



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

April 2003

About this Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Wayne Quarterly is to provide a status report and short summary of environmental analysis on the Wayne National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers.

Legal notices will continue to be published in local newspapers: the Athens Messenger for Forest-wide decisions and those affecting the Athens Ranger District, and the Ironton Tribune for those affecting the Ironton District.

For further information or to provide comments regarding any of the items described in this report or for copies of available documents, please contact the responsible Ranger District. We encourage you to pass on any information having a bearing on the decisions being considered. Addresses and telephone numbers are on the back page or contact us through email at: r9_wayne_website@fs.fed.us.

Organization

Projects are listed alphabetically in three categories. Each includes a brief description of the project and approximate time frames.

The three types of listings in the Wayne Quarterly are:

Proposed Projects:

Projects are listed for which public input is being or is about to be sought. These include those currently under study or analysis. Forest activities or events may also be included.

Completed Decision Documents:

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental assessments and decision documents. Also included, are projects "categorically excluded" from documentation in an EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) but documented in a decision memo.

Projects in Progress:

Projects listed here are actively underway. They are included in order to keep you apprised of ongoing forest activities.

Editor's Note:

Contact Rebecca Stewart at 740-753-0101 with suggestions for the Quarterly, to obtain more copies, or change the mailing list.

Large Print copies available on request.

Forest-wide Programs/Projects

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business.

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analysis be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior notice in the Quarterly, however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers as appropriate. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, and recreation special events. Fees are collected annually for special use permits, although in some cases (such as rural electric companies) may be waived. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

Ice Storm Damage.

The President's Day Weekend winter storm caused extensive limb and tree breakage on the Ironton Ranger District, where much of the storm's precipitation came in the form of freezing rain. The Forest is still assessing the storm's impacts, and the potential for fuels reduction treatments and/or salvage of down timber. Some previously scheduled projects could be postponed in order to shift attention to higher priority ice storm recovery projects. We will keep the public informed of the results of the ongoing assessment of the storm's effects, and any decisions to revise the list of projects to be analyzed.

