Hoosier National Forest

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"



OUTREACH NOTICE

Forester (Silviculture), GS-0460-5/7/9

Tell City, IN

For the Greatest Good…

Come and be surprised by this hidden gem of the National Forest System; rich in resources, committed co-workers and a broad variety of communities in which to live and work.

The Hoosier National Forest will soon be filling one vacancy for a permanent full-time Forester (Silviculture), GS-0460-5/7/9. The duty station will be located at the Hoosier National Forest, Tell City Ranger District Office in Tell City, Indiana. A description of the position's duties begins in the next section. For additional details on the position, please call **Travis Swaim**, Forest Silviculturist at **(812) 547-9237**. Once advertised, applicants will need to apply through the USA JOBS process and select Tell City, Indiana as the desired duty location.

If you are interested in the position, please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to Travis Swaim, at justin.swaim@usda.gov no later than November 6, 2026.

All respondents will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement becomes available. There will be a separate process to apply for the position.

Position Description and Responsibilities

At the GS-5 Level

As a trainee, performs duties which are designed to orient the employee in the application of academic theories and basic forestry principles to a variety of work situations. Assignments may be similar to those assigned to nonprofessional employees, but such tasks are primarily for training purposes, or to relieve higher grade foresters of routine work. Assists higher grade foresters, or works as a team member, in accomplishing selected portions of projects which include all or most of the following:

Conducts examinations, surveys, and collection of data on assigned timber compartments and stands. Performs an evaluation on the conditions found. Prepares recommendations for specific treatment or action needed based on standard application of silvicultural methods and practices. Prepares reports on work accomplishments for assigned area of responsibility. Participates in timber sale unit layout, timber cruising, and sale administration activities to develop experience and an understanding of how silvicultural management objectives are met and maintained.

At the GS-7 Level

As an advanced trainee forester, performs specific portions or minor phases of assignments in support of broad functional activities for which foresters of a higher level have overall responsibility. Assignments are typically screened to eliminate difficult or unusual problems. Receives training in more advanced skills, techniques and procedures by performing a variety of productive forestry work which includes duties such as the following:

Collects compartment, stand prescription or presale information data for specified areas selected for cutting; conducts cruises of timber stands, delineating forest cover by use of aerial photographs and summarizes data; and performs related preparation, timber stand improvement and reforestation duties. Acts as Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) on stand exam and stand improvement contracts. Acts as Harvest Inspector on timber sales.

At the GS-9 Level

Conducts examinations of timber compartments and stands on the unit and evaluates the conditions found. Makes or recommends basic land management decisions based on these evaluations. Makes silviculture prescriptions and action plans for TSI and reforestation work necessary to attain timber management objectives using aerial photographs and on-the-ground observation and measurements. Reviews and recommends plans for the timber harvest program. This includes sale design, layout, and marking in accordance with approved silvicultural prescription and environmental assessment reports.

Conducts natural regeneration survival examinations to determine that results meet accepted standards. Sets up checks and inspections to determine the effectiveness of culture treatments. Makes recommendations to the Forest Silviculturist on techniques, policies, and procedures to increase the effectiveness or improve the quality of treatments.

Prepares multiple-use compartment prescriptions and environmental assessment reports based on field examination. Prepares or participates in the environmental analysis of projects and may draft enviromental documents for projects. Participates in timber sale unit layout and sale administration to ensure that silvicultural management objectives are maintained.

Description of the Forest:

The Hoosier National Forest encompasses nearly 205,000 acres in South Central Indiana stretching south from Bloomington to the Ohio River and is located within a drive of two hours or less from Cincinnati, Ohio; Evansville and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Louisville, Kentucky. Two ranger districts include the Brownstown District in Bedford, Indiana and the Tell City District in Tell City, Indiana.

The Hoosier National Forest sits in the unglaciated hills of Southern Indiana. The Forest provides a range of opportunities and resources for people to enjoy. The many recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain bike riding, and viewing scenery. The only congressionally designated wilderness in Indiana, the 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness provides opportunities for users desiring higher levels of solitude. In addition the Forest has over 265 miles of trails for hiking, biking, or horseback riding.



The Hoosier works to provide integrated resource management on the complex mosaic that make up National Forest System Lands in Indiana. Only 31% of the land within the Forest Boundary is National Forest System land, this scattered ownership pattern adds a complexity to the management of this valued natural resource. Forest managers are responsible for protection of some very unique resources. The Hoosier is located in an area rich in caves and karst features. These underground features are largely unknown to most Forest visitors but are home to many species that are specific to these habitats. The Hoosier has five endangered or threatened species: the fanshell and rough pigtoe mussels reside in rivers to the south; the gray, Indiana and northern long-eared bats and their habitat occur throughout the Forest. The wildlife program on the Forest focuses on management to provide habitat for these species as well as many others that occur throughout the area.

