page 7 has a summary of all the projects and funding.

Natural events once again impacted the Hoosier. In 2008 it was Hurricane Ike, in 2009 it was ice. This past February, a severe ice storm struck the southern portion of the Forest. Ice built up on tree canopies bringing down tops, branches, and entire trees, blocking several miles of roads and trails. Forest crews were quickly assembled to clear the affected areas making them safe for public use.

An event like the ice storm, although environmentally damaging, brings out the best in Hoosier employees. The mission was clear: make the Forest safe and accessible to the public. Our thanks to our dedicated employees who responded to the call and our Forest visitors for their patience and understanding during the clean-up period.

Kenneth G. Day  
Forest Supervisor

Anne G. Carey  
District Ranger

## Accomplishments

Resource Area	2009	2008	% Change
Biomass for bio-energy production	189 tons	12 tons	+1475
Tree planting, thinning and grape vine control	280 acres	246 acres	+14
Lands treated to reduce risk of wildfire	3,497 acres	1,850 acres	+89
Stream habitat restored or enhanced	9 miles	1.75 miles	+414
Lake habitat restored or enhanced	22 acres	97 acres	-77
Wildlife habitat restoration	1,081 acres	235 acres	+360
Recreation sites maintained	28 sites	26 sites	+8
Trails maintained	140 miles	68 miles	+106
Timber sold	612,400 cubic feet	355,600 cubic feet	+128

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print,

audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Protecting Ecosystems across Boundaries

## Emerald ash borer invades Hoosier

In December of 2008 the emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered in the Hoosier's Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. The borer was discovered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and confirmed by the Animal, Plant, and Health Inspection Service.



EAB is a non-native, invasive beetle that came to the Detroit area in wooden shipping materials in the 1990s. Since then it has spread into 13 states. Though it spreads slowly on its own, with the help of humans moving firewood and landscaping trees it has moved quickly across the Midwest. There are now state and federal quarantines in effect for ash and ash products.

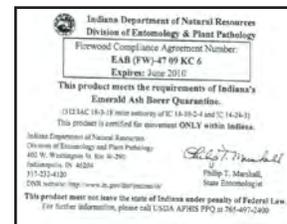
Currently the best method to treat EAB is to slow the spread. This process began last winter when 55 infested trees were cut down and chipped up into pieces less than one inch on any side. Selected ash trees in the area were stressed by

girdling. The stressed trees attract EABs for egg laying and act as "sinks" to concentrate the pest. This winter those trees will be cut down, examined for larvae and the EAB larvae destroyed.

Since the main way that EAB is spreading across the Midwest is through firewood, the Hoosier will be implementing a ban on bringing any hardwood species of firewood that has not been USDA or IDNR certified into the Forest.

Once the ban goes into effect, campers may:

- bring in pine species
- gather small amounts of dead and down wood from the general forest area
- bring in packaged firewood that has been certified by USDA or IDNR. It is sold at roadside businesses and retail outlets. The labels look like this:



## White-nose syndrome —

### Forest issues cave and mine closure order to protect endangered bat species

Nearly 500,000 bats have died as a result of white-nose syndrome in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states, including almost 25,000 endangered Indiana bats. White-nose syndrome is named for a white fungus that appears on the faces, ears, wings, and feet of hibernating bats. The disease causes bats to come out of hibernation severely underweight, often starving before the insects – on which they feed – emerge in the spring. Once a colony is infected, it spreads rapidly and has the possibility of killing over 90% of bats within the cave in just two years.

In response to the uncontrolled spread of white-nose syndrome affecting bat species, all caves and mines on the 14 national forests in the 20-state Eastern Region were closed by Forest Service managers for one year. The closures will allow scientists time to study the white-nose fungus and learn more about how it is spread.

On the Hoosier, all caves are closed. The Forest is home to several species of bats, including the Federally endangered Indiana bat, and gray bat. Bats are a natural and important part of the forests, making a significant contribution towards the control of forest and agricultural insect pests.



Little Brown bats affected by white nose syndrome

# Connecting Citizens to the Land

## Adventures with Nature Day



*District Ranger Anne Carey helps a child with a nature carving in soap*

Adventures with Nature Field Day is part of the Hoosier's conservation education program connecting citizens to the land. A record 353 people attended the 6th Annual Adventures with Nature Field Day at Tipsaw Lake Beach. The Field Day exemplifies the benefits of partnerships to

achieve conservation education goals. Partners included:

- Cradle of Forestry In America Interpretive Association
- Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (IDNR)
- Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area
- Perry & Spencer County Soil & Water Conser-

- vation Districts
- Purdue Extension Service
- Perry County

Throughout the day, exhibitors talked about subjects on wildlife and forests. Hands-on activities included how mother birds feed their babies, making butterflies and learning their parts, soap carving and building bluebird houses.

Smokey Bear made an appearance—surprising and delighting children as he entered from the



forest. Door prizes donated by many local businesses include tickets for tourism site entrance fees, maple syrup, and wood carvings.



