



# Hoosier National Forest

## 2010 Year in Review



# From Melany Glossa, Forest Supervisor



Melany Glossa

I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be the Forest Supervisor for the Hoosier. My first introduction to the Hoosier NF was in the 1980s. I was a forestry student at Purdue working on an oak regeneration study. I was struck then with the beauty of these hardwoods.

I am a proud Hoosier who grew up in northern Indiana. No matter where I have lived, I have yet to find a place with people as gracious and kind as those in Indiana.

I received my bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife management from Purdue. I went on to receive a master's degree in forestry from Oregon State University and did doctoral studies in forest policy at Colorado State University.

My career path has been quite varied. I worked for the State of Missouri as a wildlife

biologist, a planner for the US Army in Alaska and Hawaii and for the Forest Service in Colorado. I also worked in Idaho as a Natural Resources Staff Officer and in Oregon as a District Ranger. And now my family and I are delighted to come to the Hoosier!

Top three "lessons learned" in my career to date:

- Everybody has something to offer.
- Listen.
- Relationships are critical to managing our lands.

At the end of my career, I want to be remembered for engaging the public and helping to develop our employees. I think the Forest Service does fantastic work and I want the rest of the country to feel the same. I look forward to working with all of you.

Melany Glossa  
Forest Supervisor

## 2010 Hoosier Accomplishments- From National Report

Resource Area	Goal	Accomplished	% Target
Tree planting, thinning and grape vine control	255 acres	246 acres	96%
Lands treated to reduce risk of wildfire	4492 acres	4,520 acres	101%
Stream habitat restored or enhanced	5 miles	5 miles	100%
Lake habitat restored or enhanced	21 acres	21 acres	100%
Wildlife habitat restoration	3,205 acres	3,591 acres	112%
Recreation sites maintained to a 90% condition std	25 sites	29 sites	116%
Trails maintained to national standards	130 miles	130 miles	100%
Timber sold	586,400 cubic feet	587,500 cubic feet	101%

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*Cover photos of Hoosier NF mules in snow; mop up on a wildfire near Houston, IN; and a waterfall west of Indian Lake*

# Protecting Ecosystems across Boundaries

## Forest Fire Fighters Suppressed 52 Fires During Drought



Many creekbeds and ponds on the Forest were dry by the fall of 2010.

The drought which spanned the summer and fall of 2010 in south central Indiana reached historical levels. Fire danger indices were at their extremes and the Hoosier and other fire control agencies were poised for what could have been a disastrous year.

After months of drought, on October 4th the Hoosier implemented a fire ban, prohibiting campfires and smoking on the Forest. The fire ban stayed in effect until it was lifted on November 17, 2010. Mike Davis, Fire Management Officer said, "We received great cooperation from everyone. The Volunteer Fire Departments and citizens helped make what could have

been a very difficult season, manageable."

Davis said during the drought the Forest had 52 fires, all of which were quickly contained – the largest was 20 acres. Though in extreme conditions there was a potential for serious problems, Davis said the Forest had an excellent safety record.

He said during the driest period the Hoosier had additional resources from the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin assist with the fire program.

## Bat Monitoring Continued

White Nose Syndrome was recently found in Indiana. The Hoosier renewed its cave closures in 2010 and will continue to monitor bats on the Forest.

## Working With Partners to Benefit Wildlife

In 2010, with the assistance of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), and Quail Unlimited (QU) the Hoosier accomplished 3,591 acres of habitat improvement (1,786 acres over



Working with the NWTf to plant trees and develop brush piles for wildlife cover.

target). With our partners we focused on improving terrestrial habitat for wildlife; the preservation, enhancement, and creation of early successional habitat; and restoring barrens.

We were able to use prescribed fire in the spring to improve habitat on 2,514 acres of the Forest. In the barrens, we were able to remove pine, returning the areas to their native plant diversity on 227 acres. Together the Forest, IDNR, NWTf and QU have restored hundreds of acres of old farmland. In the beginning, the farmland was over-grown with nonnative invasive species, had low plant diversity and exhibited abrupt changes in habitat (hard edges between fields and forest). The outcome is healthier ecosystems

with fewer invasive plants, establishment of native plants and shrubs, vernal pool construction and smooth transitions between forest and field habitats.

None of the partners had the human or equipment resources nor budgets to accomplish this restoration work individually. In 2010 we worked together to complete 850 acres of discing, edge feathering and restoration work.

