



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

January 2001

Wayne NF receives riparian award for work with watersheds

The Wayne National Forest received the Forest Service's Eastern Region Riparian Award in December for work on the Bear Run Stream Project in Lawrence County.

Rebecca Ewing, Forest Fisheries Biologist, explains, "riparian is a term used to describe the areas around lakes and along streams. These areas provide many unique benefits to water quality and wildlife." The riparian award is given annually to a National Forest that demonstrates a commitment to restoring and improving riparian areas and watershed health. The Wayne National Forest received the award specifically for their work on the Bear Run Project.

Bear Run is a small creek, north of Ironton, Ohio, that had been filled in with sediment from past coal mining operations and illegal off-road

vehicle use. Due to the sediment, heavy rains resulted in flooding across a state highway and onto private property. Ewing said, "Solving the problem involved a remarkable partnership between the Wayne National Forest and five federal and state agencies. We decided to use natural channel design concepts to restore this small stream to a functioning system."

The use of natural channel design, according to Pam Stachler, Forest Hydrologist, is a cutting edge restoration tool in Ohio. Previously, the common method would have been to deepen and widen a stream channel with a backhoe or bulldozer, resulting in harmful effects on the stream and the aquatic life living in it. Stachler noted that this commonly resulted in warmer water temperatures and removing features such as deep fishing holes and undercut banks.

Restoration using natural channel design incorporates the natural meanders, depth, width, and floodplain a stream should have. This design leaves a stream stable and maintenance-free as well as immediately able to provide quality habitat for fishes and other organisms.

Stachler stated that the project could never have been accomplished without the help of several other agencies including: the Ohio Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Civilian Conservation Corps, Ohio Department of Transportation, Lawrence Soil and Water District, and the Federal Correctional Facility in



The Bear Run channel after restoration work.

Ashland, Kentucky. Each partner provided funds, materials, and expertise to the project.

Ewing is excited about the project and said, "As a demonstration project, it's exemplary, and we're hoping this will be the first of many

restoration efforts using this concept on the Wayne National Forest. As a measure of its success, not only has flooding been eliminated, but eight species of fish have already been found to have migrated to the upper pools of the stream channel."

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 our internet address: comments/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.

ELECTRONIC SUGGESTION BOX--

We welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can better meet your needs. We're also looking for projects you'd like to see the Forest consider. If there's a program you'd like to see us investigate or a project you'd like the Wayne to accomplish - let us know. We may not be able to respond individually to every one, but each will be forwarded to the right person and considered. Please send us a note at: comments/r9_wayne@fs.fed.us

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Forest-wide Programs/Projects

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business.

