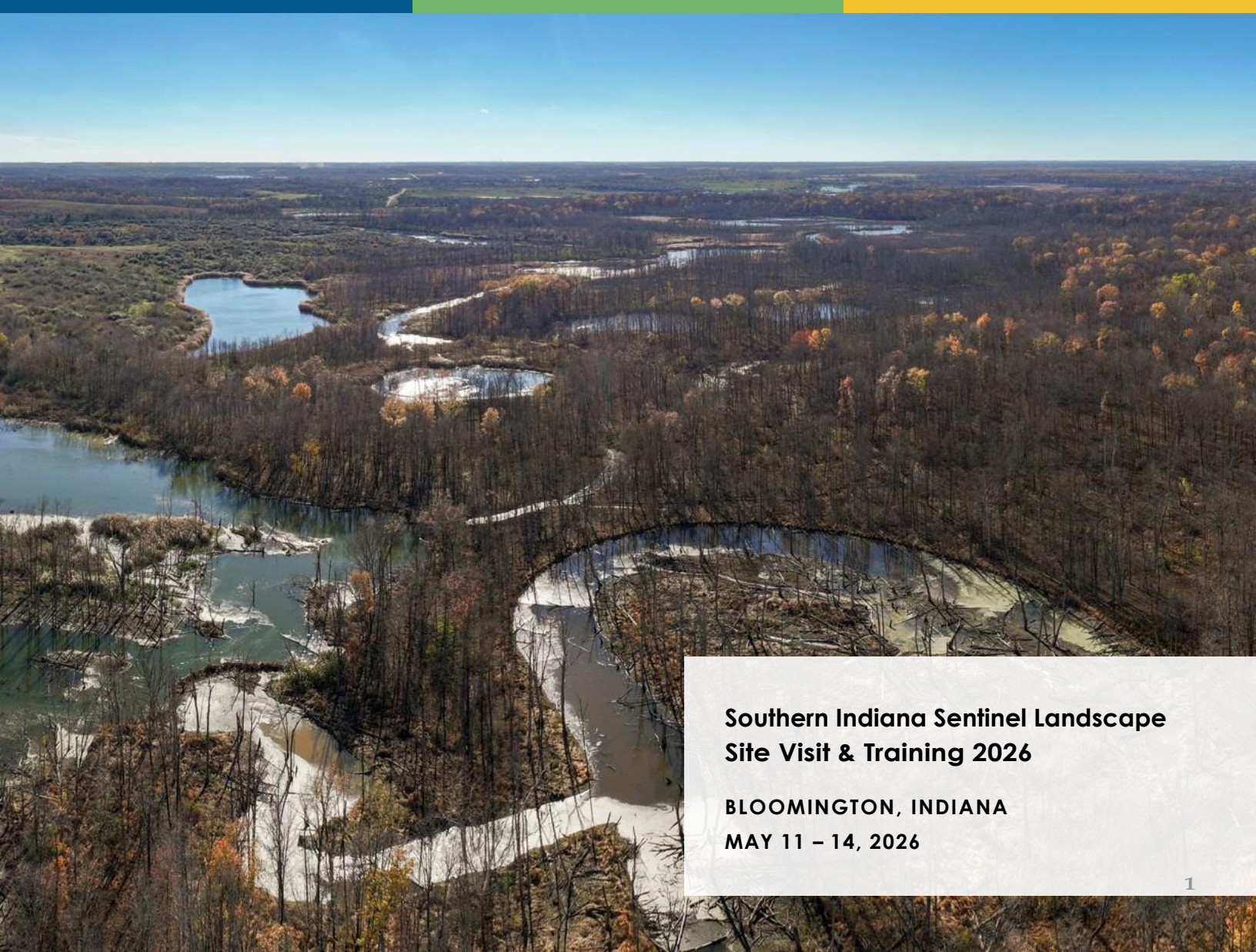


**SOUTHERN
INDIANA
SENTINEL LANDSCAPE**



Site Visit

PROGRAM GUIDE



**Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape
Site Visit & Training 2026**

**BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
MAY 11 – 14, 2026**

Thank You
TO OUR SPONSOR

Eco Logic 



Company Statement

Our mission is to establish and restore native plant communities and the ecological processes they support through planning, implementation, and monitoring.

Eco Logic LLC is an ecological restoration and green infrastructure firm founded in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1999. For over 25 years, we have partnered with clients throughout Indiana and the surrounding states to restore natural areas and improve the sustainability of our urban environment. We can assist with the full life cycle of a project from planning and implementation to long-term management and monitoring. Our team's experience, training, and passion for restoration will ensure your project is a success. A complete list of our services can be found on our website.

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Agenda

SOUTHERN INDIANA SENTINEL LANDSCAPE SITE VISIT & TRAINING 2026
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

MAY 11 – 14, 2026

Day 1: Monday, May 11, 2026 – Travel Day

- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM** **Optional Guided Hike**
LOCATION: Morgan-Monroe State Forest Rock Shelter Trail
- 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM** **Casual Welcome Dinner**
LOCATION: Lennie's, 514 East Kirkwood, Bloomington

Day 2: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM** **Breakfast**
LOCATION: IU Memorial Union Solarium
- 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM** **Morning Presentations**
LOCATION: IU Memorial Union Solarium
- 8:00 AM** **Welcome**
Michael Spalding, SISL Coordinator
- 8:10 AM** **Indiana University Maurer School of Law Introduction**
Dean Christina Ochoa
- 8:45 AM** **Conservation Law Center as host organization**
Christian Freitag, CLC Executive Director
- 9:25 AM** **Pulling on the Threads of a Wild Southern Indiana**
Forest Programs, Sam Shine Foundation
- 9:50 AM – 10:20 AM** **Load the bus:**
Use restroom, grab box lunch, and fill water bottle
- 10:20 AM – 10:50 AM** **Travel**
Head to Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE)
Research Site

10:50 AM – 12:00 PM	HEE Research Site
11:00 AM	Discussion on prescribed fire, clear cuts, and bird/bat response LOCATION: Yellowwood State Forest
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Travel Load bus and travel to Yellowwood State Forest Shelter House
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Enjoy lunch at shelter house
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	DNR Forestry Wildlife Specialist Speaker On State Forest Ecological and Wildlife Management Aligning with SISL Goals
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Yellowwood Lake Kayak Tour Walk down to Yellowwood Lake for a kayak tour led by Michael Spalding to discuss SISL topics including prescribed fire to restore ecosystems and water quality.
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Travel Load bus and head to Brown County State Park
4:15 PM – 5:20 PM	Brown County State Park Tour Discussion with Michael Spalding on regional history impacting current restoration, fire exclusion, whitetail deer overpopulation, and the forest age diversity crisis Includes stops at vistas and the fire tower
5:20 PM – 5:30 PM	Travel Head to Nashville
5:30 PM – 6:45 PM	Supper & Evening Speaker Forest Fire Lookout Association
6:45 PM – 7:30 PM	Return Travel

Day 3: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

7:00 AM – 7:45 AM	Breakfast LOCATION: IU Memorial Union Oak Room
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Meeting
7:45 AM – 9:15 AM	Travel Load buses and travel to Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Crane
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	NWS Crane Bus Tour Stop at Constitution Grove
10:15 AM – 1:00 PM	NWS Crane Session LOCATION: Lakeview Conference and Training Center
10:30 AM	Partner Table Displays Featuring staff from SISL LCC partners
11:00 AM	Lunch
11:30 AM	NWS Crane Overview
11:50 AM	IU Research Partnership with NWS Crane
12:10 PM	WestGate at Crane Technology Park’s impact on the regional economy through defense contractor development; White River Military Coordination Alliance’s impact on community engagement; and Readiness and Recreation - Tech park to Rec Park Uplands Science and Technology Foundation
12:30 PM	Atterbury-Muscatatuck Training Center Presentations
12:50 PM – 3:00 PM	Travel Load bus at Lake Greenwood, travel to Sullivan County Sites, and unload at Lake Glendora Test Facility (LGTF)

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

(LGTF & Busseron Creek FWA)

GROUP 1: LGTF Missions & Encroachment (3:00 PM), followed by History of Busseron Creek (3:30 PM)

GROUP 2: History of Busseron Creek (3:00 PM), followed by LGTF Missions & Encroachment (3:30 PM)

4:00 PM – 5:20 PM

Busseron Creek Fish and Wildlife Area Tour

4:30 PM

Tour Stop 1

Lake - Birds of southwest Indiana coal country

5:00 PM

Tour Stop 2

Tree Planting Site - the future of Busseron Creek FWA

5:20 PM – 7:00 PM

Farm Visit

5:30 PM

Introduction by Michael Spalding

5:35 PM

Talk

Securing the first REPI Conservation Easement in SISL and utilizing NRCS cost-share programs.

6:00 PM

Supper

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Return Travel

Day 4: Thursday, May 14, 2026

LOCATION: IU Memorial Union Georgian Room

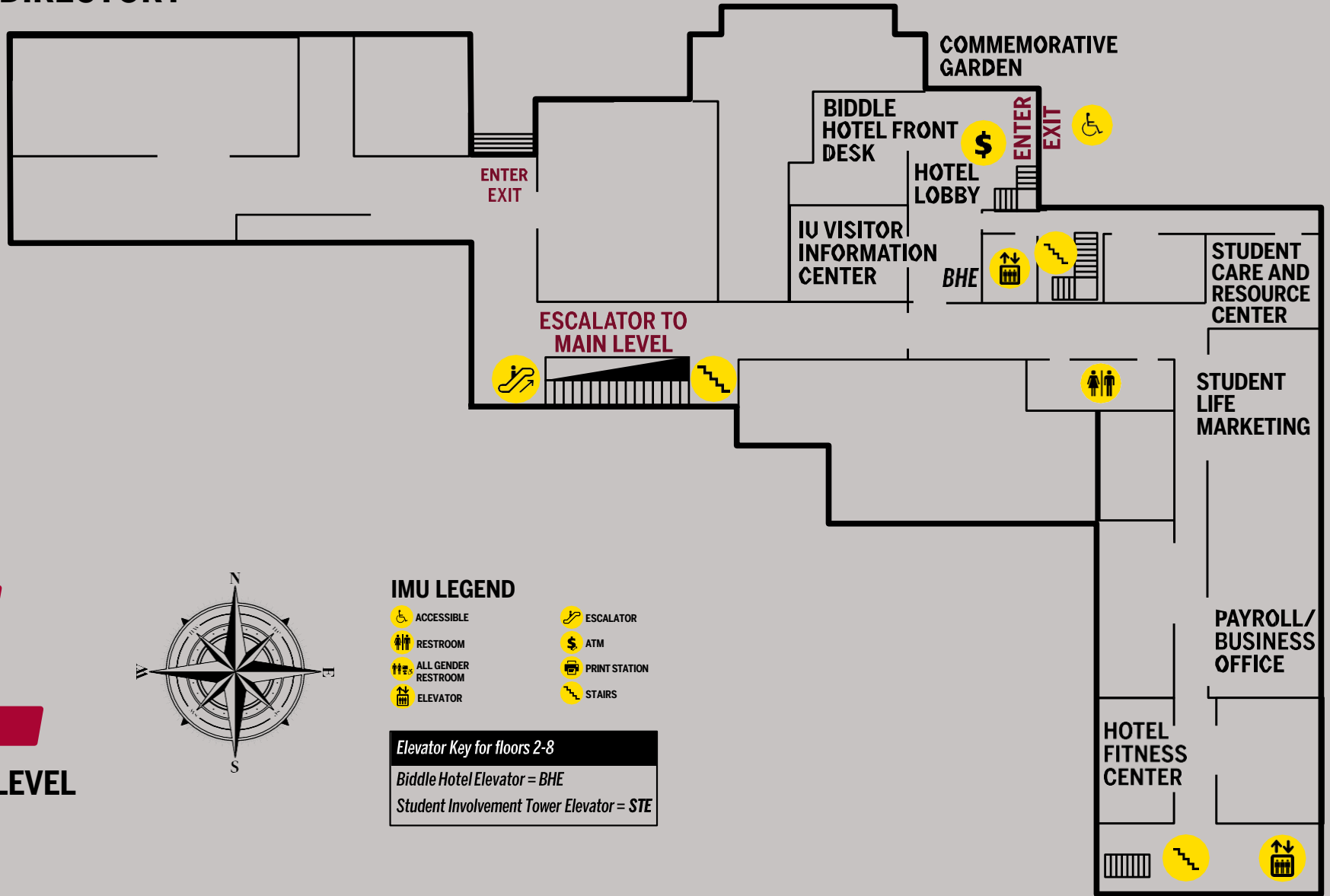
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Partner Collaboration Sessions Wyden Authority Planned Prescribed Burn
8:30 AM:	Role of outreach events – Michael Spalding
8:40 AM:	Wyden Authority planned burn specifics Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership
9:00 AM:	NRCS Overview & Perspective
9:10 AM:	USFS Overview & Perspective
9:20 AM:	Ready-Set-Fire in White Oak Woodlands – NRCS Hoosier National Forest LWCF Project Funding
9:40 AM	The Nature Conservancy
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Closing & Federal Partner Updates Closing and Reflections from REPI, NRCS, USFS, USFWS, and LegacyWorks Group
11:00 AM	Travel Home

IU Memorial Union and Biddle Hotel Parking and Vicinity

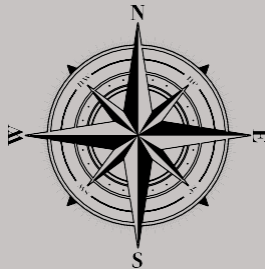
DAILY BUS PICK UP WILL BE IN THE CIRCLE DRIVE IN THE CENTER OF THE MAP.



