



Frequently Asked Questions



Hoosier National Forest

4/2016

This information answers questions frequently asked by visitors to the Hoosier National Forest. Additional information is covered in other handouts.

Backpacking

- Backpacking and hiking are permitted anywhere on the Hoosier National Forest
- Wear bright orange colored clothing during hunting seasons
- Carry a compass and learn how to use it, GPS units may not always find a satellite
- Do not drink unfiltered water from Forest streams
- Stream flow is weather dependent, plan accordingly
- Know where you are – Hoosier lands are scattered with private lands interspersed – do not trespass
- The Knobstone Trail does not cross the Hoosier, obtain information by calling Jackson-Washington State Forest at 812-358-2160.

Bicycles/Horses

- Horses and non-motorized bicycles are permitted on many designated Hoosier NF trails
- Bikers and horseback riders 17 and over must have a permit and ride trails designated for that use
- Annual permits are \$35; day-use permits are \$5
- Permits can be purchased at the office or at several local stores

Free Camping

- Dispersed or roadside camping is allowed on the National Forest at no charge
- Use a cleared or designated site when available
- You do not need to check in with anyone
- Pack out your trash, leave a clean campsite
- Groups larger than 75 require a permit

Developed Campgrounds

- At Hardin Ridge, Tipsaw, and Indian-Celina reservations are encouraged but not required; some sites are available on a first-come first-served basis
- Reservations may be made online at www.recreation.gov or by calling the National Reservation System at 1-877-444-6777. Federal relay: 1-877-833-6777.
- A fee is charged when making a reservation

- Reservation must be placed 4 days before arriving

Horse Camping

- Primitive free horse camps include: Blackwell, Hickory Ridge, Shirley Creek, Youngs Creek, and German Ridge. Some have non-potable water for horses
- German Ridge has designated sites and some amenities but requires a fee
- Sites are provided first-come, first-served
- Campers without horses are also welcome.

Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping

- All Hoosier lands are available for hunting (EXCEPT recreation areas with designated boundaries and Pioneer Mother's)
- All state hunting and fishing regulations apply
- Notify IDNR if you see wild hogs on the Forest.

Charles C. Deam Wilderness

- Group size is limited to 10 people
- No wheeled or motorized vehicles are allowed
- Trails are multiple use for hiking and horseback riding; one hiking-only trail is available

Maps

- Maps may be purchased by calling or visiting a Forest Service office or online
- Forest Visitor maps are available for \$10
- Topographic maps (2.5 inches per mile scale) and trail maps of the Charles C. Deam Wilderness are also available. These maps show National Forest ownerships, topography, and cultural features
- Topographic maps cost \$8
- The trail map costs \$11.95 plus tax
- The Charles C. Deam Wilderness map is \$1

Rentals

- The Hoosier does not provide rental or trail riding services (bicycles, boats, or horses)

Access

- Many facilities are designed to provide access for all
- Some have varying degrees of physical limitations – call ahead for specific information



Forest Service

- Various passport programs are available; these can result in a 50% discount of some fees at National Forests and Grasslands, National Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation properties. Check each location for available discounts
- Passes must be purchased in person or online at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html> or <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>
- Senior Passport is for 62 and older; cost is \$10 and has no expiration
- Access Passport is for those with permanent disabilities; free for a lifetime; proof of disability must be shown
- Annual Pass is available for anyone; cost is \$80/year

Wildlife

- If you find an abandoned animal in the Forest, leave it there
- If you have a problem with an animal or find a hurt animal please call the IDNR Animal Hotline at 1-800-893-4116

Classified Forests

- Please call the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for questions or concerns on private lands

Licenses and Stickers

- We do not sell hunting or fishing licenses
- We do not have permits or stickers for ATVs or boats – please contact IDNR. Boats permits are for State man-made lakes only

Smokey Bear

- Smokey Bear is administered by the US Forest Service, The National Association of State Foresters, and the Ad Council
- Smokey Bear's image is designed to create and maintain an awareness of the need to prevent wildfire
- Smokey may appear in parades, at schools, fairs, youth-group meeting, conservation activities, sporting events, civic and community events, trade shows, and similar functions where a fire prevention message can be conveyed
- Smokey cannot appear at Christmas parties, summer picnics, Halloween parties, birthday parties, or situations that might compromise Smokey's message or give an appearance of impropriety

Hoosier National Forest, IDNR, and Parks

- The Hoosier is Indiana's only National Forest
- The Hoosier is part of a nationwide system of National Forests and Grasslands administered by the United States Department of Agriculture
- The National Parks are administered by the United States Department of Interior. National Parks in Indiana include Lincoln Boyhood National Monument near Dale; George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes; and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter
- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers state properties across Indiana.
- There are many divisions of IDNR including Divisions of Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, Outdoor Recreation; Nature Preserves, etc.
- IDNR Conservation Officers enforce state regulations for fish and wildlife on both state and Federal lands in Indiana. To contact a Conservation Officer please contact IDNR.



Hoosier NF Offices

Hoosier National Forest offices are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Forest Supervisor's Office
and Brownstown Ranger District Office
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-5987

Toll Free: 1-866-302-4173
Federal relay: 1-800-877-8339
www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier

Tell City Ranger District Office
248 15th Street
Tell City, IN 47586
(812) 547-7051

Please also consult the Flier on Hoosier National Forest Rules and Regulations.

**Large Print Copies Available
on Request**