## Conservation education programs on the Hoosier

Conservation education programs provide opportunities for visitors, communities and students to learn about their natural resources and the agencies that manage them. The Hoosier's Conservation Education Coordinator presents programs at

- Elementary schools
- Forest campgrounds
- Boy Scout camps
- University level classes
- Community events

### Program Goal

The goal is to make people more aware of their natural environment, and what they can do to become better stewards of the land.

In 2009, the Forest presented approximately 150 school programs to over 5,000 preschool through college participants. Programs included hands-on activities using props, role playing activities at the elementary level and pre-

sentations, and guest lectures and field trips at the college level. Program themes cover natural resources such as habitat and wildlife, land management practices, and how nature is impacted by humans.

Teachers can choose from over 20 topics that meet state science curriculum standards.



*Home school group at Brooks cabin*



*Dissecting owl pellets to learn what owls eat*

# Walk the Talk for Sustainability

## Lacy Mine Reclamation

The Lacy site was an abandoned coal mine in Martin County, Indiana. The site was leaking acid mine drainage contaminating surface water and affecting the Plaster Creek Special Area.



Work begins on the abandoned mine site

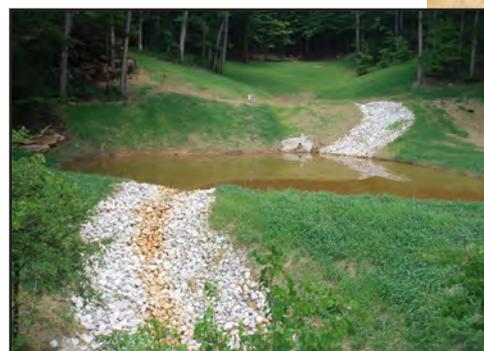
After several years of planning and collaboration, the Lacy mine reclamation project is completed. The project demonstrates the effectiveness of sulfate reducing bioreactor cell technology as a treatment for low-flow, metal-rich acid seeps in the Midwest. Using a state-of-the-art abandoned mine reclamation system, it turns an acid mine drainage site

into a successful example of biological restoration.

A partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation provided the bioreactor system technology. The partnership and project led to improvements in terrestrial wildlife habitat, stream habitat, and soil and water resources.

The Indiana Geological Survey will monitor the site for 37 water quality parameters providing data for evaluating the effectiveness of the bioreactor in reducing acid mine drainage.

Completed project using state-of-the-art green technology



Completed project using state-of-the-art green technology

## Michell School System sells land to Forest to fund scholarships

A land purchase in 2009 from the Mitchell School Board Trustees added 60 acres to the Hoosier. The Trustees plan on using some of the sale proceeds to fund scholarships for students pursuing teaching careers.

The school system acquired the land in 1942 through a donation, and never found an appropriate use for the parcel. The land was surrounded by national forest on three sides, with a stream running through it. The acquisition helps consolidate the Forest and will reduce administrative costs.



Photo of tract acquired from school system

Two Orange County tracts totaling 210 acres were also acquired this past year -- both from the Sam Shine Foundation. One of the tracts has a wetland along the Patoka River. The other will allow the Forest to re-route a portion of the Youngs Creek Trail off of a county road.



Wetland acquired from the Sam Shine Foundation

Two Orange County tracts totaling 210 acres were also acquired this past year -- both from the Sam Shine Foundation. One of the tracts has a wetland along the Patoka River. The other will allow the Forest to re-route a portion of the Youngs Creek Trail off of a county road.

# Revolutionizing effectiveness and efficiency

## Improving Aquatic Species Passage Ways

In 2009, the Perry County Commissioners and the Hoosier formed a partnership to install two aquatic species passage structures on county roads on the Forest. The Forest provided funding for planning, design, materials, and construction management, while the Perry County Highway Department replaced the existing culverts through a contract. The partnership allowed for improved county roads and Forest resource protection.

### Limestone Road

During high flow events, Snake Branch overflowed its banks, overtopping the road and causing increased sedimentation into the stream from eroding road material. An undersized culvert at the crossing



created a large hole preventing aquatic species passage during low flow. Removing the existing barrier restored 1.3 miles

*Blocked culvert on Limestone Road backs up Snake Branch*

of connectivity on Snake Branch allowing aquatic species to pass upstream and downstream.

### Apricot Road

The old rusted-out culvert caused soil erosion around itself during high flow events creating a large hole on the downstream end of the culvert, preventing aquatic organism passage.



(picture above). Culvert replacement restored 1.6 miles of connectivity, allowing aquatic species to pass upstream and downstream.

Additional partnership benefits:

- Safer, unrestricted passage for school busses and local landowners
- \$60,00 savings on culverts available for other Perry County road uses
- Reduced maintenance costs for the Perry County Highway Department

## Allegheny and Hoosier National Forests collaborate

Over a 3-year period, from 2007 to 2009, the Allegheny (Pennsylvania) and Hoosier National Forests have collaborated on construction and maintenance projects on the Hoosier saving the Hoosier \$90,000.

