

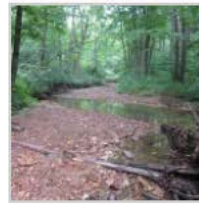
### Cataract State Wild Area (Owen-Putnam State Forest; 1,680 acres)



Cataract State Wild Area surrounding area



Cataract State Wild Area



Jordan Creek in Cataract State Wild Area



Cataract State Wild Area, Owen-Putnam State Forest

Located just twelve miles southwest of Cloverdale, near the town of Cataract in Owen County, the Cataract State Wild Area is the most northern of our proposed SWAs. The best public access to this tract is from the Rattlesnake Campground at the end of Surber Road. A 4.5-mile loop (slightly shorter variations can be taken, as well) passes through the maturing hardwood stands and old pine stands, passing by limestone outcroppings and crossing scenic Jordan Creek. This sparkling creek, which runs across the northern section of the SWA, is the quintessential forest stream, shaded by large sycamores and fed by countless unmapped drainages along its length.

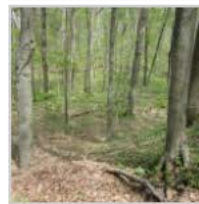
### Low Gap State Wild Area (Morgan-Monroe State Forest; 3,750 acres)



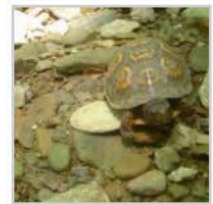
Low Gap State Wild Area surrounding area



Low Gap State Wild Area



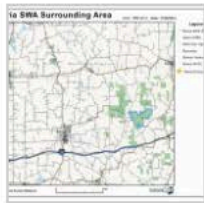
Low Gap State Wild Area



Box Turtle in Wolf Creek, Low Gap State Wild Area

Situated in the heart of the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest complex, the Low Gap State Wild Area is comprised of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest Back Country Area, with additional acreage in Yellowwood State Forest along the eastern end of Shipman Ridge and north towards Bear Wallow. The closest SWA to Indianapolis and the surrounding suburbs, the Low Gap State Wild Area contains a long stretch of the Tecumseh Trail and Low Gap Trail, as well as the picturesque East Fork Honey Creek, the center of IFA's Ecoblitz area! During the tenure of Governor Robert Orr, IDNR Director Jim Ridenour set most of this area aside in 1980 to preserve its wild forests for public enjoyment. It has since become the most popular area for wilderness recreation in our state forests. Much of its forests are more than a century old.

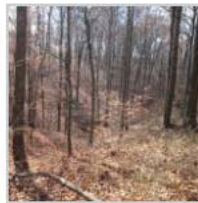
## Siberia State Wild Area (Ferdinand State Forest; 990 acres)



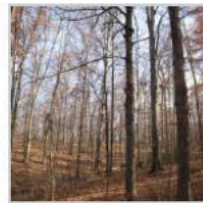
Siberia State Wild Area  
surrounding area



Siberia State Wild Area



Siberia State Wild Area,  
Ferdinand State Forest



Siberia State Wild Area,  
Ferdinand State Forest

The Siberia State Wild Area is our only proposed SWA that is smaller than 1,000 acres in size, and, despite its proximity to Interstate 64, is one of the furthest away from a major city. The closest town of significance is Ferdinand, fifteen miles away. This State Wild Area lies just a mile east of Ferdinand Lake as the crow flies, but to get to the only real public parking area for this State Wild Area, one must drive more than ten miles on winding county roads, many of which are not paved, to a pull-off at the end of Calhoun Road. Calvert Road makes up a small part of the tract's southern boundary, but there is no parking area. The dearth of access points to this area create an excellent opportunity for minimal disturbance of the forest and for solitude for backcountry campers and other users.

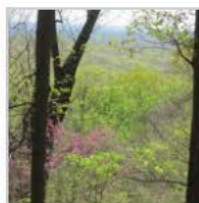
### Leota State Wild Area (Clark State Forest; 3,450 acres)



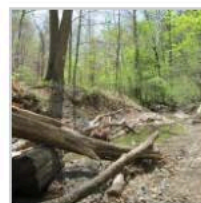
Leota State Wild Area surrounding area



Leota State Wild Area



Redbud Tree, Leota State Wild Area, Clark State Forest



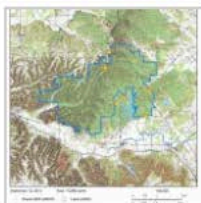
Roger Creek, Leota State Wild Area

The Leota State Wild Area is best experienced through the nine miles of the Knobstone Trail that wind through this area's lush valleys and along its narrow ridges. A majority of Leota State Wild Area is comprised of the Clark State Forest Back Country Area, designated by Governor Otis Bowen in 1976 to "fulfill the needs of those persons seeking a 'wilderness experience.'" The seclusion and aesthetic beauty that can be found in either the Roger Creek or North Branch valleys are reminiscent of the Appalachian Mountains, close ecological cousins of the knobs and valleys of southern Indiana.

