



SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

HIKANATION PROGRAM

ILLINOIS - 1981

Dear _____

Welcome to Shawnee National Forest.



Date _____

Forest Supervisor

Kenneth D. Henderson

Welcome!

Welcome to the Shawnee National Forest and to Southern Illinois. The lands that you will be crossing in your eastward trek across the state are owned by the Department of Conservation, the State of Illinois, the various counties, the Shawnee National Forest and some private citizens.

During the past year, it has been through cooperative efforts spearheaded by the Shawnee Trails Conference, that this cross state trail system has been put together for the Hik-A-Nation event. I am pleased with the outcome of this effort and I hope your hike across the state will be an enjoyable experience.

KENNETH D. HENDERSON
Forest Supervisor

Forest Service Mission

The Multiple Use - Standard Yield Act of 1960 confirmed long-standing Forest Service policy to administer the National Forest for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish purposes. It stressed that consideration be given to relative values of resources in particular areas.

"There are many great interests on the National Forests which sometimes conflict a little. They must all be made to fit into one another so that the machine runs smoothly as a whole. It is often necessary for one man to give way a little here, another a little there. But by giving way a little at present, they both profit by it a great deal in the end.

National Forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good, the people themselves must make clear how they want them run."

Gifford Pinchot

June 14, 1907

Shawnee National Forest and Its Part

Shawnee National Forest will continue to meet its responsibility in providing for the various multiple uses of the Forest. Additional facilities will be built for recreational use, especially for dispersed recreation. By 1985, another 5,900 acres of wildlife openings will be added and an additional 150 wildlife watering holes. By 1985, the Forest expects to program and offer an additional 11,500 cunits of timber for lumber, pulpwood and other products above the 1975 level. Only slight increases are expected in AUM's (Animal Unit Month) for grazing in the next few years.

The Forest will continue in its human and community development programs by continuing and increasing participation in various employing or training programs such as the Young Adult Conservation Corps. Improving water quality will be an ongoing goal.

Points of Interest

Oakwood Bottoms, on the Murphysboro District, is primarily managed to provide desirable habitats for thousands of migrating waterfowl. 75% of this area is flooded each year in the winter seasons to create marshes for migrating birds. This flooding also improves the growth for many hardwoods that are found in this area. The other 25% remains dry to accommodate the other game animals.

Garden of the Gods, on the Elizabethtown District, has had several major influences that resulted in the many different rock formations now seen. An ancient sea, huge uplift, wind, freezing and rain erosion have produced such rock formations as Camel Rock, Noah's Arc, Big H and Mushroom Rock.

Shawnee National Forest RECREATION PROGRAMS

Shawnee National Forest, because of its varied topography, forested hills, public ownership and water resources is recognized as one of the major recreation resources in the state of Illinois. In addition, tens of thousands of visitors and forest users come from Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky each year to the Shawnee. Recreation is divided into developed recreation areas which contain more facilities and better access and thus receive heavy impacts from large numbers of recreationists. Dispersed recreation provides the rest of the recreation spectrun. These areas have fewer facilities and access is usually by gravel or dirt roads and trails and have fewer users per acre or square mile.

During January of 1981, over 50 individuals of the Hik-A-Nation program hiked through southern Illinois and parts of the Shawnee National Forest.

Shawnee National Forest

The Range (Grazing) Program

During fiscal year 1975, (October 1974 through September 1975) 330 acres of the Shawnee National Forest were being used to graze cattle. The grazing season for the 122 head of cattle allowed on these 330 acres ran May through October. This sustained, low level of grazing will be in response to a continuing need to maintain newly acquired land free of brush before it can be reforested or otherwise utilized. The demand to convert forested land to pasture is virtually nonexistent.