Funding shortfalls on the Allegheny and project needs on the Hoosier is what brought the two Forests together to discuss ways to efficiently

use their resources. The Hoosier

had engineering funds and projects that suited the Allegheny crew well. Consequently, the Forests collaborated on three, 2-4 week assignments bringing the Allegheny crew to the Hoosier. The Allegheny crew completed 13 projects during their three assignments including:

- road construction, reconstruction, and demolition
- road maintenance and brushing
- dam brushing, spillway reshaping, and slump repairs

- water systems installation
- boat ramp maintenance
- land purchase site rehabilitation

The Celina Lake Dam drain and slump reconstruction shown in these pictures was one of the projects.



*Before and after slump was repaired*



# Being an Employer of Choice

New employees learn about forest management and career opportunities with the Forest Service --

**Whitney Baldwin** grew up on the edge of the Hoosier National Forest. She always liked the outdoors and while attending Indiana University she majored in outdoor recreation. For her internship she led the Hoosier's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew of 10 high school students. The experience taught her patience and that she didn't want to be a parent any time soon!" After her YCC assignment, she continued with the Forest to help complete a national visitor use survey. Once that was completed she was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money to do dispersed campsite inventory and maintenance. Whitney will be leading the YCC crew next summer as she continues to look for long-term job opportunities with the Forest Service.



**Michael Shaw** is a junior at Indiana University in the Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management program. During the past summer and fall semester he worked as an engineer technician on an ARRA project.

While Michael had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects (see chart below) he notes the intangible benefits included networking opportunities, how a Forest Service district office is run, and the chance to understand the career opportunities within the agency. He said his knowledge of resource management skyrocketed as a result of traveling around the Forest and interacting with other employees. Michael said he is also appreciative of the financial benefits of the job and the ability to supplement his educational expenses. He looks forward to being able to work with the Hoosier NF in the future.

Tavaris Evans came to the Hoosier from a Forest Service Job Corps Center where he studied wildland fire-fighting. He was selected for the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and assigned to the Hoosier. He became interested in fire and the Forest Service after his first Job Corps fire assignment when he "fell in love with woods." He has since become an integral part of the Forest fire team.



## American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The Hoosier received \$1,740,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The table below shows how that money was spent on the Forest.

Project	Amount	Location	Work Performed by:
Replace culverts, remove brush, add gravel, grade roadways, paving	\$750,000	Perry and Crawford Co.	Contracting
Install road and gate signs on Forest Service roads	\$250,000	6 of 9 counties	Summer students/contracting
Reduce hazard fuels	\$350,000	Perry and Crawford Co.	Contracting
Replace signs on county roads	\$30,000	Orange Co.	Summer students/contracting
Replace culverts, gates, and brush roads in the Paoli Experimental Forest	\$60,000	Orange Co.	Contracting
Trail reconstruction and maintenance	\$200,000	6 of 9 counties	Summer students/contracting
Maintain dispersed recreation sites	\$100,000	9 counties	Temp employees



## 2009 Payments to Counties

In 2009, Indiana counties received \$3.22/acre for national forest land. Although national forests do not pay property taxes, funds are paid in lieu of taxes to compensate local governments for the land taken off the tax rolls. The chart below shows payment in lieu of taxes and monies from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act.

The Hoosier also provides funds for road projects, cooperative law enforcement, and volunteer fire department support.

<i>County</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Total \$</i>
Brown	18,452	\$53,184
Crawford	24,362	92,068
Dubois	412	1,279
Jackson	23,280	72,151
Lawrence	16,378	48,804
Martin	9,550	27,193
Monroe	19,007	64,766
Orange	31,151	109,322
Perry	59,562	182,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>202,154</b>	<b>\$678,363</b>

## Living Next Door to a National Forest

For many people, having a piece of property next to a national forest is the fulfillment of a dream. It allows the home-owner to enjoy the beauty of the forest, abundant wildlife, spectacular scenery, and a sense of solitude. However, it is important to understand what it means to live next door to public lands. The Hoosier has developed a brochure on living next to a "working" national forest managed for multiple uses. This brochure provides information on a variety of topics that property owners should find useful. Contact our office to receive a copy or visit our website.



### Volunteer Hours and Value of Service Hoosier National Forest - 2009

<i>Office</i>	<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>Value of Service</i>
<i>Supervisor's Office &amp; Brownstown District</i>	2,316	\$47,855
<i>Tell City District</i>	260	\$5,447
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,576</b>	<b>\$53,302</b>



Hoosier National Forest  
811 Constitution Avenue  
Bedford, IN 47421  
812-275-5987  
Toll Free: 1-866-302-4173  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier)

Bulk Rate Permit  
Postage and Fees  
PAID  
USDA Forest Service  
Permit No. G-40

Hoosier National Forest  
Tell City District  
248 15th Street  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-7051

Federal relay system  
for the deaf  
1-800-877-8339

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