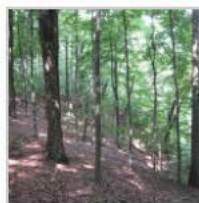
### Knobstone State Wild Area (Clark State Forest; 5,680 acres)



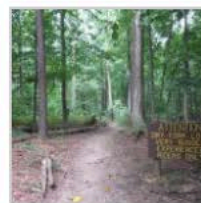
Knobstone State Wild Area surrounding area



Knobstone State Wild Area



Knobstone State Wild Area, Clark State Area



Dry Fork Loop, Knobstone State Wild Area

The Knobstone State Wild Area is by far the largest of our proposed SWAs. Located just 20 miles north of downtown Louisville, this area is the closest of any of our SWAs to a major metropolitan area. The shape of the area forms a south-facing crescent, enveloping the popular Deam Lake State Recreation Area. About four miles of the Knobstone Trail pass through this SWA, including the trail's southern terminus. Several other trails branch out from Deam Lake SRA, including many for mountain biking and horseback riding. About 1,600 acres of "Old Forest Areas", designated by previous DOF leadership, were located along the steep ridges and valleys that characterize the large western portion of the Knobstone State Wild Area.

## Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area (Yellowwood State Forest; 3,680 acres)



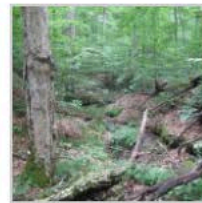
Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area surrounding area



Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area



High King Hill, Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area



Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area, Yellowwood State Forest

The Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area is located about halfway between Bloomington and Nashville just east of the Brown County-Monroe County line. This SWA encompasses most of Scarce O' Fat Ridge, including Sol Pogue Hollow, Bill Jack Ridge, Caldwell Hollow, High King Hill, and numerous unnamed valleys that drain into Yellowwood Lake. Although the Tecumseh Trail, Scarce O' Fat Trail, and Horse Trail Z all meander through this SWA, large portions of the Scarce O' Fat State Wild Area remain wild and free of infrastructure, perfect for those who prefer a more primitive type of recreational experience.

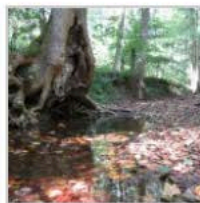
## Mossop Ridge State Wild Area (Yellowwood State Forest; 2,080 acres)



Mossop Ridge State Wild Area surrounding area



Mossop Ridge State Wild Area



Lucas Hollow, Mossop Ridge State Wild Area



Mossop Ridge State Wild Area, Yellowwood State Forest

The Mossop Ridge State Wild Area lies just north of Lake Monroe, separated from the Miller Ridge State Wild Area by just a gravel road. The southern end of this SWA includes Lucas Hollow, a two mile-long valley that drains directly into Lake Monroe. Other highlights include the Tecumseh Trail, dramatic topography, and expansive stands of maturing hardwood forests. The former Belmont Girl Scout Camp, which is now owned by the Indiana Nature Conservancy, borders this SWA to the west, while the Hoosier National Forest shares a portion of the area's southern boundary.

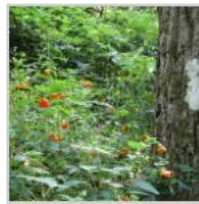
## Miller Ridge State Wild Area (Yellowwood State Forest; 2,330 acres)



Miller Ridge State Wild Area surrounding area



Miller Ridge State Wild Area



Tecumseh Trail, Miller Ridge State Wild Area



Miller Ridge State Wild Area, Yellowwood State Forest

This State Wild Area sits adjacent to the Ten O’Clock Line Nature Preserve in Brown County State Park and the Panther Creek roadless area of the Hoosier National Forest (HNF). By way of these two adjacent properties, this area is connected to Browning Mountain, Nebo Ridge, and the Charles Deam Wilderness in the Hoosier National Forest, making the Miller Ridge State Wild Area part of the largest contiguous, roadless, wild hardwood forest in the lower Midwest—an area approximately 40,000 acres in size! The location of this State Wild Area makes for an exciting opportunity to complement an existing system of wild forest habitat and low-impact public recreation opportunities, including the Tecumseh Trail.