Forest Plan Revision.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Forest Plan Revision					
1. Forest Plan Revision	Entire Forest	January, 2002	September 2005	Bob Gianniny, Supervisor's Office	This is the scheduled revision of the 1988 Forest Plan. Scoping was completed in July 2002. Significant issues, concerns and opportunities will be approved in April 2003. Alternatives will be developed between April and September 2003. The time frame for developing alternatives could change depending on staffing needed to respond to the late February ice storm damage on the Ironton Ranger District.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
2. Big Four Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	April 2002	April 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The project could comprise an assortment of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, wetland restoration and flood control, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities. We are currently working to identify and analyze the effects of alternatives to the proposed action.
3. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2002	September 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard.
4. Lost Run Subsidences	Hocking County	May 2003	October 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
5. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	April 2003	October 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. The water significantly contributes to the area's acid mine drainage in the area.
6. New Straitsville Subsidences	Hocking County	May 2003	November 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.
7. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	April 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The project will involve a variety of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, contouring and capping a coal waste site, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities. We are currently analyzing the effects of the alternatives and the proposed action.
General Projects					
8. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Summer 2003	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to allow mountain bike use (non-motorized) on the Morgan Sisters/Symmes Creek Trail System. This trail system consists of approximately 14 miles of trail. Hikers have not used these trails in significant numbers in the past several years.
9. Big Bailey Wetland Restoration	Athens Co.	May 2003	July 2003	Lynda Andrews, Nelsonville	This proposal would restore the Big Bailey Wetland. Projects under consideration include construction of a water control structure.
10. Commercial thinning of pine	Athens District	April 2003	Late fall 2003	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Thinning of approximately 60 pine stands totaling 700 acres on the Athens District will be proposed. Overstocked stands are vulnerable to insect and disease problems. This project may be delayed due to ice damage on the Ironton District.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
11. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	April 2003	Ted King, Nelsonville	The Forest Plan will be amended based on the Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan received in late September 2001. An EA was available for public review this winter. The proposed amendment including the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive Species will be out for public notice and comment in April.
12. Gypsy Moth Control	Lawrence Co.	November 5, 2002	April 2003	Gary Dixon, Ironton	A decision memo is expected to be signed by mid-April on cooperative project with USFS-Forest Health Protection to reduce the spread of gypsy moths. The proposal is to apply pheromone flakes by aerial application to confuse male gypsy moths and prevent them from locating and mating with female moths on 1,700 acres of National Forest land in Lawrence County. In addition the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is proposing to treat private land within the area. The proposed project area is located approx. 2 miles northwest of Hanging Rock, Ohio.
13. Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Lawrence, Gallia, and Scioto Counties	April 2003	July 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	One of the results from the February, 2003 Ice Storm that hit the Ironton District, is that the amount of fuels available to burn during a wildfire increased significantly. Many trees and branches fell from the weight of the accumulated ice, and these additions to the forest floor changes the predicted fire behavior if a wildfire starts. As a result fires could be more difficult to control and get much larger. The Forest Service is looking at if, where, and how this increased fire danger should be addressed.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
14. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Autumn 2003	John Brown, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition and has been temporarily closed. The road needs to be either closed at that point or the bridge replaced. The proposed action is to close the bridge and construct a parking area. The former Township Roads 95 and 129 beyond this spot would be closed to vehicles, but foot travel allowed.
15. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	September 2003	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
16. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	April, 2003	Erin Larson, Nelsonville	Proposal is to treat one patch of Kudzu that has become established along County Rd. 210 in Lawrence County. The goal is to eradicate this patch over a 3-5 year period through use of goats to repeatedly graze the kudzu. This project may be put on hold due to ice storm damage.
17. Prescribed Burning for Ecosystem Management	Lawrence County	April 2003	Summer 2003	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	A proposal is under consideration in support of the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio. This project involves conducting prescribed burning as part of the research project "Ecosystem Management Study on the Restoration of Mixed Oak Forests in Southern Ohio." The burning would take place over the next 10 years. This would be a continuation of the research with prescribed fire that was conducted on these areas from 1996-1999.
18. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	An environmental assessment was mailed out for review on February 3, 2003 with a 30-day comment period. The comment period closed on March 5, and comments are being analyzed. The EA considered the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2,035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives. The areas included: Utah Ridge (675 acres), Big Bailey (460 acres), Middle Bailey (325 acres), and Kern Prairie/Peabody Tract (575 acres).

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
19. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	February 2003	August 2003	Lynda Andrews, Nelsonville	This proposal is to reintroduce the American burying beetle. Staff is reviewing conservation strategies for these species. Any formalized proposal will be done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Division of Wildlife.
Special Use Permits					
20. ODNR – Water Pipelines	Trimble Twp, Athens County	March 2003	May 2003	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A special use application has been submitted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to construct approximately 6,000 square feet of buried 8-inch waterline on federal land along State Route 13 and County Road 107 near Burr Oak Lake. Once the construction is complete, approximately 2,800 feet of old existing 6” waterline will be removed from federal land. The waterlines will provide upgraded services to Burr oak State Park and surrounding area.
21. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	September 13, 2002	Summer 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The Forest is considering making repairs and reconstructing the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132).
22. Proposed oil and gas well	Newport Twp., Washington Co.	April 2003	September 2003	Phil deHenaut, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed to develop the Hackathorn #1 well on a tract acquired in a lease sale in 1995. Environmental analysis is required before a well can be drilled at this site.
23. Proposed Road	T13N, R15W, Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	May 2003	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A special use application has been submitted by the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services MARCS Program to construct approximately 550 feet of access road on Forest Service land to access a proposed MARCS radio tower site to be located on State land at the Hocking Correctional Facility.

