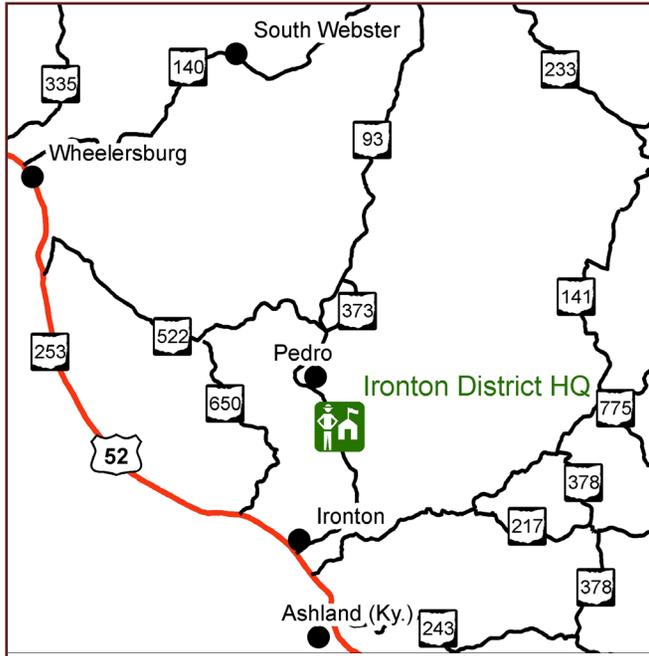


Location of Ironton Ranger District Office

This office is located just north of Ironton near the town of Pedro.



Wayne National Forest Headquarter's Building

The unusual architecture of the building that houses the Supervisor's Office and Athens's District Ranger was a design that mirrors themes and elements of southeastern Ohio's industrial and agricultural heritage. The 14,900 square foot three story office building was dedicated in 2001.

Reclaimed brick pavers manufactured in surrounding communities. Even the site itself was a reclaimed mine site.

Native materials were used in the building from hickory wood ceilings and flooring harvested on

Continued -

Contact Us

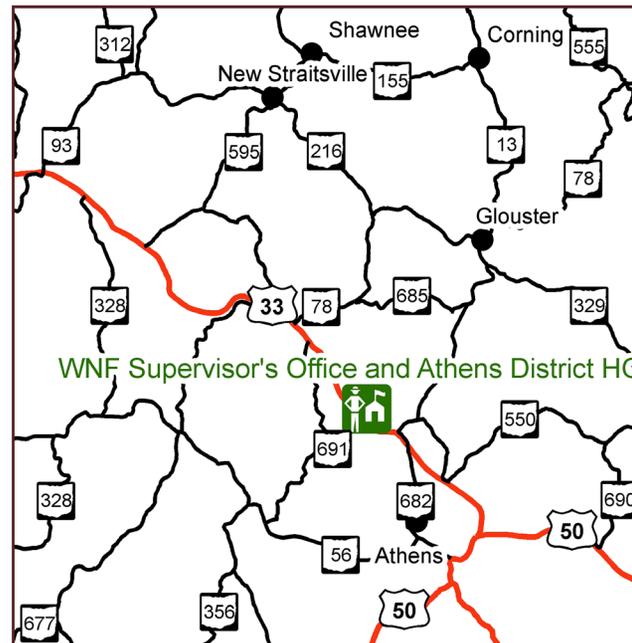
The Wayne has three offices to serve visitors. Office hours are 8 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Athens Ranger District
13700 U.S. Hwy 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone: 740-753-0101

Marietta Unit Office
27750 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740-373-9055

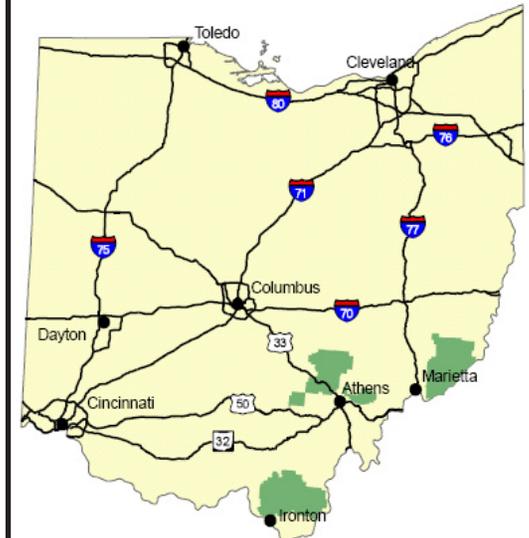
Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
Phone: 740-534-6500