Recently, cattle have been allowed to graze certain young pine plantations to keep plant competition down, increase the growth of the trees and provide better wildlife habitats. The grazing has not harmed the pine trees, and thus two uses are occurring simultaneously. The Range program is much larger in western national forests. 7

Shawnee National Forest

The Wildlife Program

The predominantly hardwood forest of the Shawnee National Forest interspersed with small areas of open land brush and pine provides diverse habitats for a variety of game and non-game species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, fox, grey squirrel, bobwhite quail and ruffed grouse. Common fur-bearing animals are the weasel, mink, opossum, skunk, muskrat, raccoon, red and grey fox and beaver.

Wildlife openings have a high value for many game and non-game species, from deer to songbirds. In addition to providing vegetative diversity, they are the first areas to provide green forage in the spring. There are approximately 3,200 acres of wildlife openings on National Forest land. Shawnee N.F. cooperates with Illinois and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in stocking and managing several hundred wildlife ponds.

Shawnee National Forest

The Watershed Program

The 261,000 acre Shawnee National Forest is drained by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries. 347,000 acre feet of water originates from National Forest land. Because of the fragmented pattern of National Forest ownership, Forest management has a much lower impact on water quality than that suggested by total Forest acreage. Virtually all southern Illinois lakes and streams are recipients of some type of pollutant. Hutchins Creek and Lusk Creek, which have predominantly forested watershed, exhibit relatively high water quality. A highly impervious clay pan underlies most of the area. This characteristic, combined with steep slopes, causes a high rate of water run-off and very little retention of ground water. Shawnee National Forest is committed to the protection and enhancement of high water quality.

Shawnee National Forest

The Timber Program

Much of the Shawnee National Forest is now either mature or over mature. The potential to increase growth by putting these over-mature stands back into production depends in large measure on markets, which at present are less than adequate to handle the available wood supply. In fiscal year 1980, approximately 17.6 million board feet of timber products were offered for sale. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ this volume was pine pulpwood.

You have walked through many pine stands on your trip through Shawnee National Forest. There are approximately 42,000 acres, of which 21,200 acres are in the pulpwood size class. Additionally, 1,100 acres are entering this pulpwood size class each year.

Ultimately, the goal is to provide a substantial yield of quality hardwood and softwood sawtimber, while still considering all the other multiple uses of the Forest. 13

Shawnee National Forest
Minerals and Special Land Uses

Mineral exploration and development is an important part of the multiple use management of the National Forest system. On the Shawnee, over 15,000 tons of unprocessed ore was mined in calendar year 1980. Of this amount, over 4,400 tons resulted in processed fluorspar (fluorite), more than 1,000 tons of processed zinc, and 164 tons of processed barite. No coal is mined on the Shawnee, but great quantities are taken out yearly just a few miles north of the Forest. During the last two years, an average of \$57,00 in mineral receipts has gone into the U.S. Treasury.

