



Hoosier National Forest—Frequently Asked Questions

This information answers questions frequently asked by visitors about the Hoosier National Forest. Additional information, including rules and regulations, can be found on our website and other publications.

Hoosier National Forest; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and National Parks

- Hoosier National Forest (Forest) is the only national forest in Indiana. It is part of a nationwide system of National Forests and Grasslands administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.
- 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 Park in Porter.
- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers state properties across Indiana.
- There are many divisions of IDNR including Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, Outdoor Recreation; State Parks and Nature Preserves.
- 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 Central Dispatch 812-837-9536.

Maps

- A variety of Forest maps may be purchased by calling or visiting a Forest Service office or online at <https://go.usa.gov/x6Mhy>

Access

- Many facilities are designed to provide access for all. Some have varying degrees of physical limitations – call ahead for specific information.
- Federal interagency passes are available, which can result in discounted fees. Check each location for available discounts. They can be purchased at our Forest offices or at <https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes>

Backpacking

- Backpacking is permitted anywhere on the Hoosier National Forest (except Hemlock Cliffs, Pioneer

Mothers, and within developed campground areas)

- Know where you are – Hoosier lands are scattered with private lands interspersed – do not trespass. Carry a map and compass and learn how to use them, GPS units may not always find a satellite.
- Do not drink unfiltered water from Forest streams, ponds or lakes
- Stream flow is weather dependent, plan accordingly
- Some sections of Forest trails are part of the greater Knobstone Trail. Contact Hoosier Hikers Council for information 855-812-HIKE .

Bicycles/Horses

- Horses and non-motorized bicycles are permitted on designated trails
- Bikers and horseback riders 17 and older must have a Trail Use Permit and ride trails designated for that use
- Annual permits are \$35; day-use permits are \$5
- Permits can be purchased at Forest offices, local vendors or online at <https://go.usa.gov/x6dTw>

Dispersed Camping

- Dispersed camping is allowed on the National Forest at no charge
- Use a designated site when available
- No check in is required
- Pack out your trash, bury human waste 200 feet from the site, leave a clean campsite
- Any visiting group larger than 75 requires a permit
- No camping within 100 feet of a road, trail or water source unless in a designated campsite

Developed Campgrounds

- At Hardin Ridge, Tipsaw, and Indian-Celina Recreation Areas, reservations are encouraged but not required; some sites are available on a first-come first-served basis
- Reservations for campsites and rental units 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
- Reservations can be made 9 months in advance and must be placed at least 4 days before arriving

Horse Camping

- Primitive free horse camps include: Blackwell, Hickory Ridge, Shirley Creek and Youngs Creek.
- German Ridge, Youngs Creek, Shirley Creek and Hickory Ridge have non-potable water for horses at least seasonally.
- 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 National Forest lands are available for hunting (EXCEPT recreation areas with designated boundaries and Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest)
- All state hunting, trapping and fishing regulations apply
- Target shooting is prohibited in the Deam Wilderness

Charles C. Deam Wilderness

- Group size is limited to 10 people
- No wheeled, mechanized or motorized equipment are allowed
- Trails are multiple use for hiking and horseback riding; Sycamore Trail is for hiking only

Rentals

- The Forest does not provide rental or trail riding services (bicycles, boats, or horses)
- Rentals include 2 cabins at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, and several shelterhouses Forest-wide.

Wildlife

- Leave all animals in the forest, even if it appears to be abandoned. Mothers often leave young to go find food.
- If you have a wildlife-related issue or an injured wildlife check the IDNR website for a list of licensed rehabilitators <https://go.usa.gov/x6MJQ>

Private Forest Land

- Contact your local IDNR district forester: <https://go.usa.gov/x6Mhz>

Hunting, Fishing and Boats

- Hunting and fishing licenses are sold by IDNR <https://go.usa.gov/x6MJz>
- Within the National Forest, state issued lake permits for boats are required only on Patoka and Monroe Lakes. Visit <https://go.usa.gov/x6MSD>

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 only appear where a fire prevention message is conveyed such as parades, at schools, fairs, youth-group meetings, conservation activities, sporting events, civic and community events, trade shows, and similar functions.

Hoosier National Forest Offices

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

Forest Supervisor's Office and Brownstown Ranger District Office

811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-5987

Tell City Ranger District Office

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

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