Federal relay system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339
website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne



Updated 7/2008

Wayne National Forest Information Organization, History, & Character



America's Great Outdoors

Forest  Service
United States Department of Agriculture



Meet the Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service is a federal agency that manages public lands. It is the largest forestry research organization in the world, and provides technical and financial assistance to State and private forestry agencies. The agency was established in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation. Over the years, the public has expanded the list of what they want from national forests and grasslands including sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation.

What does the Forest Service do?

Forest Service managers help people share and enjoy the Forest while conserving the environment for generation yet to come. Some activities are compatible, some are not. The Forest Service carries out its mission “Caring for the Land and Serving People” through five main activities:

- Protection and management of natural resources on national forest lands including the Wayne NF
- Research
- Community assistance and cooperation to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and watershed lands
- Achieving and supporting an effective workforce that reflects the diversity of Americans
- International assistance for the protection and management of the world’s forest resources.

How is the Forest Service organized?

There are four levels of national forest offices:

Ranger District: This is where the on-the-ground activities occur. Each district has a staff of 10-100 people. Nationally there are more than 600 Ranger Districts. The person in charge of a Ranger District is the District Ranger. The Wayne has two Ranger Districts.

National Forest: There are 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands. In area, national forests cover land equivalent in size to the state of Texas. The person in charge is the Forest Supervisor and their headquarters office is the Forest Supervisor’s Office. This office coordinates activities between districts, allocates budgets, and provides technical support to the districts.

Regions: There are 9 Regions representing broad geographic areas, usually several states. The person in charge is the Regional Forester. This office coordinates between national forests, monitors activities to ensure quality operations, provides guidance for forest plans and allocates budgets to the forests. The Wayne is in Region 9 whose office is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

National: This is commonly called the Washington Office. The person who oversees the entire Forest Service is called the Chief. The Chief reports to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment in the US Department of Agriculture. The Chief’s staff provides broad policy and direction for the agency and works with the President’s administration to develop a budget and provide information to Congress on accomplishments.

For more information visit the Forest Service website at: www.fs.fed.us

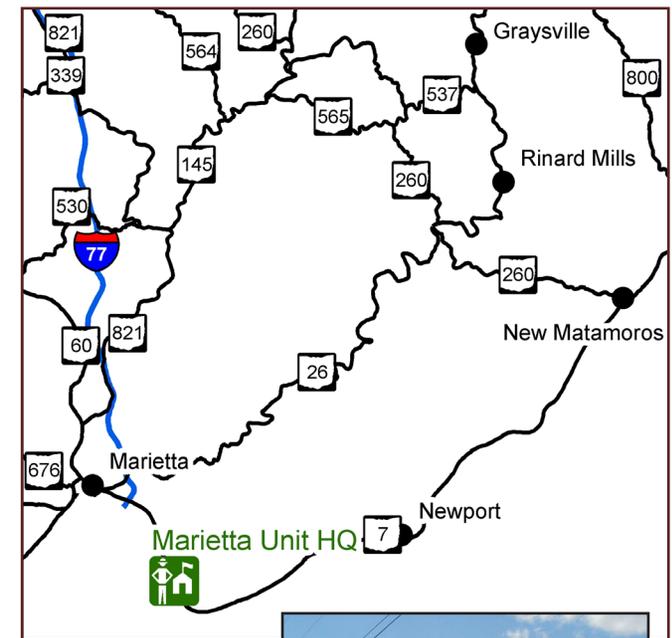
Locations of Wayne National Forest Offices

The Wayne National Forest Supervisor’s Office and Athens Ranger District Office is located on U.S. Highway 33 between Athens and Nelsonville. A map on the back panel of this brochure shows the location of the office. This office houses the headquarters office for the Wayne National Forest as well as the District Ranger and staff for the

Athens District which also includes the Marietta Unit. More information on the inside of this brochure tells about this unique office building.

