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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Take Pride In America Day Set For May 1

Bedford, IN – April 22, 2004. The Hoosier National Forest, in partnership with the Corps of Engineers, will be hosting the 18th annual Take Pride in America (TPIA) Day on Saturday, May 1, 2004. TPIA Day, held annually, promotes volunteerism and gives people the opportunity to “take pride in America’s public lands.” TPIA Day kicks-off at 9:00 a.m. at Shelterhouse #1 in Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. The Recreation Area is 13 miles south of Bloomington, Indiana, just off Highway 446.

Bruce Whittredge, the Forest Service TPIA Day coordinator, said the event is for all ages, and people are welcome to come as a group or individually. “Volunteers have a choice of several projects, such as Lake Monroe shoreline clean-up, trail and pond maintenance, picnic table construction and picking up litter on the Forest. Small groups of volunteers are assigned to a project leader and work on projects they are most interested in.”

Transportation will be provided to the work sites; however, since space is limited, some people may need to take their personal vehicle. Volunteers need to wear sturdy boots/shoes, long pants and gloves and bring a sack lunch and water.

“Everyone working on TPIA Day projects is welcome to camp free of charge at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area as our guests both Friday and Saturday night, April 30th and May 1st,” said Whittredge. “There will also be a free cook-out for all volunteers at Shelterhouse #1 Saturday evening with certificates of appreciation and other awards given out.”

Yvette Rollins, one of last year’s volunteers, will be back again this year. “TPIA Day brings the different user groups on the Forest together, for the benefit of the Forest. By bringing a large mix of folks together, it helps us understand what the Hoosier National Forest means to different people. I can’t miss Take Pride in America Day, it’s my big thing!”

For more information on TPIA Day, or to volunteer, call Steve Harriss at 812.275.5987 or visit the Hoosier National Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.



Volunteers from 2003 TPIA Day after a hard and fun day of work