The Forest works to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems. The vegetation management on the forest focuses on promoting native oak and hickory regeneration, reducing nonnative pine planted to restore over farmed lands, and reducing nonnative invasive plant and animal species.

The Hoosier National Forest organization is non-traditional with an emphasis on placing resource specialists closer to the ground. Certain Forest-level staff functions that traditionally reside in a Supervisor's Office work in a team environment and serve as District-level program managers. This serves to broaden District interdisciplinary teams and improve technology transfer, customer service, and quality of stewardship. We view the Districts as the backbone of the Forest Service organization and emphasize customer service at that level.



Tell City Office

The Hoosier National Forest Tell City Ranger District Office is located in Tell City and Perry County. Tell City is located on the banks of the Ohio River and was founded in 1858 by the Swiss Colonization Society for Swiss and German immigrants. Settlement occurred early due to the cities proximity to the Ohio River. Community development was directly related to river travel. The city recognizes it's Swiss and German heritage each August at the annual Schweizer Fest. Perry County has a population of approximately 18,900 people, with an estimated 7,500 in Tell City. The area observes central time zone.

Major industries in the area include lumbering, manufacturing, and farming, additional area employers include ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, Mulzer Crushed Stone, Accent Marketing Services, ATTC Manufacturing, and Branchville Correctional Facility.

Perry County has 3 public elementary schools (1 in Tell City); 3 junior –senior high schools (7-12) (1 in Tell City). In addition there are two private schools located in the county. Perry County also boasts a state community college campus (Ivy Tech). Perry County Hospital is located between the communities of Tell City and Cannelton. Housing in Perry County is very affordable. Median home values in Tell City are around $87,000.

Perry County's rolling hills along the Ohio River provide amazing views of natural beauty, the area is well suited to outdoor recreation pursuits. Several boat ramps on the Ohio River provide access for boating and fishing. Five man-made lakes in Perry County offer water-based recreation opportunities.

The Ohio River National Scenic Byway runs through the county providing scenic bicycling and driving areas that tell the story of the river, the county, and the culture of the area.
Find more information about the Tell City area by visiting http://www.perrycountyindiana.org.
The following link contains videos highlighting the quality of life and schools in Perry County:
http://www.pickperry.com/videos.html.

Climate:

The temperature in southern Indiana varies north to south. Although Indiana sometimes has temperatures below zero during the winter, the average temperatures in January range between 17°F and 35°F. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year. The average annual precipitation statewide is 40 in, ranging from about 35 in (89 cm) near Lake Michigan to 45 inches along the Ohio River; from, 1981 - 2010, Indianapolis had an average of 42 inches annually. The annual snowfall averages about 26 inches.



Education:

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities with southern Indiana schools ranking high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering reasonable in-district tuition. Indiana

University, located in Bloomington, offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctoral programs. Day care facilities also are available in most communities.

Places of Worship:

Churches representing all major denominations; as well as Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and other places of worship; can be found in communities across the area.

Economy:

Real estate in the area is moderately priced, as are utilities. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries and craft breweries have opened, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

Healthcare:

Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility IU Health Bedford Hospital and St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, in Bedford, along with full service hospitals and medical practices in Bloomington. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care in the general area of the Hoosier include Perry County Memorial in Tell City, Indiana; Deaconess in Evansville, Indiana; and University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.



Recreational and Cultural Activities:

The region has many opportunities for outdoor activities as well as small town festivals and fairs. In addition there is easy access to larger cities including Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and St. Louis, Missouri.

Qualification Requirements:

In order to qualify, you must meet the eligibility and qualifications requirements as defined below by the closing date of the announcement. For more information on the qualifications for this position, visit the Office of Personnel Management's General Schedule Qualification Standards

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a

copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-
7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Please complete your response by **November 6, 2026**. Responses may be sent via email or USPS.

E-mail: justin.swaim@usda.gov
Fax: (844) 958-1603
Mail: Travis Swaim
Hoosier National Forest
248 15th Street
Tell City, IN 47586

This Outreach is for the following position:

- **Forester(Silviculture), GS 0460-5/7/9, Permanent Full-time Position**
- **Region 9, Hoosier National Forest, Tell City, Indiana**

Name:_____ **Date:**_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:_____**Email address:**_____

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No
If YES, CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT:_____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE:_____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:_____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____USFS ____BLM _____OTHER:_____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:	**___PERMANENT**	**_____TEMPORARY**	**____Other**

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:

_____PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
_____VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
_____DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
_____VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
_____FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
_____STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
_____OTHER _____

How did you learn of this opportunity: _____

_____

Thank you for your interest in this position.