

Soy Brings Biobased to Nature

A national forest represents a natural place where people visit to get away from smog, pollutants and noise. So it makes sense that the National Forest Service wants to use more biobased products in the maintenance of these areas. This desire has opened another door for soy-based products such as cleaners and lubricants, especially as the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan has added its story to a growing list of soy success. Many successful soy products, such as soy cleaners, have benefited from the support of the United Soybean Board and the soybean checkoff, which work to increase the use of soy.

Hiawatha National Forest Fleet Manager W. Toby Rhue heard about biobased products and thought they would be a perfect match for his fleet of 200 plus machines. In 2007, Rhue began working with the Michigan Soybean Promotion Council to arrange for samples of soy-based products to test in his equipment and with his staff.

By summer 2008, staff at the Hiawatha National Forest began testing the biobased products. The results came in with resounding approval, and Hiawatha National Forest now uses biobased two-cycle engine oil, bar and chain oil, penetrating oil, cleaning products and hand cleaners by working with companies such as Soy Clean, Franmar, Renewable Lubricants and Biokleen.

For more information on incorporating soy-based products into your operation, contact us at ckrull@unitedsoybean.org.

PHOTOS/CAPTIONS

Photo credits: Hiawatha National Forest.



Daryl Ulberg, a heavy equipment operator at Hiawatha National Forest, pours biobased hydraulic fluid into one of the pieces of heavy equipment he operates and helps maintain.



Hiawatha National Forest's Toby Rhue and Daryl Ulberg use the United Soybean Board's *Soy Products Guide* to select products they want to test.



A sampling of biobased products that have received rave reviews from employees at Hiawatha National Forest.