The partners have provided invaluable consultation in the design and establishment of native seed and pollinator resource areas. Partners attempt to adapt to changing climates by creating sustainable habitat for local wildlife species.

Field of native flowers provide a seed source for projects.



# Connecting Citizens to the Land



Attendees at the Central States Forest Soils Workshop.



Backcountry Horsemen install a sign on a gate at the Birdseye Trailhead.

## Horsemen Pitch In

In August, with temperatures of 100 degrees, six members of the Indiana Backcountry Horsemen came to Birdseye Trailhead for a volunteer work day. They installed a gate and split rail fence, and trimmed brush on the trail. This was just one of many projects they completed in 2010.

These projects enhance the Forest trail systems. In 2010, across the Forest, 25 members of the Indiana Backcountry Horsemen volunteered 270 hours of their time to contribute to maintenance and construction on the trails and trailheads on the Hoosier National Forest. The Hoosier's staff greatly appreciates their work!

## 25th Event for Wildflower Foray

The Wildflower Foray may be the longest running event the Hoosier National Forest has helped with. In 2010 the event celebrated its 25th year and as always included 26 different hikes or activities related to wildflowers over a three day period. It also included three days of almost continual rain. The hikes and activities are all in Monroe and Brown Counties.

The Hoosier sponsored a hike each of the three days: one to the Waldrip Cabin, a hike in the Wilderness to an area known for its wild hyacinths (one of the longest running and most popular hikes in the Foray), and an 8 mile hike on the Pate Hollow Trail. Every hike was well attended despite the rain. With wet glasses it was sometimes hard to see the flowers, but the flowers were happy to have the rain, and we were happy to be outdoors sharing our love of nature with the public.

With each hike a spring wildflower count is kept to monitor what flowers (native and nonnative) are blooming each year. The data base includes a valuable resource for plants and their variability in blooming seasons as well as nonnative movement into Brown and Monroe County natural areas.

## Forests Hosts Key Meetings

In April, 2010 the Hoosier hosted the Regional Leadership Team meeting and in November, 2010 the Forest hosted the Eastern Region's Silviculture and Fuels meeting. In November 2009 the forest hosted the Central States Forest Soils Workshop.

Some 65 people in leadership positions in the northeast came to the April meeting which showcased the Hoosier and its management. For most, it was their first trip to the Forest. Fifty-five representatives from forests in the northeast attended the November silviculture and fuels meeting. Both meetings were held at the historic French Lick Hotel and included field trips to various projects on the Hoosier.

Over 80 participants from soil and timber industries attended the 3-day soils workshop. This event held in Santa Claus, IN was coordinated by the Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service, Indiana DNR-Division of Forestry, and the Hoosier.

The groups left the Hoosier realizing there is more than corn and basketball in Indiana and that the Hoosier has indeed cared for the land and served people for 75 years!



Wildflower hikers at Waldrip Cabin in the rain and an albino beech tree.



## 75 Years of Caring for the Land and Serving People

The Hoosier National Forest has been a fixture in southern Indiana now for 75 years. We thought that was worth celebrating. We held a celebration in May for employees old and new, and they came from as far away as Louisiana to reconnect with old friends and share stories about the Hoosier. For 75 years we had cared for the land in southern Indiana and served its people but we have also cared about each other and it was good to see old friends again.

We've also used the anniversary to reflect on our history and do a series of historical articles in newspapers. Public Affairs Specialist Teena Ligman has given presentations to organizations throughout southern Indiana on the Forest history which has made people more aware of the impact the Hoosier has played in the restoration of our natural resources.

The Forest also sponsored a *Chamber After Hours* for businesses in the Bedford, Indiana

area and plans to do the same in Tell City. The event's theme was the 75th Anniversary. The



*Current and former Hoosier NF employees at a 75th Anniversary celebration.*

Forest also co-hosted the annual meeting for Historic Southern Indiana's Advisory Board in October and throughout the year has developed historical displays for the office.

The Forest Service was invited by the State of Indiana in 1935 to come in and restore the "lands nobody wanted." In 2010, as a result of good stewardship, the Hoosier is proud to manage some of the finest hardwood forests and recreation areas in the Midwest.

