



# Hoosier National Forest Highlights

---

Contact: Teena Ligman, 812-275-5987

Issue #78

December 18, 2013

## Wood Products From the Hoosier National Forest



By: Jason Combs, Timber Management Assistant

One of the eight goals in the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems. One tool used to achieve this goal is timber harvests. Some of the lands purchased for the Hoosier under the authority of the Weeks Act were cutover, eroded farm fields. Non-native pines were planted in these areas to stabilize and begin to rebuild the topsoil. Shortleaf and eastern white pines were the most commonly planted trees, but any available pine species were planted and Virginia and red pine stands also occur on the Hoosier. The pine stands are slowly being converted to native hardwood species.

A variety of products are made from Hoosier National Forest pine trees, depending on the purchaser of the timber and market conditions. The best pines that meet minimum requirements for length, straightness, and diameter have been sent all the way to Wisconsin to make utility poles or log homes. Dimensional lumber, pallet stock, crossties, and railroad ties are sawn locally and sent to manufacturers in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. Smaller trees, as well as the tops of larger trees, can be debarked, chipped and sent to a paper mill in Kentucky.

Hardwood utilization varies depending on the species, length and thickness of the sawn timber and quality of the wood. Market conditions and customer demands, both domestically, as well as international exports influence utilization. The most desirable

hardwood species from the Hoosier are usually walnut, white oak and red oak. The very best quality trees of desirable species with good form and little defect are used as veneer for products like cabinets and furniture. Higher grades of sawn wood that generally produce longer cuttings can be used for products like baseboards and doorjamb. Other products include cabinets, hardwood flooring, and staves for barrels. These products are sent to every state bordering Indiana, as well as exported to other countries. Pallet stock can also be made from lower grades of hardwoods as well and shipped as far as Texas and the east coast.

Bark, sawdust, and slabs from cutting lumber can be also be used. One option is to use them for boiler fuel. The sawdust and debarked slabs can be ground and dried for use as animal bedding. Another use is to convert these leftovers into wood pellets for home heating or grill pellets.

For more information, contact Jason Combs at (812) 547-9242 or [jdcombs@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdcombs@fs.fed.us).



This hardwood selection unit is from the Deuchars Sale cut last summer.



Loader with pine logs on a sale on the Hoosier National Forest.



Skidder and a cutter work together to harvest pine on the Hoosier.