

In a Nutshell Owen-Putnam State Forest



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Would you prefer to receive
our newsletter by email?
Contact us at:

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For more information on the
DNR, visit our website at:

www.dnr.IN.gov

Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of In A Nutshell

In A Nutshell is being sent to you and adjacent landowners as part of our "good neighbor" program.

Through our newsletter we hope to point out some of the recreational opportunities available to you, as well as, keep you informed of what we are doing at Owen-Putnam State Forest.



Hope you enjoy this issue!

Ruthie Speas, Office Manager

From the Manager

Bill Gallogly

GREETINGS from all of us at Owen-Putnam State Forest. It's hard to believe that we are a quarter of the way through 2016 already.

Here at the forest we are beginning to gear up for the upcoming recreational season. There aren't many changes here and we will continue to maintain and try to improve, where possible, our facilities. One of the new items this year is the cycling permits. This will be required by all mountain bike users on all DNR properties that have mountain bike trails. Here at Owen-Putnam our multiple use blue trail serves as both a horse trail and a mountain bike trail. In this newsletter there is a segment that discusses the new fee that will hopefully answer all of your questions.

We are continuing our timber management program and it may periodically close the areas where you ride your horse, hunt or hike. In areas where an active timber harvest is occurring we must close it to the public for safety reasons. If you have questions with regards to our timber management program just give us a call (OR VISIT THE OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 13th from 3:00 to 7:00 and we will do our best to answer all your questions. Please enjoy this issue of "In a Nutshell" and let us know what you think.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy year!!!

Managing Our Forests

Rob Duncan, Forest Resource Specialist

Whether you enjoy camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, biking or bird watching, Indiana State Forests offer a unique opportunity for the public to experience nature in the form of recreation. Much of the responsibility of forest managers is the maintenance of the facilities that provide for these opportunities. However, forest managers are also responsible for the protection and management of the forests themselves. Therefore, within the multiple-use strategy, forests not only provide for public recreation opportunities they also provide for sustainable conservation of our forest resources through the management of timber, wildlife, soil and water and other flora and fauna.

Most of the state forest acreage falls under the category of actively managed forests. This means that visible management activities such as timber harvesting and timber stand improvement are performed on this acreage. Although timber harvesting can be viewed by some people as unsightly, the act of selecting certain trees to be harvested can be compared to weeding a garden. Much of the forestland that the state purchased over the years was the result of the lack of management and abuse during the first half of the 19th century prior to state ownership. Often the land was cleared for farming and failed or trees were overly harvested leaving the poorly formed, less valuable trees behind.

Proper management in the form of timber harvests and timber stand improvement can help eliminate poor quality trees from a stand and promote the health and vigor of the trees that are left behind. The final result of this management is a healthy sustainable forest that continues to produce high quality forest products and recreational opportunities that everyone can enjoy.

Timber Management – Rob Duncan

In fiscal year 2014/15 Owen-Putnam State Forest sold 708,446 board feet of timber across 248 acres for a total of \$165,576. On behalf of the Indiana DNR-Division of Forestry, \$24,857.79 was presented by our forest to the Owen County government who dispersed it to 7 local volunteer fire departments as part of a cooperative agreement that provides mutual aid to both agencies.

Since the spring of 2015 harvest operations have taken place in compartment 4 tract 6 near our Rattlesnake Campground on Surber road, compartment 7 tract 3 on Hale Hill road and compartment 5 tract 1 on Surber road. Keep in mind, active timber harvests are “restricted areas” and are closed to the public for safety reasons.

Currently we plan to sell approximately 700,000 bd. ft. of timber by the end of June 2016. These sales will occur in compartment 4 tracts 1, 4 & 10 on Surber road in Owen County.

Information on management plans for future timber sales is available for public viewing and comment at the following Internet address:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm>

Owen-Putnam State Forest what we have and offer

Campgrounds

Owen-Putnam State Forest contains 6,680 acres of forested land and is a great place to get away. Hike through some of the best hardwood forests in the country. Enjoy deer, squirrel and turkey hunting. Fish in one of the many small ponds, horseback ride through some of the most beautiful hills of south central Indiana. This property consists of many scattered holdings in a north-south orientation and because of this scattered nature of landholding, care should be exercised to avoid trespassing on private land.

