



Hoosier National Forest Highlights

Contact: Teena Ligman, 812-275-5987

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Working for the Forest Service



By Melany Glossa, Forest Supervisor

Have you ever noticed that after our long Indiana winters there is this irresistible urge to just get outside? With the redbud trees blooming, and the maples and oaks leafing out creating a sea of green against the blue skies, the changing of the seasons seems to affect us all. The connection that we have to our natural surroundings is undeniable. From the air we breathe, to the water we drink and swim in, to the uplifting feelings they offer us, our natural world is part of our human heritage.

It just so happens that I know a way that you could feel that connection to our natural surroundings every day. I know because I work for the U.S. Forest Service, right here in southern Indiana. The Forest Service affords opportunities to spend your work life supporting and caring for our nation's forests and grasslands. The challenge is to help manage the nation's forests, ranges and wetlands in ways that are most environmentally responsible, sustainable for the long term, and most effective for the American citizens who use them.

For those of you that are avid outdoorsmen and women, you may already know about the incredible career opportunities with the Forest Service. Some of the more commonly known professional positions we hire are: field technician, forester, soil scientist, botanist, range management specialist, archeologist, fish biologist, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, geologist, engineer, entomologist, law enforcement and fire fighter.

If you would rather work in a position that spends more time indoors than out, other occupations with the Forest Service include: researcher, administration, criminal investigator, accountant, public affairs, realty specialist and contracting among others.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of land across America. We have offices in every state in the nation and work that spans from soil surveys to research and education. Our mission, *to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations*, encompasses large forests like the Tongass in Alaska, to neighborhood urban forests that may be just down the street from your house. As a Forest Service employee, some of your tasks might be to advocate a conservation ethic in our national forests. You would be expected to listen to people and respond to their diverse needs when making decisions.

National forests are managed for multiple-uses and need to be sustainable – it would be your job to protect and manage them to ensure those goals. You might be involved in developing scientific and technical knowledge to improve the capability of protecting, managing, and using our forests and rangelands.

Some Forest Service jobs provide assistance to State and private forest landowners, encouraging them to practice good stewardship and quality land management in meeting their specific objectives. You might also work with States and communities to promote rural economic development and a sound and healthy rural environment.

Other Forest Service employees work internationally to provide technical assistance to cities and urban communities to improve their natural environment by planting trees and caring for their forests.

Another job might be providing opportunities for work, training, and education to youth.

We work to achieve our goals through our national forests, our research, our connection to state and private forests, and our work with Job Corps. For more information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/forests-service/mission.html>.

For job opportunities with the Forest Service go to www.usajobs.gov.



Brian Knoeble, Forest Service Radio Technician repairing a repeater on a radio tower on the Hoosier National Forest.



Angie Krieger, Archeologist, working on an archaeological excavation on the Hoosier.