

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

INTERIOR PLATEAU ECOREGION: 71

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Interior Plateau Regional Summary Notes

Land Use Dynamics

Land use dynamics in the Interior Plateau seemed to be minimal. During the last 30 years changes probably include:

- Forestation (in marginal areas)
- Loss of forest 1) at urban edges and 2) one piece at a time for rural houses.
- Urbanization, which probably occurred in the following locations:
 1. Near lakes
 2. At the edge of cities
 3. Near cities
 4. Towns within easy commuting distance of cities
 5. Certain highway interchanges
- Many new buildings that were part of urbanization were replacement buildings for older structures. For example, convenience stores replaced filling stations and took part of the function of drive-ins, restaurants, grocery stores, and general stores. Convenience stores are the contemporary general store with abundant room for parking. In areas of in migration, new buildings may replace buildings in other counties or ecoregions.

Land Use-Land Cover Observations

The ecoregion has a repetitive mosaic of crop land (corn, soybeans, pasture, and hay with tobacco and cotton locally important) and forested hills. The grain of the mosaic varies from fine to coarse. In Block 218, south of Bloomington, the fields were small and narrow because they were in the floodplain of streams. In northern Tennessee the crop area seemed to be several counties in size. Superimposed on the mosaic are transportation corridors, cities, and reservoirs.

A substantial portion of this nonglaciated region is influenced by limestone geology. Karst topography was common, limestone quarries are part of the basic economy in southern Indiana, and some of the farmland soils were derived from limestone parent material. The most famous of the limestone areas is the Kentucky Bluegrass, centered on Lexington, but there were others.

Land cover is broad and can be looked at from the ecoregion level. Use is local and is more related to transportation, urban places, and past infrastructure investments such as TVA lakes, Interstate Highways, and electrical plants (less).

Agriculture

The agricultural activities of this region were low labor intensity uses with the exception of tobacco and industrial livestock production. Hay was the most common crop, and only once did we see small bales, the rest were the large round bales that can be managed by one person with a tractor, at their convenience.

- Industrial hog farming in southern Indiana and one poultry island in Kentucky.
- Cotton in northern Alabama. Was this a return?
- Tobacco everywhere except part of Indiana in the northern fringes of the ecoregion.
- Much pasture and hay with old silos and outbuildings that indicate that the region may have made a transition from general farming to cattle, grass, and hay.
- No exotic animals and few nontraditional crops. (We saw two produce farms that may have been Amish or a similar group, and a small region of nurseries).
- Wetlands. None.
- Limestone and shale are found throughout the ecoregion. Karst formations and landscapes are common. Limestone is a major economic stay in places. Southern Indiana has the nation's most noted limestone (for stone) quarries. Mammoth Cave National park in Kentucky is a major tourist attraction.
- Cattle throughout the region. Hay common everywhere.
- Dairies were scattered.
- Much unfenced grass throughout the ecoregion. Farmers and part-time farmers have decided that it is easier to take grass to the cow than to maintain fences.
- Biomass management is significant in this warm, humid region. Yards were often large and pastures often mowed. Pastures that were not mowed were quickly invaded by trees.
- We saw goats only southeast of Nashville in an area that appeared to be economically depressed.

Other Observations

Most regional change seems to be close to an Interstate Highway. Most changes are new rural houses and urbanization. Forest changes do not seem to be related to the forestry industry.

The ecoregion is losing forest at the city edge and along rural roads where there is new rural housing. It is gaining forest where pasture returns to trees as some farmers quit mowing marginal pasture areas and others refocus their efforts on the best land.

Hardwood industries were common in Indiana and rare in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

We saw hardwood logs on trucks and wood processing facilities, but did not see any trees being cut. We occasionally saw signs that trees had been thinned. This may have been the result of hardwood selective harvest.

The hardwood plants that we saw south of the Ohio River were large and appeared to be making hardwood lumber, veneer, or similar low value products. In southern Indiana we saw cabinet making and a children's furniture manufacturer (Child Craft Industries).

This was generally a tidy region. There was little roadside trash and houses, yards, and farms were generally well kept. Exceptions generally occurred in subregions that had more rugged terrain with little land for cropping, steep slopes, and woods. The housing in these junky regions was usually minimal.

Mobile homes were common in the Interior Plateau. They were often scattered, but were also roadside mobile housing strips. They were more common in areas that seemed to be economically marginal.

This was a region of moderate sized cities: Nashville, Lexington, Bloomington, and Huntsville. Northern Alabama and parts of Tennessee and Kentucky are often considered part of the Sun Belt.

We did not see many golf courses.

Did the ecoregion have any surprises? No.

