



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

April 2001

New Wayne NF office celebrates grand opening

The Wayne National Forest held a ribbon cutting and open house April 27 and 28, 2001, to officially open the forest's new headquarters building northwest of Athens.

The event was well attended. Mary Reddan, Forest Supervisor, said, "We were very pleased that so many of our neighbors, friends, and partners joined us for this celebration." She notes that many of the public had watched the building go up and the open house afforded them an opportunity to come in and see this unique building.

Reddan officiated a short ceremony before the ribbon cutting that featured Mike Mullen of Marietta, director of the Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area, who used stories and music to entertain the audience. Joy Padgett, Director of the Governor's office of Appalachia, and officials from the Washington DC and Regional Offices of the Forest Service also spoke at the event.

Public tours were conducted of the new welcome center and office buildings, and musicians, displays, refreshments, and activities were provided for visitors. The Forest will be pleased to accommodate tours of the facility on an on-going basis with advance notice.

The building serves visitors and has office space for 45 employees of the Wayne Supervisor's Office and the forest's Athens Ranger District.

"This is certainly amongst the most recognizable forest headquarters in the nation," said Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan. "Everyone who played a role in it making it happen - the



Mike Mullen, Joy Padgett, Randle Phillips, Mary Reddan, Berneice Anderson, and Ruth Voltz assist in the official ribbon cutting for the new Wayne NF office.

visionaries who conceived it, the architects who designed it, the workers who built it, and those who had the vision to fund it - should feel a great sense of pride."

The building was initially conceived through the joint efforts of the Ohio Arts Council; Ohio Historical Preservation Office; Rural Action; Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Ohio Humanities Council; English Department, Ohio University, OHC; Sunday Creek Associates; Benjamin Rickey, Inc.; and Forest Service architects.

"I know our employees are very proud of our new facility," said Reddan, "and proud to be a part of the community of southeast Ohio. It is, after all, the people who work here, and our many visitors, who will bring this wonderful building to life."

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: [mailroom r9 wayne@fs.fed.us](mailto:mailroom_r9_wayne@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 listed in order to keep you apprised of ongoing forest activities.

Editor's Note:

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

Large Print copies available on request.

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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. Scoping efforts for these requests would be conducted as applicable. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, forest products such as firewood or house logs, and recreation special events. Fees are collected annually for special use permits, although in some cases (such as rural electric companies) may be waived. Local government receives a portion of the fees collected for special use permits. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of April 1, 2001, there were 230,326 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. During the past quarter the Forest has acquired a 1 acre in-holding on the Ironton Unit and purchased 40 acres on the Marietta Unit. 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 Regina Martin, Athens office, for more information.

