

Please Join Us

Harrison-Crawford State Forest will host its annual Open House at the forest office on Thursday, February 27 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Information will be provided regarding recreation, forest resource management and major projects that are planned on the property for the upcoming 1-2 years. Property personnel will be available to answer questions and discuss management activities.

In addition to its regular open house events this year, the division is also seeking public input for the 2020-2024 Strategic Direction. The Strategic Direction guides all aspects of the division for the next five years. Topics covered under the Direction include Private Forestlands Management, the Fire Program, Community and Urban Forestry, Conservation Education, Nursery, and State Forest Properties. Input received at the Open Houses will be used during the development process of the Strategic Direction to help formulate guidance in each of the division's program areas.

A copy of the 2015-2019 Strategic Direction is available on the division's website at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry>. Public comments may also be submitted through the division's website at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/8122.htm>.



7240 OLD FOREST RD. SW
CORYDON, IN 47112

CONTACT US:
(812) 738-7694
HARRISONSF@DNR.IN.GOV

Dwayne Sieg, Property Manager
Brittanie Sillings, Office Manager
Elena Crosier, Resource Specialist
Wayne Werne, Resource Specialist
Derek Spangler, Recreation Laborer
Jack Hopper, Laborer
John Phelps, Laborer
COOPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT
(CLASSIFIED FOREST PROGRAM) STAFF:
Abby Irwin

EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE
February 27, 2020, 4-7 pm

TRAIL CLOSURES
Where recreation trails go through active timber harvesting operations, the affected segments may be temporarily closed. Such closures are done for visitors' safety. Closures usually take place from mid-November until the first of April. At the present, there is a portion closed between Potato Run Creek and the Ohio River. View a map of closed trails at: https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-HCSF_Trail_Closures.pdf Contact the office for more information on specific closure locations.



HARRISON-CRAWFORD STATE FOREST

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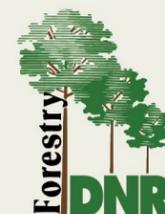
Read about updates on current and future timber management.

P3: Updates

Learn about updates to ongoing projects on the property.

P4: Please Join Us

Join us at our upcoming open house and learn more about the property.



COLD FRIDAY Holler

WINTER 2020

VOLUNTEERS ON THE RISE

This past year Harrison-Crawford State Forest had the opportunity to refocus efforts regarding the management of the recreation trails located within the state forest. There are presently over 100 miles of trails, many of which are in need of repairs and improvements. In order to accomplish our goals, we have enlisted volunteers to assist with the many tasks that will be involved.

The mountain bike users, Hoosier Mountain Bikers Association (HMBA), have established a steady program of needed volunteer work, most recently taking on maintenance of the Adventure Trail. Their volunteer efforts have tremendously improved this trail over the past couple of years.

A neighbor, Come Again Enterprises, a privately owned horse campground, has provided volunteer efforts for years to maintain the horse trail system north of Blue River. They have been the primary provider of this work during that time.

We were fortunate enough to enlist the volunteer help of around 40 individuals from the New Albany Stake Church of Latter Day Saints last spring. They provided excellent help on a horse trail and the Adventure Trail.

These groups and countless individuals have done tremendous work as we began this monumental task of upgrading our trails. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their time, support, and efforts.



Teenagers and leaders from the New Albany Stake Church of Latter Day Saints working on the Upper Blue River horse trail.

People or groups interested in volunteering for trail or other maintenance projects on Harrison-Crawford State Forest should contact the forest office at 812-738-7694.



Leavenworth Barrens NP

Leavenworth Barrens Nature Preserve, located within Harrison-Crawford State Forest, consists of 762 acres of dry upland forest dominated by oak and hickory with scattered openings containing the barrens community for which the area is protected and managed. The Preserve is located just north of the town of Leavenworth, from the east side of Leavenworth take Dry Run Road north, after approximately 1 mile you will see a nice area of barrens vegetation on your left, turn left onto Tower Road and go about a ¼ mile to a small gravel pull off on your right. From here feel free to explore the openings along both sides of the road where you will encounter prairie dock, smooth aster, blazing star, rattlesnake master and tall coreopsis along with many other members of the barrens community. The other barren openings and glades are scattered within the preserve away from roads and require some exploring to locate.

Further information -
Division of Nature Preserves Southwest Regional Ecologist, Ryan Keller:
rkeller@dnr.in.gov

Recreation Management Returns

Since its 2004 creation, O'Bannon Woods State Park had been charged with management and maintenance of the recreation facilities on both properties. In the spring of 2019, the responsibility for the facilities on the Harrison-Crawford State Forest was returned to the Division of Forestry and the property. Since then we have been making the transition to do this. Needed supplies and materials have been identified and purchased, priorities considered, and work started. Additionally, we were allowed to hire an additional full time position to work on the various recreational features.