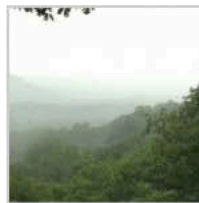
## Orchard Ridge State Wild Area (Jackson-Washington State Forest; 1,270 acres)



Orchard Ridge State Wild Area surrounding area



Orchard Ridge State Wild Area



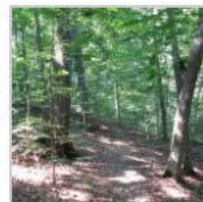
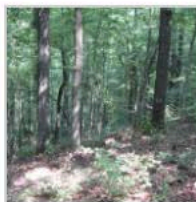
Orchard Ridge State Wild Area, Jackson-Washington State Forest



Orchard Ridge State Wild Area, Jackson-Washington State Forest

The Orchard Ridge State Wild Area contains some of the steepest topography in the entire state forest system. Just two miles from downtown Brownstown, this area is popular among recreationists for scenic views that are as breathtaking as its climbs. A network of rugged horse, hiking, and mountain bike trails traverse the tract. Access from Skyline Drive is restricted during winter months, but the parking area and trailhead off of Starve Hollow Road just south of the SWA is open year round.

## Starve Hollow State Wild Area (Jackson-Washington State Forest; 1,500 acres)



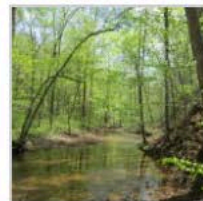
Starve Hollow State Wild Area surrounding area

Starve Hollow State Wild Area

Starve Hollow State Wild Turkey Roost Trail, Starve Hollow State Wild Area, Jackson-Washington State Forest

As the name suggests, the Starve Hollow State Wild Area is located next to Starve Hollow Lake near Vallonia. Accessible either from the Starve Hollow State Recreation Area (SRA) to the west or a small parking area off of Starve Hollow Road to the north, this SWA has a little something for everyone. A network of easy-to-moderate recreational trails connects the area to the developed Starve Hollow SRA, while the rugged 5.6-mile (7.1 miles from the parking area inside Starve Hollow SRA) Turkey Roost Trail circumnavigates the SWA along a narrow ridge that forms a west-facing horseshoe that empties into Starve Hollow Lake.

## Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area (Jackson-Washington State Forest; 4,000 acres)



Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area surrounding area

Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area

Wild Geranium, Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area

Spurgeon Hollow, Jackson-Washington State Forest

The Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area contains some of the deepest forest of any of the proposed State Wild Areas. From the center of this area, one can hike more than a mile in any direction without reaching a public road. Both Clay Hill Hollow and Spurgeon Hollow, the namesake for this SWA, stretch for two miles from east to west across this State Wild Area, without encountering a single road or crossing private property. The Spurgeon Hollow State Wild Area also contains the Jackson-Washington State Forest Back Country Area, as well as the northern terminus of the Knobstone Trail, Indiana's longest footpath.

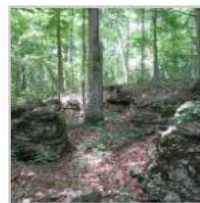
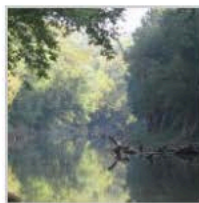
## Hellbender State Wild Area (Harrison-Crawford State Forest; 2,460 acres)



Hellbender State Wild Area surrounding area



Hellbender State Wild Area



Rock outcrops, Hellbender State Wild Area, Harrison-Crawford State Forest

Adjacent to O'Bannon Woods State Park, the Hellbender State Wild Area is the most accessible of all the proposed Wild Areas. The area already contains an extensive network of horse, hiking, and mountain bike trails, including a significant stretch of the Adventure Hiking Trail, a 25-mile backpacking loop, passes through this area. The Blue River, which runs through the northern part of this proposed SWA, is known among kayakers and canoers for its scenic beauty. If established as a SWA, those floating the Blue River would be able to come ashore for an evening and camp along its banks, adding to the allure the river already holds for outdoor enthusiasts.

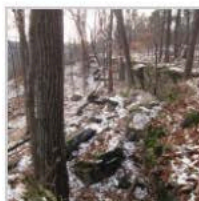
## Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area (Harrison-Crawford State Forest; 3,950 acres)



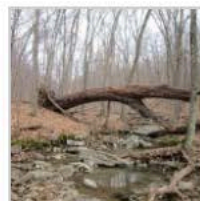
Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area surrounding area



Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area surrounding area



Rock outcroppings, Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area



Cold Friday Hollow, Harrison-Crawford State Forest

As one of our largest proposed SWAs, Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area stretches from Potato Run in the north all the way down to the Ohio River in the south- an expanse of hills, hollows, rocky streams, small waterfalls and sinkholes more than 3 ½ miles long. Maturing hardwood stands provide critical roosting habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat, which hibernates during winters in the nearby Wyandotte Cave. The limestone cliffs overlooking the Ohio River within the Charles Deam Nature Preserve in the southernmost part of the SWA provide critical habitat for the endangered Allegheny Woodrat. An extensive system of horse trails connect the Cold Friday Hollow State Wild Area with the nearby O'Bannon Woods State Park. A large segment of the 25-mile Adventure Hiking Trail meanders through this area.