Driving Forces Summary

Agriculture consisted of corn, soybeans, tobacco, cattle and dairy. This seemed to be a region with many part-time farmers who have cattle and off-farm jobs. In many cattle areas, hay fields were not fenced. The farmer had decided to take the hay to the cows and maintain less fence. Farmers who had smaller or narrow fields and hills with which to contend may have decided to seek off-farm employment and convert their cropland to pasture and hay. Most agricultural change has probably been one of the following:

1. Conversion of cropland to hay and pasture, especially in marginal areas. This allows the owner to focus on an off-farm job. The driving forces here include low incomes related to marginal soils and availability of off-farm opportunities.
2. Intensification and focus upon common cash crops such as tobacco, corn, soybeans. The driving forces here may include federal farm subsidies and at times export demand. Local relief and soil quality probably helped determine where these farms and islands of cropland occurred.
3. Forest change. Forest expansion in marginal areas, often steep hillsides, where the farmer had decided to quit mowing the pasture. There were also a few examples of forest clearance, but in most instances we were unable to document the reason for the clearing. Forest thinning was common and was probably related to harvesting logs for hardwood products.

Rural industrialization characterized the employment structure of the Interior Plateau. These industries were generally located in large towns and small to medium cities (e.g. Edmonton, KY). This is part of the national trend for manufacturing to move out of cities to rural areas (or overseas) that have skilled, low-cost workers and good accessibility. The infrastructure for rural industrialization includes highways, local airports that can handle corporate jets, and in places TVA activities, or specific focused investments as we saw with the aerospace industry in Huntsville.

Manufacturing has changed at three scales. Nationally it has moved to rural areas. Regionally it has gravitated to areas with superior accessibility or cheap energy, such as the Interstate 65 and

75 corridor for new automobile manufacturing, or along the Tennessee River and its tributaries to be near cheap energy and water transportation. Locally, individual businesses seek accessibility and a local labor force that match the company's needs such as the Toyota plant in Georgetown, Kentucky or the cluster of manufacturing in Gallatin, Tennessee. The driving forces here may include a good, integrated system of national transportation and communication that includes Interstate Highways, local airports, and telecommunications. The South's general antipathy to unions helped as did the national trend to decentralize and to move to warmer areas outside the old industrial belt. Old infrastructure investments in TVA projects provided electricity and in places river transportation. Also the high cost of doing business in aging urban buildings at locations (often in different ecoregions) that had lost much of their accessibility advantages was a push factor.

The Interior Plateau has had two (or more) stages of industrialization and manufacturing: 1) TVA, and more recently, 2) automobile manufacturing and the general move of manufacturing to rural areas. The recent move of manufacturing to rural areas has been to find nonunion workers who have high skills and will accept low wages in order to live in rural areas and small towns and cities. These manufacturers, and their commuting employees, need to have access to good transportation.

There seemed to be migration to some rural areas that had amenities. The southern Indiana hills with close proximity to both large and small cities and to the Hoosier National Forests is an example. TVA lakes provide a second example. Retirement, however, appeared to be important in only a few areas such as north Alabama in the Florence area (not in a sample block). The amenities in most areas consisted of warm weather (south part of the ecoregion), lakes (locally important), national forests (scattered, locally important), golf (we saw little). In general, the region is not catering to the wealthy retirees.

Highways and highway interchanges channel growth (attract it?). They have been particularly important with the construction of the Interstate system and other high-speed, highways. People often want to live near a highway, and virtually everyone wants to build their house on blacktop.

Subregions within the Interior Plateau

Huntsville: high tech, aerospace

Nashville: diversified city and entertainment

Kentucky Blue Grass: horses, beauty, cars, University of Kentucky

South Indiana: limestone mining, industrial agriculture, University of Indiana, Bloomington becoming a diversified city

Northern Tennessee and adjacent parts of Kentucky: large, flat to gently rolling areas with little forest.

Coal mining areas of Central Kentucky

Latitudinal changes

Cotton only in north Alabama and one field in Tennessee. Kudzu only in the south part of the ecoregion. Tobacco throughout the ecoregion except parts of Indiana in the north and Alabama in the south.

Industrial agricultural was uncommon except in Southern Indiana in the area that most geographers would characterize as the southern Corn Belt.

Large lakes were only in the south and most were TVA related.

Block 71-955 Delorme

Location: This block is in Nashville and includes the Nashville airport. Interstate 24 slices through the block.

Nashville airport is overbuilt, because it lost its hub status about two years ago.

1 36.00.260 86.40.441

Dell Computer had a campus of two buildings. There were many cars in the parking lot on Saturday afternoon.

New growth was clustered near the airport with older developments farther away. There were signs of much recent upgrading of streets (e.g. Nolensville Rd.). Interstate 24 bisects the block, and there were new developments near the Interstate.

There were signs of past agriculture with an abandoned farm and especially with a complex of aging state land grant/agricultural buildings. The property seemed to be in a transition to a more urban use, but still state owned.