BUILDING DIRECTORY



LOBBY LEVEL

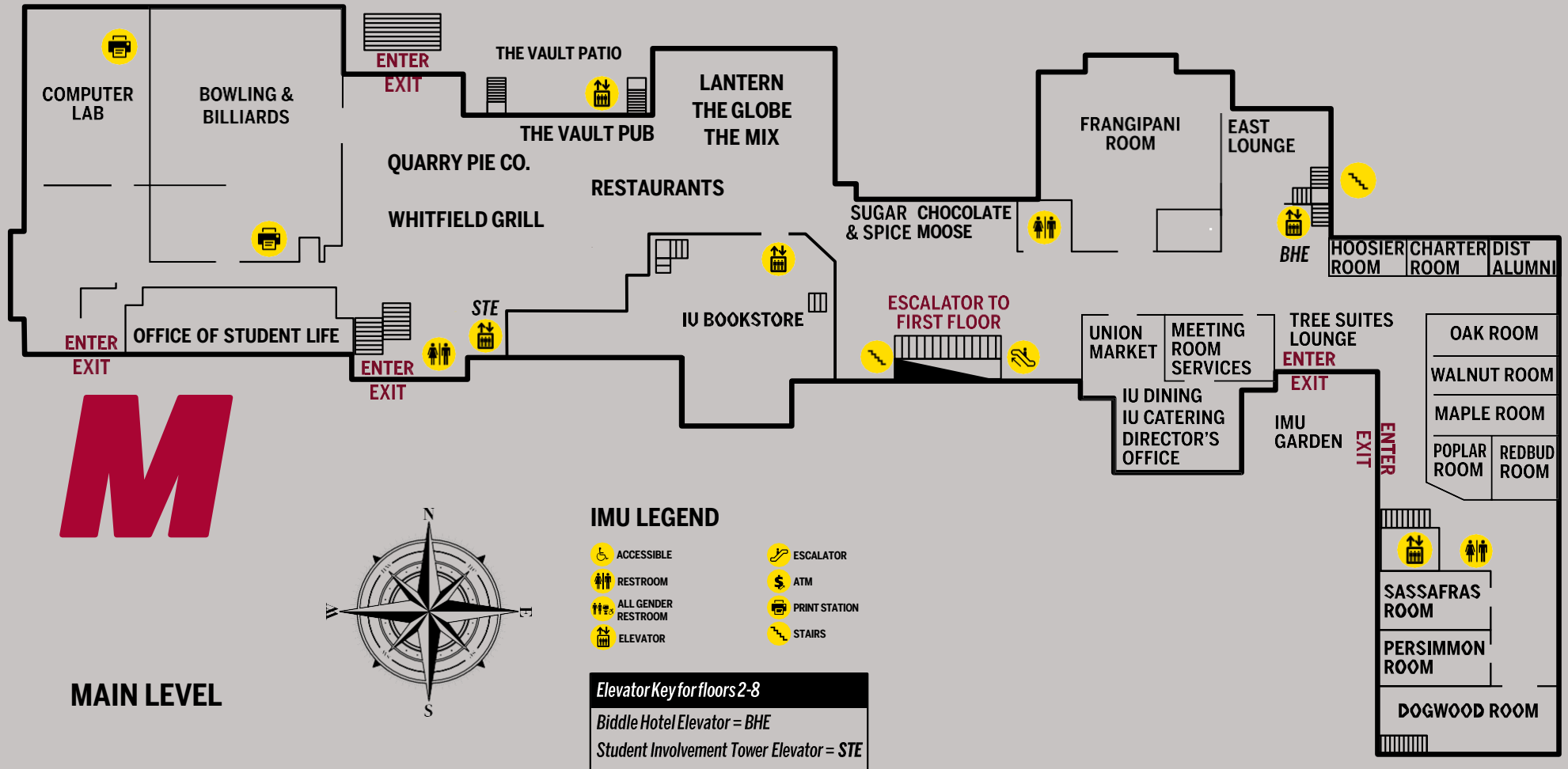


IMU LEGEND

- ACCESSIBLE
- RESTROOM
- ALL GENDER RESTROOM
- ELEVATOR
- ESCALATOR
- ATM
- PRINT STATION
- STAIRS

Elevator Key for floors 2-8
 Biddle Hotel Elevator = BHE
 Student Involvement Tower Elevator = STE

BUILDING DIRECTORY



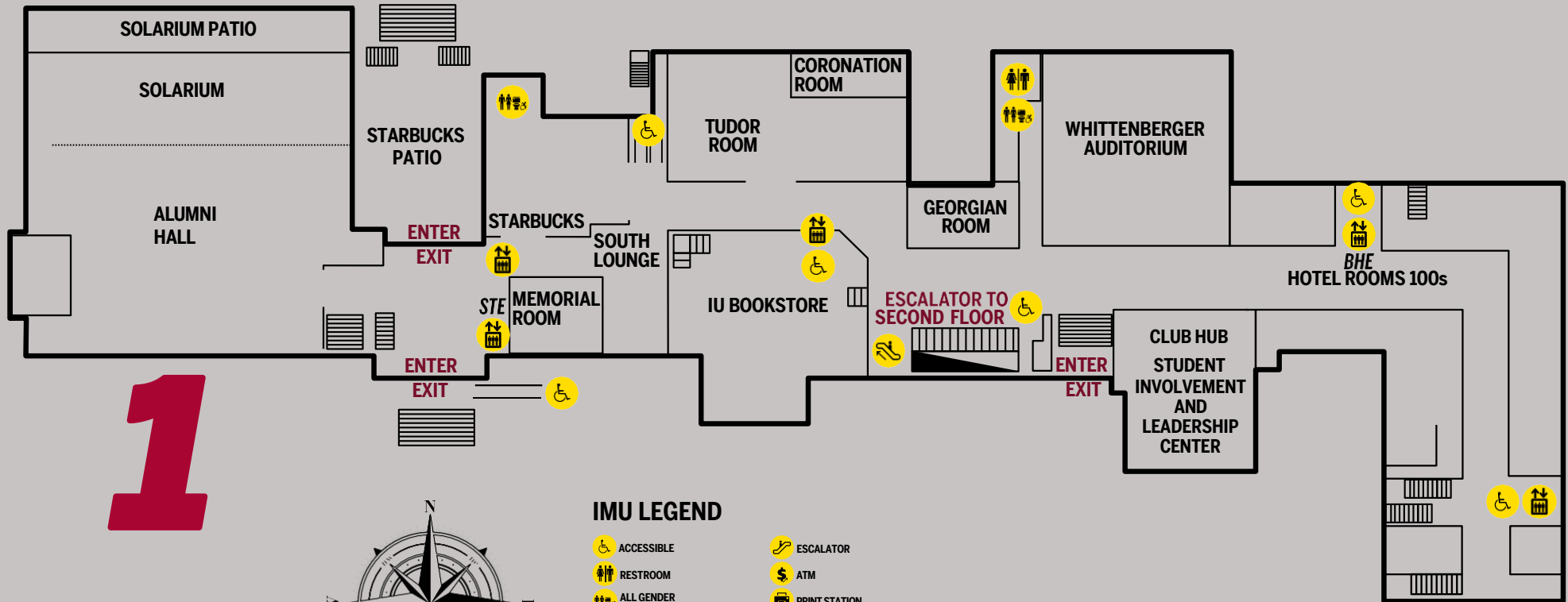
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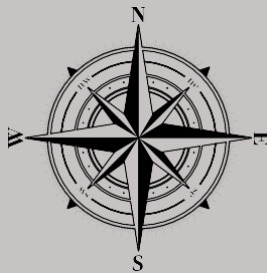
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 Biddle Hotel Elevator = BHE
 Student Involvement Tower Elevator = STE

MAIN LEVEL

BUILDING DIRECTORY



1



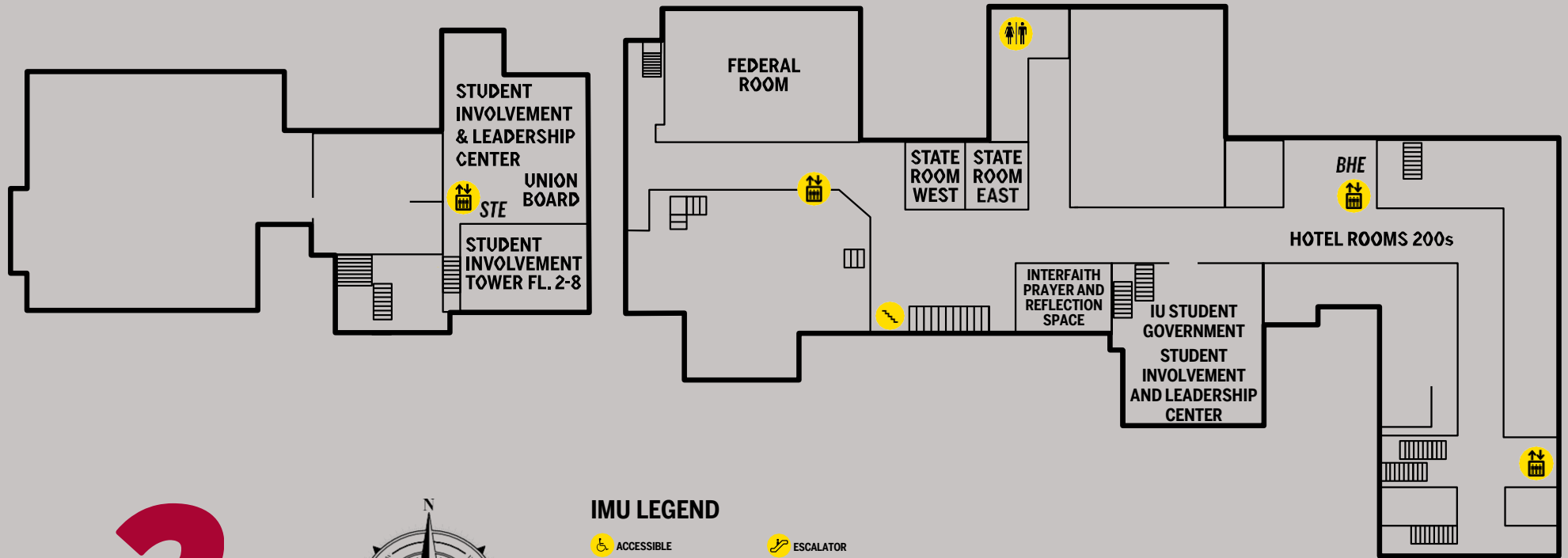
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- ELEVATOR
- ESCALATOR
- ATM
- PRINT STATION
- STAIRS

Elevator Key for floors 2-8
 Biddle Hotel Elevator = BHE
 Student Involvement Tower Elevator = STE

FIRST FLOOR

BUILDING DIRECTORY









2

SECOND FLOOR



IMU LEGEND

-  ACCESSIBLE
-  RESTROOM
-  ALL GENDER RESTROOM
-  ELEVATOR
-  ESCALATOR
-  ATM
-  PRINT STATION
-  STAIRS

Elevator Key for floors 2-8
 Biddle Hotel Elevator = BHE
 Student Involvement Tower Elevator = STE





Highlighted Successful Projects

Historic Partnership Secures Nearly 4,000 Acres for Conservation and Future Public Recreation in Southern Indiana

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana – A groundbreaking collaboration has permanently protected 3,950 acres near the Lake Glendora Test Facility (LGTF) in Southern Indiana, creating the new Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area, which will be open to the public in 2025.

The newly protected land will safeguard vital ecosystems and enhance future public recreational opportunities. The Busseron Creek project, spearheaded by the Conservation Law Center (CLC) and its Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape (SISL) initiative and powered by a multi-million-dollar investment by The Conservation Fund (TCF), demonstrates the power of partnerships in advancing conservation and community resilience.

The newly conserved land in Sullivan County, once part of Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area, is a cornerstone for biodiversity, clean water, and flood mitigation through its extensive wetlands. The property's transfer from TCF to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ensures it will support public activities in the future such as hunting, hiking, kayaking, and bird watching, while also contributing to climate resilience and ecological health.

“Powered by partnerships, the permanent protection of Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area is a win for conservation and a win for Indiana, returning nearly 4,000 acres of land for all Hoosiers to enjoy,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director. “Whether you enjoy hunting, fishing, or viewing Indiana’s magnificent wildlife, we look forward to welcoming Hoosiers and visitors alike to Busseron Creek when the property opens to the public in 2025.”

At the heart of this effort was the CLC, leveraging its legal and strategic expertise to ensure the protection of this critical landscape, working alongside TCF as it negotiated the complex transaction for land valued at more than \$12 million. Michael Spalding, SISL Coordinator for CLC, highlighted the achievement’s significance: “This project exemplifies what can be accomplished when organizations unite under a shared vision. Protecting this land secures environmental benefits for generations while strengthening national security and the region’s resilience.”