Hiking Trails

Hiking is available on the forest fire lane trails and the bridle trails throughout the forest property.

Owen-Putnam's self-guided Poplar Top trail is 1.75 miles long

We have three campgrounds. Each of these operates on a "first-come, first serve" basis, with a self-registration booth located in each campground. All campgrounds are primitive, with a picnic table; grill and parking spur at each campsite. There is water available at Fish Creek Campground during the warmer months. However, at the Horse Camp and Rattlesnake Campground there is no drinking water available. You can access water from our office, via an outside water spigot or at Fish Creek Campground. Rates for Fish Creek Campground and Rattlesnake Campground are \$13.00 a night, including tax, and the Horse Camp is \$13.00 a night, including tax. If you are interested in riding horses on state property you must obtain an annual bridal tag to ride. You may purchase the tags at our office during normal business hours, Monday- Friday from 7:30am to 3:30 pm. The annual tags are \$20.00 each and the Daily tags are \$5.00 each. These tags are required from January 1st through December 31st.

Horse Trails

Owen-Putnam State Forest offers three horse trails consisting of several miles of scenic beauty. If you are interested in riding horses on state property you must obtain an annual bridal tag to ride. You may purchase the tags at our office during normal business hours, Monday- Friday from 7:30am to 3:30 pm. The annual tags are \$20.00 each and the Daily tags are \$5.00 each. These tags are required from January 1st through December 31st.

*Pleasant Grove (Orange trail) – 1.8 miles – Highlights include the horse campground and an old cemetery

*Sandstone Bluff (Red trail) – 1.7 miles – See a 50 foot sandstone bluff, waterfall and the horse campground.

* Bridle Loop (Blue trail)-12 miles – begin this scenic route from the horse campground and ride to the rattlesnake campground area and back.



[Visit Our Shelter House](#)

Mountain Bike Trail

The bike trail is part of the Blue Horse Trail and lies north of Atkinsonville Rd. We believe most riders will find the approximately 12-mile-long ride moderately difficult.

There is a new fee initiated this year for use of all DNR mountain Bike Trails

The annual tags are \$20.00 each and the Daily tags are \$5.00 each. These tags are required from January 1st through December 31st.

We want you to have a great time. For the enjoyment of all our visitors, please keep a few things in mind.

* Mountain bikes are only permitted on the marked areas of the Blue Horse Trail.

* Bikers share the trail with horseback riders. Right-of way should be yielded to people on horseback.

* The trail is marked with blue decals, a horse and a bicycle, on Carsonite brand posts. The markers are located on the right side of the trail until you pass the halfway point on the loop. At that point, the markers will be on the left side.

To get to the trailhead parking lot (4-6 car capacity), travel north on Fish Creek Rd. until you reach the intersection of Atkinsonville Rd. – Hale Hill Rd., which is approximately 5 miles north of State Road 46. Turn left (west) and travel approximately 3/4 mile to the trailhead parking lot located on the right (north) side of Atkinsonville Rd. Please do not block the fire lane entrance, which is normally marked by a steel cable stretched across it.

Hunter Access

Hunting is allowed on the state forest property during legal hunting seasons. A valid hunting license is required. There are safety zones of 400 feet around our office, and all of the campgrounds. Restrictions also may apply to certain areas during timber harvests.

Please respect the rights of private landowners. Know where you are! Not all state forest boundaries are marked. Lines that are marked have orange paint on the state side of the trees. Boundary signs are posted at intervals on the private side.

Many of our fire trails are cleared annually to provide access to the property. These trails are usually located by parking areas and have steel cables across them with DNR padlocks. Please refrain from parking in front of these cables and blocking emergency access.

Indiana's hunting and trapping dates are available at the Forest Office and the current Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide.

Rules Governing Use

Public lands are managed for long-term use of our citizens. To protect these lands and assure their ability to provide multiple benefits forever, certain activities are prohibited: off-road vehicles, carelessness with fires, destruction of private or public property, unauthorized vegetation or fauna destruction, and unauthorized trail making are not permitted. Hunting and shooting is prohibited within 400 feet of recreation areas or across any roadway or trail.

