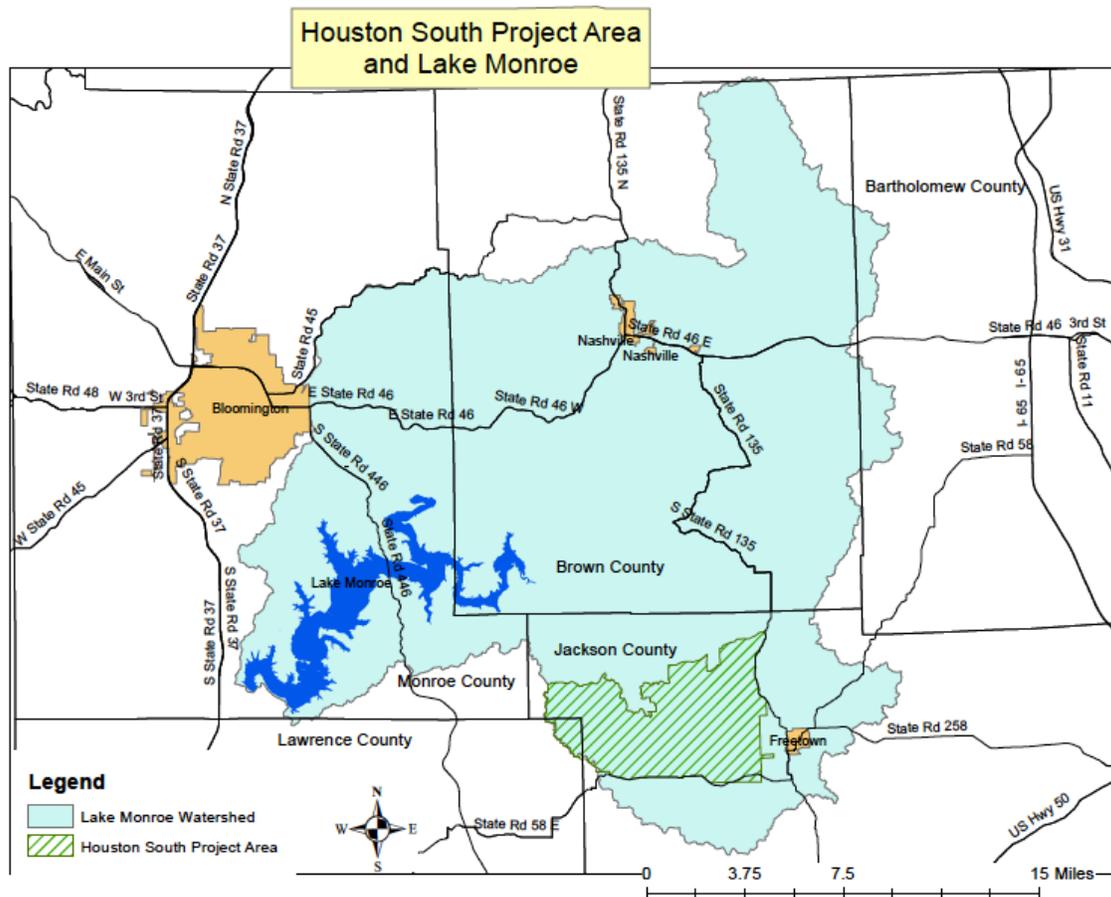




**Monroe County Council Sends  
Second Letter on Hoosier  
National Forest Logging  
Proposal**



The Herald-Times Online, under Ernest Rollins' byline, published on February 18 a report on the Monroe County Council's intent to send a second letter to the U.S. Forest Service, following up on its December letter, expressing concern about maintenance plans for the Hoosier National Forest, which include logging and herbicide use.

The report quotes Dave Warren, president of the Monroe County Environmental Commission, as saying that there is concern that Lake Monroe's ongoing problems with sedimentation and blue-green algae could potentially be exacerbated by the way the maintenance is carried out.

The article also quotes Andrea Crain, public affairs officer with the Hoosier National Forest, as saying that the Forest Service is still looking at options for its maintenance plan, and intends to host public meetings and to open additional rounds of public comment.

See the Herald-Times article [here](#).

# Bloomington High School South Students Assist with Monthly Shoreline Cleanup



Six hardy, enthusiastic members of the Bloomington High School South Lake Action Committee (and one dog) participated in the January 19 monthly shoreline cleanup at the Paynetown State Recreation Area. The group, along with FLM board member Bet Savich, braved the elements for about two hours to pick up trash from the beach peninsula, campground, and boat ramp.

FLM is excited to partner with the next generation of environmentalists in protecting a valuable local resource, and our drinking water supply, Lake Monroe! FLM hopes to partner with the Lake Action Committee on other activities in the future.

## Indiana Legislature Debates

# Control of Construction Site Erosion

A February 12 *Indianapolis Star* article under Emily Hopkins' byline reported the debate over House Bill 1266, which would limit local governments' ability to set standards for soil erosion from construction sites.

As reported in this article, over 150 Indiana communities have "municipal separate storm sewer systems," or "MS4s," which are required by the state EPA and IDEM to review construction sites where an acre (approximately 0.4 ha) of land or more will be disturbed. (U.S. EPA describes MS4s [here](#).)

However, some of Indiana's MS4s have adopted rules requiring reviews of smaller sites, because of the large total erosion that can result if a number of smaller sites are developed in the same area.

As an example of the impact of management at the local level, the article cites the experience of the Indian Lake Improvement Association in northeast Marion County. The association ([website](#)) brought suit against the State of Indiana in 2006 for the member-residents' excess costs of dredging Indian Lake due to erosion from roadwork for an expansion of Pendleton Pike, receiving a settlement of over \$250,000.

The board chair of the Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, a group of engineers and officials ([website](#)), is cited as supporting the need for local initiative to protect water resources, as is the executive director of the White River Alliance ([website](#)), who suggests that the task of the construction industry can be simplified by standardizing, rather than prohibiting, local procedures.

See the February 12 *Indianapolis Star* article [here](#).

## Upcoming Events



**Mark your calendars! Here's what we have coming up.**

[See All Events >](#)

June 27

**SUPPORT FRIENDS OF LAKE MONROE!**

Enjoy an evening of music, appetizers, silent auction, and a raffle at the 11th Street Upland Brewing Company. Festivities start at 5 pm and run until 8 pm.

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## Volunteer Opportunities



Check FLM's [website](#) for future opportunities, including monthly shoreline cleanup get-togethers.

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