Location of Marietta Unit Office

The office for the Marietta Unit is located just off US Highway 7 north of Reno, Ohio. The Marietta Unit reports to the District Ranger’s office in Athens. A vicinity map to that office is shown below:



Marietta Office

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cont. from front - the Wayne NF and milled locally to native birch on the reception counter.



Rare stamped Star Bricks were salvaged from a local demolition project and used as well. Concrete masonry replicate the stone blocks of the Ohio and Hocking Valley Canal and Locks. The gable roofs were inspired by dairy barns in the area, the tower by coal tipples. Visitors may glimpse of train depots in the style of the canopy out front, or other industrial buildings.

Solar panels on the roof provide a portion of the power needed by the office and return power to the grid when excess is generated. High efficiency heating and cooling and recyclable or sustainably harvested materials were used where possible. Native plants were used in landscaping and a pollinator garden has been developed.

The Snake Ridge Lookout Tower was moved to the site and opened to visitors in 2008 (see the Points of Interest brochure for more information on this subject).

Facts about the Wayne NF

Location: Southeastern Ohio - Within a day's driving distance of: Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky; and Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia.

Terrain: Rolling Appalachian foothills.

Unique Features:

Vesuvius Furnace - One of several iron furnace stacks remaining on the Forest.

Irish Run Natural Bridge - One of 7 natural rock bridges in Ohio, 51' long, 16' thick and 39' high.

Covered Bridges - Several century old covered bridges are found on the Marietta Unit.

Shawnee and Snake Ridge Lookout Towers

Recreation:

Hiking, horseback, mountain bike, and OHV trails; hunting; camping and picnicking; and scenic drives are all available on the Wayne N.F. Several short ADA-compliant trails available. Separate brochures cover each of these activities.

For those who prefer the water, we have several lakes and rivers available. Panfish, catfish, and bass fishing opportunities are available throughout the Forest. Please refer to brochures on these subjects.

Heritage Resources:

See adjacent History section

Scenic Views:

The Covered Bridge Scenic Byway on State Route 26 showcases one of Ohio's most beautiful stretches of highway. Historic barns, covered bridges, and century old buildings dot the landscape along the route following the Little Muskingum River.

Natural Resources:

Central Hardwoods, primarily oak and hickory. Most pine and hemlock are native but some have been planted.

Several Special Areas have been identified to manage and protect unique ecosystems. Rock shelters, bluffs, and coves provide places on the Wayne and are home to many rare plants.

History of the Land that is the Wayne National Forest

The area which is now the Wayne NF is believed to have been inhabited continuously from as early as 12,000 years ago. American Indians traveled through the area as bands of hunters. They established trails, temporary camps, and quarries to extract stone for their tools.

They also set wildfires to drive the game from the forest and to create openings where they could forage for berries and seeds. Later, these people settled the area with seasonal camps or villages and cultivated native seed plants such as corn, beans, and squash along river bottoms.

Though the barrier of trees, rugged hills, and native Indians at first stemmed the onrush of colonists, by the mid 1700's, trade and adventurers drifted into the area. In the late 1700's, when colonists began to settle the area, 95 percent of Ohio was forested. Primarily the forest was large hardwoods with clearings in which American Indians had grown their crops. Early settlements were concentrated along the Ohio River.

As European Americans acquired land to settle, one of their first concerns was to clear the land of trees. The forest was an obstacle to be conquered. The settlers harvested timber to use as building material (photo below left) and fuel, or simply cleared fields to provide farmland for crops and pasture. Southeastern Ohio's rocky slopes and narrow ridge-tops were hard to clear and the soil poor for farming and were some of the last lands to be settled.

Though these were some of the finest hardwoods in the world there was little commercial lumbering until 1800. At its peak in 1849, Ohio ranked 4th among the states in lumber production. But the marketable trees were soon gone and by 1920 there were virtually no areas left uncut in Ohio.

The cut-over lands sold for less than \$1/acre.

Many of the early settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent who had routinely burned the heath in their homeland. They considered burning the land a



way of life. It kept the sprouts and brush killed back, killed snakes, ticks, and other varmints and encouraged grass for their cattle to graze. Over a century of burning and grazing have taken their toll. Only the most resilient species of trees such as oak and hickory could withstand the repeated fires and are predominate overstory species today.