Please take care of your public lands and enjoy them.

Firewood Policy at DNR Properties

Including State Forests, State Parks & Reservoirs, State Fish & Wildlife Areas and all other DNR Properties

Changes to the rules governing the bringing of firewood onto DNR properties went into effect March 17th, 2012.

Here is a quick summary of the rules:

You can bring firewood into a state park, reservoir, state forest or state fish and wildlife area only if:

It is kiln-dried scrap lumber. It is from your home or other location in Indiana and has all the bark removed. (Ideally, ½ inch of sapwood beneath the bark will also be removed.)

* It is purchased from a department store, grocery store, gas station, etc. and bears a USDA compliance stamp.

*It is purchased from a local firewood vendor outside the property and has a state compliance stamp.

*It is purchased from the property camp store or on-site firewood vendor and has a state compliance stamp.

<http://www.firewood.dnr.IN.gov>

Deer and Turkey Check Stations

Can be found On-line at:
<https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/gamecheck/login.html>

or locally at:
Parker's Archery
812-829-1144
(7 miles E on Hwy 46)

Questions and Answers about the New Off-Road Cycling Permit

What is the Off-Road Cycling (ORC) Permit? The ORC is an annual permit required for cyclists wishing to access and use mountain bike trails on state park, reservoir and state forest properties with trail ratings above beginner. Each rider must possess and be able to produce the permit while engaged in off-road cycling activities.

What is the cost? The cost of the annual ORC Permit is \$20. A daily ORC may be purchased for \$5.00.

When and where may an ORC be purchased? ORC permits will be available for sale beginning November 1, 2015. Trail riders must carry and be able to produce their permits beginning January 1, 2016. Permits may be purchased at all state park, reservoir and forestry property offices and or gate houses during regular business hours. You may also purchase an ORC online at Mother Nature's Mercantile at www.innsgifts.com.

Are all bike riders required to have an ORC permit? Only off-road cyclists riding designated mountain bike trails that are rated as above beginner level will be required to possess an annual or daily permit. Cycling on property roadways, riding on paved bicycle paths and in other authorized riding areas will not require a permit.

Are all mountain bike trail users required to purchase an ORC permit? No. All mountain bike trails have a designated level of difficulty. Any trails identified as "Beginner" using International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) standards, will not require a permit. This will allow newcomers to the sport to engage in and practice riding on trails before investing further or before tackling more challenging riding opportunities. At this time, all mountain bike trails at Potato Creek State Park are identified as "Beginner" level trails. This means no permits will be required to ride at Potato Creek. IMBA and local chapters will work with DNR to ensure that all trails are rated, marked and signed appropriately.

Do children and teenagers who are riding mountain bike trails need a permit? Yes. Anyone planning to ride on a designated mountain bike trail (other than those designated as "Beginner") must have a permit.

Can the ORC be used in lieu of the Annual Entrance Permit? No. The ORC is a separate permit for the use of mountain bike trails (with the exception of beginner trails). The standard gate entrance fee is required when gates are staffed.

Can the ORC be used in lieu of a Pedestrian & Bicycle Pass or vice versa? No. The ORC is a separate pass for the use of mountain bike trails (with the exception of beginner trails). If a mountain bike rider enters the gate on his or her bike, the standard pedestrian or bicycle fee or pass OR an annual entrance permit is required as gate admission when gates are staffed.

Will trail volunteers be exempt from purchasing an ORC? Volunteers who contribute at least 125 hours of service to the division in a year may earn an off-road cycling permit, an equestrian permit, or a lake permit for the next year. This recognizes the work that volunteers contribute towards maintaining and constructing trails and a wide variety of other services performed on Department of Natural Resources properties. All volunteer hours must be recorded through the property volunteer coordinator. Please contact the property where you have interest in serving to register before beginning any volunteer activities.

Where does the money go? All user fees are collected and deposited into dedicated accounts for each division that helps defray operating costs.