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses 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) they may be waived. Local government receives 25 percent of the fees collected for special use permits. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of January 1, 2001, there were 230,285 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. During the past quarter the Forest has acquired 536 acres by purchase and 1,179 acres by mineral donation, all on the Athens 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.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatments					
1. Abandoned Inventory of Mines conducted on public lands by the Corp of Engineers	Forest-wide	N/A	N/A	Pam Stachler, Athens	The Corp of Engineers (COE) began an inventory of abandoned mine land features on December 11, 2000. The first watershed to be inventoried is Monday Creek with Sunday and Raccoon Creek watersheds to follow in 2002. Inventoried features include open portals that discharge acid mine water and dry ones that pose a health and safety hazard to the public, exposed highwalls, and subsidences. Of particular concern are subsidences that capture stream water. The Snake Hollow Basin, a sub-watershed of Monday Creek, has been completed and in this 2,300-acre watershed, over 500 features were identified, primarily in-stream captures. The Big Four Basin has Each feature's location is identified with a GPS unit and the water quality measured using a hydrolab. Once information is obtained from the inventory will be used to build a program of work for acid mine drainage abatement and closing open portals.
2. AMD & Gob Pile Reclamation - Jobs Hollow #13. Reclaim 2-acre gob pile and abate AMD into Monday Creek.	Athens	January 1999	On Hold	Ted King, Athens	The decision on reclamation of this gob pile along a headwaters stream is on hold pending a decision by a business to recycle the gob. A separate decision will be made on installing a limestone doser. Doser are cylinders with water wheels that dump limestone into the stream to increase alkalinity.
3. AMD treatment – Kimble Creek	Lawrence County	June 2001	January 2002	Pam Stachler, Athens	The preliminary site investigation is underway to gather information needed to develop a proposed action to treat AMD entering Kimble Creek.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
4. AMD treatment Jobs Hollow. Limestone Doser	Perry County	To be determined	Pending	Ted King, Athens	Project is in partnership with Monday Creek Restoration Project. Preliminary site investigation is underway. The proposal is to treat AMD by adding limestone with a mechanical doser. Work on an environmental assessment will begin this fiscal year.
5. Majestic Channel Realignment	Athens County	To be determined	Pending	Pam Stachler, Athens	The State has completed repairs at this site. Additional work may be done later to improve the channel using natural channel design concepts. Monitoring is underway by the Forest Service.
6. Subsidence closure - Orbiston North.	Athens County	August 2000	Pending	Pam Stachler, Athens	This project is located off SR 78. NEPA environmental analysis is underway. Proposed action is to close the subsidence and return captured stream to surface.
General Projects					
7. Dispersed Recreation Improvements	Ironton Ranger District	November 2000	February 2001	Kim George, Ironton	Replace the porta-johns with vault toilets at Timbre Ridge Lake and Hanging Rock areas. This proposal is being finalized.
8. Fish Habitat & Access Improvements at Lake Vesuvius.	Lawrence Co.	Winter 2001	Summer 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	This work may be done while the lake is drawn down to fix the dam. The proposal is for 1.) Fish structures to be placed in the upper half of the lake, 2.) The area around the boat ramp to be deepened, and 3.) Barrier-free piers to be constructed.
9. Gypsy Moth Control	Ironton Ranger District	December 15, 2000	Spring 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	Proposal 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 would occur in late June if approved.
10. Kenton Lake Access Improvement	Ironton Ranger District	April 2001	October 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	This proposal to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier is being developed.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
11. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	Initial scoping began in 1996 & continues.	April 2001	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	EA work is still being re-evaluated for this project proposing 8 miles of additional ORV trail in the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system and expanding the New Straitsville ORV parking lot. TEA21 funds may be available for this project.
12. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	To be determined	To be determined	Regina Martin, Athens	Initiation of analysis is on hold pending a formal proposal from the Village of New Straitsville.
13. Noxious Weed Control –	Forest-wide	April 2001	Summer 2001	Mike Baines, Ironton	Analyzing the treatment of Kudzu and multiflora rose on specific sites.
14. Oil and Gas Well Drilling	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	May 2000	March 2001	Sharon Nygaard-Scott, Athens	An application has been submitted for a permit to drill an oil and gas well on a 20-acre federal lease by the Carlton Oil Corporation. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service are analyzing the proposal.
15. Proposed Doyle Exchange.	Lawrence Co., Mason Twp	Complete	Spring 2001	Rich Jones, Ironton	Work to complete the exchange of a lakeshore lot for an upland lot at Timbre Ridge Lake is underway. A decision is pending.
16. Reforestation with native species.	Forest-wide	July 2000	February 2001	Phil Perry, Athens	This project involves planting native tree and shrub species on 58 acres of strip-mined land and former agricultural fields over the next two years.
17. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	January 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection	Ironton Ranger District	November 2000	February 2001	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	This proposal to protect the hibernaculum habitat is being finalized.