And then oil was discovered while digging a water well in Noble County, Ohio in 1814. Within a few years oil wells were being sunk throughout southeastern Ohio. The oil was used in lighting lamps and for medicinal purposes. Used in a product called "Seneka Oil" it was believed to be a remedy for rheumatism and healed sores.

Further discoveries in the 1860's of a heavy paraffin-based oil which could be used for lubricants focused more interest in Ohio's oil potential. There are close to 5,500 wells within the national forest boundary.

At the same time timber was being cut and burned, and oil wells were being drilled, coal mining and iron smelting was introduced. The seams of coal and iron ore were of more interest in the steep hills and narrow valleys of much of this area than was farming. By 1875, the Hanging Rock Iron district had 69 charcoal furnaces. Each furnace was dependent upon the forest for charcoal which was used to smelt the iron ore. At that time, southeastern Ohio led the nation in iron production. What timber had been left was repeatedly cut to feed the iron furnaces which completely destroyed the forest cover. (See the Iron Furnaces brochure).



Oil derricks on Marietta Unit -1910

The Depression then sealed the fate of the small farms in southern Ohio. Times were hard, and many of the settlers gave up and moved on. Hillsides were eroding and the soil was depleted of nutrients. Crop prices were low and droughts occurred several years in a row. Between 1900 and 1930, as a result of both the farmers and iron workers departure, census records show a 40 percent drop in the population of the area.

As the farmers and iron workers moved out, generally just abandoning their farms and homes, local officials became concerned about the growing amount of tax delinquent lands on the tax rolls. In 1932, approximately 36 percent of the area which is now the Wayne, was tax delinquent.

In 1911, recognizing the need to protect our nation's watersheds, Congress passed the Weeks Law which, with concurrence of state legislatures, allowed for the purchase of land to create national forests. The Ohio State legislature approved a bill on November 22, 1934, authorizing the U.S. Government to acquire land to create a national forest.

Five purchase units were established in areas where land use problems were greatest. The Forest Supervisor operated out of the Post Office building in Columbus, Ohio. Purchase Unit Offices, originally operated out of Marietta, Athens, Jackson, Portsmouth, and Ironton with as many as 120 total land examiners appraising land. Approximately 77,000 acres were acquired between 1935 and 1942. The price ranged from \$4 to \$5.50 an acre. Acquisition was suspended during WWII, but since the war the Forest has steadily grown. The first priorities of the Forest Service were to stabilize erosion, rehabilitate the damaged land, and control wildfires.

A Forest Service nursery was established near Chillicothe (now run by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to produce trees for reforestation. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Program of the 1930's provided jobs for the un-

employed and man-power to begin reforesting the hillsides (photo at right) and controlling the massive erosion problems. They also constructed fire towers and strung telephone lines to relay messages to control wildfires. A large CCC camp at Vesuvius provided the labor to construct the Vesuvius Lake dam and Recreation Area at the site of the old Vesuvius iron furnace.



In 1951, when the Wayne Purchase Units had acquired 97,000 acres, it officially became a National Forest. The Wayne National Forest continued to grow until the 1980's when acquisition dollars mostly dried up. In 1983, the Wayne was targeted under the Asset Management Program which was intended to improve management of Federal assets by disposing of those which were difficult or uneconomic to manage. Approximately 63,800 acres of the then 169,000-acre Forest were identified for disposal. A strong public reaction not only saved those acres, but resulted in an increased land acquisition program which continues today.

In 1993, Congress directed the Wayne, which had been managed jointly with the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana since 1949 to establish its own Forest Supervisor's Office in Ohio. A new organization was developed and a new office completed in 2001.

What is now forest was once farms. As the scars left on the land are healed, the gravestones of the pioneers may be some of the last evidence of their lives here. It's a stark reminder of how tenuous our place on the land can be. A reminder too, of the importance of stewardship of the land, and the value of places like the Wayne to each of us, whether or not we ever visit them. Conservation of our nation's Forests and other natural resources, are a legacy we, as a people, leave our children.