In late 2022, SISL identified an at-risk 191-acre parcel listed for sale on the open real estate market which was part of a larger 4,000-acre holding. Recognizing the urgent need to prevent land fragmentation, SISL and its partners secured funding and negotiated the acquisition from American Land Holdings of Indiana, a subsidiary of Peabody Energy. This approach ensured the land’s ecological integrity and continuity for conservation. TCF provided immediate funding to secure the land for future public ownership, a critical investment that made the protection of this land truly viable.

In addition to the CLC and TCF, the partnership included key contributions from the Department of Defense’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program acting through the US Navy, US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the State of Indiana, and a competitive grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through Walmart’s Acres for America Program.

“The Conservation Fund was glad to partner with SISL to secure this important property for conservation,” said Emy Brawley, VP and Regional Director for TCF. “Protecting a site this large provides so much for so many. From recreation-based economic development to wildlife habitat to military readiness – this is the business of conservation, and it’s where TCF shines.”

“Walmart’s Acres for America program is excited to be part of the innovative collaboration that made the Busseron Creek project possible,” said Ryan Pettigrew, Senior Manager, Walmart U.S. Real Estate and Acres for America. “Acres for America aims to protect vital natural habitat and provide access to outdoor recreation, and this project will do just that in Southern Indiana for generations to come.”

“The Nature Conservancy is proud to have helped set the wheels in motion for this project, and we’re honored to have worked with this group of partners,” said Larry Clemens, state director for TNC in Indiana. “As with TNC projects throughout the state, this investment in outdoor recreation and conservation will leave a permanent legacy for the natural heritage of Indiana.”

The US Navy’s REPI funding and strategic support were central to the success of this initiative, aligning with its partnership within the Sentinel Landscapes program in Indiana promoting compatible land uses surrounding Southern Indiana’s military installations. By protecting the Busseron Creek watershed and surrounding lands, the US Navy has not only safeguarded key natural resources but also reinforced its commitment to ensure environmental sustainability near defense operations.

“The Busseron Creek Conservation Project and REPI program have allowed critical mission support and warfighter readiness to continue at LGTF while strengthening our community and conservation partnerships,” said CDR Luis Martinez, Installation Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity Crane. “We celebrate this innovative and collaborative effort by numerous organizations to enable military encroachment protections while providing community enhancement, conservation, and environmental stewardship.”

The transfer of the property to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife ensures its stewardship now, with public access to follow at some point in the future. Once fragmented and at risk of development, the land will offer Southern Indiana residents and visitors the opportunity to connect with nature while benefiting from the area’s clean air, clean water, and flood protection. The conserved area represents a victory for both nature and community well-being.

[The reference to any company, its products, or services in this document does not imply Navy endorsement.]

For more information concerning the Busseron Creek project contact:

Michael Spalding
Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Coordinator
Phone: 812.856.0229
Website: <https://conservationlawcenter.org>



Native trees and shrubs have deep roots that **prevent erosion**. They are especially beneficial for water quality when planted along streams - slowing down, spreading out, and soaking up fast-moving stormwater - **reducing the risks of sediment pollution and flooding**.

Keeping invasive species at bay goes hand in hand with planting native vegetation to **create healthy, resilient forests and improve watershed function**.

Our newest initiative - **Indiana Forests to Faucets: Native Landscapes for Clean Water** - will improve watershed function in Brown, Jackson, and Monroe Counties through

- **mitigating invasive plants on 20,000 acres** of state-owned public land
- **planting 120 native trees and 12,000 native seedlings**
- **advising 25 private landowners on best management practices, impacting 250 acres**
- **utilizing over 800 volunteer hours** for invasive Weed Wrangles®, public outreach, and tree planting and care.



Volunteers plant 900 native shrubs & trees and 600 willow stakes along Clay Lick Creek, upstream of Lake Monroe (2023)

This 3-year \$426,000+ project is funded in part through a \$213,000+ grant awarded by the U.S. Forest Service's Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program

Project Sub-Awardees:

- IN DNR, Division of Forestry
- Town of Nashville

Project Supporters:

- Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape
- Brown Co. Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
- The Nature Conservancy in Indiana,
- Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
- Let the Sun Shine In – Indiana
- Monroe Co. Identify & Reduce Invasive Species



WORKING LANDS INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN INDIANA SENTINEL LANDSCAPE (IN)

Enrolled 1,200 acres in the invasive species management program

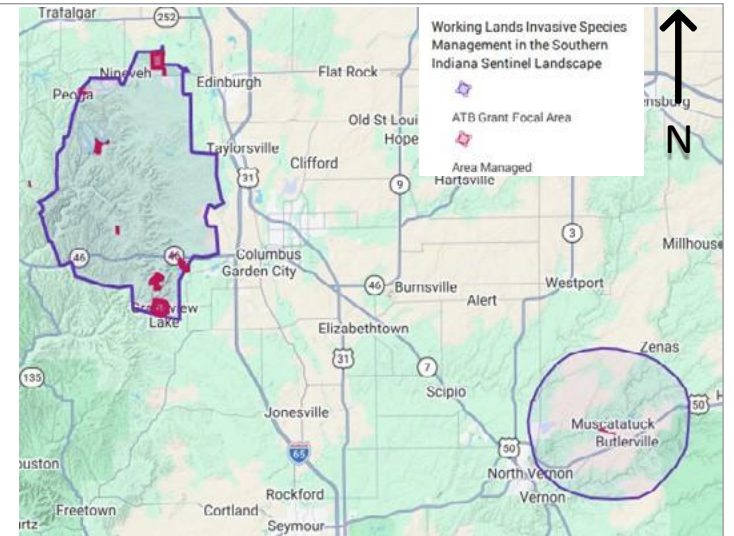
Provided landowners with \$218,400 to manage invasive species

Held 128 locally led events (workshops, training, weed wrangles and more) to train citizens to manage invasive plants

Met with over 1,275 people to share the impacts of invasive plants

Volunteers gave over 4,200 hours managing invasive plants in 5 counties at local parks

Partnered with 5 SWCD/NRCS offices, tree boards, municipalities, businesses, land managers (federal, state, county, city), and more





Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership **READY - SET - FIRE**

The Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration partnership is a collaborative effort between NRCS and the US Forest Service that aims to work with private, state, and Tribal landowners to conserve forest and agricultural land alongside federally managed lands while safeguarding communities by reducing the impact of wildfire threats and protecting water quality and supply.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Ready-Set-Fire in White Oak Woodlands project will fund private land forest management projects to restore oak woodlands across 16 counties in southern Indiana in an effort to improve habitat for at risk species and reduce wildfire risk.

Ready-Set-Fire in White Oak Woodlands is an opportunity to expand woodland conservation and restore fire dependent plant communities, benefit local water supplies, improve habitat for at risk forest dependent songbirds and improve the continuity of habitat between public and private land.

PROJECT AREA

Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Perry, Putnam, and Washington Counties in Indiana.

PROJECT PARTNERS

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Forest Service are partnering with The Nature Conservancy, the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry and the Central Hardwood Joint Ventures – Let the Sun Shine In program in Indiana.

HOW TO APPLY

Private landowners from the 16 counties that are interested in forest conservation and management on their land should reach out to their local USDA Service Center to find out more information and submit applications for funding. You can find your service center at: <https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator>.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES OFFERED

Forest Stand Improvement (Practice Code 666)

Forest Stand Improvement is used to remove undesirable trees and provide resources (space, light, water, and nutrients) for the desirable trees that remain following treatment. With these resources available, the desirable trees survive, increasing their growth rate and vigor.



Brush Management (Practice Code 314)

Brush Management or woody invasive plant control can be used in forestland to help landowners control invasive shrubs, trees and vines such as autumn olive, tree-of-heaven and bush honeysuckle. Invasive plants alter wildlife habitat, disrupt natural fire regimes, and degrade native forests.



Prescribed Fire (Practice Code 338)

Burning can be an effective tool to meet specific forestland and site preparation management objectives. Frequency and intensity of burning should be closely assessed and weighed against resource concerns and management objectives of the forested land.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislation to Promote Prescribed Burning Signed by Governor Braun

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana - - May 2, 2025

A new law to expand Indiana’s prescribed fire capacity was signed by Gov. Mike Braun on April 30. The bill expands a prescribed fire training program administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The bill also defines the liability for those certified through the training program.

Prescribed burning is the planned application of fire under specified weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific and clear management objectives, such as restoring wildlife habitat. Previously, Indiana was one of only a few states that did not have a certification program or liability clearly defined through legislation.

Fire has been part of Indiana’s landscape for thousands of years. Native Americans purposefully and strategically used fire to shape Indiana’s landscape for a variety of reasons including wildlife habitat management, vegetation regeneration, and management of oak and hickory species, all to create abundant and predictable resources.¹ Fire continued to influence Indiana’s landscape following European settlement until exclusion of fire within the past century. This exclusion of fire can still be reversed with prescribed burning before it is too late.

The Indiana Prescribed Fire Council led this effort with partners over the past three years, including The Nature Conservancy in Indiana, who shepherded the bill through the legislative process. The Conservation Law Clinic of the Conservation Law Center at Indiana University’s Mauer School of Law drafted the initial version of this legislation, which Rep. Beau Baird, introduced and championed. The Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape helped lead the effort with the partners to support the many overlaps in priorities, including restoration of oak-dominated ecosystems and supporting thriving rural economies. Co-authors included Representatives Michael Karickhoff, Maureen Bauer, and Mike Aylesworth. Senator Susan Glick sponsored the bill in the Senate.

“This bill marks an important step forward for conservation and private land stewardship in Indiana. With clearer training standards and liability protections, prescribed fire can continue to be applied safely, effectively, and more widely across the landscape,” said Jarred Brooke, chair of the Indiana Prescribed Fire Council.

“The Midwest is full of fire-dependent landscapes, and many of them depend upon fairly frequent fires, so putting fire back on the ground helps to restore these natural areas,” said Stuart Orr, Fire Manager for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Indiana. “For more than 40 years, TNC has worked with its conservation partners on safe, prescribed fires throughout the state, but those are only on lands we own and manage. This new legislation will facilitate private landowners to also use this essential tool to manage their property and improve habitat.”

“We are grateful to the General Assembly and Gov. Braun for supporting this legislation. Indiana needs prescribed burning to restore the health of our landscape. First we must start by restoring a culture of fire. This legislation lays that foundation. Generations from now, our rural landscapes and economies will be better for it,” said Michael Spalding, Coordinator for the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Program at the Conservation Law Center.

This legislation provides numerous benefits to Indiana:

- Supports private property rights
 - Enables private landowners to use an essential tool to manage their property. A lack of established liability for private landowners and their representatives has been a barrier for landowners to exercise their rights to manage their property.
- Improves the market for prescribed fire liability insurance
 - Legislation should enable insurance companies to offer more competitive rates and expand coverage while also expanding the number of companies willing to provide this insurance in Indiana.
- Increases economic opportunities for small businesses
 - The cost and availability of insurance for prescribed fire is a limiting factor for businesses to be able to offer this service to private landowners in Indiana. Liability protection reduces this barrier for both new and existing contractors.
- Allows landowners to tap into federal funding
 - USDA already makes funding available to help landowners cover the cost of writing a burn plan and conducting a burn, but without liability legislation their ability to conduct a burn or hire a contractor is extremely difficult.²
- Enhances the future of Indiana’s hardwood Industry
 - Oak species are the cornerstone of Indiana’s \$10 Billion hardwood industry.³ Indiana’s oak forests and woodlands were born out of fire. Without widespread application of prescribed fire, our future supply of oak timber is bleak. Prescribed fire is the most effective and efficient way to begin the next crop of oaks needed to fuel this industry.
- Restores and maintain wildlife habitat to protect and promote our hunting heritage
 - Native habitat managers throughout the eastern US are implementing more fire to restore and improve essential habitat for game and non-game species. Indiana has shown that we can be a leader in quality hunting opportunities, but Indiana needs prescribed fire as a viable tool for that trend to continue.
- Bolsters a Standard of Prescribed Fire Training
 - Legislation will support a standardized training program for prescribed fire, incentivizing individuals to complete the training through liability protections. This will enhance the safe application of prescribed fire.

About the Indiana Prescribed Fire Council

We are a collection of prescribed fire practitioners from across Indiana. We have members from various state and federal agencies, universities, conservation organizations, land trusts, private companies and consultants, and private landowners. Our mission is to promote the safe use of prescribed fire in the management of Indiana’s diverse ecological systems.

About The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization operating in more than 70 countries. The Indiana Chapter is the state’s largest conservation organization, with more than 60 employees protecting and managing natural resources across Indiana. For more than 60 years TNC has worked closely with partners to implement science-based conservation.

About the Conservation Law Center

The Conservation Law Center provides legal counsel and strategic support for conservation efforts, with a focus on protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable land use. Based in Indiana, the CLC’s work spans land conservation, biodiversity protection, and public land advocacy to ensure a sustainable future for both people and the planet. The Conservation Law Center is dedicated to promoting conservation-focused land management and advocating for sustainable practices that balance environmental health and public benefit. To explore CLC’s initiatives and commitment to natural resource protection, visit conservationlawcenter.org.

About the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape

The Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape (SISL), led by the Conservation Law Center, is a collaboration of diverse partners who are advancing the pace and scale of conservation throughout a three and a half million-acre swath of south-central Indiana to protect military missions on four critical installations and ranges. SISL works to preserve and protect military missions, support sustainable farming and forestry, restore and sustain ecosystems, ensure thriving human communities, and buffer against extreme weather events.