Block 71-955 Delorme

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New growth was clustered near the airport with older developments farther away. There were signs of much recent upgrading of streets (e.g. Nolensville Rd.). Strip development along Nolensville Rd at Northcrest Dr. Interstate 24 bisects the block. There were new developments near the Interstate.

5 South Hills Medical Center (Nolensville and Edmondson

6 Typical house in brick subdivision off Edmondson

Assembly of God Church

7 Country Place Apts. (Edmondson Rd.)

8 Brandyvine (Gated apts. off Edmondson Rd.

Sign

9 The Preserve at Brentwood

10 New home signs (off Old Hickory

Cleared/thinned trees

Out of block

There was substantial growth at the Intersections of I-24 and state highways south of (e.g. Smyrna intersection) Nashville. This growth was often warehouses. There were also signs of the conversion of cropland to pasture with abandoned silos in pastures that had young trees.

Block 71-1047 Delorme TN 37-38

This block had a dense rural population, and many of the houses had large lawns. There was a noticeably higher rural population density on the east side of the block toward Murfreesboro. We saw evidence of a new rural water system. The housing was of mixed quality and size.

There were signs of forests being cleared for pasture. The block had a significant amount of pasture land and several of the small pastures appeared to be overgrazed. Crops consisted of soybeans and wheat double cropped as well as corn. We also observed two dairies. We saw several clusters of new houses with four to six houses in a typical cluster. There were large areas of woods and many fields that had no fences and no crops. On the other hand we saw several new fences in parts of the block. Near Rock Springs we saw an area of junipers.

Out of Block

There was a horse region north of Shelbyville and we saw an ad for Tennessee Walking Horses. Shelbyville (1990 population 14,000) also had an airport with private jets. Soils in the Shelbyville area were thin and there were more forest lands cleared for pasture.

Block 71-1124 Delorme TN 21

This block had knobby woodlands and large areas of flat land. The knobby woodlands often had evidence of pasture returning to woodland, but in another part of the block we saw forest that had been cleared for pasture. In yet another area a forest had been cleared and was being allowed to regrow. We observed on small, abandoned chicken house. Was this part of an old chicken region? Dairy cattle were common, but they were normally on farms that were not dairy farms. Have the raising of dairy cattle and the milking of dairy cattle become separate enterprises? We saw one dairy where the owner had a Dutch name.

This block had a low population density, and appeared to have poor residents; we saw several, partially completed, self-done construction projects and small houses with junk strewn around. This is also where there was a barn with the Confederate flag painted on its end. The density became greater close to Highway 11 which is apparently being used to commute to Lewisburg to the north.

The roadsides in Tennessee have been so clean that I took a photograph of a beer can that had been discarded.

Most of the hay land had no fences.

71-1161

TN 20?26. Near Pulaski

The east half of the block was mostly forest and pasture with forest more common.

Pulaski was largely a rundown county seat town. We saw few signs of prosperity and the only new houses were just outside of town in Terry Estates. Other signs of economic sluggishness were a strip mall that catered to the poor and a larger road system than the town needed, which may have been a result of political assistance. Yet the town had a sizeable industrial park and Martin Methodist junior college. The industrial park clients included Frito Lay and Valley Packaging.

Out of block in Alabama

Flat land with pine mixed with hardwoods. Much cropland, all of it in cotton.

71-1231

Huntsville area

University Road was a long, wide, and prosperous strip with a nice mall.

The research park off Wynn Rd. is supposed to be second only to Research Triangle Park in size. It is primarily high-tech defense oriented. We observed the Space and Missile Defense Command, the U.S. Spacecraft Center, and Lockheed. The Redstone Arsenal and the movement of Nazi rocket scientists provided the initial boost for Huntsville to move from being the watercress capital of the nation to the rocket capital. In, or near, the industrial park we saw a new road with a new building under construction. If President Bush's proposal for a missile defense system is passed, Huntsville may be the largest benefactor.

71-1247 Alabama p. 19

Corn, soybeans, new houses, pines, and news houses. More fields of weeds with pasture and more corn. Much housing in the southwest corner of the block, but less in the interior.

We did this block in the rain. It may have deserved better coverage.

71-1238 Alabama 17-18

Cortland area east of Florence.

Cotton and cotton gin with boll weevil trap. Milo and corn with other crops. This block had significant irrigation. There were also weed fields and kudzu. One field was converting to forest.

Highway 72 alt had much traffic and went beside a double line railroad. It serves as the Brown Ferry nuclear evacuation route. BFI has a landfill in the block.

Cortland was a small town with no visible prosperity except a Lockheed Martin building in the industrial park. The industrial park also had an area behind a fence and guard gate that may have been more Lockheed Martin facilities.

The housing in this block is less like the spersopolis pattern that we have observed in other parts of the South. There were no new houses and few fancy or depressed houses.