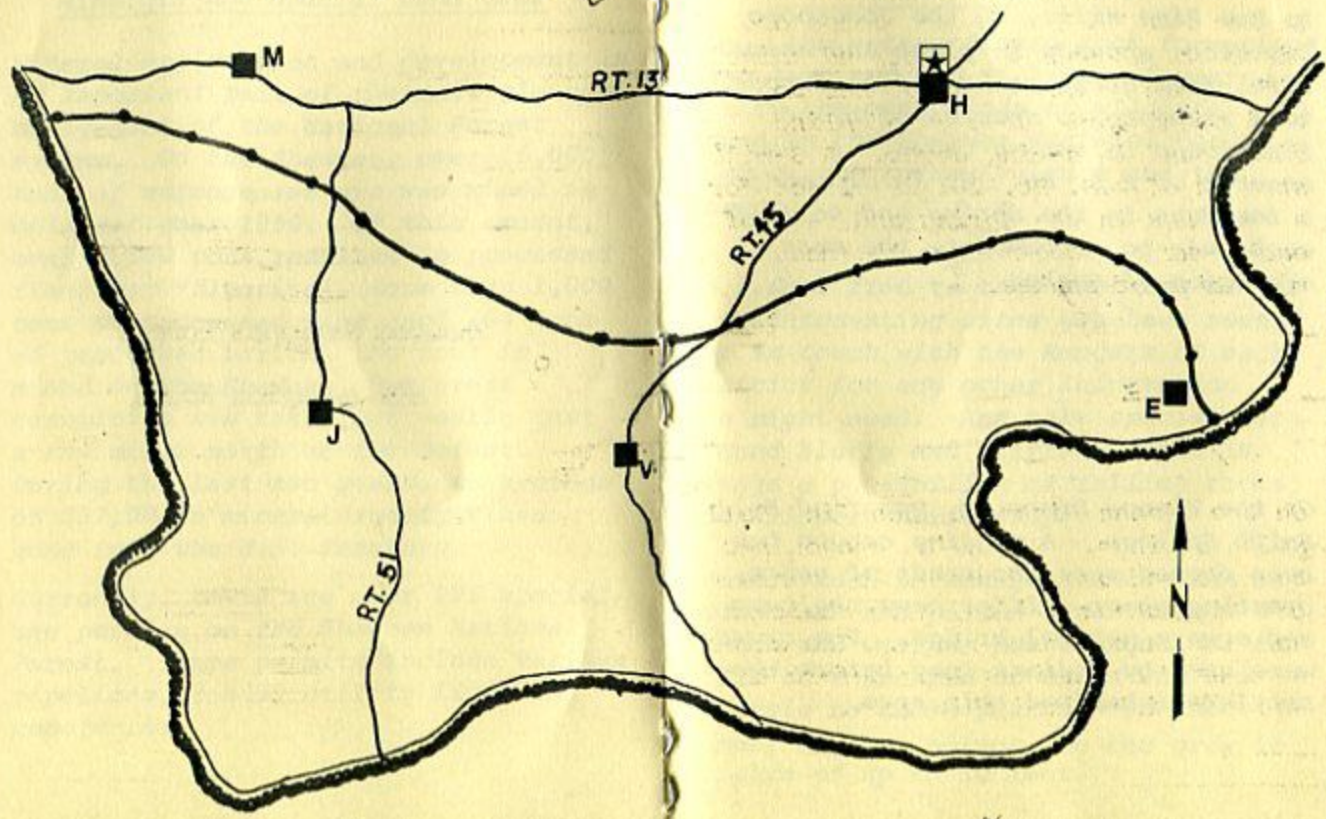
Currently, there are over 225 special use permits on the Shawnee National Forest. These permits include various pipelines, roads, utility lines and cemeteries.

Shawnee National Forest

Hik-A-Nation Route

Hik-A-Nation Route ✓

Southern Illinois



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Points of Interest

La Rue Pine Hills, in the Jonesboro District, abounds in plant and animal life, from great stands of hardwoods to a prehistoric species of blind fish found in spring caves. A 3-mile stretch of F.S. Rt. 181 is closed for a few days in the spring and fall of each year to accommodate the mass migration of snakes.

On the Vienna District, you find Bell Smith Springs. A winding canyon has been formed over thousands of years, creating sheer cliffs, cave shelters and even a natural bridge. The caves were used by Indians long before the settlers inhabited this area.

During your stay here on the Shawnee -
you may want to:

See...the extraordinary rock formations that have endured millions of years. Notice the many kinds of wildlife found in the Shawnee National Forest, such as the turkey vulture and the beaver.

Do...feel free to take pictures of the many interesting sites you have seen. Get in touch with the Rangers of each District for any other information you might need. And take special care around bluffs and cliffs. There is always a possibility of falling rocks and slippery surfaces.

Avoid...such poisonous plants such as poison oak and poison ivy. Even though the weather has changed, it can still be a problem to those who are allergic to these plants. In the summer months, poison ivy can grow to heights of up to 10 feet.

"Historically Speaking"
Shawnee National Forest

The Shawnee National Forest began on August 30, 1933, when the National Forest Reservation Commission established two purchase units in southern Illinois having a combined gross area of 599,232 acres. The first year's activity resulted in 40,888 acres being optioned. By the beginning of World War II, 87% of the present Forest was purchased. Nearly all purchases have been on a "willing seller - willing buyer: basis. The Forest is still adding a few hundred acres each year through this process. Total net acreage is now 260,727 acres. The gross area size is 839,735 acres.