1. Marsh, D. G. 2022. The Coming Out Place. *Indiana Magazine of History* 118:1–40.
2. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/FY25%20EQIP%20Practice%20User%20Guide%20for%20Indiana.docx>
3. <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/economic-development/hardwoods/#:~:text=Indiana's%20hardwood%20industry%20has%20an,and%2026%2C000%20in%20ancillary%20sectors>

###

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Partnership.

GOODE

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION _____

MR. PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the Southern
2 Indiana Sentinel Landscape Partnership.

3 *Whereas, Indiana landowners and rural communities have*
4 *long provided essential support to the agricultural economy by*
5 *maintaining working farms, forests, and landscapes;*

6 *Whereas, Nestled within these communities, Southern*
7 *Indiana is the home to key military installations and ranges,*
8 *including Naval Support Activity Crane, Lake Glendora Test*
9 *Facility, Camp Atterbury, Muscatatuck Training Center, and*
10 *the Indiana Air Range Complex;*

11 *Whereas, Agricultural operations contribute \$35.1 billion*
12 *to Indiana's economy, and military installations contribute \$1.6*
13 *billion in payroll to Indiana's military personnel, together*
14 *generating employment, investment, and long-term economic*
15 *stability;*

16 *Whereas, Over the years, disruptive land use and*
17 *encroachments around the installations have impacted the*
18 *military's ability to maintain readiness;*



1 *Whereas, In 2013, the United States Departments of*
2 *Defense, Agriculture, and the Interior established the Sentinel*
3 *Landscapes Partnership to protect landscapes critical to*
4 *military readiness while sustaining working economies and*
5 *conserving natural resources;*

6 *Whereas, In 2022, 3.5 million acres in Southern Indiana*
7 *were designated a sentinel landscape through an effort led by*
8 *the Conservation Law Center, The Nature Conservancy, and*
9 *Naval Support Activity Crane;*

10 *Whereas, Private conservation organizations, including*
11 *Central Indiana Land Trust and Sycamore Land Trust, also*
12 *support sentinel landscape priorities;*

13 *Whereas, The Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape*
14 *Partnership ensures long-term protection of open spaces for*
15 *agriculture and recreational use, benefiting Indiana and our*
16 *national security; and*

17 *Whereas, In 2024, the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape*
18 *Partnership spearheaded a historic initiative to permanently*
19 *protect nearly 4,000 acres of land near Lake Glendora Test*
20 *Facility, establishing Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area for*
21 *the conservation of wildlife habitat and recreational land use:*
22 *Therefore,*

23 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
24 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

25 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes and thanks
26 the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Partnership for its
27 contributions to land preservation for agricultural, military, and
28 recreational uses.

29 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
30 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Southern Indiana
31 Sentinel Landscape Partnership, Adjutant General Larry



1 Muennich, Director of the Indiana State Department of
2 Agriculture Don Lamb, Director of the Indiana Department of
3 Natural Resources Alan Morrison, and Commissioner of the
4 Indiana Department of Environmental Management Clint
5 Woods.





Handouts from Presenters



"Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment"

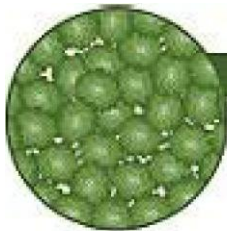
What is the HEE?

A 100-year-old collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service and Indiana State University. The HEE is a long-term study of a hardwood forest in Indiana, USA, that was established in 1911. The HEE is a unique opportunity to study the effects of different forest management practices on a hardwood forest ecosystem.

Who is involved in the HEE?

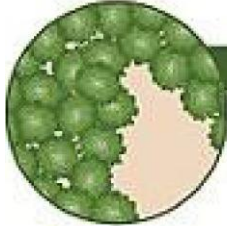
Many researchers from various disciplines are involved in the HEE, including ecologists, foresters, and biologists. The HEE is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service and Indiana State University. The HEE is a unique opportunity to study the effects of different forest management practices on a hardwood forest ecosystem.

Management Practices Studied & Used on State Forests



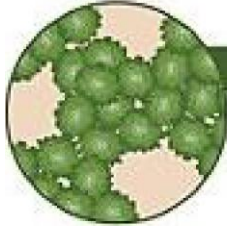
No Harvest

No removal of trees.



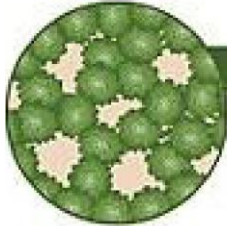
Clearcuts

Removal of all trees from one specific area.



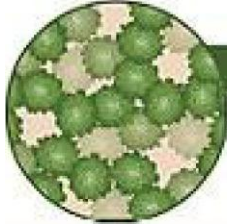
Patch cuts

Removal of trees in multiple small patches.



Single tree

Removal of individual trees on a single basis.



Shelterwood

Removal of trees in a gradual fashion.

Removal of trees in a gradual fashion.

What is studied in the HEE?

The HEE studies the effects of different forest management practices on a hardwood forest ecosystem. The HEE studies the effects of different forest management practices on a hardwood forest ecosystem.



SPIDERS



BATS



CREEPER NAIABERS



TIMBER RATTLE SNAKE



SALAMANDERS



SMALL MAMMALS



BEETLES



MOTHS



TREES

The HEE in Numbers

320

Number of trees in the HEE.

887

Number of trees in the HEE.

37

Number of trees in the HEE.

P27

Number of trees in the HEE.

20

Number of trees in the HEE.

11

Number of trees in the HEE.

For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/forestry/3632.

DNR

INDIANA State Forest Management

Forestry-Wildlife Relationship

Indiana's wildlife species of greatest conservation concern are adversely affected by many factors. Among those factors, forestry ranks among those having the least effect, and forestry ranks last among those that affect wildlife habitat.

(wildlife.IN.gov/files/SWAP/fw-SWAP_2015.pdf, pages 68-77)

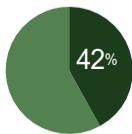
HIGH-QUALITY YOUNG FOREST HABITAT IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTHY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS.



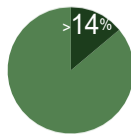
Young forest habitat or brushy areas are essential for many Indiana birds. At least half of breeding neotropical migrant species in the Midwest use young forest habitats during breeding season and/or migration. This includes many species that use mature interior forest habitat for nesting and then forage in early-successional habitat. The worm-eating warbler and the state-endangered cerulean warbler are species of concern that use these areas, according to research done at State Forests by Purdue University.

Bird Species & Their Habitat

In Indiana, the proportion of declining bird species associated with early-successional habitat is considerably greater than those associated with mature forests.



42% of bird species associated with early-successional habitats are in significant decline.



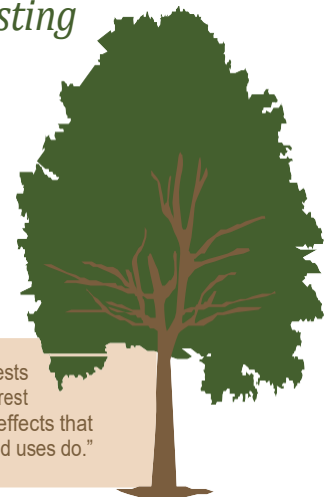
Among mature forest and woodland species less than 14% are in significant decline.

* Data provided by the USGS Breeding Bird Survey.

BIRD RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT SOME INTERIOR FOREST SPECIES, WHO ALSO USE YOUNG FORESTS, ARE IN BETTER PHYSICAL CONDITION THAN THOSE IN MATURE FOREST.

Fragmentation VS. Harvesting

A common misconception is timber harvesting causes forest fragmentation. Openings created by timber harvesting are temporary and quickly revegetate. Debris is left behind to provide wildlife with some habitat while regrowth occurs.



"We are aware of no evidence in eastern forests that fragmentation of mature forest by young forest creates the type of negative fragmentation effects that fragmentation by agricultural or developed land uses do."

(Thompson, Donovan, DeGraaf, Faaborg, and Robinson; Studies in Avian Biology No. 25, 2002)

Breeding & Foraging Habitat

Timber harvesting provides important breeding and foraging habitat on Indiana's State Forests for many listed species of conservation concern. These include the federally endangered Indiana bat as well as state-listed species such as...



"These results suggest that uneven-age management practices, such as single tree and group selection harvesting, provide suitable breeding habitat for cerulean warblers."*

Bat Communities & Timber Harvest

Researchers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania studied State Forest bat communities and found that most bat species increased activity levels in recently harvested areas.

Researchers found no bat species decrease its activity level after timber harvesting.

Federally endangered Indiana bats raise their young in maternity colonies.

They roost under exfoliating bark of both live and dead trees during the day.

Maternity roosting trees are often located in a gap or opening within the forest canopy or along the edge of the forest with plenty of sun exposure. On State Forests, many maternity roosts are commonly located where timber has recently been harvested. Researchers believe the sun exposure helps pregnant and lactating females conserve energy reserves, which benefits the development of their young pups.

SOURCES:

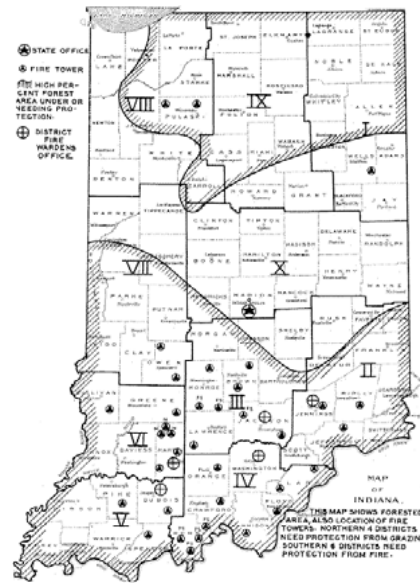
- Wildlife conservation experts responding to questionnaires for Indiana's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)
- Register and Islam; Forest Ecology and Management, 255:3502-3505, 2008; from research conducted on Indiana State Forests
- Photo Credit (Whip-Poor-Will) Brenden Kick/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

www.dnr.IN.gov

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA TOWERS

County	Tower Name	Location
Brown	Lilly*	Lilly/Dicky Woods (pvt)
Brown	Weed Patch *	Brown Co. SP
Clark	Henryville *	Clark SF
Clark/ Washington	Borden/ Salem*	Borden, IN (moved to Salem)
Crawford/ Dubois	John Spears*	Taswell/ Huntingburg
Dubois	Ferdinand *	Ferdinand SF
Floyd	Hickman Hill	Lanesville, IN
Greene	Cincinnati *	Cincinnati, IN
Harrison	Wyandotte*	O'Bannon Woods
Jackson	Skyline *	Jackson SF
Jefferson	Five Points	Lancaster, IN
Jennings	Muscatatuck	Vernon, IN
Lawrence	Georgia/Bryantsville	Mitchell, IN
Martin	Lacy (built by USFS)	Shoals
Martin	Willow Valley*	Martin SF
Monroe	Mason Ridge*	MorganMonroe SF
Monroe	Salt Creek	SE Bloomington
Morgan	Wilbur	Martinsville
Orange	Orange	Paoli, IN
Orange	Paoli	South of Paoli
Orange	Baker	SW French Lick
Owen	McCormick Cr*	McCormick Cr
Owen	Cataract	Cloverdale, IN
Perry	Bristow	Bristow, IN



Pike	Hartwell *	Pike SF
Pulaski	Jasper Pulaski	JP Game Res
Pulaski	Winamac *	Tippecanoe SP
Ripley	Versailles	Versailles, IN
Spencer	Lincoln City*	Lincoln SP
Sullivan	Pleasantville	Greene Sullivan
Warrick	Scales Lake	Scales Lake Park
Wells	Ouabache *	Oubache SP
Martin	Crane FT1*	Bedford Gate
Martin	Crane FT2*	Spt Water Tower
Martin	Crane FT3* (Indian Creek)	(built as Trinity Springs Twr by FS CCC)
Martin	Crane FT4	Topless 2009
Monroe	Hickory Ridge*	CCDW
Monroe	Dutch Ridge	Hardin Ridge
Jackson	Houston	Houston
Perry	Marchand, Buzzard Roost, German Ridge, and West Fork	

