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MANAGEMENT OF ROCKSHELTER SITES ON THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

This paper discusses management concerns and opportunities for Aboriginal rockshelter sites on the Hoosier National Forest. The number of identified rockshelter sites is increasing, but so is their destruction from illegal excavation. The rockshelter in Crawford County recently located by Indiana University archaeologists and excavated by the Forest Service is a good example of the management problems that now exist - they are difficult to monitor for possible damage, they are readily visible to illegal excavators, and the general public is largely unaware of Federal laws that protect cultural sites.

Some of the ways identified to provide for the protection of these sites in Indiana include: 1) Public Education - to existing laws and to raise the level of sensitivity to the value of archaeology. 2) Signing - provides on-site notification of laws and regulations effecting cultural resources. 3) Fencing - the placing of physical barriers that will make access to archaeological sites more difficult. 4) Monitoring - the ongoing visitation of vulnerable sites to watch for any new damage. 5) Surveillance - an active attempt to capture those responsible for vandalizing sites. Finally, 6) the Prosecution of those responsible for illegal acts. By initiating these steps, the level of future disturbance can be lowered, and the public will become more knowledgeable about the value of archaeological resources on Federal Lands.