21. Vegetation Restoration Project	Utah Ridge and 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					
22. Grazing Permit request for a 4-acre ridge top field.	Lawrence Co.– NW ¼, sec 5, T4N, R17W	June 2000	Spring 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.
23. Mowing Permit	Ward Twp., Hocking Co.	October 1999	February 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	Mike Kinneer has requested a permit to mow a small area of federal land adjacent to his private land.
24. Mowing Permit	Coal Twp., Perry Co.	March 2000	February 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	An application was filed by Sandy Brown to mow a small area of federal land adjacent to her private land.
25. Permit Application to Test Tires	Coal Twp, Perry Co	October 2000	March 2001	Max Norris, Athens	An application has been filed by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company to use existing ORV trails to test ATV tires.
26. Private Road Permit Request.	Coal Twp, Perry Co.	October 2000	February 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens	Application filed by William and Astri Guay to use an existing road on federal land to access their private land.
27. Public Road Easement Request.	Green Twp, Hocking Co.	October 2000	February 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.
28. Public Road Easement Request.	York Twp, Athens Co.	January 2000	February 2001	Max Norris, Athens	Application filed by York Township Trustees for an easement on federal land for a Township Road to access private land.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
29. Kenton Lake Fish Habitat Improvement Project	Gallia County	April 2000	January 17, 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	Kenton Lake has now been drawn down to repair the dam from damaged sustained during the 1997 floods. Once drawn down it was apparent there was no structural habitat in the lake. This project will recycle PCV pipe not used for a waterline project, to make fish cribs. Discarded Christmas trees will be placed in the lake in late January and selected shoreline trees felled for spawning habitat.
30. Powerline Permit -AEP	Saltlick Twp, Perry Co.	February 29, 2000	September 29, 2000	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	A decision memo authorized a permit to AEP (Ohio Power Company) to construct an overhead power line along an existing township road. The powerline is needed to get power to private land. Approximately 0.82 acre is covered under the permit.
31. Powerline Permit – AEP	Saltlick Twp, Perry Co.	October 27, 2000	January 8, 2001	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	A decision memo authorized an amendment to an existing permit to AEP (Ohio Power Company) to construct an overhead power line along the Portie Flamingo Road and Sulphur Spring Road. The powerline takes power to private land. Approximately 1.65 acres is covered under the permit.
32. Powerline Permit	Saltlick Twp, Perry Co.	February 3, 2000	October 17, 2000	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	A decision memo authorized a powerline permit for Claude Imler to bury an underground power line on federal land along a roadbed to adjacent private land. The permit will cover 0.14 acre.
33. Private Road Permit –Steve Perrin.	Coal Twp, Perry Co.	December 22, 1999	November 13, 2000	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	A decision memo authorized a road permit to Steve Perrin to use an existing road on federal land to access his land. He is also permitted to construct approximately 50 feet of new road to access his private property. The road covers approximately .92 acres.
34. Private Road Permit – Greg Kuhar	Swan Twp, Vinton Co.	February 3, 2000	November 13, 2000	Sharon Nygaard Scott, Athens	A decision memo authorized a permit be granted to Greg Kuhar to use an existing road on federal land to access his private land. The road covers approximately 0.78 acres and has been under permit in the past to a previous landowner.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
35. Acid Mine Drainage - treatment of stream effluent behind the Ironton office	Lawrence Co.	Summer 2000	August 2000	Pam Stachler, Athens	USDA Forest Products Laboratory installed an AMD demonstration project that uses wood fiber products to screen out heavy metals. This innovative treatment may offer an inexpensive method of neutralizing AMD. To date no significant change has been seen in the pH of the effluent. Modifications may improve the system's operation.
36. 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 spring, 2001. Other projects in the area include reforesting the riparian areas and restoring a barrens.
37. Majestic Mine Subsidence closure – project involved closing a subsidence and reconstructing the stream channel.	York Twp., Athens	Complete	March 3, 1999	Pam Stachler, Athens	Ohio Division of Mines and Reclamation (DMR) repaired 1500 feet of the reconstructed stream channel. In cooperation with Ohio University the Forest Service installed 2 Parshall Flumes and 2 Level Loggers (to record the rise and fall of water level) was installed in September to monitor the effectiveness of the subsidence closure.
38. Rock Run Gob Pile Reclamation and AMD	Coal Twp, Perry Co.	Complete	October 1997	Pam Stachler, Athens	Water quality monitoring indicates the cap put in place is leaking acid mine water into the watershed. The DMR has proposed a project to assume maintenance responsibility.
39. Stream Restoration Project at Bear Run - demonstration project with ODNR	Ironton District	Complete	Complete - Emergency Authorization	Pam Stachler, Athens	Winner of the Region's Riparian Award for 2000, this project continues to withstand flood events without flooding onto private lands. In order to further monitor its effectiveness, two permanent cross-sections and a longitudinal profile have been installed. (See front page story).
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	Funding has been received for rehabilitating the Vesuvius Dam. Valves have been opened to begin the draw-down of the lake. Fish will be flushed out into Storm Creek. 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.

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