*standing tower

Lookout Towers in the United States

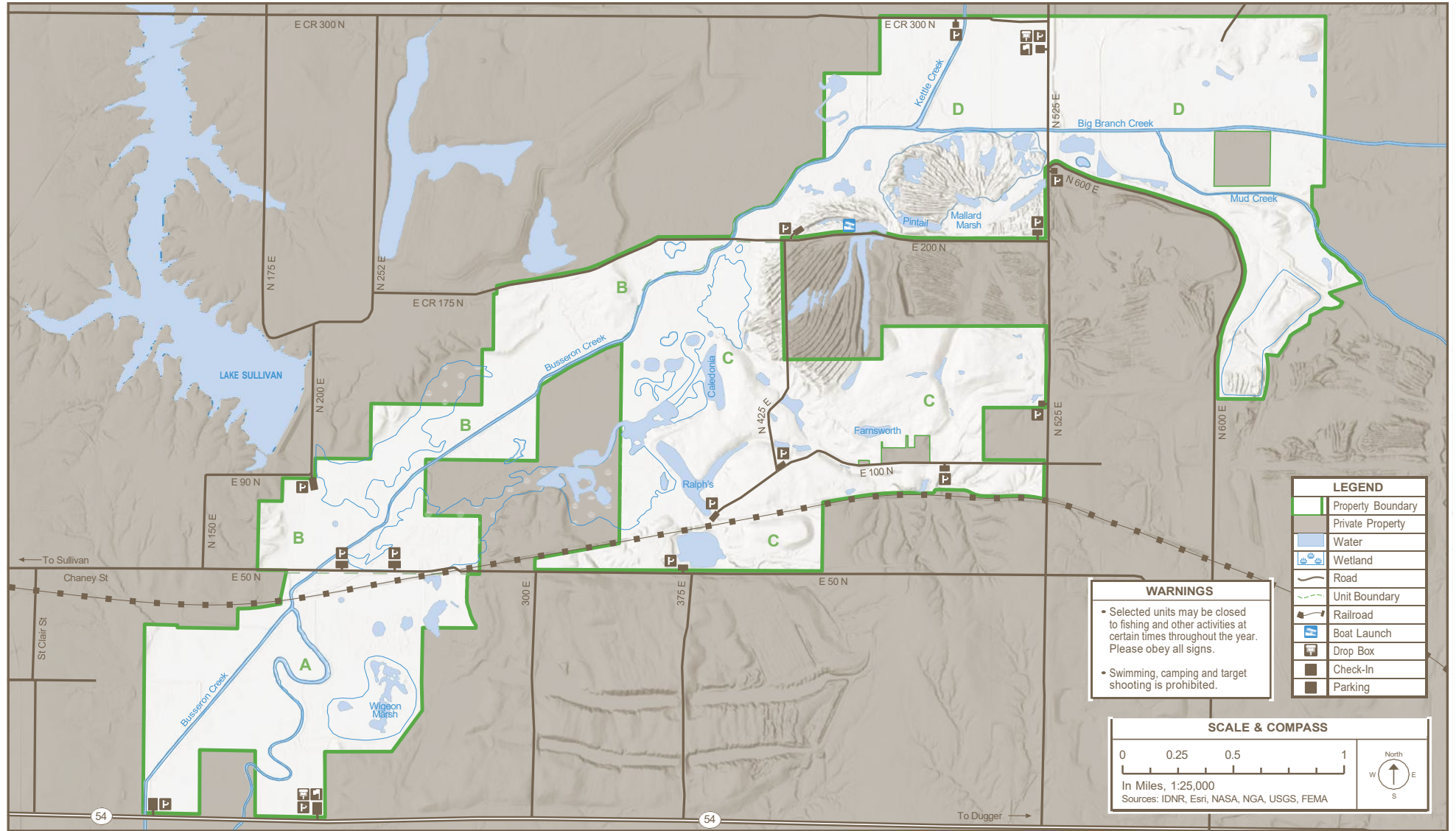
State	# Sites	Standing Twrs	# Towers on National Historic L/O Register	
Alabama			88	
Arizona	159	76	81	
Arkansas			28	
California	512	215	227	
Colorado	48	15	18	
Connecticut			2	
Delaware	5	0	2	
Florida			30	
Georgia		162	29	
Idaho	997	150	164	
Illinois	33	4	3	
Indiana	41	20	12	
Iowa	1	1	1	
Kentucky			16	
Louisiana			7	
Maine	145	55	12	
Maryland	49	15	10	
Massachusetts			48	
Michigan			7	
Minnesota	220	63	22	
Mississippi			62	
Missouri	260+	65	14	
Montana	646	114	113	
Nebraska	9	5	1	
Nevada	5	3	3	
New Hampshire	73	25	22	
New Jersey	46	30	25	
New Mexico	116	59	53	
New York	157	63	57	
North Carolina	237	120	29	
North Dakota	12	2	2	
Ohio	48	15	18	
Oklahoma			5	
Oregon	859	157	167	
Pennsylvania			35	
Rhode Island	19	8	8	
South Carolina			37	
South Dakota	31	14	10	
Tennessee			74	
Texas	31	157	5	
Utah	9	1	1	
Vermont	43	16	9	
Virginia			48	No information on Alaska,
Washington	659	82	95	Hawaii or Kansas towers?
West Virginia	111	28	28	
Wisconsin	214	83	61	
Wyoming	65	23	25	

BUSSERON CREEK FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Managed by Goose Pond FWA | County Roads 300 N & 525 E | Sullivan, IN 47882 | 812-512-9185
3,950 Acres | Established 2024



© 04/2025



LEGEND	
	Property Boundary
	Private Property
	Water
	Wetland
	Road
	Unit Boundary
	Railroad
	Boat Launch
	Drop Box
	Check-In
	Parking

WARNINGS

- Selected units may be closed to fishing and other activities at certain times throughout the year. Please obey all signs.
- Swimming, camping and target shooting is prohibited.

SCALE & COMPASS

0 0.25 0.5 1

In Miles, 1:25,000
Sources: IDNR, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

54

54

To Dugger →

← To Sullivan

Chaney St

St Clair St

E 50 N

N 150 E

E 90 N

N 200 E

N 175 E

E CR 300 N

E CR 175 N

N 252 E

300 E

375 E

E 50 N

N 425 E

E 200 N

E CR 300 N

N 525 E

N 600 E

N 525 E

N 600 E

N 600 E

WELCOME TO BUSSERON CREEK FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



OUR STORY

Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area is dedicated to providing quality hunting, wildlife watching, and trapping opportunities while maintaining 3,950 acres of upland habitats, bottomland forests, and marshland.

Busseron Creek FWA was acquired in 2024 with the help of the Conservation Fund, Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscapes program, Peabody Mining, and many other partners. Before being acquired, the property primarily consisted of reclaimed surface mine ground in Sullivan County.

Busseron Creek FWA comprises a portion of the former Minnehaha Fish & Wildlife Area, which closed in 2016 after 30 years.



HELPFUL LINKS

Stay up to date on hunting and fishing information.

HUNTING

WHERE: on.IN.gov/where2hunt
LEARN: on.IN.gov/learn2hunt
GUIDE: on.IN.gov/huntingguide

FISHING

WHERE: on.IN.gov/where2fish
LEARN: on.IN.gov/learn2fish
GUIDE: on.IN.gov/fishingguide

LICENSES

PURCHASE: on.IN.gov/inhuntfish

RECREATION

LOCATIONS: on.IN.gov/refinder



ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

• Look for these icons on the map.

BOATING: Boats are limited to a maximum 12-volt electric motor. A DNR Lake Permit is not required.

BOAT LAUNCH: Available on north end of property on Pintail pond.

FISHING: Bass, bluegill and other small gamefish are common. A state fishing license is required. Size and bag limits apply.
 - 14-inch min. size limit on largemouth bass.
 - All fishing closed during waterfowl season.

GATHERING: Berries, mushrooms and nuts may be gathered.

HUNTING: Turkey, deer, rabbit, squirrel, and waterfowl are common. Hunting license and one-day access permit is required. All hunting seasons and bag limits apply.
 - Limited quail opportunities. Ask for details.
 - The first five days of spring turkey season is selected by computer draw. Must check-in at Goose Pond FWA to participate.
 - Fall turkey hunting allowed every day during fall turkey season and legal hunting hours.
 - Rabbit, quail, and dove hunting allowed Weds. and Sat. during legal hunting hours.

TRAPPING: Trapping is available. Check-in required at a self-service station. Ask for details.

WILDLIFE WATCHING: Deer, wild turkey, a wide variety of birds is common.



RULES & REGULATIONS

In addition to state fish and wildlife laws, this property is governed by posted regulations affecting the public use of lands and facilities owned, leased or licensed by the DNR.

POSTED AREAS: Safety zones and other restricted areas are marked with appropriate signs. PLEASE READ AND OBEY ALL SIGNS.

VIOLATIONS: Violation of any law, rule or regulation governing this property may cause forfeiture of hunting, fishing or visiting privileges.

RESPONSIBILITY: The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will not be held responsible for any accidents or deaths occurring from use of these facilities.

TRAFFIC: Traffic on public roads through the area is governed by state and county laws. Service roads and trails are restricted to walking except by authorized vehicles. No motorized vehicles or horses are permitted beyond county roads.

COLLECTION PERMIT: Collection permits are required from the property manager or DNR to collect anything except nuts, berries, and mushrooms.

CHECK-IN STATION

• You must self check-in for the following activities:
 - Boating or canoeing - Gathering
 - Wildlife watching - Fishing
 - Hunting (must have hunting license)
 - Night hunting (by permit only)

ONE-DAY ACCESS PERMIT

• All hunters are required to sign in at a self-service check-in station and obtain a one-day access permit before entering the field. The one-day permit card must be in possession of the hunter at all times and be completed and returned to a check-in station or drop box.

• All other visitors are encouraged to obtain a miscellaneous one-day access permit before entering the field. The one-day access permit should be kept with you while visiting then completed and returned to a check-in station, drop box, or the office before leaving. Your information helps us identify ways to improve Indiana's FWAs. We appreciate you taking the extra time to fill out the permit. Your feedback and comments are valuable to us.

NOT PERMITTED: Swimming, camping and target shooting is prohibited. No removal of plants, animals, rocks or fossils.

INDIANA FISH & WILDLIFE AREAS

1. Atterbury	13. Kankakee
2. Blue Grass	14. Kingsbury
3. Busseron Creek	15. LaSalle
4. Chinook	16. Pigeon River
5. Crosley	17. J.E. Roush Lake
6. Deer Creek	18. Splinter Ridge
7. Fairbanks Landing	19. Sugar Ridge
8. Glendale	20. Tri-County
9. Goose Pond	21. Wabashiki
10. Hillenbrand	22. Wilbur Wright
11. Hovey Lake	23. Willow Slough
12. Jasper-Pulaski	24. Winamac



DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

• Find more DNR properties at on.IN.gov/refinder.

REDBIRD OFF-ROAD STATE RECREATION AREA

Mnt. biking, hiking, wildlife watching, exceptional birding, historic features, fishing, shelter house, picnicking, boat launch, off-roading

GREENE-SULLIVAN STATE FOREST

bridle trails, hiking, wildlife watching, exceptional birding, picnicking, playgrounds, fishing, ice fishing, hunting, trapping, dog training area, shelter house, boat launch, camping



Please carry out all trash you produce to help keep the property clean and beautiful for all to enjoy!



Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITE: Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife
 402 W. Washington Street, W273
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

CALL: 317-232-4200

ONLINE: on.IN.gov/DNR

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:

Goose Pond FWA
 13540 W 400 S
 Linton, IN 47441

Call Goose Pond FWA
 for more details:
 812-512-9185



FOLLOW US



Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today. Visit OutdoorIndiana.org or call 317-233-3046.

The program, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4020.



BUSSEON CREEK FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



Busseron Creek FWA
 Managed by Goose Pond FWA
 County Roads 300 N & 525 E
 Sullivan, IN 46135

(812) 512-9185

on.IN.gov/BusseronCreekFWA

goosepondfwa@dnr.IN.gov

on.IN.gov/wildlife



SISL LCC Partner Information



CONSERVATION LAW CENTER

Advancing conservation in Indiana and across the country through law, advocacy, and education since 2005.

Our Mission

Law: Counseling and partnering with nonprofits and natural resource agencies on innovative strategies to protect land, water, and sensitive species.

Advocacy: Improving conservation law and policy.

Education: Offering students hands-on experience in the practice of environmental law and engaging the public in conservation issues.

Our Vision

We are lawyers, advocates, and educators who care deeply about the natural world and people's relationship to it.

We work to protect and improve the health, beauty, and resilience of the planet and defend our shared natural heritage.

Our Impact

30,000 Acres Protected

300 Student Interns Trained

60+ Years Conservation Experience

35 Land Trusts Assisted

ADDRESS: 116 South Indiana, Ste. 4, Bloomington IN, 47408

PHONE: 812.856.0229

EMAIL: admin@conservationlawcenter.org

conservationlawcenter.org



About Conservation Law Center

Founded in 2005, CLC is the only Indiana-based nonprofit law firm dedicated to addressing some of the state's most pressing environmental problems. We do this through public interest litigation, policy advocacy, and support for other organizations at the front line of environmental harms.

CLC's core mission is to provide pro bono representation to conservation organizations engaged in protecting clean water and natural habitat in the Great Lakes region, as well as to environmental nonprofits and community groups tackling environmental issues in Indiana.

CLC's growing staff of twelve full-time professionals currently includes six attorneys experienced in the practice of environmental, conservation, and land use law.

Services

- ◆ Policy
- ◆ Legal Advocacy
- ◆ Legal Education
- ◆ Nonprofit Support
- ◆ Partnerships

Issues

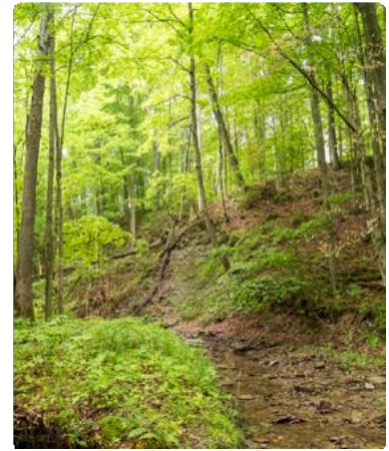
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Land
- ◆ Biodiversity
- ◆ Community-Centered Conservation
- ◆ Public Trust

conservationlawcenter.org



Since 1990, Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI) has permanently protected over 8,000 acres of nature in Indiana. Our mission is to preserve the best of Central Indiana’s natural areas, protecting plants and animals, so Hoosiers can experience the wonder of the state’s natural heritage. We protect and nurture the native flora and wildlife within the region’s last remaining natural areas.

