



The Sunny Oaks Project

Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District

Greetings,

This newsletter provides an update on The Sunny Oaks Project. You may recall that this project is intended to create young, brushy forest that is largely composed of oaks and hickories. Clearcut and shelterwood harvests, prescribed fire, manual tree felling, and herbicide application are proposed in parts of Jackson, Gallia, and Lawrence Counties.

Based on the input you and others provided, as well as continued work by my team of staff, we developed another alternative to consider in order to meet the project goals. What's different in Alternative 2 is described in the column to the right. Some of the main issues that we focused on include placing a higher emphasis on the oak-hickory objective of the project, determining whether or not there was the potential to increase flooding in small localized watersheds, and addressing recreation and scenery impacts identified by the public.

My team completed analyzing the possibility of effects that may occur from the Proposed Action and Alternative 2. No significant effects were identified.



Looking up at the forest canopy

In presenting the analysis, I wanted the team to explore if using a different format would result in more engagement and understanding from the public. The results are 11 video presentations covering the background and potential effects to various resources. These analyses are available on the project webpage for review and comment during the 30 day comment period. Please see the reverse side of this sheet for instructions on how to submit comments.

Nine of the temporary openings that would be created through clearcut harvests would be larger than 40 acres. As I mentioned in my April newsletter, this is allowed, with Regional Forester review and 60 days' public notice of the proposal. This 30 day comment period plus the scoping period (April 2—May 1) constitute the 60 days' notice.

Please send me your thoughts or concerns about this project.

— Tim Slone, Ironton District Ranger

December 2018

What's different in Alternative 2?

- ◆ More emphasis placed on the oak-hickory objective:
 - ◇ Added clearcut with reserves harvest for the best oak stands. This harvest results in a two-aged stand. Preferred reserve trees would be shag-bark hickory and white oak.
 - ◇ Intermediate oak stands would have a shelterwood sequence of harvests.
 - ◇ Stands with low potential for oak would have a clearcut harvest for mixed hardwood objective.
- ◆ Watersheds:
 - ◇ Reduced harvests in two locations to address potential increases in water yield

How to comment:

Address your comments to Rachel Reed, Team Leader.

- 1) **Call:** 740-534-6500
Fax: 740-534-0620
- 2) **Write or deliver:**
6518 SR 93
Pedro, OH 45659
- 3) **E-Mail:** comments-eastern-wayne-ironton@fs.fed.us

Information about this project can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/wayne/landmanagement/projects>





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Wayne National Forest
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Submitting Comments

- ◆ **This comment period is 30 calendar days.** It is initiated by a legal notice in *The Ironton Tribune*, which should publish on or about Thursday, December 13th. The day following the legal notice publication is day one. If day thirty falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the comment period ends on the next business day. The publication date in *The Ironton Tribune* is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period close. Do not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the comment period.
- ◆ Comments given by phone/fax, in person, or email must be received by the end of the comment period. Comments sent by mail or delivery service must be post-marked by the close of the comment period. For emailed comments, you should receive an automated response email confirming receipt. It is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments.
- ◆ Please provide the following with your comments:
 - Your name, phone number, and postal address (email address in addition is recommended but not required).
 - The title of the project.
 - Specific written comments describing how the project will cause effects, along with supporting reasons. If you reference any outside sources, you must provide a copy of the source material or a link to where it is available on-line.
 - Signature or other verification of identity upon request and identification of the individual or entity who authored the comment(s). For comments by multiple entities or individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the authorized representative of each entity and for each individual in the case of multiple names. A scanned signature will suffice for emailed comments.
- ◆ After the 30 day comment period a draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact will be available for review during a 45 day objection period. The objection process follows regulations found at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

