



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

January 2004

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 email at: r9_wayne_website@fs.fed.us.

How You Can Become Involved

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. We value your site-specific involvement. A generic statement of interest in all projects is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into

project development. Project-specific involvement is required for standing to appeal a project.

On projects resulting in environmental assessments, only those who submit timely and substantive comments during the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision. Pre-decisional environmental assessments may not always be available; instead comments will be solicited earlier in the process so that substantive comments may be more fully considered.

Acceptable formats for electronic comments will be txt, html, pdf, or any file format viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

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 included in order to keep you apprised of ongoing forest activities.

Editor's Note:

Contact Gary Miller at 740-753-0101 with suggestions for the Quarterly, to obtain more copies, or change the mailing list.

Large Print copies available on request.

Forest-wide Programs/Projects

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business.

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analysis 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. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, 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. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of January 1, 2004, the Wayne National Forest has 236,243 acres of public land. During the last quarter, the Marietta Unit acquired 68 acres.

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. Contact Terry Krasko, Athens office, for more information.

Forest Plan Revision.

The Wayne's Forest Plan Revision interdisciplinary team is currently using the public input from the October and November public workshops, public input received by other means, and internal reviews to achieve a reasonable range of alternatives. The input from the public workshops is posted on the web. Developing the alternatives and analyzing the effects will take most of the interdisciplinary team's time during the next 6 to 8 months. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a Proposed Revised Forest Plan are scheduled to be published in October of 2004.

You can find information on the Forest Plan Revision on a special section of our Web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. We will continue to inform you of special events by mail. If you wish to receive information about the plan revision by e-mail rather than printed mail, please send an e-mail to croberts@fs.fed.us or to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Forest Plan Revision					
1. Forest Plan Revision	Entire Forest	January, 2002	September 2005	Bob Gianniny, Supervisor's Office	This is the scheduled revision of the 1988 Forest Plan. Significant issues, concerns and opportunities have been finalized. Public workshops on developing alternatives were held in late October and early November. Alternatives are being developed based on public input and resource analyses. The planning team is now incorporating these ideas into alternatives that will be analyzed in detail.
2. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	May 22, 2003	Ted King, Nelsonville	The decision was made to approve Amendment 13 to the existing Forest Plan. This amendment was based on the Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan received in late September 2001. This decision was appealed but upheld by the Regional Forester.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
3. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2003 – rescoped January 2004	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard. Analysis continues. This project is now being re-scoped.
4. Lost Run Subsidence	Hocking County	August 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidence that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
5. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	April 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. The water significantly contributes to the area's acid mine drainage in the area. Analysis continues.
6. New Straitsville Subsidences	Hocking County	August 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.
General Projects					
7. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to allow mountain bike use (non-motorized) on the Morgan Sisters/Symmes Creek Trail System. This trail system consists of approximately 14 miles of trail. Hikers have not used these trails in significant numbers in the past several years. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
8. Commercial thinning of pine	Athens District	April 1, 2003	Late spring 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	It has been proposed to thin a small number of acres annually on the Athens District. Overstocked stands are vulnerable to insect and disease problems. Internal scoping will occur during winter/spring 2004.
9. Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Lawrence, Gallia, and Scioto Counties	August 4, 2003	January 2004	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	One of the results from the February, 2003 Ice Storm that hit the Ironton District, is that the amount of potential fire fuels in the event of a wildfire increased significantly. Many trees and branches fell from the weight of the accumulated ice, and these additions to the forest floor change the predicted fire behavior if a wildfire starts. As a result fires could be more difficult to control and get much larger. Final specialist reports are being prepared and a decision is expected soon.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
10. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition and has been temporarily closed. The road needs to be either closed at that point or the bridge replaced. The proposed action is to close the bridge and construct a parking area. The former Township Roads 95 and 129 beyond this spot would be closed to vehicles, but foot travel allowed. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
11. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
12. Restoration of Mixed-Oak Forest Ecosystems with Prescribed Fire Project	Lawrence County	May 16, 2003	February 2004	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	A proposal is under consideration in support of the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio. This project involves conducting prescribed burning as part of a research project to determine the appropriate fire regime for mixed oak forests. A second goal is to establish a monitoring program for fire effects and ecosystem sustainability. The burning would take place on two areas (Bluegrass and Youngs Branch) totaling 320 acres, over the next 10 years. This would be a continuation of the research with prescribed fire that was conducted on these areas from 1996-1999.
13. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	September 29, 2003	Spring 2004	Lynda Andrews, Nelsonville	This proposal is to reintroduce the American burying beetle. Staff is reviewing conservation strategies for these species. Any formalized proposal will be done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Special Use Permits					
14. Hay Mowing Permits	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Collective group of small hayfields adjacent to Etna-Waterloo Road and SR 93 (total about 4 acres). Proponent has mowed them for several years while owned by Mead/Westvaco (newly acquired tract).
15. Hay Mowing Permits	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Fall 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed hay permit for a field that was under a permit for many years but dropped in 2002. This 5-acre ridgetop field in the Symmes Creek area is accessed from Woodside Road
16. Pasture Access Road	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	An access road to a pasture has been requested using an existing road that currently accesses a gas well. The road can also be used to plug another well in the pasture accessed if the permit is granted.
17. Power line Relocation	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	January 2004	March 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	This relocation project along Lawrence County Road #47 proposes eliminating a 900-foot cross-country stretch of line and moving it adjacent to the road for about 300 feet.
18. Power line Pole relocation	Decatur Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Buckeye Rural Electric Coop has requested to move a pole from an eroding creek bank to a more suitable location on the other side of the road.
19. Power line upgrade request	Madison Twp, Jackson Co.; Greenfield Twp, Gallia Co.	January 2004	March 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	This request involves upgrading a single-phase transmission line to a three-phase line, necessitating an additional 15-20 foot width on the right-of-way clearing. One side of the expanded width would be on the Township road, the other in a 30-year old pine plantation. In addition about 200 feet of line would be relocated from the woods back to the existing road right-of-way, allowing this corridor to regenerate.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Proposed Ridge top hayfield	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed mowing of a 5-acre ridge top field for hay. The area is currently mowed as a wildlife opening.
21. Proposed oil and gas well	Newport Twp., Washington Co.	April 2003	June 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed to develop the Hackathorn #1 well on a tract acquired in a lease sale in 1995. The environmental analysis process is required before a well can be drilled at this site. A new proposal for access was recently made so analysis is continuing.
22. Proposed Road	T13N, R15W, Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	Project Dropped 11/26/03	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A special use application was submitted by the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services MARCS Program to construct approximately 550 feet of access road on Forest Service land to access a proposed MARCS radio tower site to be located on State land at the Hocking Correctional Facility. The tower will now be built on private land.
23. Proposed Road	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	November 2003	February 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Tony Bowersock for a road permit on federal land to access adjacent private land. The road will be approximately 300 feet long and located partially on an old abandoned existing road. Some tree removal will be required.
24. Subsurface Investigation – proposed amended permit	Green, Starr, & Ward Twp, Hocking Co.; & York Twp, Athens Co.	September 2003	February 2004	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Ohio Department of Transportation to amend their existing permit and conduct additional subsurface investigations along the proposed route corridors being considered for the US Route 33 Nelsonville by-pass project. Subsurface investigation will involve drilling approximately 107 holes on Segment A, 18 holes on Segment B, and 85 holes on Segment C on Wayne National Forest land.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
25. Athens District Permit Renewals – 2003	Athens District	May 16, 2003	December 15, 2003	Max Norris, Athens Unit; Tom Thompson, Marietta Unit	The Athens District decided to reissue 48 special use permits to continue existing uses on the forest (29 permits on the Marietta unit and 19 permits on the Athens unit). The uses renewed included roads, oil and gas pipelines, cultivation, power lines, and a park/playground.
26. Gas line Relocation	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	December 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	A request for a gas line across a 900-foot section of NF to connect two gas wells on private property was approved.
27. Mowing Permit Request	Green Twp, Hocking County	Fall 2003	December 23, 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	The decision was made to approve an application filed by Brian and Gina Archer to mow approximately 0.19 acres of Wayne NF land adjacent to their private property. This same area had been under permit to a previous landowner.
28. Prescribed Burning Program	Athens and Hocking Counties	September 2001	December 23, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	The decision was made to implement a prescribed burning program of 2,035 acres on the Athens Ranger District. An environmental assessment was completed which considered the impacts of prescribed burning of four areas to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives. The areas included: Utah Ridge (675 acres), Big Bailey (460 acres), Middle Bailey (325 acres), and Kern Prairie/Peabody Tract (575 acres).
29. Road Access	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	December 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	A decision was made to allow road access to a gas well on private property. This is the only logical access (approximately 200 feet in length) on an existing woods road.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

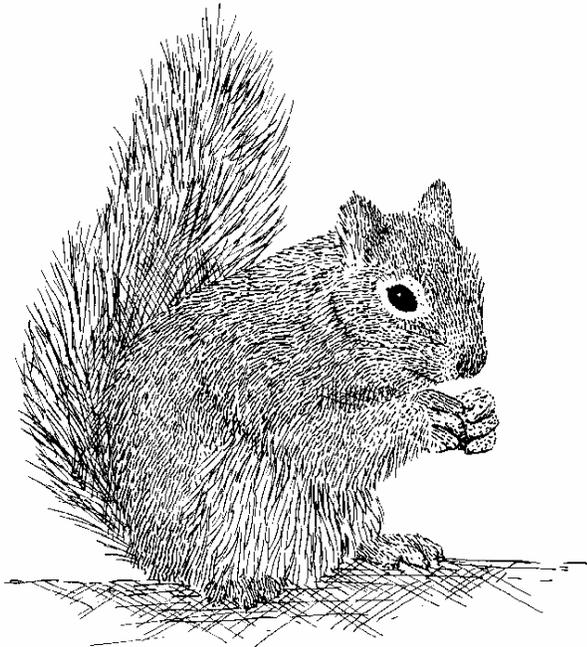
Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
30. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration	Ironton Ranger District	July 26, 2002	December 20, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	Logging is again underway on the Bluegrass and the Markin Fork Timber Sales. Work should continue through the winter months as weather conditions allow.
31. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Construction of the boardwalk is complete except for minor trim work. Due to the wet ground conditions, final site restoration, landscaping and asphalt work will be completed in early Spring. The gate valve has been closed and Lake Vesuvius is approximately 3' from normal pool elevation. Official dedication will be scheduled for late Spring 2004.

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Nelsonville, OH 45764**

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Wayne National Forest Offices

**Forest Supervisor's Office
and Athens Ranger District**
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
(740) 753-0101
FAX: 740-753-0119

website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
[Federal Deaf Service Relay:
1-800-877-8339]

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
(740) 534-6500
FAX: 740-534-6565

Marietta Unit – Athens District
27750 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-9055
FAX: 740-373-8079



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