## Walk the Talk for Sustainability

### Timber Sales Provide Multiple Benefits

For the past few years the Hoosier's timber sale program has been making headway restoring ecosystems and removing salvaged timber from blow-down areas. The Forest first concentrated on cleaning up timber stands damaged by wind and ice storms. Several severe storms in the southern part of the state with tornadic winds and ice left large areas of the state's trees broken and uprooted. In order to eliminate the danger of catastrophic fire, or an insect and disease infestation in the rotting timber – the Forest sold salvage sales to clean up the downed trees.

Recent sales have focused more on restoring native ecosystems. Current sales have been aimed at removing pine. The non-native pine was planted when eroded lands were reclaimed in the 1930s-1940s. The pine held the soil and did its job reforesting the Hoosier's rugged hillsides, but over time the pine has reached maturity. It has never thrived out of its native range. Pine has limited value to

wildlife and as directed in the Forest Plan, the Hoosier is gradually shifting the pine stands to native hardwood.



*Log landing at timber sale.*

In 2010 the Hoosier brought in timber revenues of about \$127,000. The value of the timber sale program goes far beyond the money returned to the Treasury. The jobs and secondary markets help support the local economy. But perhaps most importantly, the timber sales help us manage the Forest.

Timber sales are a tool to manage and create a healthy, sustainable forest. Most of our stands are 80+ years old – timber sales provide us a tool to provide age and size diversity and healthy sustainable stands. They also provide a means to ensure we have early successional habitat for species that require young forests.

# Revolutionizing effectiveness and efficiency

## Shower/Toilet Buildings Replaced at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area

New shower and toilet buildings at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area bring the facility into compliance with building codes including standards for accessibility. The new buildings also reduce annual maintenance costs.

Eight existing shower and toilet buildings were demolished and replaced with five new ones. A double-vault SST (Sweet Smelling Toilet) or pit toilet was also constructed. Formerly each building had one sink, two toilet fixtures, and one shower



*New shower/toilet building at Hardin Ridge.*

per men's and women's sides. The new shower and toilet buildings have three sinks and three toilet fixtures per side. In addition,

there are four individual shower rooms, including one family-style shower room with a toilet and sink.

The new shower and toilet buildings were designed to meet current building codes and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. This rating means that a building is "designated" green or environmentally friendly.



*Close up of light tubes (roof) and diffuse windows that maximize light.*

Designers developed the shower and toilet buildings to be as durable and maintenance free as possible. Many recycled products were used in construction. Solar light tubes that collect and funnel sunlight into the rooms brighten the interior. Toilet stall partitions are made of recycled plastic. All water fixtures conserve water and the light fixtures are high efficiency and motion sensor activated. Split face block and cement board siding makes for a durable and attractive appearance on the building exterior. In their first season of use, the new buildings received great reviews!

## Tipsaw Lake Road Reconstructed

The 3.2 mile road into the Tipsaw Recreation Area Road was reconstructed using two funding sources. Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) funds contributed \$80,533; and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds chipped in \$360,353. The 20-foot wide asphalt road, constructed in 1975, accesses a 7 mile hike/ bike trail system, boat ramp, beach/picnic area and five camping loops.



*Removing asphalt (above) and excavating for a repair (right).*

The reconstruction work was driven by safety



concerns. Pavement failed because of clay soils, insufficient subgrade material and heavier RV's using the road than what it was designed for. Other design flaws contributed, and parts of the road had settled as much as 6 inches.

The reconstruction work consisted of excavating 2 feet deep on sections of the road and then backfilling with 6 inches of drain rock. On top of that they put a uniaxle geogrid material and then 6-inch lifts of 1.5-inch minus aggregate separated by geogrid material and topped with a 3-inch depth of asphalt.

In places, the entire shoulder was reconstructed. In other areas, four foot wide drains were added through the shoulder in the lowest point to remove water from the excavation areas.

Work on the road is to continue in FY 2011 with the replacement of two undersized culverts using ARRA funding. In the future a 1.5 inch asphalt overlay is planned.

# Being an Employer of Choice

## Learning New Skills in the Wilderness



*Job Corps crewmen fill the mule's saddlebags with gravel.*

Job Corps and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews helped reroute 1.3 miles of trail in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness while getting work experience on the Hoosier.

“We’ve had a variety of help on this trail, and

each person has contributed to making the effort go smoothly,” said Rod Fahl, Wilderness Ranger. The new trail section avoided more hazardous slopes and poorly drained bottomland trails. The trail should no longer wash out and provides better protection for natural resources by eliminating runoff and erosion.