We work to protect the character of natural Indiana, focusing on forest habitat, tallgrass prairie, marshes and wetlands, endangered species habitats, and other rare ecosystems like glades and barrens. The places we seek to protect took thousands of years to evolve but can be destroyed in a day. This fact drives the urgency of our work.



Where We Work

We serve the middle third of the state. This area encompasses part or all of 39 counties, which together have a population of 3.4 million. We also partner with conservation organizations across the state to save land, a privilege enabled by our Evergreen Fund for Nature.

Organizational Health

The Central Indiana Land Trust is in the strongest position to protect land in our 35-year history. Over the past decade, CILTI has built strong operating reserves, as well as strengthening our stewardship and defense endowment. Our protected land assets have grown to over \$30 million. As we grow, our resolve to save land only intensifies. Our staff of 12 trained professionals bring their passion for Indiana’s natural spaces to work every day in service of our mission.

For more information, visit conservingindiana.org.

CILTI's Partnership with the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape

The Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI) prioritizes its work in Central Indiana while supporting conservation partners to protect nature throughout the state, including southern Indiana. A major focus in Johnson and Brown Counties is the Hills of Gold conservation area. A small section of this core conservation area overlaps with the proposed Camp Atterbury REPI Priority 1 Project Area. Properties of interest in this 4500-acre target area include Betley Woods at Glacier's End, the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow, and Callon Hollow.

CILTI has been a proud partner with the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape since its inception, including serving on the Coordinating Committee for the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Partnership since 2023. Also in 2023, CILTI committed over \$2 million in cash contributions to the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Regional Conservation Partnership Program for land conservation projects to be executed during the five-year RCPP project period.



Hikers at Betley Woods at Glacier's End

Highlighted Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Land Projects:

- ♦ Hills of Gold: 228 acres of forest interior habitat and endangered species habitat buffering previously protected acreage
- ♦ Brown County: 19.87 acres of karst geography featuring a rare sedge, *Carex decomposita*
- ♦ Scott County: 97.7 acres of Muscatatuck River floodplain forest

For more information, visit conservingindiana.org.



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Founded in 1968, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers each of Indiana's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to tackle local natural resource issues by providing:

- ◆ Legislative advocacy, particularly for Clean Water Indiana funding
- ◆ Programs and staffing support
- ◆ Resources to help SWCDs connect, grow, and enhance their effectiveness

We are governed by a democratic body of Region Directors elected from each of the eight regions across the state, along with an Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). IASWCD participates in a leadership role in the Indiana Conservation Partnership, holds a Gold-level membership with the National Association of Conservation Districts, and is actively involved in state-level resource conservation efforts.

OUR MISSION

Empowering each Indiana Soil and Water Conservation District to lead local efforts to conserve natural resources.



Serving Indiana's 92 Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Advocacy

IASWCD advocates for Indiana's 92 Soil & Water Conservation Districts on both the state and federal levels. Annual fly-ins to Washington DC and engagement at the statehouse keep representatives informed about programs, success and conservation challenges.

Programs

IASWCD serves as the fiscal umbrella for three statewide programs serving farmers, SWCDs and local communities.

- ◆ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative
- ◆ Resilient Indiana Technical Assistance (RITA)
- ◆ Indiana Small Farms Conservation



Education

IASWCD provides events and education to Indiana's 92 SWCD members and partners.

- ◆ Statewide Conference
- ◆ Farm Tour
- ◆ Lunch 'n Learns
- ◆ Website Resources
- ◆ Pathway to Water Quality
- ◆ SWCD Board Leadership Program
- ◆ Region Meetings



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



FACT SHEET



Overview and Purpose

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership program between the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). It is a natural resource conservation program aimed at addressing water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff in watersheds and enhancing wildlife habitats for State and Federally listed threatened and endangered species and other wildlife.



CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality. The program works with landowners and farmers to set-aside environmentally sensitive agricultural land and frequently flooded croplands. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily enroll in the program for 14 to 15 years.

The Program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within three watersheds touching 29 counties. In 2010, the program expanded into 11 total watersheds touching 65 counties, with a total acreage goal of 26,250 acres. In October of 2024, the program was expanded further and is now available in every county and watershed in the state with a targeted enrollment of 100,000 acres.

Goals

The overall goals of the Indiana CREP are to provide producers in the State an opportunity to voluntarily restore filter strips, riparian buffers and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. These practices will assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake.



Specific goals include:

- protect a minimum of 4,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices
- reduce amount of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds by 4,900 tons/year of sediment, 4,800 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 9,400 lbs/year of nitrogen
- increase the acres of wetlands in the watersheds for erosion control, sediment reduction, stormwater retention, and nutrient uptake
- enroll 100,000 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands and restorable wetlands.

Sign –up and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment is anytime throughout the year. Cropland must meet CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment. Interested producers should contact their local FSA for specific information regarding eligibility.

Conservation Practices

Specific conservation practices have been identified to meet the program goals. For enrollment, the following practices are offered:

- CP2 Permanent Native Grasses
- CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement
- CP21 Filter Strips
- CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP22 Riparian Buffer
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

Federal CREP Incentives

- Cost Share of Practice Implementation: Based on a current FSA cost-share plan of 50% of eligible cost (not-to-exceed) as determined by FSA for eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP): A one-time payment according to FSA National CRP Directives for newly enrolled land for all eligible CREP practices.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP): A one-time payment equal to 50% of the eligible reimbursement cost for CP21, CP22, CP23, CP23A, CP31 and CP9.
- Annual Rental Payment:
 - Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pastureland rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
 - Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments.
 - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

State CREP Incentives

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments:

- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP2, CP4D, and CP21.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP3A, CP22, and CP31.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for newly enrolled CP23, CP23A, and CP9.
- A one-time State of Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for re-enrolled CP23, CP23A, and CP9.



How to Participate

Interested parties should contact their FSA office or an ISDA CREP Leader in their area. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov and ISDA's website at

<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program/>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CLEAN WATER INDIANA



FUNDING OVERVIEW

Clean Water Indiana (CWI) offers a competitive grant program for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Conservation groups across Indiana for locally driven programs focusing on themes such as education, livestock, row crops, invasive species removal, urban soil health, and building district capacity. Funded projects include cost share programs, staffing for technical assistance and project coordination, equipment, educational displays, field days and outreach programs. Grant funds are also being utilized by The Nature Conservancy, The Watershed Foundation, Indiana District Employees Association, Purdue University, and Hoosier Heartland RC&D to support targeted conservation projects in education and practices that reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. CWI also contributes state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution. Conservation efforts include controlling and preventing soil erosion, protect water quality of lakes and streams, prevent flood water and sediment damage, conserve natural resources and wildlife, protect and improve soil quality, and promote health and safety of the people in Indiana (IC 14032-1-2).



PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation along with the partnership of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). The fund is derived from state general funds and a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.



INDIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

For more information about CWI and past and present grants summaries, please see: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/clean-water-indiana>.

Indiana State Dept of Agriculture: www.isda.in.gov

Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.

Program Background

Soil sampling is an integral part of soil fertility management. Soil sampling provides information on the fertility status of soils within a field that can be used for making nutrient application recommendations, and monitoring soil fertility over time. Effective soil sampling can improve on-farm nutrient use efficiency, leading to increased return on investment for nutrient application and reducing the risk of nutrient runoff.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program to develop a soil sampling program. This program focuses on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit on-farm operations.

Benefits of Soil Sampling

A few of the many benefits to soil sampling are:

- Determines nutrient levels in a field
- Helps determine the amount and type of fertilizer needed for optimized use resulting in reduced nutrient loss
- May promote higher yielding and better quality crops
- Measures changes in soil fertility over time
- May help decrease input costs, increasing profits
- Improves soil health

Program Eligibility

This program includes row crop, pasture, hay, and specialty crop production systems located within the Mississippi River Basin (Figure 1). This program excludes personal or hobby gardens and private lawns.

Participating growers must be willing to sign-up 100 acres or less and will be prioritized by:


- Fields that have never been sampled, or
- Fields that have not been sampled within last 4 years, and
- New program enrollments.

Soil Sampling

Producers will work with ISDA staff to coordinate soil sampling and provide information.



Figure 1. Eligible program area (green).



ISDA staff will implement a management zone sampling methodology based on soil survey maps and a field's dominant soil types. Number of samples to be collected is dependent on dominant soil types and field conditions encountered. Samples should be collected prior to fertilizer application.

Sample Analysis

Soil samples will be collected prior to fertilizer application. Samples will be submitted to a contracted lab for analysis. Soil samples will be analyzed for organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, soil pH, buffer pH, cation exchange capacity, and % base saturation of cation elements.

Producers may inquire about other tests. However, ISDA cannot guarantee funds to cover these additional tests and participants may need to cover those additional costs.

Getting Results

A results packet will be mailed and/or sent via email including lab results, educational materials, and other soil health information.

ISDA, our partners, or trusted crop advisors may be able to help you determine next steps after receiving your results.

How to enroll?

Interested individuals can reach out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov, the contact information below, by scanning the QR Code, or reach out to your local ISDA Resource Specialist for program participation.

Check our website (www.in.gov/isda) for program updates.

For more information contact:

Ophelia Norman

Statewide Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager
Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Phone: 317-232-0305

Email: odavis@isda.in.gov





USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

Putting Indiana Farmers First.



Our Mission

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our partners and customers, we identify natural resource concerns, such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop unique solutions for restoring and protecting these resources.



Who We Are

Our workforce consists of a diverse group of skilled natural resource professionals. With representatives in nearly every county, we have a thorough, first-hand understanding and appreciation of the challenges, limitations and special needs unique to the landscape. These skills enable our staff to develop solutions that best match our customers' goals with the needs of the land.



What We Do

As an agency, our goal is to help landowners develop conservation plans and provide advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance and evaluation of voluntary conservation practices. Our activities include farmland protection, natural resource improvement, small-scale conservation and local community projects to improve social, economic and environmental conditions.



NRCS also conducts soil surveys and the National Resources Inventory nationwide, to provide the basis for conservation planning activities and an accurate assessment of the land's condition.



How We Do It

NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance to landowners and managers through Farm Bill programs for the benefit of farm or ranch, watershed and community. Additional easement programs are also available to provide long-term management options.



How to Get Involved

Participation is completely voluntary and there is no fee. If you are interested in learning more about our conservation programs and services, contact your local NRCS service center.

Farm Bill Programs

Farm Bill programs offer agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners both financial and technical assistance to voluntarily conserve natural resources on privately owned farm and ranch lands. The following is a summary of the various conservation programs funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and other federal programs:

Conservation Technical Assistance

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) is a free, voluntary service providing farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with science-based, personalized advice to manage natural resources on their land. It includes on-site assessments, conservation planning, and practice design to improve soil, water, air, and wildlife habitat on private lands.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Assistance for broad spectrum of conservation practices that promote agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Encourages producers to embrace long-term comprehensive conservation by maintaining and improving existing practices to address priority resource concerns.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)

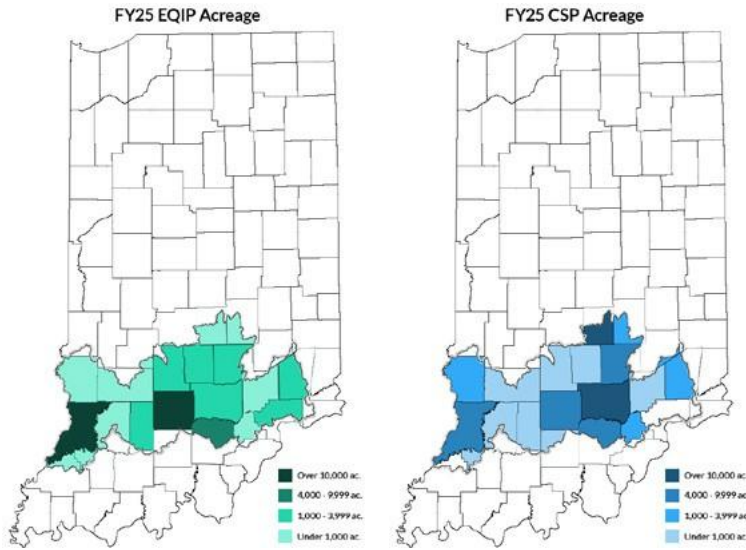
Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners, through contracts and agreements, to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

Find your local USDA Service Center by visiting: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Indiana NRCS - March 2026



FY25 Indiana NRCS Farm Bill Summary

The conservation work led by Indiana's Natural Resources Conservation Service plays a crucial, complementary role in advancing the goals of the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Project. Through voluntary, incentive-based programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP), NRCS is helping private landowners implement practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality and increase wildlife habitat. These conservation outcomes directly align with the SISL's focus on preserving working lands while supporting national defense readiness.