The north end of the block touched the Tennessee River. International Paper had a large pulp and paper plant there and behind it was a coal delivery drive with something that had about eight smokestacks, but the building(s) were not visible.

Notes

Importance of lag time. Interstate Highways, the TVA, the Redstone Arsenal, and NASA had major funding during the 1930s, 1940s, 50s, and 60s. This has continued with the army locating their missile defense research in Huntsville. Huntsville has evolved from being the watercress capital of the nation to having a research park second only to the Research Triangle. The difference is that most of the research in Huntsville is space oriented; much of it defense oriented. Years after the initial investment built the infrastructure of lakes and highways the area of northern Alabama grew. The lakes did not cause the growth; they required footloose retirees.

The highway system and air ports made the area accessible. Generations of high-tech government investments resulted in private, complementary investments.

Tom: How do we reconcile the notion of TVA and the Interstate Highways with the ideas that cities are the engines of growth?

Darrell: Maybe they do not have to be in conflict. Maybe these notions can be complementary. The urban 'command and control' centers decided to build the Cortland pulp plant and provided the capital. The urban areas take the paper for urban newspapers, magazines, etc.

The high-tech businesses of Huntsville are not home offices. The decisions on major items are still urban decisions. At one scale TVA and Huntsville are industrial and high-tech suburbs. Industrial cheap energy (dams) allowed TVA industrialization and may have led to the placement of the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. NASA led to another round of investments during the 1950s and 1960s on through the present. High-tech agglomeration appears to have led to a 1990s round of investments that occurred within the context of the nation's longest economic expansion.

71-970 TN 51

Woods with pines. Rolling hills. Some new fences. Mobile homes. Both groomed pastures and a pasture where a brush hog had been used recently to fight sprouts. Hay is common. Bulldozer clearing trees. Some pasture that looked like it had been recently cleared from trees.

More land clearing.

This was a strange block. It had much recently cleared land, but some had been allowed to return to trees. There were new fences and pastures. Some rural housing that was often well-kept.

We saw the Cumberland Steam Plant at Cumberland City on the Cumberland River. There was a gypsum mine adjacent to the steam plant.

71-876 TN 51

This block is southeast of Cumberland City along the Cumberland River.

The block had wooded hills and valleys because of its closeness to the river.

71-822 TN 65 or KY 78-79

Fort Campbell.

Tobacco, and pasture, with residential strips.

The block is dominated by Fort Campbell, an open base that is largely forested and crisscrossed by roads. There is one area in the east part of Fort Campbell where there was massive tree removal and land modification that we suspect is the beginning of a landfill. Corn is grown on the base. There is one area in the Fort that has a checkerboard pattern of tree-cleared. There is also substantial housing on the base. Other than the possible landfill, we saw no sign of substantial land changes.

71-824 KY 79

Clarksville near Fort Campbell. This block is sandwiched between Fort Campbell and the older part of Clarksville to the west and I-24 to the west and is about an hour's drive out of Nashville. This block appeared to be in the growth axis from Clarksville to I-24.

This north and northeastern side of Clarksville was booming. There were new houses, schools, and apartments. Many of the houses were modest. Recent change appeared to be massive. Population change from 1980 to 1990 in Montgomery county was 21 % (83,000 to 100,000) and from 1990 to 1997 it was 24% (100,000 to 124,000) (<http://govinfo.library.orst.edu/cgi-bin/usaco-list98?01-125.tnc>).

71-826 KY 79-80 or TN 64

This block was in a karst area. This agricultural block was very with fewer trees than we had been seeing in other blocks. Agriculture consisted of lots of tobacco, along with soybeans double cropped with wheat, and corn. Rural nonfarm dwellings were common, but there were not enough customers to support the Stroudsville Barbeque, a rural restaurant that had closed. There was no sign of recent changes in the block.

71-767 KY 79

Another agricultural block with karst. Karst, of course, means limestone, which generally produces fertile soil. Hay, pasture, corn, and soybeans doubled cropped with wheat were common, along with more tobacco.

71-523 KY 63 & 46

This block is near where the William Natcher Parkway and the Western Kentucky Parkway intersect, but there are no large towns or cities within easy driving distances. The DeLorme map showed disturbed lands, which in this part of Kentucky normally means old coal mines. The towns of Beaver Dam and Rosine are also in the block, but neither is large.

Beaver Dam had some new house construction and some industry, including medical wastes. Agriculture consisted of soybeans after wheat, corn, tobacco, and hay. There were pastures and wooded hills in this well-maintained block. The topography was flat to gently rolling. All in all this ecoregion seems tidy.

Trees were on the upland and some of the slopes below the forests showed signs of erosion. We wondered if some of the erosion prone areas of 30, 50, and 70 years ago had been allowed to return to forest or converted to pasture. After seeing the signs of erosion we found a Perdue affiliated poultry farm, which may have indicated a poverty pocket. Later was saw a second Perdue farm.

