



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

July 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 Ironton District is still recovering from the President's Day Weekend winter storm. This freezing rain storm caused extensive limb and tree breakage on the Ironton Ranger District. Although every trail was cleaned up once, the weakened trees continue to fall and the clean up will be on-going for the next several months. Many projects have been delayed or put on hold while the district focuses on cleaning up the ice storm damage. For more information contact John Brown, Ironton office.

Forest Plan Revision.

Forest Plan revision work has slowed during that last 3 months due to specialists being assigned to planning the ice storm damage recovery on the Ironton Ranger District. The determination of significant issues is scheduled to be completed and approved in the next few weeks. Public meetings to help with the development of alternatives are planned for late summer and early fall. These meetings will be announced with a press release and a newsletter to our entire forest plan revision mailing list.

A Forest Plan Revision Newsletter is being prepared and should be out to everyone on our plan revision mailing list in July, 2003.

You can find information on the Forest Plan Revision on a special section of our web-page 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 or to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

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. Significant issues, concerns and opportunities are being finalized. Alternatives will be developed between August and October 2003. The time frame for developing alternatives changed due to staffing needed to respond to the February ice storm damage on the Ironton Ranger District.
2. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	May 22, 2003	Ted King, Nelsonville	The decision was made to approve Amendment 13 to the existing Forest Plan. This amendment was 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 amendment includes the terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive Species. This decision has been appealed.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
3. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2003	October 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 Subsidence	Hocking County	August 2003	January 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidence 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	August 2003	February 2004	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.
General Projects					
7. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2004	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. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
8. Big Bailey Wetland Restoration	Athens Co.	August 2003	September 2003	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	This proposal would restore the Big Bailey Wetland. Projects under consideration include construction of a water control structure.
9. Commercial thinning of pine	Athens District	April 1, 2003	Late fall 2003	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Thinning of approximately 60 pine stands totaling 700 acres on the Athens District has been 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
10. Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Lawrence, Gallia, and Scioto Counties	April 1, 2003	August 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	One of the results from the February, 2003 Ice Storm that hit the Ironton District, is that the amount of potential fire fuels in the event of 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. This project is in addition to the Ironton Roadside Fuel Reduction project described under "Completed Decision Documents."
11. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Spring 2004	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. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
12. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
13. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	August, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	An environmental assessment is complete and the decision is pending. 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
14. Restoration of Mixed-Oak Forest Ecosystems with Prescribed Fire Project	Lawrence County	May 16, 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 a research project to determine the appropriate fire regime for mixed oak forests. A second goal is to establish a monitoring program for fire effects and ecosystem sustainability. The burning would take place on two areas (Bluegrass and Youngs Branch) totaling 320 acres, 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.
15. 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					
16. Athens District Permit Renewals – 2003	Athens District	May 16, 2003	August 2003	Max Norris, Athens Unit; Tom Thompson, Marietta Unit	The Athens District proposes to reissue 48 special use permits to continue existing uses. The permitted uses have been in place for many years and there will be no new disturbance. The uses to be renewed include roads, oil and gas pipelines, cultivation, powerlines, and a park/playground.
17. Hay Mowing Permits	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Collective group of small hayfields adjacent to Etna-Waterloo Road and SR 93 (total about 4 acres). Proponent has mowed them for several years while owned by Mead/Westvaco (newly acquired tract).
18. Hay Mowing Permits	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed hay permit for a field that was under a permit for many years but dropped in 2002. This ridgetop field, about 5 acres, is accessed from Woodside Road in the Symmes Creek area.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
19. Mowing Permit Request	Green Twp, Hocking County	June-July 2003	September 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Brian and Gina Archer to mow approximately 0.19 acres of Wayne NF land adjacent their private property. This same area had been under permit to a previous landowner.
20. Proposed ridgetop hayfield	Symmestwp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed mowing of a 5-acre ridgetop field for hay. The area is currently mowed as a wildlife opening.
21. ODNR – Water Pipelines	Trimble Twp, Athens County	March 2003	July 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.
22. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	September 13, 2002	Spring 2004	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The Forest is considering making repairs and reconstructing the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132). The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
23. Proposed Access road	Symmestwp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Road would access a gas well on private property. This is the only logical access (approximately 200 feet in length) on existing woods road.
24. Proposed natural gas collection line	Symmestwp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed collection line to connect wells on USFS property and adjacent private property. The line would traverse NF parallel to County Road 47. Also follows centerline of hayfield access road. Length ~1,000 feet.
25. Proposed electric service rerouting	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed electric service re-routing to remove a cross-country segment of line (about 4,000 feet) and reroute it along Symmes Creek Road.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
26. Proposed electric service to private residence	Mason Twp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed electric service connection to a new private residence in the Timbre Ridge Lake area. The service would come from a pole on NF traversing a field to County Road 37 and the property line. About 100 feet in length.
27. Proposed access, well, and pipeline	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed gas well and access road and pipeline to drill and service new wells on USFS and adjacent private property in Buckeye Creek area. Approximately 1,500 feet in length on ridgetop.
28. Proposed gas line	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed gas line across a 900 foot section of NF to connect two gas wells on private property.
29. Proposed oil and gas well	Newport Twp., Washington Co.	April 2003	December 2003	Phil deHenaut, Marietta	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed to develop the Hackathorn #1 well on a tract acquired in a lease sale in 1995. The environmental analysis process is required before a well can be drilled at this site. Carlton Oil Corp. The process has begun, but is temporarily on hold.
30. Proposed Powerline Permit	York Twp., Athens County	June-July, 2003	September 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Columbus Southern Power to construct approximately one mile of powerline on Wayne NF land along S.R. 278 with much of the location on the highway right of way. Once the line is completed approximately 2 miles of cross country powerline on federal land will be abandoned and removed.
31. Proposed Road	T13N, R15W, Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	August 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
32. Proposed Waterline Installation	Elizabeth Twp., Lawrence Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	A private residence is on the opposite side of the township road from the water main and a short section is needed to cross on NF land (~15 feet).
33. Tennessee Gas Right-of-way Cleanup	Vernon and Bloom Twp, Scioto Co.	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	This is a 4,000 foot section of a large diameter gas transmission line that has a large number of ice storm damaged trees down in the ROW preventing the company from mowing. ROW width is around 50 feet in this section.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
34. Big Four Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	April 2002	June 11, 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	This restoration project includes reconstructing the stream channel blocked by strip mining and lining it with limestone to reduce the acidity. Two other existing stream channels along the road will be combined and a channel from the southern most acidic seep will also be lined with limestone. Drainage from other seeps will be joined to the main channel. The activities will impact approximately 8 acres. Disturbance to surrounding vegetation will be minimized.
35. Buckingham Coal Company-Private Road and Intent to drill	Monroe Twp, Perry County	April 25, 2003	July 3, 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	Buckingham Coal Company intends to exercise their outstanding mineral rights to drill approximately 33 exploration drill holes for coal. A Record of Administrative Action and operating plan have been completed to consider all resources. A special use permit was also issued for a private road to access these drill sites. Two roads were approved, both on abandoned existing roadbeds. The roads, 400 and 1,200 feet long respectfully, will be reclaimed when drilling is complete.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
36. Gypsy Moth Control	(Hanging Rock area) Lawrence Co.	November 5, 2002	April 10, 2003	Gary Dixon, Ironton	A decision memo was signed on this cooperative project with USFS-Forest Health Protection to reduce the spread of gypsy moths. The Decision was 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.
37. Ironton Roadside Fuel Reduction	Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties	April 17, 2003	June 5, 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	To reduce the potential fire hazard along public roads and adjacent to private residences in the areas most severely impacted by the storm damage 554 acres will be treated. In these areas woody debris will be chopped 200 feet back from the road. On 100 acres some trees, 6 inches or larger may be removed and sold to further reduce fuel loadings.
38. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	February 10, 2003	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	Decision was made 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 not be implemented until summer 2004.
39. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	June 11, 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	This restoration 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.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