The stage was set for Shawnee National Forest by the early 1930's. Many of farms in the area were abandoned, the soil was worn out and the streams had been badly silted. Concerned citizens, newspapers and poticial leaders rallied support for the creation of a National Forest in Illinois.

"Historically Speaking" - Illinois

Illinois joined the Union in 1818. It has been a major factor in agricultural trade since the 1700's. The Ohio and Mississippi Rivers have served as major trade arteries. Along with its rich fertile lands in central and northern portions, the southern part holds some of the richest woodland stands attributed to the state of Illinois.

Southern Illinois was settled before the rest of Illinois and was settled by people from different parts of the nation. Southern Illinois was settled from the southeast, including the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and virginia. The Ohio and Mississippi Rivers have played major factors in the settlement of this area and preserving its own unique culture.

Weather and Vegetation

Southern Illinois is subject to continental type climate characterized by cool winters and warm summers. Adequate rainfall (48 inches a year) and an average growing season of 200 days contribute to abundant plant growth.

Southern Illinois has long been recognized as unique by botanists due to the merging of regional ecotypes. Within the Forest, for example, swamp tupelo of the south, red maple of the north, prickly pear cactus of the west and flowering dogwood of the east all occur.

Spring and autumn in the Shawnee have warm days and cool nights and thus are better seasons for more active recreational activities. Summer can become oppressive with a combination of high heat and humidity, thus water based activities are popular then. Winter can be cold and wet for lengthy periods, but usually have pleasant days in between.

National Recreation Trails on the Shawnee

Rim Rock National Recreation Trail is located on the Elizabethtown District between Garden of the Gods and Pounds Hollow Recreation areas. The 7/8 mile long trail passes through a hardwood forest, red cedar plantation, "Fat Man's Squeeze" and a prehistoric Indian wall made of natural stone.

On the Jonesboro Ranger District, Inspiration Point Trail has been nominated for National Recreation Trail status. This trail passes through an area containing native pine and offers an excellent view of the La Rue Scenic area 350 feet below. The Missouri Ozarks can also be seen on the southwest horizon.

On the Murphysboro District, the Little Grand Canyon Trail will be nominated later this year as a National Recreation Trail. The trail services dry and wet woodlands, hill prairies, floodplain woods and sandstone overhangs. The trail is 3½ miles long.

special Interest Areas on the Shawnee

The Heritage Trail, built with the cooperation of the Shawnee Trail Conference, connects several important features and areas such as the River-to-River Trail, Bell Smith Springs and Burden Falls.

The state of Illinois has the Indian Kitchen Nature Preserve adjoining Lusk Creek, with its clear, deep water and towering, sheer cliffs.

North of Rosiclare, a small town next to Cave-in-Rock, the Forest Service rebuilt the first charcoal fired iron furnace in Illinois. This furnace operated from 1839 to 1883 and some of the iron was used for Union ironclads during the Civil War.

Cave Hill Cave, also known as Equality Cave, is on the Elizabethtown District, and contains very old names, bats and cave crickets.

Shawnee National Forest
Ranger Districts

Murphysboro Ranger District
Address: Murphysboro, IL 62966
Phone: 618-687-1731

District Ranger: Gary Cole

Jonesboro Ranger District
Address: Jonesboro, IL 62952
Phone: 618-833-8576

District Ranger: Joe Newcomb

Shawnee National Forest Ranger
Districts (cont.)

Vienna Ranger District
Address: Vienna, IL 62995
Phone: 618-658-2111

District Ranger: Roger Bucklew

Elizabethtown District
Address: Elizabethtown, IL 62931
Phone: 618-287-2201

District Ranger: Gary Sieren

Thanks!!!

For visiting Southern Illinois and
Shawnee National Forest.

For your comments about Shawnee National
Forest.

For packing out what was packed in.

For promoting trails in America and
Recreational use by the people of this
country.