It was difficult to find evidence of any change outside of Beaver Dam.

Some of the disturbed land seemed to be old, unrestored coal mines, but 'no trespassing' signs prevented further exploration.

Rosine claims to be the home of Blue Grass music because the Monroe family came from the area. Near Rosine there the proportion of forested land increased and we found a saw mill west of town on Highway 62. There was also a large, recently restored coal mine north of 62.

Hartford (on the Natcher Parkway) had a suite of public land uses on the edge of a restored coal mine at the east edge of town. The land uses that we observed in this recycled area included a ballpark, beagle club, senior citizens services, adult day care, miniature golf, county fair grounds, campground, raceway, historical fort, golf course, airport, nature trail, and picnic area.

This block show few signs of recent change, but many signs of fairly recent massive change associated with coal mining and mine restoration.

71-527 KY 47 & 64

The Western Kentucky Parkway slices through this block.

Agriculture consisted of chickens, tobacco, corn, soybeans, dairy, much hay, and pasture.

We saw areas that had young trees, and small houses that had the appearance of being lived in by poor people. There were other areas with mobile homes.

This block seemed to have no land use change activity. \

71-504 KY 47

Western Kentucky Parkway slices through this block that has Leitchfield in it. Leitchfield seemed to be a small town undergoing a growth surge. The county population statistics support this. Grayson county grew by only 1 percent from 1980 to 1990, but from 1990 to 1997 the growth rate jumped to nearly 11% (21,000 to 23,000).

West of town was the fairly large Grayson County limestone Quarry. In town there were major land use changes between the old edge of town and the Parkway, the wastewater treatment plant was being expanded, and a new jail was being constructed. South of the Parkway was the fairly new looking industrial park, but only one plastics factory had cars in the parking lot. There were other signs that amidst the growth was economic softness. There was a large 'new' store that had been converted to a consignment store.

Outside of town to the southeast and east we saw abused pasture in a setting of sandstone and juniper. The Bailie Lumber Company had drying kilns. Fescue seed for sale. Thornhill Equipment had mostly small scale, grass and hay equipment.

71-477 KY 46 & 47

This block is just west of Rough River State Park had no evidence of recent changes.

Agriculture consisted of tobacco, soybeans, much corn, hay, and pasture.

The block had some steep hills because of its proximity to the Rough River. Some land was brush returning to forest. In one place we saw trees grown around farm buildings.

71-428 KY 47

This block looked Midwestern. It was open with tobacco, corn, and pasture. Here cropland was on the upland rather than the valleys and low flat areas of other blocks.

There were new rural houses southwest of Hardinsburg on Highway 261. Hardinsburg had two farm implement dealers, the first large, row-crop farm machinery dealers that we had seen. There were also grain elevators in town and an FFA building.

West of town was a large limestone quarry.

Highway 60 from Hardinsburg to Cloverport on the Ohio Rivers was being upgraded from two lanes to four.

71-270 Indiana 56

This block in DuBois County, had many upscale, rural nonfarm houses. The area north of Bretzville appeared to be particularly prosperous. This block was clearly Midwest. There was no tobacco. Agriculture was dominated by corn with some soybeans. The soil looked rich and the crops looked bountiful, but there were signs of agricultural stress. Industrial hog farming was common. Typically fields were in creek and river bottoms. Consequently, many of the fields were irregular in shape and some may have been too large for economic use of large-scale farm machinery. The wooded hills would have increased the taxes payable without producing a dividend. The farmers in this area appeared to be full-time farmers. If that is the case, then crops and livestock would have to provide a living. In other parts of the region, the frequent emphasis on pasture and hay, and the frequent unused fields of weeds, indicated that farming provided a secondary income.

The block had a wood products mill, and several large wood products businesses including a large cabinet company in St. Anthony. We also saw trucks hauling large hardwood logs. The Ohio River appears to be a cultural boundary. All of the wood products businesses south of the Ohio in both the Interior Plateau and the Western Allegheny Plateau were low skill, low value added businesses producing products such as pallets.

Most of the change in this block consisted of new rural houses on large lots and small to medium industrial agriculture.

71-218 IN 56-57

The Hoosier National Forest is in this block. Patoka Lake, a Corps of Engineering project is in the Forest. It appeared that Patoka Rural Water used the lake as a source of water.

Several times we saw industrial turkey buildings in this block.

This block has valleys that are more narrow compared with the last block (71-270). Along with the narrow valleys and the transition from hogs to turkeys was an increase in the proportion of the rural population that lived in mobile homes.

Agricultural crops consisted of corn and soybeans. Turkeys dominated the animals side of farming, but we did see some hog buildings and one old industrial agricultural buildings that had been converted to hay storage.

The juxtaposition of large hog confinement buildings and rivers with public access points raised the issue of water quality.

