Welcome!

Hunting opportunities abound on the Wayne National Forest. Ohio hunting laws are enforced on National Forest land. There are a variety of species to be hunted, and hunting experiences vary from remote walk-in areas to accessible lands near roads. The choice is yours.

Be careful to stay back from oil and gas operations; they are private property and are potentially dangerous. Do not use storage tanks for a platform. Pump-jacks may begin to operate without warning and any open flame, firearm discharge, or spark could cause an explosion.

Private land is interspersed with public land and you must obtain written permission from private landowners to hunt on their property. Use caution to ensure you don't inadvertently stray off public land onto private.

Maps are available from any Wayne National Forest office. Half inch to the mile maps are sold, but we recommend 2.5 inch to the mile topographic maps. Grids are available to assist you in knowing which areas you need to order. Maps may also be ordered by mail or from our website.

Park in designated trailheads or parking areas if available. Where these are not available, do not block roads or gates with your vehicle. Leave room for passing traffic, and avoid parking in blind spots.

Most lands on the Wayne are open to hunting EXCEPT in developed recreation areas (which includes campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, designated swimming areas, and trailheads) or areas where otherwise posted. United States Code of Federal Regulations 36 CFR 261.10(d) prohibits discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows:

- In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or
- Across or on a Forest road or body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge; &
- Into or within a cave.

CFR 261.58(m) prohibits discharging a firearm, air rifle, or gas gun from, into, or across any parking area, trail, boat ramp or forest road.

OHVs, and vehicles must stay on designated travel ways, no cross-country travel is permitted. OHV riders must have state and federal permits and remain on designated trails.

No target shooting is allowed.

Contact Us

The Wayne has three offices to serve visitors. Two offices serve the Athens District. 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
27515 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740-373-9055

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
(740) 534-6500

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

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/waynenationalforest

To help slow the spread of emerald ash borer and other invasive pests, no firewood may be transported onto Wayne National Forest lands, except commercially packaged wood with the USDA inspection label. You may collect a small amount (what can be carried by hand) of down and dead firewood to be used at your recreation site.

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USDA
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Wayne National Forest
Hunting

Forest Service

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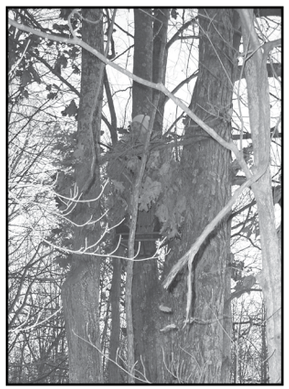
Hunting on the Wayne -

License Requirements

A resident or nonresident hunting license is required. All national forest lands are open for hunting, except within developed recreation areas such as campgrounds, trailheads, picnic areas, or where signed prohibiting hunting."



Contact your local ODNR office, call 1-800-WILDLIFE, or visit http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife for hunting laws, regulations, and seasons.

Camping

Camping is allowed in designated campgrounds, trailheads (do not block roads or trails), or you may set up a primitive camp anywhere in the Forest except in a day-use facility (i.e. picnic area), or a closure area. Generally, for deer gun season only, the following campgrounds may be open on a first come-first serve basis (vault toilets only, no water): Burr Oak Cove, Hune Bridge, Lane Farm, Lamping Homestead, Pine Knob at Vesuvius, Ring Mill, and Stone Church. Confirm that these are open as some may be close for repairs.

When camping, burn only dead wood picked up from the forest floor. Due to concerns about emerald ash borer and other forest pests please do not bring in firewood. Never leave your campfire unattended, and ensure it is out before leaving the area. Help us keep your forest clean by maintaining a clean campsite and taking your trash with you.

OHVs

OHVs (off-highway vehicles) are not to be unloaded from your vehicle or trailer, unless you are within a designated OHV area. Hunters wishing to use an OHV (50 inches or less in width) to access a hunting spot or area are required to stay on designated OHV trails.

OHV trails are provided on the Athens and Ironton units only. Trail users must purchase and display an OHV permit and state APV license to ride trails in the Wayne National Forest. Daily permits and seasonal permits may be obtained from National Forest offices or several vendors in the area. Persons under 16 years of age are exempt.

Never discharge firearms within 150 yards of the trailhead to ensure the safety of other Forest visitors. While on the OHV, all guns must be unloaded and secured in a locked case. All National Forest designated trails are closed to all uses except for foot travel from December 16th through April 14th.

Any open road on the Wayne is available for other licensed vehicle use. Forest Service roads which are gated, mounded, or signed may not be used.

Target Practice

The Wayne does not allow target practice at any time of the year. Consider visiting one of the shooting ranges managed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Wildlife Habitat - Food/Cover

The oak-hickory forest in southeast Ohio offers shelter and a superb food source for the white tailed deer, turkey, and other game species. According to Ohio Division of Wildlife data, where the Wayne National Forest has land, the deer population averages about 21 deer per square mile.

The Forest Service continues to manage the Wayne in various ways to ensure their is ample food and cover for deer and other wildlife species. Timber harvest, brush hogging, and prescribed fire are common methods employed to regenerate oaks and maintain food and cover for these animals.

Working Together

The Forest Service and the Ohio Division of Wildlife have forged a strong partnership in order to provide you with the best hunting possible. The Forest Service works to improve and monitor wildlife habitat and constructs and maintains access points on the Wayne National Forest. The Ohio Division of Wildlife surveys wildlife populations and sets harvest regulations.

Let us know how we are doing. Your comments and suggestions will be used to improve the Forest's wildlife program.

If you have specific questions about the Wayne National Forest wildlife program, contact the Forest biologists at the Athens or Ironton offices.

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