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## **AYNES RECEIVES GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARD**

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**Bedford, IN – July 1, 2004. The Hoosier National Forest recently recognized Bob Aynes for 35 years of federal government service. Aynes is a Forestry Technician on the Brownstown Ranger District responsible for helping manage the recreation, wildlife and vegetative management programs on the Forest.**

**Aynes started with the Forest Service in the Youth Conservation Corp, a summer job while he was in high school. In 1969 he started working full time on the Hoosier National Forest working in wildlife, fisheries, timber and fire. For the next 32 years he fought a lot of wild fires, traveling all over the country when the call came.**

**One program he helped nurture and is most proud of is the annual Kid's Fishing Derby. "Fifteen years ago we had our first fishing derby on the Hoosier and just 12 kids showed up. Now we have about 100 kids a year," said Aynes.**

**What keeps Aynes still excited about his job: the outdoors and working with volunteer groups that care about people and the forest. "I have always loved the outdoors," said Aynes, and working with different volunteer organizations like the**

**Boy Scouts, local bass clubs, Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation and Hoosier Fly Fishers is one the best parts of my job.”**

**In receiving the award from Hoosier National Forest Supervisor, Ken Day, Aynes said, “The support from the Forest Service got me through the bad times and kept me going. I cannot put into words how thankful I am for the help that my Forest Service family has given me, especially during my heart surgery and the death of my younger brother in 2001.”**

**When asked if he was going to retire any time soon, Aynes replied, “When my wife tells me I can, I will.”**



**Bob Aynes receiving award from Ken Day, Hoosier National Forest Supervisor**

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