Oil and Gas Lease Sale

The Wayne NF is working with the Bureau of Land Management on a decision to lease Federal oil and gas rights. The decision could affect approximately 5,000 acres of land forest-wide. The lands included are new acquisitions and expired reservations and leases. A decision made to lease a parcel sets the stage for, but does not authorize any ground-disturbing activities. A letter went out to the public asking for comment on July 28, 1998. In 1999, the Environmental Analysis was put on hold pending concerns over Indiana bat habitat. The EA is now complete and was mailed to the public on April 6 for comment. The comment period has now closed. The Forest is now coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management and a decision is expected in mid June. Contact Bob Gianniny, Athens office, for more information.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatments					
1. Essex Subsidence	Hocking County	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	The proposed project is located approximately 2 miles east of New Straitsville on State Route 216. The proposed action is to fill one subsidence, redirect an intermittent stream away from an open mine entrance, and close the mine entrance either with filling it in, or with a bat gate.
2. Log Hollow Subsidence	Hocking County	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	The Proposed project is located approximately 2 miles north of Buchtel near Township Road 212. The proposed action is to fill seven subsidence in an unnamed, intermittent branch of Long Hollow. ORV trails in the area will be rehabilitated or relocated as needed.
3. Orbiston North Subsidence Closure.	Athens County	August 2000	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	This project is located off SR 78 north of Buchtel. The proposed action is to close the subsidence and return the captured stream to the surface.
4. Rock Run Gob Pile — Phase II	Perry County	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	This project is located approximately 2 miles north of New Straitsville on County Road 41. The proposed action is to prevent water from percolating into the reclaimed gob pile by sealing the area of percolation and moving the water away from the gob pile in two open limestone-lined channels.
5. Rock Run 24	Perry County	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	The proposed project is located approximately 1 mile north of New Straitsville on County Road 41 in an unnamed tributary to Rock Run. The proposed action is to treat an acidic seep by adding limestone to the stream channel.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
6. Trash Pile Road Subsidence and Portal Closure	Athens County	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Willison, Athens	The proposed project is located north of Nelsonville along Woodland Lane (Trash Pile Road). The proposed action is to close an open mine, seen as a safety problem because of it's proximity to Nelsonville, either by filling or with a bat gate. A nearby subsidence, from an intermittent stream flowing through sandy soil into a mine, may also be closed.
General Projects					
7. Fish Habitat & Access Improvements at Lake Vesuvius.	Lawrence Co.	Winter 2001	Fall 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	This project proposes fisheries and recreation improvements to Lake Vesuvius and the surrounding recreation area. The proposed projects are short-term in nature (those that may be done while the lake is drawn down to fix the dam), and some that are long-term in nature. The proposal includes (1) fish structures to be placed in the upper half of the lake; (2) the area around the boat ramp to be deepened; (3) barrier-free piers and boardwalk to be constructed; (4) bridge to be constructed across the lake; (4) modify the Lakeshore Trail to include mountain biking opportunities; (5) upgrades to the campgrounds; and (6) construction of a horsecamp.
8. Kenton Lake Access Improvement	Ironton Ranger District	April 2001	October 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
9. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996	August 2001	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	The EA will be re-issued for Notice and Comment in mid-May. This project proposes 8 miles of additional ORV trail in the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system and expanding the New Straitsville ORV parking lot.
10. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	To be determined	Regina Martin, Athens	A proposal has been received from the Village of New Straitsville and the feasibility of the exchange is being analyzed and negotiations are ongoing. The Village is interested in economic development and wish to expand development onto what is now federal land.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
11. ORV Trail Re-Route	Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	April 2001	June 2001	Marsha Wikle, Athens	The Forest is looking at re-locating a 0.75 mile section of off-road vehicle trail east of State Route 278. Initial scoping has begun.
12. Proposed Doyle Exchange.	Lawrence Co., Mason Twp	Complete	Summer 2001	Rich Jones, Ironton	Work to complete the exchange of a lakeshore lot for an upland lot at Timbre Ridge Lake is nearing completion. A few details remain to be negotiated.
13. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	June 2001	September 2001	Lynda Andrews - Athens, Kathy Flegel - Ironton	This proposal is to reintroduce the American burying beetle and running buffalo clover. 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.
14. Timber Stand Improvement	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	Fall 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	Specific areas are being identified as potentially needing treatment for control of grape vines competing with desirable tree species.
15. Timber Stand Improvement – Crop Tree Release	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	Fall 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	Specific areas of regeneration are being field checked as potentially needing a crop tree release to improve conditions for desirable tree species.
16. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection	Ironton Ranger District	November 2000	June 2001	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	Bat gates may be built across the entrance of three old limestone mine openings to keep people out of the mines and to protect bats using the mines for roosting and hibernation.
17. Vegetation Restoration Project	Utah Ridge & Big Bailey area	February 2001	June 2001	Sharon Nygaard-Scott, Athens	Proposal to stimulate post oak regeneration and prairie plants germination by use of prescribed fire is in initial stages. If determined feasible, scoping letters will go out in February to begin planning process.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Special Use Permits					
18. Grazing Permit request for a 4-acre ridge top field.	Lawrence Co.– NW ¼, sec 5, T4N, R17W	June 2000	Summer 2001	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Request is for a vacant field on the recently acquired Kelly tract and is adjacent to the prospective permittee's property. Decision document is pending.
19. Mowing Permit	Coal Twp., Perry Co.	March 2000	June 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	An application was filed by Sandy Brown to mow a small area of federal land adjacent to her private land.
20. Permit Application Pipeline	Monroe Twp, Perry Co.	April 2001	May 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	Roger Blosser has filed an application to construct a surface pipeline and tank battery off a lease on federal land near an existing county road.
21. Public Road Easement Request.	Green Twp, Hocking Co.	October 2000	June 2001	Max Norris, Athens	Application filed by Hocking County for an easement on federal land to realign a short section of an existing county road.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
22. Dispersed Recreation Improvements	Ironton Ranger District	November 2000	February 2001	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The porta-johns at Timbre Ridge Lake and Hanging Rock have been replaced with new vault toilets. The final grading and walkways are now being finished.
23. Gypsy Moth Control	Ironton Ranger District	December 15, 2000	April 27, 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	This decision involves aerial application of pheromone flakes that interfere with mating cycles of moths, on approximately 17,000 acres of NF land. Trapping had indicated several moth concentrations in the target area. Treatment will occur in mid June.