	CSP		EQIP		ACEP-WRE	
	Acres	Obligated \$	Acres	Obligated \$	Acres	Obligated \$
Bartholomew	6,065	\$34,055	2,918	\$233,403	0	\$0
Brown	593	\$2,496	2,286	\$298,543	0	\$0
Daviess	9.7	\$47	191	\$21,098	0	\$0
Decatur	1,058	\$7,882	0	\$74,009*	0	\$0
Gibson	0	\$0	242	\$106,115	0	\$0
Greene	506	\$2,029	482	\$549,567	0	\$0
Jackson	10,933	\$77,093	3,157	\$361,202	69	\$979,091
Jefferson	0	\$0	2,993	\$177,129	0	\$0
Jennings	497	\$566	751	\$121,769	0	\$0
Johnson	13,517	\$94,282	479	\$80,866	0	\$0
Knox	4,651	\$34,788	12,403	\$1,355,625	0	\$0
Lawrence	5,962	\$28,779	15,932	\$1,400,794	0	\$0
Martin	316	\$593	1,753	\$514,825	0	\$0
Monroe	912	\$3,246	2,801	\$636,668	0	\$0
Morgan	0	\$0	115	\$8,424	0	\$0
Orange	886	\$1,697	0	\$24,453*	0	\$0
Owen	262	\$1,473	1	\$24	0	\$0
Pike	1	\$18	57	\$30,477	0	\$0
Ripley	1,093	\$8,112	3,434	\$218,073	0	\$0
Scott	2,418	\$6,207	99	\$57,605	98	\$866,168
Shelby	1,773	\$13,294	5	\$17,275	0	\$0
Sullivan	2,702	\$17,106	726	\$293,411	0	\$0
Vigo	0	\$0	0	\$3,323*	48	\$382,270
Washington	4,116	\$26,760	7,078	\$519,734	88	\$987,551
TOTAL	58,775	\$364,084	57,903	\$7,105,093	303	\$3,215,080

NOTE: EQIP dollars include practices that are quantified by acreage, square footage, linear footage and units.

* = practices applied are not quantified by acreage.





REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

STATE FACT SHEETS | INDIANA



INDIANA

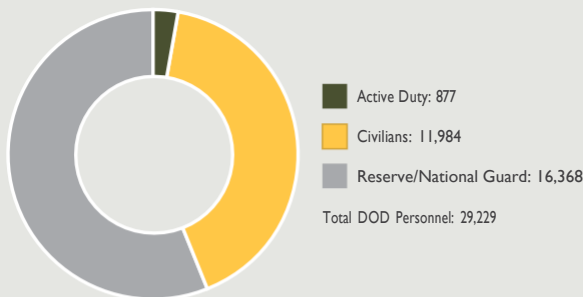
OVERVIEW

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the state of Indiana received \$6.4 billion in Defense spending, which provides direct funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DOD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investments, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DOD and its partners to protect the military's ability to train, test, and operate in the state. The Department created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity of or affecting its installations, ranges, and airspace that can lead to restrictions or costly and inadequate training and testing alternatives. Through the REPI Program, DOD works with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and willing private landowners to address these challenges to the military mission and the viability of DOD installations and ranges. The REPI Program has benefited from broad bipartisan support both in the U.S. Congress and among groups representing state and local officials. In FY 2024, DOD and its partners have contributed nearly \$2.2 million to REPI projects supporting one installation in Indiana.

DOD IN INDIANA

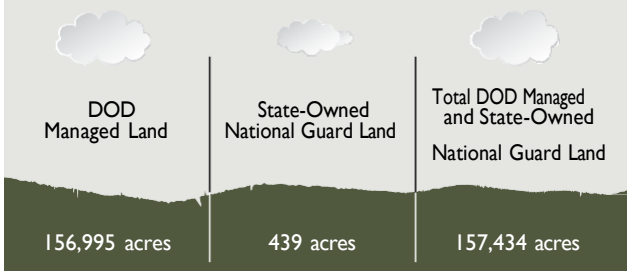
DOD Personnel (as of 30 Sep 2023)



Federal Defense Spending and Economic Impact (in FY 2023)

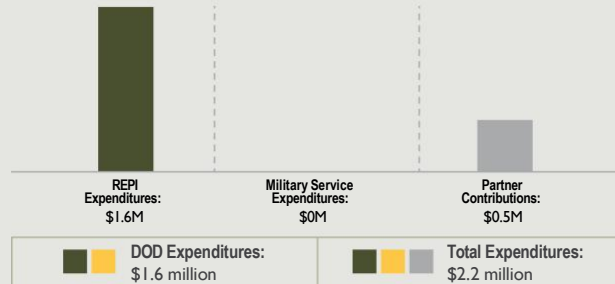


Acres of DOD Managed and State-Owned National Guard Land (as of 30 Sep 2023)



REPI PROJECTS* IN INDIANA

Funding Summary (in FY 2024)



Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding.

* REPI projects refer to any action authorized by 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 2684a to include the acquisition of real property interests in land from willing landowners to prevent incompatible development or improve military installation resilience. REPI projects involving the Army or Army National Guard are also termed Army REPI partnerships. Those involving the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, are also termed encroachment partnering agreements. Eligible entities include conservation organizations and state and local governments.

Total Acres Protected (in FY 2024): 532



For more information about the REPI Program, please visit www.repi.mil.

MILITARY PRESENCE

- Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane is located in southwestern Indiana and covers more than 97 square miles of forested, hilly terrain.
- NSA Crane’s 460 acre Lake Glendora Test Facility (LGTF) is located 45 miles northwest of the NSA Crane main site and hosts over a dozen tenants including the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division’s Strategic, Expeditionary and Electronic Warfare engineering and technical support missions and Crane Army Ammunition Activity’s ordnance storage, distribution, demilitarization, and production missions.
- The Indiana Air National Guard’s 122nd Fighter Wing yields a substantial economic impact, totaling \$63.5 million in Allen County, \$94.1 million across the 10 northeastern counties of Indiana’s 3rd Congressional District, and an estimated \$113 million statewide, encompassing various operational expenditures such as payroll, utilities, food, and education.

REPI PROJECTS

Installation	County	Congressional District
Naval Support Activity Crane (with Lake Glendora Test Facility)	Sullivan	8th

For all REPI Project Profiles visit: www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx



Working and natural land buffers protect Ordnance logistics & demilitarization missions (left) and NSA Crane Engineering & Technical support missions (right) from negative impacts of traffic congestion and noise and vibration complaints.

Key REPI Partners

- American Farmland Trust
- Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks and Recreation Department
- Indiana University Conservation Law Center
- Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Oaubache Land Conservancy
- Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape
- State of Indiana
- State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- State of Indiana Office of Defense Development
- Sycamore Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service
- WestGate Authority
- White River Military Coordination Alliance

Data Sources

- For Economic Impact Information: Purdue University “The Economic Impact of Indiana’s 122nd Fighter Wing”: www.greaterfortwayneinc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/122nd-fighter-wing-economic-impact-report.pdf
- For Land Information: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Real Property, Business Systems & Information Directorate: “Base Structure Report — FY24 Baseline” (as of 30 Sept 2023)
- For Federal Spending and Personnel Information: Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation: “Defense Spending by State — Fiscal Year 2022”: www.oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2023
- For REPI Projects Information: “2025 REPI Report to Congress”: www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2025RTC.pdf



REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
 PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILES
 U.S. NAVY | INDIANA



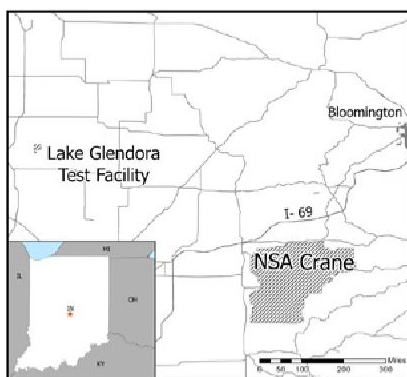
NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY CRANE/LAKE GLENDORA TEST FACILITY

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane is located in southwestern Indiana and encompasses more than 97 square miles of forested, hilly terrain.

NSA Crane hosts over a dozen tenants, including the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane Division’s Strategic, Expeditionary and Electromagnetic Warfare engineering and technical support missions and Crane Army Ammunition Activity’s (CAAA) ordnance storage, distribution, demilitarization, and production missions. NSA Crane’s 460 acre Lake Glendora Test Facility (LGTF) is located 45 miles northwest of the NSA Crane main site.

A new interstate highway and regional economic growth have increased the likelihood of commercial, residential, and population developments near the NSA Crane main site and LGTF. This REPI project protects the agriculture, forest, and grasslands surrounding NSA Crane’s main site and LGTF while supporting their military missions. A number of collaborative activities provide structure for partner

contributions, including a complete Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) in 2017 and the establishment of a Post-JLUS Implementation Committee in 2018. The White River Military Coordination Alliance and a multi-year encroachment partnering agreement were also established in 2018. In addition, REPI partners and stakeholders have developed a Conservation Incentive Web Tool and Communications Plan to support the objectives of this project. In 2022, over 3.5 million acres in Southern Indiana, including NSA Crane and LGTF, were designated within the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape.



The expanded landscape-scale partnership is strengthening military readiness and resiliency, conserving natural resources, protecting critical habitat, enhancing America’s working lands, and helping prepare Indiana for environmental changes.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects agricultural lands
- Protects natural lands
- Preserves habitat for threatened, endangered, & at-risk species
- Preserves water quality and protects water supply

MILITARY

- Protects small arms & ordnance testing and demilitarization missions that produce significant amounts of noise and vibration
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce test capacity
- Allows for future mission growth



Working and natural land buffers protect NSA Crane Engineering & Technical support missions (top) and Ordnance logistics and demilitarization missions (bottom) from negative impacts of traffic congestion and noise and vibration complaints.

KEY PARTNERS

- American Farmland Trust
- Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks and Recreation Department
- Conservation Law Center
- Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Oaubache Land Conservancy
- Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape
- State of Indiana
- State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Indiana Economic Development Cooperation - Defense Development Office
- Sycamore Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service
- WestGate Authority
- White River Military Coordination Alliance

CONTACT

NSA CRANE COMMUNITY PLANS AND
 LIAISON OFFICE:
 (812) 854-6997

FAST FACTS THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	13	744	\$2.2 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding

For more information about the REPI Program and supportive DOD efforts, please visit www.repi.mil.



SYCAMORE LAND TRUST

Sycamore Land Trust preserves and stewards the beauty, health, and diversity of southern Indiana's natural landscape through strategic land conservation, habitat stewardship, and environmental education. Since 1990, we have focused primarily on protecting important natural areas through fee ownership and permanent conservation easements, while also using selected agricultural conservation easements where working lands and conservation values intersect. Today, Sycamore protects 11,809 acres on more than 150 protected properties across southern Indiana and maintains over 30 miles of free hiking trails on 13 public nature preserves.

Our work reflects a simple principle: water and land are inseparable, and lasting conservation depends on protecting and stewarding both together. That perspective aligns closely with the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape's commitment to voluntary conservation with willing landowners, protection of working lands, and care for watersheds and riparian corridors.

Sycamore also brings practical experience in restoration, stewardship, compensatory mitigation, and conservation-credit projects that help place ecological investment on permanently protected lands. As an accredited land trust, we are committed to durable conservation outcomes and long-term stewardship in service to southern Indiana.





Get the facts on ...

Hoosier National Forest

Rolling hills, back-country trails, and rural crossroad communities make this 204,000 acres of public land a local treasure. Spread across nine counties from Monroe Lake to the Ohio River, Indiana's only national forest offers outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, diverse wildlife habitats, watershed protection and support for rural communities.

Watershed Protection

The Forest Service was founded with a mission to protect water quality, and the Hoosier National Forest, continues that mission today by managing for diverse, healthy forests and restoring stream health. Within both the Monroe Lake and Patoka Lake municipal watersheds, tools such as prescribed fire and forest thinning allow us to create a more resilient forest that will protect water quality now and into the future.

Heritage Resources

Southern Indiana is rich in history. Archaeological sites are still being discovered and documented, indicating humans have used this area for over 12,000 years. Cemeteries and historical structures on the national forest offer visitors a glimpse into the past. Some notable ones include:

- Buffalo Trace
- Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower
- Rickenbaugh House
- Brooks Cabin
- Lick Creek Settlement
- Initial Point
- Mano Point
- Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest
- German Ridge Recreation Area (CCC)

For details visit our [website](#).

Outdoor Recreation

Hoosier National Forest, in the hills of south central Indiana, is within a 2-hour drive of Cincinnati, Evansville, Indianapolis, and Louisville. Information offices are located in Bedford and Tell City.

The Forest offers visitors a tranquil setting to explore, fish, hike, hunt, camp, bike, ride horses, boat, bird and reconnect with nature. There are over 260 miles of trails on the forest for hiking, mountain biking, or horseback riding. Most are multiple use, but several are hiking only.

For those who enjoy the water, Hardin Ridge, Tipsaw Lake and German Ridge Recreation Areas offer seasonal swimming beaches. The many lakes can be explored by paddlecraft and the larger lakes allow electric trolling motored boats. Hardin Ridge offers easy access to Monroe Lake and Mano Point offers Ohio River access.

