

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 8:34:58 PM

First name: Rega

Last name: Wood

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep the Forest Service from conducting prescribed burns throughout the HNF and other eastern national forests until it has established a scientific, factual record that fire was a significant natural disturbance agent in the central hardwoods and should not allow prescribed burning otherwise. The map below of areas prone to fire disturbance in the U.S. demonstrates that Indiana is in the heart of the region least prone to fire.

Don't log MATURE HARDWOOD FORESTS: Cutting or thinning native trees is bad for the forest except for removing of nonnative invasive vegetation. Thining native trees and understory, is exactly what will prevent hardwood forest from returning to the old growth condition in the Hoosier National Forest and other eastern national forests.

Monitor old-growth forests. The Notice is right to claim that "Consistent and effective monitoring of current and future old-growth forest conditions over time would better inform adaptive management." The Forest Service should not act until it has this information and before it has this information it should refrain from logging and burning.