The French Lick Compression Station appeared to be a new natural gas pumping station with fresh tree cuts where the line was buried.

French Lick

Indiana epitomizes basketball and Larry Bird epitomizes Indiana basketball. This is his home. If I had been a child in French Lick, would I have grown taller?

71-42 IN 50

Bloomington suburbs and the northwest high growth corridor along Highway 46. Bloomington a small city with a Big 10 University appears to be a major growth node. Monroe county grew by 10% during the 1980s (99,000 to 109,000 and from 1990 to 1997 grew by 7% (from 109,000 to 117,000). Much of that growth seems to have been on the west side of town.

Highway 46 to Ellettsville was being upgraded and a new bypass loop was being built to connect with a new interchange at the west edge of Bloomington. The road had heavy traffic. We was a new, large strip mall under construction.

Limestone is a common building stone in this area that is the limestone mining capital of the U.S.

Ellettsville is now a Bloomington bedroom community. It had several large subdivisions, many with large houses. The Bybee limestone quarry was also in Ellettsville.

South of Highway 46 were areas that had dense rural populations nearer to Bloomington feathering into farms with little nonfarm development at the west edge of the block. Hay and pasture were the most common agricultural land uses. There was another quarry in the south half of the block.

Along Highway 48 was another major growth area that was larger than the Highway 46 corridor. There were warehouses, Ivy Technical State College, Bloomington Campus, and offices.

Southern Indiana offers the amenities of American rural heartland, with a small college city, pretty wooded hills, a national forest. The area may be poised for additional growth, especially if University of Indiana graduates either stay in the area to work an start new businesses (it appears that they are) and if older alumni return to retire.

Mitchell, Indiana

Hometown of Gus Grissom.

71-197 IN 58

Washington County, southwest of Salem.

This is was an agricultural block with karst features and soils derived from limestone. The agriculture consisted of, corn, soybeans, hay, and the only tobacco we saw north of the Ohio River. There were also saw beans double cropped behind wheat. I wonder where the northern

boundary of successful wheat/soybeans double cropping lies. The southern Indiana pattern of industrial agriculture continued with barns for either turkeys or chickens.

South of Salem (1990 population 5,600) there were some rural subdivisions.

Lake Salinda provides a public water supply

Salem was out of the block. It had farm implement dealers and several wood products industries including Child Craft Industries, which makes juvenile furniture (perhaps from Indiana hardwoods).

There was much growth at Scottsburg, east of Salem where Interstate 65 was located.

71-151 KY 25

The Kentucky and Little Kentucky Rivers bisect this block and the Ohio River is only 1-2 miles to the north.

Agriculture consisted of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, pasture, and significant amounts of tobacco.

There were some houses along the Little Kentucky River, but otherwise there were not land use or cover changes. The bluffs along the rivers were wooded.

Carrollton, slightly bypassed by nearby Interstate 71 was a sleepy town, with all new activity south of town at the interstate entrance-exit ramps.

The block had little change beyond a few new rural houses and a cluster of Interstate dependent service businesses.

71-231 KY 36 & 25

The small west part of this block was on an agricultural upland, but most of the block was wooded hills.

The minimal agriculture in this block consisted of tobacco, and pasture.

There were several pastures that had recently returned to trees and others that were in an early stage of that transition.

This area had a new mobile home park and individual mobile homes were common. The housing appeared to be occupied by the poor.

The 2000 image should show less cleared land and more trees than the 1970s images.

Frankfort: out of block

Signs of significant growth, but since 1980, Franklin County has not grown particularly fast. Apparently the growth is very new or is localized.

71-289 KY 37

Southeast of Frankfort and northwest of Lexington. This block is in the famous Kentucky Bluegrass horse country. This is a limestone, karst area.

Agriculture consisted of horse farms with bluegrass pasture as well as corn, soybeans, tobacco, and hay. Horse pastures with black fences and well-maintained barns were common. These

typically had very large houses, while the houses in town were small. In places we saw some new rural housing and scrub pasture.

We did not see signs of any significant change.

Toyota east of Georgetown. Out of block

This massive, relatively new automobile plant is one of many near Interstates 65 and 75 south of the Ohio River. These not employment bases have probably become regional driving forces, by minimizing out migrants searching for jobs and encouraging immigration.

71-237 KY 38

Burbon County.

Five acre lots near Cynthiana. This block had a close quarry, and an abandoned dairy.

Agriculture consisted of livestock, horse farms, tobacco, corn, and hay. There were areas with new rural housing.

Out of Block: South of Lexington on 25 there was substantial new grow for at least ten miles past Lexington circular road.

71-468 KY 51

Near Highway 127 south of Danville, Kentucky.

Agriculture consisted of corn, alfalfa, tobacco, and pasture.

This block had trees reclaiming pasture in places.