The YCC crew had ten high school students who hand-carried flat rocks up the hill and

built walls for the switchbacks. They also filled in holes, built the creek crossing, and shored up the creek bank. They spent a few days helping fill buckets for the mules to haul gravel.

“The Job Corps came several different times,” Fahl explained. “They had 13 young adults that cleared the corridor. They cut small trees and created a path for the mules to work.” He said they spent about three days making an 8-foot wide corridor. Then they came back later and loaded and spread gravel.

This was Fahl’s first experience working with Job Corps and he said he enjoyed working with them. Between the two crews and Forest employees, the trail improvement was made and several individuals got a new experience working in the outdoors.



*YCC crew members build a retaining wall on a trail switchback.*

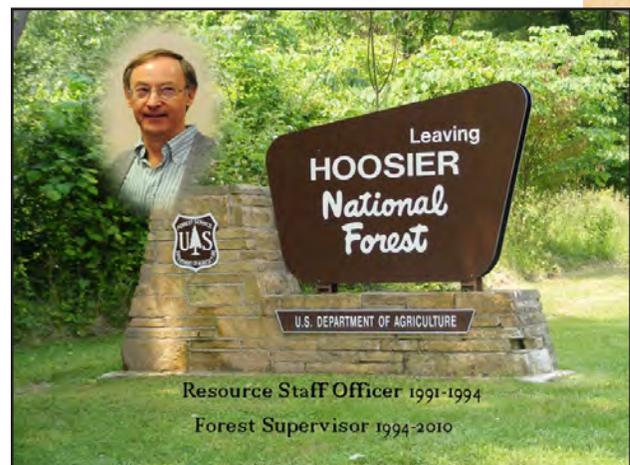
## Long-time Forest Supervisor Retires

Ken Day, who served the Hoosier for almost two decades retired in June. Ken came to the Wayne and Hoosier National Forests as Resource Staff Officer but for the past 16 years had been the Forest Supervisor for the Hoosier. During his tenure as Supervisor:

- The National Forest land base grew by over five percent to 202,461 acres.
- Facilitated complicated land exchanges which benefited wilderness management, wetland restoration, and securing Wesley Chapel Gulf.
- Designated 265 miles of trails
- Instrumental in designation of the Ohio Scenic River Byway across the Forest.
- Oversaw 194 caves, of which 42 are significant and contain 44 Regional Forest Sensitive Species.
- Re-instituted timber harvesting on the Forest as a tool to restore healthy ecosystems.
- Restored thousands of acres of wetlands.
- Reached out to communities and youth through special events such as Take Pride in America, Kids Unplugged, Adventures in Nature and Fishing Derbies.

- Managed the 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness.
- Set the guidance and direction for the 2006 Land and Resource Management Plan.

After 19 years on the Forest, Day’s influence will be felt for year’s to come. After his retirement in June, District Ranger Anne Carey served as Acting Forest Supervisor for the second half of 2010. With the arrival of Melany Glossa, Carey has returned to her duties as District Ranger.



## 2010 Payments to Counties

In 2010, Indiana counties received \$2.17/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.

County	Acres	Total \$
Brown	18,451	\$44,170
Crawford	24,362	53,526
Dubois	412	1,297
Jackson	23,277	49,690
Lawrence	16,439	29,639
Martin	9,549	15,979
Monroe	19,085	53,445
Orange	31,695	70,604
Perry	59,562	121,971
<b>Total</b>	<b>202,832</b>	<b>\$440,321</b>

## Hoosier Hosts Leave No Trace Training

The Hoosier hosted a pilot training on Leave No Trace (LNT) Outdoor Ethics specific to frontcountry stock use. Frontcountry refers to areas accessed by day use visitors. The course will better educate riders on frontcountry use to minimize resource impacts.

Instructors from Montana, California, Kentucky, and the Hoosier's Rod Fahl put on the week-long course held in September. Hoosier mules were utilized for demonstrations throughout the week.

The LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics is currently refining the 5-day course curriculum, and adding a supplement to the Horse Use Skills & Ethics booklet to provide a better understanding of horse use in the frontcountry and ways to further minimize impacts.

### Volunteer Hours and Value of Service Hoosier National Forest - 2010

Office	Vol. Hours	Value of Svc
Supervisor's Office & Brownstown District	1,093	\$22,133
Tell City District	119	\$2,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>\$24,543</b>



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