How will we know if a person using a mountain bike trail has an ORC or daily permit? Similar to an Annual Horse Tag or Annual Lake Permit, Indiana Conservation Officers and authorized property representatives will conduct periodic checks along trails. The ORC should be visible or be available for presentation upon request.



Trail Etiquette Guidelines*

Ride Open Trails: Respect trail and road closures. Ask the property if you are uncertain about a trail's status.

Leave No Trace: Be sensitive to the soil beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are vulnerable to damage. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. Pack out at least as much as you pack in.

Stay on Existing Trails: Don't cut switchbacks or go around wet spots.

Control Your Bicycle: Inattention for even a moment can put you and others at risk. Obey speed regulations and ride within your limits.

Yield Appropriately: Bicyclists should yield to other trail users unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel. Let your fellow trail users know you are coming with a friendly greeting or bell. Anticipate other riders as you ride around corners. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill only traffic. Make each pass a safe and courteous one.

Never Scare Animals: You are in their habitat, and they may be easily startled by an unannounced approach, sudden movement or loud noise. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses, use special care and follow directions from the riders (ask if uncertain.) Running cattle and disturbing wildlife are serious offenses.

Plan Ahead: Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and plan accordingly. Keep your equipment in good repair, and carry supplies for changes in weather and other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

*Based on IMBA guidelines

Are the mountain bike trails open and accessible all year? Yes, barring any posted closures due to weather/trail conditions or as required for maintenance, construction or for the health and safety of riders. It is important that off-road cyclists avoid riding trails that are wet or muddy. Riding during these conditions may severely damage trail surfaces or present riders with hazardous conditions. If questions arise about whether it is safe and appropriate to ride, contact the property office before you visit. The Hoosier Mountain Bike Association also notes trail conditions and recommended status due to weather at www.hmba.org

What properties have mountain bike trails?

Brown County State Park
Fort Harrison State Park
Harmonie State Park
O'Bannon Woods State Park
Potato Creek State Park (beginner trails)
Spring Mill State Park
Versailles State Park
Salamonie Lake
Interlake State Recreation Area
Redbird State Recreation Area
Clark State Forest
Covered Bridge State Forest
Deam Lake State Recreation Area
Ferdinand State Forest
Jackson-Washington State Forest
Martin State Forest
Owen-Putman State Forest
Starve Hollow State Recreation Area

Where can I find more information about mountain bike trails in DNR, ratings, safety and more?

Mountain Bike Trails <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4450.htm>
International Mountain Bicycling Association www.IMBA.com
Hoosier Mountain Bike Association www.HMBA.org
Indiana Department of Natural Resources www.DNR.IN.gov
Indiana Division of State Parks www.stateparks.IN.gov

Available for purchase at our office

Annual Resident Permit \$50.00
Golden Hoosier Permit \$25.00

Motorized Lake Permit \$25.00
Non-Motorized Lake Permit \$5.00

Daily Horse Tag \$5.00
Annual Horse Tag \$20.00

Off-Road Cycling Annual \$20.00
Off-Road Cycling Daily \$5.00

Owen-Putnam Office Hours

Normally, we are open Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Please call first to verify that we are open if you need to visit the office

812-829-2462



Seeking Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers that are interested in helping us improve the forest now and for future generations.

We have a variety of projects to work on including construction, painting, landscaping, maintenance and repair, and special interest projects.

Whether you or your group wants to spend just a day out on the trails or a week completing a special project, we could use your help.

If you or your group is interested, please contact our office at (812) 829-2462 or

owensf@dnr.in.gov

Attention Woodland Owners

Ralph Unversaw, District Forester provides forest management for private woodland owners in Owen and Monroe counties.

His office is located at the Owen-Putnam State Forest.
2153 Fish Creek Road
Spencer, IN 47460
(812) 829-2462
runversaw@dnr.IN.gov

OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for our annual OPEN HOUSE on April 13th, 2016 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Light refreshments and a tree seedling will be available to each guest attending. We hope you can join us to learn more about your local state forest.



Owen-Putnam State Forest
2153 Fish Creek Road
Spencer, IN 47460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

