



Hoosier National Forest Highlights



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Keep it Wild: The Purpose of Wilderness



By Stacy Duke, Wilderness Manager

Wilderness is an integral part of American history. The United States was the first country in the world to legally define and designate Wilderness areas. 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.” 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
- an area that has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation

Today designated Wilderness areas make up almost 110 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 which is in Indiana, the Charles C. Deam Wilderness.

In 1982, the Charles C. Deam Wilderness was designated by Congress. 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. Motorized and wheeled equipment is prohibited, including chainsaws.

The Deam Wilderness provides approximately 37 miles of long distance loop trails in 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 people or less. Trails are hike/horse only. Mountain bikes are not permitted in Wilderness areas. Camping within 100 feet of ponds, Monroe Lake, designated trails, or streams is allowed only in designated sites. Blackwell Horsecamp, a primitive campground is also located nearby. For a complete list of rules and regulations visit the Hoosier National Forest website or stop by the Forest Supervisor's Office located in Bedford.

Practicing Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics is always recommended.

Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

- ✓ *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*

www.LNT.org

If planning a visit to the Charles C. Deam Wilderness, stop by the historic Brook's Cabin Wilderness Welcome Center, just off Tower Ridge Road, about a mile east of Highway 446, to learn more about the area. The cabin is open on an intermittent schedule. Also nearby is the historic Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower, once utilized to spot wildfires. Today visitors can climb 133 steps to the top to see a panoramic view of the forest while the leaves are changing colors.

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.



Caption: View of the Charles C. Deam Wilderness from the Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower



Caption: Brook's Cabin Wilderness Welcome

Center



Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower