

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

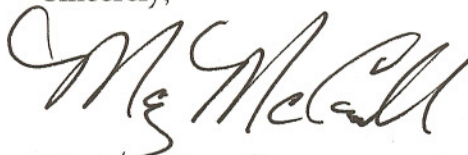
We are excited to share with you our Fiscal Year 2010 Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal for the Hoosier National Forest. We are asking for an appropriation of \$1,644,000 for the Hoosier National Forest to acquire 600 acres in 3 separate counties. The properties span from the northern to southern end of the Hoosier National Forest, and each property has its own set of diverse biological targets and natural features.

- The Brown County Hills Portfolio Site encompasses the largest contiguous forest block in Indiana, and consolidating and protecting the Oak-Hickory forests will benefit targeted species such as forest interior breeding birds and terrestrial bound vertebrates.
- The Wesley Chapel Gulf Portfolio Site (Orange County) supports one of the richest assemblages of cave fauna in the country and nationally it ranks in the top 10 caves for species richness.
- The Clover Lick Barrens Portfolio Site (Perry County) is a designated as a USFS Special Area because it encompasses globally-rare limestone barrens and hosts extremely rare plants.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed and will provide additional funding for habitat restoration activities on the Hoosier National Forest, it does not provide funding for land acquisition. The Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations are essential as they are the only dedicated funds for Forest Service land acquisitions.

We thank you for your continuing support and commitment to protecting Indiana's natural resources for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



Mary McConnell
State Director
Indiana Chapter

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charles Schalliol
CHAIR

Diana Hamilton
VICE CHAIR

Hon. Ed Pease
VICE CHAIR

David Rodgers
SECRETARY

Brett McKamey
TREASURER

Robert Meyer
PAST CHAIR

Jeff Belskus
Kathryn Betley
Ann Bochnowski
Ronald Christian
Janet Chrzan
Lori Efromyson-Aguilera
Stephen Enkema
Suzanne Fehsenfeld
David Frick
L. Craig Fulmer
Jingle Igleheart Hagey
Michael Himes
Rick Johnson
Paul Kite
Andre Lacy
Jane Martin
June McCormack
Jon Moll
Emily Pichon
Richard Phillips
Tim Ritchie
Patricia Schaefer
Frank Schurz
Anne Shane
John Thompson
R. Wyatt Weaver
Wayne Zink

ADVISORY TRUSTEES

John Bacone
Paul Grayson
Cloyce Hedge
Eric Kelly
Victor Lechtenberg
Vicky Meretsky
Hon. Bart Peterson
Edwin Squiers

Mary McConnell
STATE DIRECTOR