

Wayne National Forest 2011 Trail Program Report

The Wayne N.F. manages approximately **367 miles** of All-terrain vehicles (ATV), Off-highway motorcycles (OHM), horse, mountain bike, and hiking trails.

* **Total of miles of WNF trails by use type:**

	<u>Available Use</u>	<u>Exclusive Use</u>
❖ ATV/OHM –	134 miles	0 miles
❖ Horse –	88 miles	0 miles
❖ Mt. Bike –	221 miles	0 miles
❖ Hiking –	367 miles	74 miles

* *Trails that are “available” for use are multiple-use or shared trails. Exclusive use trails are designed for only one type of use.*

There are currently 21 participating vendors in Southeast and Central Ohio that sell Wayne N.F. trail permits and one online vendor. In 2011, an estimated 29,275 (see Table 3) riders from 35 different states came to ride the Wayne’s trail system.

Although motorized trails contribute one-third of the total trail miles on the Forest, these trails receive the heaviest impact and highest demand/use as apparent from the number of trail permits sold annually. In 2011, 91% of permits were sold to motorized trail riders, 2% to horse riders, and 1% to mountain bike riders. The remaining 6% of riders did not designate the type of trail to which they wanted their fees applied.

Wayne N.F. Recreation Fee Statistics (2003 - 2011)

Table 1: Trail Permits Sales Trend by Trail Use (2003-2011)

Trail Year	ATV	OHM	Horse	Mountain Bike	Other*	Total	% Change from Previous Year
2003	15,987	898	257	43	9	17,306	N/A
2004	19,898	1,049	383	63	8	21,401	24%
2005**	16,644	363	185	13	125	17,644	-18%
2006	21,239	144	195	29	71	21,678	23%
2007	21,667	148	307	31	21	22,174	3%
2008*	13,936	1,033	223	54	814	16,060	-28%
2009*	13,369	1,280	196	42	1,199	16,086	.01%
2010*	11,573	768	351	41	1,112	13,845	-14%
2011*	10,181	127	220	21	54	10,603	-24%
Total	144,494	5,810	2,317	337	3,413	156,797	-34%****

* Other – Riders did not designate trail type to which they wish their fees be applied.

** 2005 permit sale figures were lower as a result of delayed trail opening due to flood recovery work.

*** 2008-11 permit sale figures were lower likely due to down turn in the economy, rising gas prices, and increase in fees.

**** Net change percentage of total permit sales over the past 8 years (2004-2011). However, the net change from the peak of 2007 through 2011 is a 53% drop in permit sales.

Table 2: Fees Revenues and Expenditures under the Fee Demo/REA Program (1998-2011)

Fiscal Year	Revenues* Collected	Expenditures**
FY-1998	\$50,200	\$5,000
FY-1999	\$113,800	\$40,800
FY-2000	\$136,000	\$66,000
FY-2001	\$187,000	\$89,900
FY-2002	\$194,400	\$178,800
FY-2003	\$232,400	\$305,200
FY-2004	\$247,400	\$320,400
FY-2005	\$227,500	\$318,700
FY-2006	\$261,700	\$308,500
FY-2007	\$271,100	\$275,000
FY-2008	\$450,500	\$255,000
FY-2009	\$466,775	\$209,206
FY-2010	\$372,115	\$244,600
FY-2011	\$331,085	\$270,542
TOTAL	\$3,541,975	\$2,887,648

* Revenue total includes trail permit sales and collections from campgrounds, day-use sites, and recreation special events.

** Expenditures include project and fee collection costs.

Source: Annual REA/Fee Demo Report to Congress

The Wayne sold 10,603 trail permits in 2011, which was 24% less than 2010 sales of 13,845. This represents a 53% drop from the 2007 sales peak. The drop in permit sales translates to a decrease in revenue. This notable drop off in permit sales could be a result of several factors: They include:

1. The last three years of poor economic conditions,
2. Increase in permit fees that was initiated in 2008,
3. Higher fuel costs and therefore, fewer visitors are traveling long distances to the trails,
4. The OHV trail system is still limits vehicles to 50 inches wide or less, while current trends show riders purchasing wider side-by-side vehicles.

A new alcohol ban and helmet/eye protection requirement Forest Order was established January 2011. The new order will likely have a negative effect on trail permits sales in 2011.

In 2010, the Forest initiated a web-based system in which visitors may purchase their trail permits online with use of a credit card. This new system offers riders the convenience of purchasing permits from home and helps the Forest operate more efficiently by reducing administrative costs and the time it takes to enter rider information into the trail permit database. A new product in the form of gift certificates was also offered 2010. Customers could purchase them and give them as gifts year-round. Gift certificates can be redeemed for trail permits and are transferable unlike the trail permits.

Wayne N.F. Annual Funding Source for Trails

Annually, the Wayne receives approximately \$1 million for trail operation and maintenance – much of it on motorized trails. The following is a breakdown of the funding source:

- ❖ Approximately \$250K (31%) from annual appropriation;
- ❖ Approximately \$300K (38%) from user fees; and
- ❖ Approximately \$250K (31%) in grants from the Recreational Trail Program (RTP).

Outside of annual appropriations and user fees, Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants contribute a considerable amount of funding toward trail improvement work. Over the past ten years, the Wayne has received a total of \$2,367,826 in RTP grants. In February 2011, the Forest applied for an additional \$250,000 from RTP.

In 2009, the Forest requested and received over \$1.25 million of American and Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for trail improvement. Much of this money has been spent and has significantly reduced the level deferred maintenance on the Forest's trail system. Furthermore, it will help the Forest redirect much of its current attention on trail maintenance to one of greater emphasis on trail expansion in the future.

**Table 3: Wayne National Forest Trail Program Statistics
Total Trail Permit Sales and Visits - 2004 through 2011**

PERMIT TYPE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	8-YEAR TOTAL
Daily - All Purpose	12,136	10,646	12,347	12,411	8,731	8,528	6,965	4,981	76,745
Seasonal - All Purpose	6,317	4,608	6,483	6,644	4,739	4,876	4,505	3,714	41,886
Two-Day - All Purpose (3-day offered since 2008)	2,743	2,390	2,848	3,119	2,590	2,682	2,375	1,908	20,655
TOTAL TRAIL PERMIT SALES	21,196	17,644	21,678	22,174	16,060	16,086	13,845	10,603	139,286
* ESTIMATED NUMBER TRAIL VISITS	49,207	38,466	50,458	51,869	40,196	40,954	36,615	29,275	337,040

**Table 4: Wayne National Forest Trail Program Statistics
Total Motorized Trail Permit Sales and Visits - 2004 through
2011**

PERMIT TYPE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	8-YEAR TOTAL
Daily - All Purpose	11,927	10,467	12,202	12,190	8,089	7,782	6,237	4,703	73,597
Seasonal - All Purpose	6,076	4,406	6,321	6,450	4,455	4,433	4,047	3464	39,652
Two-Day - All Purpose (3-day offered in 2008)	2,684	2,329	2,748	3,057	2,425	2,434	2,057	1861	19,595
TOTAL TRAIL PERMIT SALES	20,687	17,202	21,271	21,697	14,969	14,649	12,341	10,028	132,844
* ESTIMATED NUMBER TRAIL VISITS	47,675	37,155	49,303	50,554	37,639	37,249	32,643	27,606	319,824

* Estimated number of trail visits = (Number of trail permits sold) x (Trail permit multiplier)

Trail Permit Type	Multiplier
Daily Permit	1 visit per permit
Two-Day Permit	2 visits per permit
Three-Day Permit	3 visits per permit
Seasonal Permit	5 visits per permit

(Used only to calculate total visits for 2004 thru 2007)

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(Assumed)

**Table 5: Wayne National Forest Trail Program Statistics
Total Trail Permit Revenue - 2004 through 2011**

Year	ATV	OHM	Horse	Mountain Bike	Other	Totals
2004	\$225,430	\$5,615	\$855	\$14,075	\$70	\$246,045
2005	\$181,610	\$4,175	\$4,045	\$265	\$2,220	\$192,315
2006	\$245,095	\$1,420	\$4,505	\$435	\$820	\$252,275
2007	\$252,930	\$4,500	\$295	\$1,405	\$170	\$259,300
2008	\$321,354	\$30,504	\$7,839	\$1,641	\$13,164	\$374,502
2009	\$317,062	\$33,801	\$7,185	\$1,186	\$26,362	\$385,596
2010	\$283,053	\$21,966	\$11,262	\$891	\$24,735	\$341,907

2011	\$256,492	\$5,292	\$7,146	\$954	\$7,569	\$277,453
TOTAL	\$2,083,026	\$107,273	\$43,132	\$20,852	\$75,110	\$2,329,393