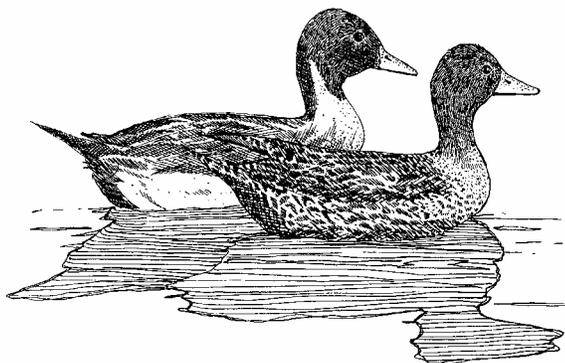
Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration Project	Ironton Ranger District	2nd scoping letter mailed July 26, 2002	December 20, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	A finding of no significant impact was issued to the supplemental environmental assessment for the Bluegrass Ridge Restoration Project. The Bluegrass and the Markin Fork Timber Sales, currently under contract, are now ready to proceed. Sale modifications, required due to the ice storm damage, are now waiting approval.
33. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Construction of the boardwalk is underway. Due to the ongoing construction, the valve will not be closed until fall 2003. After the valve is closed the lake should begin to refill and DNR will restock the fish in the fall. The road to the boat access and other campgrounds will also reopen in the fall.

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