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Pate Hollow Trail Opens

Bedford, IN – July 1, 2004. The Pate Hollow Trail, the Hoosier National Forest’s newest trail system, is open to hikers. The trail head for the 7.7 mile, two loop trail is located behind the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Paynetown State Recreation Area (SRA) office on Highway 446.

The trail, built for hikers only, connects to DNR’s Whitetail Trail and other Paynetown SRA hiking trails. No trail permit is necessary for hiking only trails on the Hoosier National Forest.

Eric Sandeno, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Forest Service who coordinated construction of the trail, brought together several trail organizations and Forest Service staff to get the trail built. “Without the help of the Hoosier Hikers Council, Indiana Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America and DNR, the trail could not have been built,” said Sandeno. “Hikers and horseback riders worked together and constructed one of the nicest trails we have on the Forest. Working on a ‘hikers only’ trail did not stop our horseback riding partners from helping—they just like to see good trail opportunities for all users.”

Another group that helped with the trail construction was the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Every year the Forest Service hires several 15-18 year old high school students to work on various wildlife, fish and recreation projects. “This year’s YCC crew worked on a project they actually get to use—a 7 mile hiking trail,” said Sandeno.

For complete information on the Hoosier National Forest’s 257 miles of hiking, horseback and mountain bike trails, call 812.275.5987 or visit the Forest’s website, fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.



Youth Conservation Corps members William Peterson, Ryan Bassett and Kelsey Ross working on Pate Hollow Trail

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