

USDA Forest Service
Hoosier National Forest

NEWS

Phone: 812.275.5987
Fax: 812.279.3423



811 Constitution Ave.
Bedford, IN 47421

News Contact:
Franklin Lewis 812.277.3580
Fax: 812.279.3423
flewis01@fs.fed.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers invited to participate in Hoosier NF's Public Lands Day

TELL CITY, IN - The Hoosier National Forest is hosting the 7th annual Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 18, 2004. Volunteers are asked to meet at the German Ridge Picnic Area, 12 miles east of Tell City at 9:00 a.m. for a day of work and fun.

"This year's event will be at German Ridge Recreation Area," announced Jim Denoncour, Tell City District Ranger. "Public Lands Day is an opportunity for people to come out and help with some projects on their national forest as well as spend a day outdoors."

Volunteer projects include staining the historic buildings at German Ridge Recreation Area and rehabilitating the campsites there. This historic area was built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930's. In addition to the work projects, an interpreter will be available and provide some environmental education throughout the day.

Denoncour admits that he might be biased but said he thinks the German Ridge area is one of the pretty areas in the Midwest. "If you haven't been to German Ridge, it's a good excuse to come put in a few hours of work and explore the site. A 1.5 mile hiking trail circles the lake and winds through bluffs and big rocks, and the whole area has another 24 miles of trails open to bicycles and horses."

Groups planning on attending are asked to call the Tell City office at 812-547-7051 to ensure that enough tools and supplies are available to accommodate everyone who attends. Volunteers are also invited to camp at German Ridge Friday and Saturday night at no charge. The German Ridge campground does not have showers or running water so campers who require more modern facilities might prefer one of the Forest's other facilities.

The Hoosier National Forest sponsors the PLD celebration in coordination with other land management agencies across the country to increase people's awareness of their public lands. Denoncour notes, "Nationally, we expect over 90,000 volunteers to help at over 600 sites across the country. Together, these volunteers make a huge difference. We're hoping you will join them!"