The 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness is managed to provide opportunities for solitude in a natural environment with primitive camping and trails for hiking and horse riding. This is the only Congressionally designated wilderness in Indiana and laws restrict uses. Visitors should review the website prior to visiting to be in compliance with maintaining this special area.

Annual or daily Trail Use Permits are required for horse and bicycle use for those 17 years of age or older. Camping reservations can be made at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Reservation System at 1-877-444-6777 (TTY is 1-877-833-6777). Visit our website to get information, maps and directions for our recreation sites and to learn more about our education and volunteer opportunities.

Web: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/R09/Hoosier>

Bedford: 812-275-5987

Tell City: 812-547-7051



Managing Forest Resources

The Forest Service is within the United States Department of Agriculture. Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation's benefit. Congress later directed the Forest Service to broaden its management scope for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation.

The land that now comprises Hoosier National Forest has a long history of impacts from humans and natural processes such as wind, ice, animals and fire. These processes helped shape the forest over time, and the wildlife that depend on them. More recently, fire suppression, pests, diseases, and non-native invasive plants have had tremendous negative impacts. In addition to being highly fragmented, the loss of most past disturbances has led to overly dense and shaded forests, which lack diversity in age and structure – very different than the historical conditions. Current conditions make our forest less resilient to predicted warmer, drier summer conditions, wetter winters and future pest outbreaks, thereby making them more vulnerable to mortality.

Our staff uses science-based forestry practices to improve the health and diversity of forest ecosystems, enhance recreation opportunities and ensure a diversity of habitats to support all native wildlife.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5600 West American Boulevard
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458
612-713-5360

1 800/344 WILD

www.fws.gov



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish & Wildlife



The future of the nation's fish and wildlife depends on private landowners: more than 90% of land in the Midwest is in private ownership. Providing more high quality habitat not only helps wildlife by contributing to a healthy landscape, but you also create a conservation legacy to pass on to future generations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife (PFW) program works with private landowners who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. Through voluntary agreements, we provide expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives directly to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Who can become a partner?

Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible for restoration, including working farms and recreation land. Most participants are individual private landowners, although the PFW program has worked with municipalities, counties, and other organizations to improve and protect habitat as well.

How do I get started?

We fulfill the landowner's habitat conservation goals by working one-on-one to improve habitat. A simple phone call or email can connect you with a local biologist who will listen to your goals and explain our priorities. After an initial site visit, we will work with you to develop a project plan. A landowner agreement between you and the biologist will specify the work to be done, financial contributions and restoration timeline.



What habitats are restored?

In the Midwest, we primarily restore wetlands, grasslands, forests and stream corridors. Often combinations of these habitats are restored on a landowner's property.

Contact:

Find your state Partners for Fish and Wildlife Service contact here: <http://www.fws.gov/partners/contactInfo3.html>

June 2015

Improving Fish and Wildlife Habitat



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is working with private landowners throughout Indiana to improve their lands for wildlife. Since 1987, this voluntary conservation program has worked one-on-one with private landowners, municipalities, counties, and partner organizations to restore wildlife habitat on working farms, forests, stream corridors, and recreation lands as part of an effort to promote healthy lands and land stewardship across Indiana.



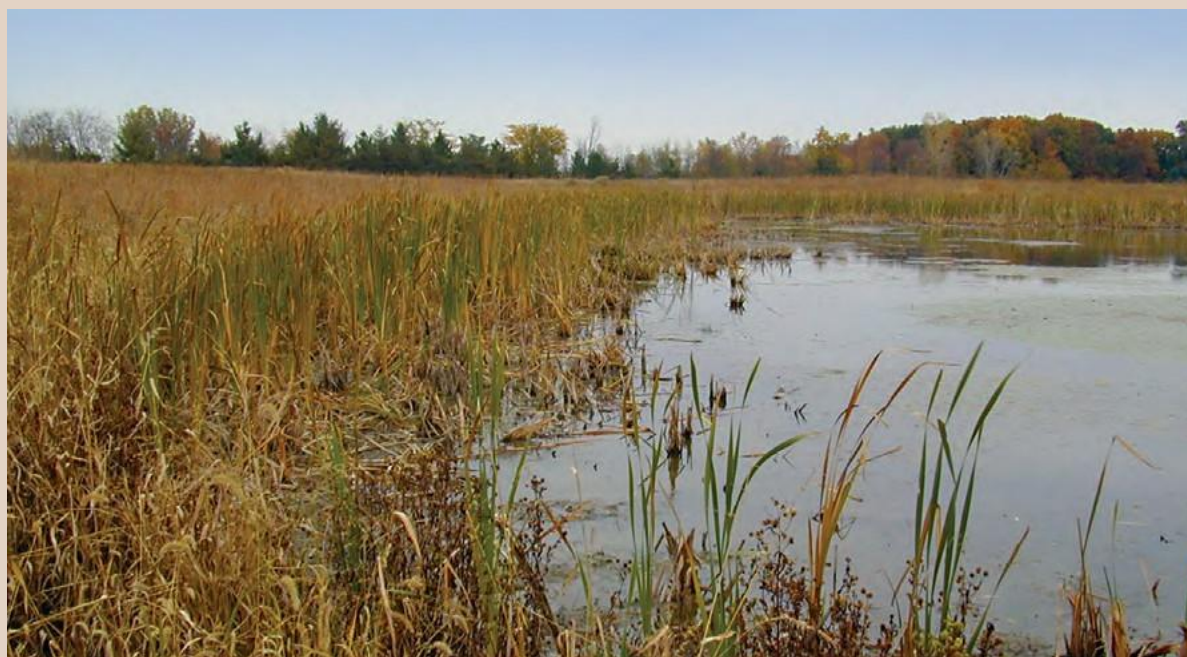
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program funding supports local jobs in rural communities. Up to 100% of the project costs may be covered.

Before: Drained wetland area during construction



Private lands are critical to providing habitat for many wildlife species, including migratory birds and endangered species, and working cooperatively with private landowners on habitat projects yields benefits not only to wildlife but to society as a whole, such as through the improvement of water quality.

After: Restored Wetland



Creating Healthy Landscapes



What makes the Partners Program successful is the enthusiasm of our landowners and the dedication of our staff



photo by Terry Langworth

The Partners Program offers technical and financial assistance to complete a habitat improvement project on your land



A Partners Biologist will listen to your goals for your property and explain the Partners Program priorities. If a potential project exists, the Biologist will visit your property to assess the site first hand. The Biologist will then discuss with you the details of what would be required to complete the habitat improvement project on your land. If you are interested in going forward with the project, an Agreement between you and the Partners Program will identify what you want done, how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will contribute financially to the project and any future management recommendations.



photo by Steve Gifford

In his 1939 essay *The Farmer as a Conservationist*, Aldo Leopold, an early pioneer in conservation, eloquently wrote "The landscape of any farm is the owner's portrait of himself." Whether the Partners Program collaborates with you on a wetland restoration, a prairie planting on the back 40, a riparian project along a stream, or assists in a tree planting, the wildlife improvements you undertake today will benefit Indiana's wildlife and contribute to a healthy landscape for generations to come.



A participating landowner painting his landscape portrait.



photo by Steve Gifford

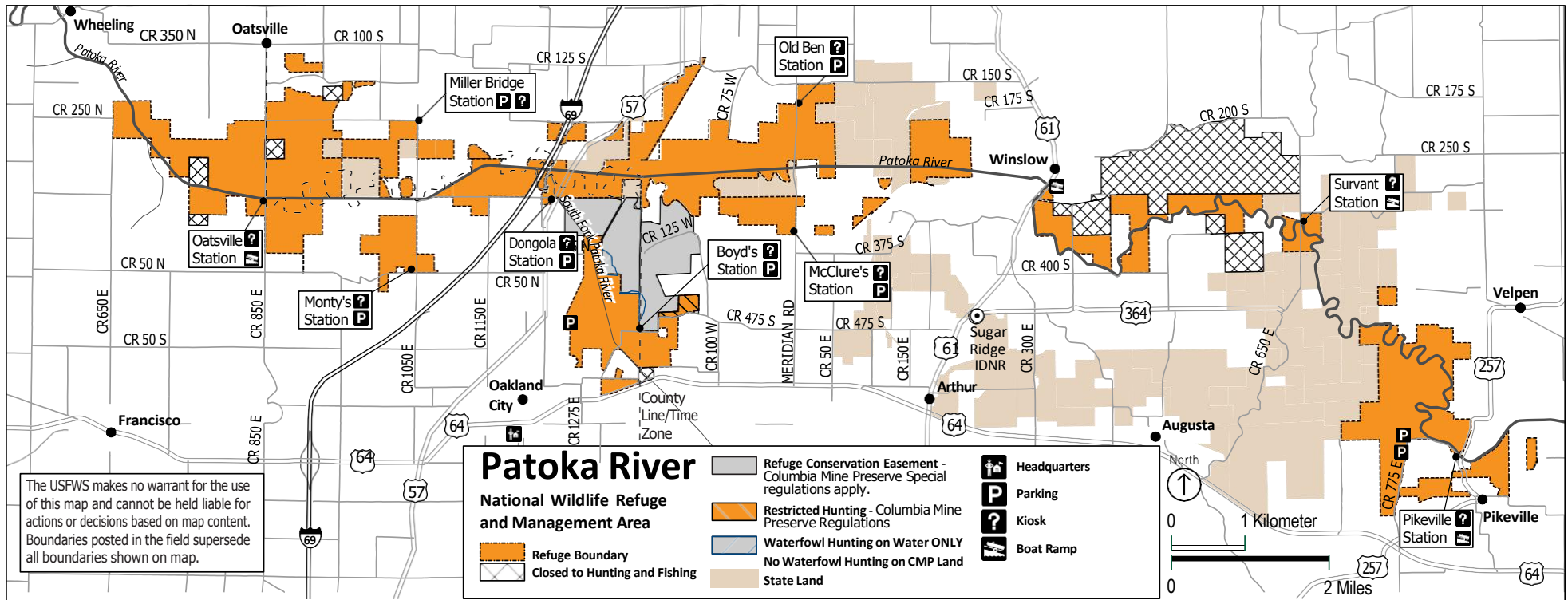


photo by Mike Engel

Outdoor recreation is one benefit of land stewardship activities.



Unless otherwise noted, all photo credits are USFWS.

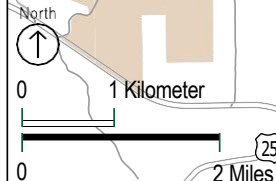


The USFWS makes no warrant for the use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content. Boundaries posted in the field supersede all boundaries shown on map.

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area

- Refuge Boundary
- Closed to Hunting and Fishing
- Refuge Conservation Easement - Columbia Mine Preserve Special regulations apply.
- Restricted Hunting - Columbia Mine Preserve Regulations
- Waterfowl Hunting on Water ONLY
- No Waterfowl Hunting on CMP Land State Land

- Headquarters
- Parking
- Kiosk
- Boat Ramp



Fishing Regulations

State regulations apply as to license, seasons, sizes, limits, methods of take and species of fish to be taken with the following exceptions:

- We allow fishing only with rod and reel, pole and line, bow and arrow, or crossbow
- Limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, and snares are prohibited as the method of catching fish in refuge waters other than the Patoka River channel.
- Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.
- Minimum size limit for largemouth bass on Snakey Point Marsh and on the Columbia Mine Preserve is 14 inches.
- Minnows, crayfish, leeches, mussels (clams), frogs, turtles and all other reptiles and amphibians are protected and may not be collected or harvested.

Boats

- On refuge property, motorboats are only permitted on Snakey Point Marsh east of the South Fork, when water levels can accommodate this use and on the Patoka River.

- Motorboats and other boats on trailers at Snakey Point Marsh may only be launched from the designated boat ramp.
- Special boating regulations apply for the Miller Bridge Wetland Area and are posted on-site and available at the Refuge Headquarters.
- To minimize disturbance to wildlife, motorboats are not permitted on other refuge waters. Trolling motors are allowed.
- Air boats are prohibited on all refuge waters.
- Boats may not be left on refuge property overnight.

Prohibited Activities

- Littering/dumping including spent shotshell casings.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Target practice or random shooting.
- Camping/overnight parking.
- Trapping furbearers.
- Open campfires/swimming.
- Taking or attempting to take any wildlife not authorized in these refuge regulations.

- Accessing the refuge across private property without permission.
- Taking, cutting or destroying any plants or parts thereof including flowers, fruits, nuts, fungi, herbs, shrubs or trees other than specified for temporary blind construction.
- Use of off-road vehicles, horses, mules, llamas and bicycles other than on maintained county road rights-of-ways.
- Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint tree blazes, etc.
- Baiting or hunting over bait including salt.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery, beads, etc. Use of metal detectors or digging for artifacts.
- Spotlighting.
- Use of fireworks, trail cameras and drones.
- Unless specifically listed as a permitted use, all uses of natural resources on the refuge are prohibited.



Refuge Boundary

These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.

Public Hunting Area

This area is open to hunting at specific times.

Public Fishing Area

This area is open to fishing at specific times.



No Hunting Zone

Hunting Prohibited.

Sanctuary Area

This area is off limits to the public unless otherwise specified.

Safety Notice!

All visitors in the field must wear fluorescent orange hat or vest in areas open to hunting during hunting season on the Columbia Mine Preserve and other locations if posted.

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COVER PHOTO: BRENT DRINKUT, DNR