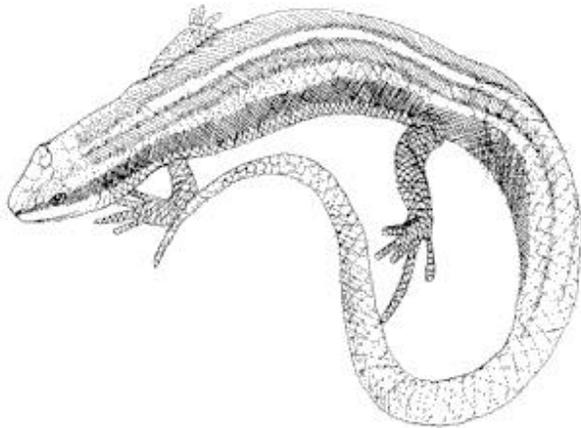
Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
24. Oil and Gas Well Drilling	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	May 2000	March 9, 2001	Sharon Nygaard-Scott, Athens	A Decision Notice and Response to Comments was published for this project on March 9, 2001. The 45-day appeal period ended April 21. The project involved a permit to drill an oil and gas well on a 20-acre federal lease by the Carlton Oil Corporation.
25. Private Road Permit.	York Twp, Athens Co.	March 9, 2001	March 30, 2001	Max Norris, Athens	A decision was made to issue an FLPMA private road permit to ODNR, Division of Mineral Resource Management for a temporary road right-of-way to use an existing road for access to private property to close a dangerous open underground mine subsidence. The road will be reclaimed, water barred, seeded and mulched once the work is complete.
26. Forest Road and Trail Act Easement.	York Twp, Athens Co.	January 27, 2000	March 30, 2001	Max Norris, Athens	A decision was made to grant a Forest Road and Trail Act Easement to the Athens County Commissioners to construct 324 feet of new road to connect to an existing township road. The road will be constructed to Athens County road standards.
27. Private Road Permit.	York Twp, Perry Co.	February 8, 2001	March 2, 2001	Max Norris, Athens	A decision was made to issue a special use permit to Christopher Altier to use approximately 1,320 feet of an existing gravel road on federal land to access their private land. The Wayne Forest boundary runs down the centerline of the road for most of its length.
28. Private Road Permit.	Coal Twp, Perry Co.	October 27, 2000	April 15, 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	A decision was made to issue a special use permit to William and Astri Guay to reconstruct approximately 1,400 feet of existing road on federal land to access their private land.
29. Public Road Easement.	York Twp, Athens Co.	January 2000	March 30, 2001	Max Norris, Athens	A decision was signed granting the York Township Trustees an easement on federal land for a Township Road to access private land.
30. Reforestation with native species.	Forest-wide	July 2000	March 5, 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	This decision involved planting native tree and shrub species on 58 acres of strip-mined land and former agricultural fields over the next two years. Planting for 2001 was completed in March and April.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Handley Branch Area Improvements.	Lawrence Co.	1992 - 1999	May 25, 2000	Becky Ewing & Kathy Flegel, Ironton	The restoration of this wetland is underway. Existing drain tiles, put in by farmers when the wetlands were drained were broken. Conversion of a fescue hay field to warm season grasses is planned for early summer, 2001. Other projects in the area include reforesting the riparian areas and restoring a barrens.
32. Kenton Lake Fish Habitat Improvement Project	Gallia County	April 2000	January 17, 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	Kenton Lake was drawn down to repair the dam from damage sustained during the 1997 floods. Once drawn down it was apparent there was no structural habitat in the lake. Woody structure was reintroduced into the lake for bass, bluegill, and catfish habitat. Christmas trees were bundled together for deepwater habitat, and some trees along the shoreline were felled for spawning habitat. The lake valve has been closed, and water levels are returning to normal. The Ohio Division of Wildlife will stock bass and bluegill in the lake in the Fall of 2001.
40. Vesuvius Dam repair. Dam upgrade to withstand storm events and meet current safety regulations.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Becky Ewing, Ironton	The lake has been drained and the fish flushed out into Storm Creek. Bids open in late May and construction work may begin in July 2001. The lake will be completely drained for the duration of the contract (approximately 2 years). When complete, ODNR will restock the lake.

Wayne National Forest
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