Milledgeville was smaller than Moreland on the Delorme, but it had highway access and many new houses. This was an block where access to the highway was clearly desirable, probably for folks who commuted to Danville.

The block had some eroded pastures and a significant number of pastures that had been overgrazed. There was less hay than we had been seeing in other blocks.

We saw a sign about obtaining internet access. Many rural areas today are a jumble of people who simultaneously have high access (internet, television, cable, electricity, water) and low access (jobs, roads, cities).

71-492 KY 50

Pasture with a barn and old silo indicates that parts of this block have made a transition from general farming with crops (silo for cattle feed) and cattle to mostly pasture.

Most of this block is in the knob country with short, steep hills, pasture, and no cropland.

Agriculture outside the knob country consisted of pasture, tobacco, corn, and hay. The soils were from lime and shale interbedded. In the knob country, shale dominated and resulted in wooded hills. There was some tobacco in the valleys, and signs of forest clearance for pasture.

A typical view in the knobs was to have hay at the bottom of the hill, with a fence and pasture above. The hill tops were often wooded.

There was minimal change.

71-657 KY 66 & 83

The Cumberland Parkway goes through the northern part of this block and the town of Edmonton (1,500, 1990).

Edmonton has a Cumberland Parkway exit, but there was little activity there. Houses from the exit into town (about 2.5 miles) were well kept. Edmonton had a business/industrial park with Sumitomo Electrical Wiring, Magnet Wire of America (part of Sumitomo) and Carhart. We saw a demolished building and some new construction in the early phase of moving earth.

South of town was a cleared forest that may have been cleared for housing, but it was too early to tell. The area was clean, but not “Indiana tidy.” South of Edmonton we found three rural subdivisions; two of them were for mobile homes.

Agriculture consisted of tobacco, corn, soybeans, hay, and pasture. We also saw a dairy and a closed dairy. Some of the pasture had erosion on the upper slope (WP 269).

There was minimal change except for new rural housing.

71-746 KY 81

“On the Threshold of Change”

Just west of Scottsville (1990 pop. 4,300) and about three miles north of the Tennessee border. Scottsville is less than 20 miles southeast of Bowling Green.

Scottsville was a busy town. Industrial Drive had one plant (wire). A new highway was being constructed to replace H 231, which connects Scottsville with Bowling Green.

There were several new rural subdivisions just west of Scottsville and there was heavy traffic on 231.

Agriculture consisted of corn, beans double cropped behind wheat, hay, and pasture. We observed two small farms that were selling produce to the public. Both of these used horses and one appeared to be Amish, the other had blacks farming.

Some woods had been cleared in this block. There were areas of steep wooded hills, especially near creeks.

71-860 TN 54

Explosive new growth.

This block included Gallatin, Tennessee in Sumner County on the Cumberland River (a reservoir). Just to the south (in adjacent sample block 71-886 was the Gallatin Steam Plant. Gallatin is about twenty miles east northeast of Nashville.

Year	Population	% change
1980	85,790	

1990	103,281	20.4
1997	121,836	18.0

The Gallatin Industrial Center is new. There were occupied buildings, lots for sale, and concrete being poured for a new business. Near the airport was a massive industrial park. There were many large and medium industries. Among them were the G.F. Office Furniture manufacturing and distribution center, a concrete plant, a recycling plant, a Fleetwood mobile home plant, and Insteel Wire.

The town showed signs of rapid residential growth on the west and southwest (industrial parks were on the southeast, east and northeast sides). Some of the subdivisions were substantial and many were new. The residential growth was focused toward Nashville. Toward the north edge of town we saw a new elementary school and new civic center. North of town was rural and far northeast of town there was less growth where we saw some woods, pasture, and houses on large lots.

Agriculture consisted of tobacco, soybeans, tobacco, and pasture.

71-886 TN 54

Adjacent to 71-860 (Gallatin). This block was centered on the Cumberland River about 18 miles east northeast from Nashville, between Gallatin to the north and Lebanon to the south. The Cumberland River here is really Old Hickory Lake, a reservoir.

This block includes the TVA Gallatin Steam Plant. Near the steam plant we saw an ash monofil landfill and an old quarry. The steam plant was on the Cumberland River (Old Hickory Lake, a reservoir). Nearby was a gravel and sand port.

South of the Cumberland was the Royale Training Center for horses. This low lying country had dense vegetation with scattered houses and subdivisions (some nice). The area was water oriented with parks and boat ramps.

Agriculture was minimal and consisted of some tobacco, hay, and pasture

This block was quiet with little recent activity and most of that related to scattered new houses and subdivisions.

71-915 TN 55

On Interstate 40 east of Lebanon about 18 miles, west of Center Hill Lake 12 miles, and south of Carthage and the Cumberland River about a mile. Carthage is the home town of Al Gore. I-40 from Lebanon to Carthage was busy and interstate interchange businesses were common. This block touches the corner of 71-939.

