

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

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**A talk discussing “Deer Management and Research in Indiana” will be presented at Ivy Tech in Madison, Indiana.** On Monday, March 3rd, the Big Oaks Conservation Society will host a meeting at Ivy Tech Community College starting at 6:30 PM. featuring Dr. Joe Caudell from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The talk will highlight current survey techniques, the latest Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) information, and how state biologist use science to manage the state’s deer herd.

Dr. Joe Caudell earned a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources the Warnell School of Forest Resources at the University of Georgia in 1998 and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Utah State University in 2001. Joe has had a varied career as a Wildlife Biologist. For the first 10 years of his career, Joe worked in the field of Conservation Education for the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. From there, Joe went on to work USDA APHIS Wildlife Services from 2004 until 2013 in Maine, Las Vegas, and Indiana. In 2013, Joe joined the faculty at Murray State University in Kentucky where he taught several wildlife biology and management courses. In 2016, he returned to Indiana as the Department of Natural Resources’ Deer Research Biologist. Currently Joe conducts research in most areas related to white-tailed deer including economics, policy, management, damage management, disease and human dimensions. In his spare time, Joe teaches Wildlife Management at Indiana University in the O’Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs and is a blacksmith in Nashville, Indiana.

The Big Oaks Conservation Society is the non-profit support group of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Society members work closely with refuge staff to enhance public awareness, use, and appreciation for the natural and cultural assets unique to Big Oaks NWR. Meetings are held the first Monday of selected months at 6:30 p.m. Big Oaks NWR consists of approximately 50,000 acres on the former Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) located in Jennings, Ripley, and Jefferson Counties in southeastern Indiana. The refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provides public use opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, interpretation, and environmental education. The refuge has one of the largest contiguous forest blocks in the southeastern part of the state as well as one of the largest grassland complexes in the state, both of which provide wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities to refuge visitors.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses more than 550 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 63 Fish and Wildlife Management offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird

populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.