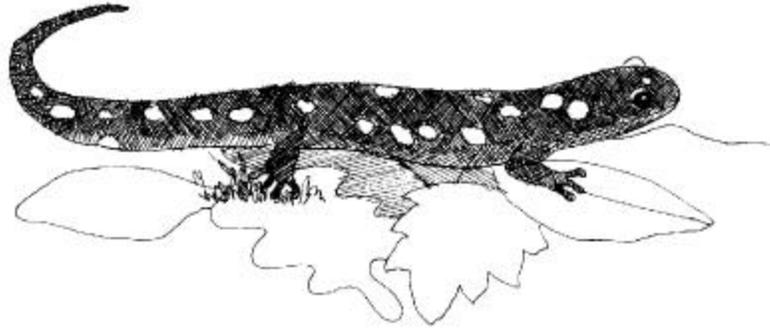
Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
24. Essex Mine Opening Closure	Hocking County	April 2002	September 18, 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	The decision was made to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard. Approximately 100 feet of intermittent stream around the opening were modified.
25. Good Builders, Inc - New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	February 7, 2003	Regina Martin, Nelsonville	The decision was made to exchange 106.728 acres of federal land for 95.56 acres of private land in three private tracts offered by Good Builders, Inc. Good Builders, Inc is assisting the Village with economic development. The Village, currently surrounded by federal land, wishes to expand and requires more land in the area for economic development. The Village entered into a partnership with Good Builders, Inc. to secure land for development. The three private tracts offered in exchange include a 14-acre wetland, a tract within the Monday Creek ORV area, and a tract adjacent to a special area. The exchange should be completed this summer.
26. Jobs Hollow Mechanical Dosing Unit	Perry County	March 2002	January 22, 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The decision was made to treat the acid mine drainage (AMD) in Jobs Hollow by using a mechanical dosing unit to add limestone kiln dust to water in the stream channel. An existing road will be reconstructed to access the site. A small dam will be put in to pool water adjacent to the stream to feed the doser. Water quality will be improved for the 8.5-mile stretch currently impacted by the AMD.

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27. Le-Ax Water expansion	Starr Twp., Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	February 14, 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	A decision was made to grant a permit to Le-Ax Water District to construct approximately 8,975 feet of buried water pipeline on Forest Service land along existing County and Township roads. The water lines will provide water services to private residences in the area.
28. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	January 28, 2003	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	A decision was made and the decision memo sent out on January 28, 2003. The project involves the addition of 6 miles of ORV trail to the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system, construction of a trail bridge, and expansion of the New Straitsville ORV parking lot. Approximately four miles of lease roads will be reconstructed and re-designated as loop trails within Unit 2 and to construct approximately two miles of high standard off-road vehicle (ORV) trail to connect Unit 2 of the ORV Management to the designated trail in the vicinity of State Highway 595. Illegal trails in the area would be closed. A soil and water monitoring plan is an integral part of the project and is also available for review. Work will begin this spring.
29. Proposed oil and gas well	Benton Twp., Monroe Co.	December 1, 2002	January 28, 2003	Tom Thompson, Marietta	Beck Energy will receive a permit to drill a well on a tract with outstanding mineral rights. A Record of Administrative Action has been developed.
30. Proposed permit for gas pipeline	Lawrence Twp., Washington Co.	January 2003	March 6, 2003	Tom Thompson, Marietta	Gas Enterprises Co. Inc., will receive a special use permit to lay a one inch surface gas line for approximately 450 feet on federal land to a well on private land.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration Project	Ironton Ranger District	Follow-up scoping letter mailed July 26, 2002	December 20, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	A finding of no significant impact was issued to the supplemental environmental assessment for the Bluegrass Ridge Restoration Project. New information related to the project was reviewed and the Forest concluded they would not change the original decision. A new Decision Notice will not be issued. This means that the Bluegrass and the Markin Fork Timber Sales, currently under contract, can now be completed. Since the original decision is unchanged, the continued implementation of this project is not subject to administrative appeal regulations.
32. Jobs Hollow Gob Pile	Perry County	January 1999	October 16, 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	This project will contour, cap with soil, and re-vegetate a two-acre coal waste pile. Construction will begin in February or March.
33. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Further work on the dam and boat ramp improvements has been delayed due to cold and wet weather. It will likely be completed in late spring. Construction of the boardwalk is not due to start until late spring or summer. Due to the ongoing construction, the valve will not be closed until July 2003. After the valve is closed the lake should begin to refill and DNR will restock the fish in the fall.



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13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764**

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Wayne National Forest Offices

**Forest Supervisor's Office
and Athens Ranger District**
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
(740) 753-0101
FAX: 740-753-0119

website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
[Federal Deaf Service Relay:
1-800-877-8339]

Ironton Ranger District

6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
(740) 534-6500
FAX: 740-534-6565

Marietta Unit – Athens District

Route 1, Box 132
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-9055
FAX: 740-373-8079



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