



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

January 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.

As of January 1, 2003, there were 233,638 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. No additional acreage was purchased during the last quarter of 2002. The highest priority for future acquisition is placed on tracts within Management Areas 2.1, 6.1, 6.2, and 9.2. Additional priorities are placed on tracts with unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species or geological features, tracts that provide needed recreation opportunities, tracts that contain cultural resources, and tracts that consolidate the land base or provide access to other National Forest lands. Fair market value is paid to willing sellers. Contact Terry Krasko, Athens office, for more information.

Forest Plan Revision.

The interdisciplinary team has analyzed the public comments received in response to the Notice of Intent. The analysis of the comments received, called the Content Analysis, is posted on the Wayne NF website or can be received in hard copy by contacting: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

A Forest Plan Revision Newsletter is being prepared and should be out to everyone on our plan revision mailing list in the near future. The newsletter will be undated and published periodically to help keep you informed as we move through the various stages of the revision process.

You can find information on the Forest Plan Revision on a special section of our webpage at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. We will continue to inform you of special events by mail. If you wish to receive information about the plan revision by e-mail rather than printed mail, please send an email to croberts@fs.fed.us.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
1. Big Four Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	April 2002	March 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.
2. Essex Mine Opening Closure	Hocking County	April 2002	January 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard.
3. Jobs Hollow Mechanical Dosing Unit	Perry County	March 2002	February 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to treat the acid mine drainage in Jobs Hollow by using a mechanical dosing unit to add limestone kiln dust to water in the stream channel.
4. Lost Run Subsidences	Hocking County	February 2003	July 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.
5. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	February 2003	August 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. The water contributes to the area's acid mine drainage problem.
6. New Straitsville Subsidences	Hocking County	March 2003	September 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	March 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
General Projects					
8. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, 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.	January 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. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	February 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. Scoping was completed in December 2001 and January 2002. An EA is available for public review. The proposed amendment includes the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive Species.
11. Gypsy Moth Control	Lawrence Co.	November 5, 2002	March 2003	Gary Dixon, Ironton	The district is proposing to work in cooperation 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. Comments were requested by December 5, 2002.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
12. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, 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.
13. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	September 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
14. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	February, 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.
15. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	January 2003	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	An environmental assessment was completed and sent out for public comment on October 25, 2002. The project proposes 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. The proposal is to designate and re-construct approximately four miles of lease roads 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 not proposed for inclusion in the designated trail system would be closed. Comments have been analyzed and a decision is expected in January.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
16. Good Builders, Inc. - New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	January 2003	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	The proposal is to exchange 105 acres of federal land for 95 acres in three private tracts offered by Good Builders, Inc. Good Builders is assisting the village with economic development. The Village wishes to expand development onto what is now federal land. The three private tracts offered in the exchange include a 14-acre wetland, a tract within the Monday Creek ORV area, and a tract adjacent to a special area. A decision will be issued in January.
17. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	A draft environmental assessment was completed on September 25 th and sent out to the public. The comment period closed on October 25 th 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).
18. 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					
19. Le-Ax Water expansion	Starr Twp., Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	January 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	A special use application has been submitted by 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	September 13, 2002	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The Forest is considering making repairs and reconstructing the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132).
21. Proposed oil and gas well	Benton Twp., Monroe Co.	December 1, 2002	February 2003	Tom Thompson, Marietta	Beck Energy has proposed to drill a well on a tract with outstanding mineral rights. A Record of Administrative Action will be written if the well is drilled at this site.
22. Proposed permit for gas pipeline	Lawrence Twp., Washington Co.	January 2003	March 2003	Tom Thompson, Marietta	Gas Enterprises Co. Inc., has submitted a special use application to lay a one inch surface gas line for approximately 450 feet on federal land to a well on private land.
23. Proposed Road	T13N, R15W, Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	March 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. Buried Water Line	T4N, R17W, Sec 32	May 2002	November 20, 2002	Nelson Krueger	This proposal to lay a 610' section of water line in the Martin Road area to provide service to a house currently being constructed on adjacent private land has been approved and a permit was issued. Awaiting clearance from the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
25. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	September 26, 2002	Ahmed Mohsen, Nelsonville	A decision has been made to offer 50 tracts within 3,579 acres of federal subsurface mineral estate for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to make available to the public for potential oil and gas leasing. This decision replaces an earlier decision to consent to lease federally owned oil and gas resources under 4,609 acres of National Forest land that was appealed.
26. Drake 4C well development	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	February 2002	November 6, 2002	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	The decision was made to allow development of federal minerals by the Carlton Oil Corporation on the Drake 4C well. The site for the well pad is 100' by 200' and, during the drilling operation, will contain equipment such as water tanks, a small structure known as a "doghouse", and a drill rig. Permanent fixtures will include a pump jack elevated above the flood plain, a 700' access road constructed from the Drake #4 well north to this site, and utility lines will be buried along the access road.
27. 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.
28. Repair of Land Slip.	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	January 13, 2003	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A decision was made to allow Anthony Johnson to excavate a 0.15-acre area on federal land to repair soil slippage that is threatening his private home.
29. Powerline request	Green Twp, Hocking Co.	May 3, 2002	November 21, 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A decision was made approving the construction of approximately 60 feet of overhead power line from an existing power line to adjacent private land near Haydenville, Ohio. American Electric Power (AEP) will construct the line. The AEP special use permit was amended to include this line.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
30. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Athens District	July 2002	November 21, 2002	Tom Thompson, Marietta and Max Norris, Nelsonville	A decision was made to renew 37 special use permits on the Athens District. Each was renewed for a 10-year period though some new management constraints were put in place. These permitted uses have been in place for many years and little if any new disturbance is expected. These permits include oil and gas pipelines, power lines, telephone lines, cultivation, private roads, and a garage.
31. Temporary Road Permit	T6N, R17W, Sec 22. Gallia Co.	October 2002	December 20, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Mead Paper Company was issued a permit for the use of approximately 1500' of existing road across federal land to access a tract of timber to be harvested on private land.
32. Temporary Road Permit	T4N, R19W, Sec 27	March 2002	December 20, 2002	Nelson Krueger	A permit has been issued for use of a temporary road to haul timber from private land in the Dennison Hollow area (the same road was used in 1979 and 1987).

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

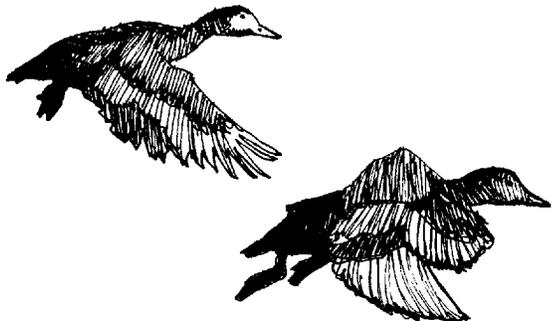
Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
33. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration Project	Ironton Ranger District	Follow-up scoping letter mailed July 26, 2002	December 20, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	A finding of no significant impact was 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
34. 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 the spring. Construction of the boardwalk is not due to start until 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.



Wayne National Forest
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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