What Does This Mean?

Recreation facilities on the State Forest include over 60 miles of horse trails with 3 trailheads, 22+/- miles of the 25 mile Adventure Hiking Trail, a segment of the Fire Tower bike trail, a few miles of shorter day trails (Cliff Dweller, Sharp Valley), 3 Blue River boat access ramps, 5 disabled hunter trails, and Wyandotte Lake. While all of it will receive maintenance, special emphasis will be on improving the conditions found on all of those trails. Such improvements will include repair of the many places of erosion and the addition, refreshing, and enhancements to trail marking. Additionally, the never-ending need for removal of limbs, fallen trees, and side brush will be increased. The end goal is to provide a safe, enjoyable trail system, while ensuring their sustainability.

Indiana DNR Land Portfolio

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources manages over 520,000 acres across the State. The properties are managed by a variety of divisions (Fish and Wildlife, Nature Preserves, Outdoor Recreation, State Parks, and Forestry) and each division manages based upon their own missions and objectives. The State Forests, which encompasses less than a third of the DNR land base, have been actively managed for over 100 years under a "multi-use, multi-benefit" principle that aims to provide timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed protection, and the conservation of cultural and natural resources. Today's forests are the direct result of management practices that have been in place since the first state forest property was acquired in 1903. Unique from other DNR divisions, this multi-use system includes sustainable management and growth of 'green certified' timber. Based upon science, this conservation management practice provides combined benefits offered by no other public lands in Indiana. State Forests are the only properties where long term forest and timber management practices occur. Lands located within the Fish and Wildlife Areas, Nature Preserves, Recreation Areas and State Parks do not participate in, or are 'set aside' from, commercial timber production management.

More Than 50% of DNR Lands Are Set Aside From Commercial Timber Production

DNR Property	Acres
Fish and Wildlife	148,765
Forestry	158,949
Nature Preserves	21,781
Outdoor Recreation	5,322
State Parks	75,790
Federally Owned Land Managed by INDNR	110,633
Total	521,240

Help on the Way

There are some new faces at Harrison-Crawford State Forest, with one of them sticking around permanently. This past summer we hired Aubree Pond (Brownsburg) and Danielle Brown (Corydon) to perform invasive species control efforts. Both women are attending Purdue University, Aubree working toward a Forestry degree and Danielle a degree in Wildlife. Veronica "Roni" Yager joins us to do a temporary caves inventory assignment. Roni, a Purdue alumna, is not entirely new to the property, having previously worked with the ongoing Purdue hellbender team. Derek Spangler joined the staff full time last July to be our recreation management person. Derek had previously worked for the National Park Service, but this job is helping he and his wife, Cori, get back to Indiana to settle down. Derek has already seen "action," getting involved with trail clearing and excavation to repair badly eroded trails. Early January 2020, John Phelps was hired as a part-time recreation laborer. John is retired from the computer industry and is from the Georgetown area. Below is an example of trail maintenance.



Before



After

Timber Harvests

Timber Sold in 2019

There were 2 harvests sold in late June. The Compartment 11, Tracts 4 and 6 sale is located near the Harrison and Crawford county line, north of the interstate. The Compartment 31, Tract 3 sale is located in the Cold Friday region.

Timber Being Marked

Sales are being marked in Compartment 5, Tract 4, near Pilot Knob; Compartment 11, Tracts 4 and 5, on the northside of I-64; and Compartment 14, Tract 2, at the north end of Dry Run Road.

HCSF UPDATE

CONTINUING TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS

Contracts for 4 previously sold sales are still open, with harvesting able to resume after November 15. A wet winter prevented the operations from completion last season.

OFFICE REMODELING CONTINUES

The property office remodeling project has been progressing with the conference room completed with white ash flooring, wainscoting, and trimmed in black walnut. The manager's office was completed last summer and finished in black cherry. In early January, the District Forester's office was done in hickory. The reception area and restroom are the remaining spaces to be remodeled in native Indiana hardwoods.



O'BANNON WOODS STATE PARK

Questions regarding recreation or activities within neighboring O'Bannon Woods State Park can be directed to the park office at: 812-738-8232.

Bob Sawtelle, Property Manager
rsawtelle@dnr.in.gov
Stanley Baelz, Assistant Prop. Manager
sbaelz@dnr.in.gov
Jarrett Manek, Naturalist
jmanek@dnr.in.gov