Agriculture consisted of hay, pasture, and one tobacco field. Near Carthage where there were steep hills near the Cumberland River, we saw signs of pasture erosion. Forests were a common part of the cover. The soils were shallow.

South Carthage (out of block) had abandoned tobacco warehouses and little evidence of recent growth or land use change.

Along Bradford Road, a hilly area, we saw immature forests, with eroding pasture, and some cattle.

There were new houses along Highway 53 for about a mile away from the interchange with I-40. After that there were still some, but the density thinned. Parallel to I-14 at New Middleton was a thickly settled area.

Most houses were modest with some mobiles in places and many in other places and an occasional large house with large yard. Rock fences were common. Our overall impression was that this is not a prosperous block as reflected in the housing.

New Middleton had an old elementary school with active construction that may have been for a new wing.

Dry Fork Road in the south part of the block had stony areas with rock ledges along the hillsides and some stone fences. This area also had abandoned houses and some cleared pasture. This area also had some new mobile homes and some new houses.

71-939 TN 55

The block touches the corner of 71-915 and is adjacent to 71-940. It is located just south of I-40 30 miles east of Lebanon and 50 miles east of Nashville. The eastern part of the block includes the western part of Center Hill Lake.

We realized that on one was on the roads and no one was in the pastures. The landscape seemed nearly totally devoid of people. This area few flat places and little good soil may be an area where the land is managed at nights and on the weekend by people who commute to Nashville and other places for day jobs.

The bank of Hickman is now an antique store.

Agriculture consisted of tobacco, corn, dairy, hay, pasture, and cattle. In places the owner had quit mowing the pasture and it was returning to trees. The hills were wooded and the valleys had pasture. In one place we saw small caves that faced the highway. Kudzu. Long Branch Road near Center Hill Lake had some scattered houses along the creek bottom.

There were some riverside houses but all in all this was a sleepy block.

Center Hill Lake. The Center Hill Marina and Cover Hollow Dock were substantial and probably received much weekend use. The area had rental cabins, boat rentals, a store, and a restaurant. Next to the lake the land cover was all forest.

71-940 TN 55

This block is adjacent to 71-939 about half of the block consists of Center Hill Lake, a Corps of Engineers project, on the Caney Fork River. Interstate 40 goes through the northeast part of the block, which is about 60 miles east of Nashville. The block includes the main facilities of Edgar Evins State Park.

Center Hill Dam (<http://sepa.fed.us/center.htm>) was completed in 1950. It has three hydroelectric generating units. The permanent pool 14,590 acres, or nearly 23 square miles, but normally the lake covers more than 18,000 acres.

There was a scattering of new businesses that were trying to survive on tourism.

Agriculture consisted of pasture and some of it appeared to be returning to forest. In one area we saw a large area that may have been an old hay field that was returning to brush (WP 331). We saw abandoned houses in the block. Tobacco was grown in places.

There were several businesses and subdivisions that were new and depended upon the lake and its visitors. These included an inn, a gallery, ATV rental, and jet ski rental. Lake Shore Heights had a few high dollar houses overlooking the lake. There had been significant tree clearing to open the visibility for these houses.

Wolf Creek Camping Resort.

Note on Blocks 71-915, 939, and 940.

These blocks along I-40 east of Nashville had had abandoned houses and poverty. They are all hilly and primarily forested with minimal agriculture that is mostly cattle, pasture, and some hay. There were several goat farms in these blocks, the only ones that we observed in the entire region. Most houses in these blocks were mobile homes. We saw other examples of this where wooded, hilly areas tended to be pockets of poverty (e.g. just south of the Ohio River).

These three blocks were atypical of the rest of the week in terms of a smaller cropped proportion (so few corn, tobacco, and soybean acres) and more forest and forest regrowth.

71-1008 TN 39

Cannon, De Kalb, and Warren Counties 30 miles east of Murfreesboro 45,000 1990 and 15 miles northwest of McMinnville.

This block was mostly out of the hilly country near the rivers.

Agriculture consisted of nursery crops, dairies, corn, soybeans, tobacco, hay, and cattle. We saw brush growing in previously cleared areas in several places, but also saw two acres of trees that had been cleared.

This block is apparently within a specialized nursery region. Just outside the block to the north, and south of Smithville we saw an enormous nursery in which each plant had its own pot (WP 39 & 40). In the block we saw other nurseries some large, some small.

There were new houses, and new manufactured homes as well as mobiles.

This block had little apparent land use change, but if the nurseries are new an intensification of agriculture. Several fields were returning to trees (they had not been mowed in approximately 3 years and brush was invading). But in other areas we saw forest being cleared to produce wooded pastures. New houses were common, but so were abandoned barns. The highway map shows a gap in the settlement system in the area.