



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

July 2002

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.

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 Ken Arbogast 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) may be waived. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of July 1, 2002, there were 233,384 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. This quarter the Forest purchased 206 acres on the Marietta unit, 108 acres on the Athens unit, and 9,913 acres of minerals underlying USA-owned surface on the Ironton unit. 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.

In June, the Wayne National Forest held a series of public meetings to gather input and comment on the Notice of Intent, published April 4, 2002. The Notice of Intent is the official document that kicks off the revision of the Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The June meetings are only the first of many opportunities throughout the revision process for public involvement.

Ten state-wide meetings were held, from Cleveland, to Cincinnati, Dayton, and Canton. A total of 483 people attended these meetings. The meetings included a "Marketplace of Ideas" segment where groups interested in the forest could present their positions. Eight different groups presented displays at one or more of the meetings.

The second part of the meeting consisted of a presentation by the Wayne Planning Team on the Notice of Intent and the forest plan revision process followed by a forum for the public to present comments. Each comment was recorded and both oral and written comments are now being sorted and studied to develop "Issues, Concerns and Opportunities". The next revision step involves gathering information related to the "Issues, Concerns and Opportunities." These planning steps are in preparation for the decision process and should take about four years to complete.

Comments may be mailed to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

We will keep you informed of developments during the revision process through a number of avenues. We will post information to a special section of our webpage at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. We will periodically publish a special newsletter, and 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
1. Big Four Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	April 2002	January 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The project could comprise a assortment of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, wetland restoration and flood control, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities.
2. Essex Mine Opening Closure	Hocking County	April 2002	July 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard.
3. Jobs Hollow Gob Pile	Perry County	January 1999	June 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	This project will contour, cap with soil, and re-vegetate a two-acre coal waste pile.
4. Jobs Hollow Mechanical Dosing Unit	Perry County	March 2002	July 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	We are proposing to treat the acid mine drainage in Jobs Hollow by using a mechanical dosing unit to add limestone kiln dust to water in the stream channel.
5. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	September 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	The project could involve a variety of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, contouring and capping a coal waste site, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities. We are currently working to identify alternatives to the proposed action.
General Projects					
6. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Autumn 2002	Mike Freidhof	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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
7. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	Winter, 2002	Ahmed Mohsen, Nelsonville	An earlier decision to consent to lease federally owned oil and gas resources under 4,609 acres of National Forest land was appealed. A revised EA is nearing completion and should be available to the public in late July.
8. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	October 2002	Ted King, Nelsonville	The Forest Plan will be amended based on the Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan received in late September 2001. Scoping was completed during December 2001 and January 2002. Analysis is being conducted on effects of alternatives. Once the documentation is completed an analysis document will be prepared for public review. The proposed amendment would include the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species.
9. Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - Grapevine Control	Athens District	June 16, 2002	August 2002	Charles Klee, Nelsonville	TSI is proposed, specifically grapevine control, on 1,510 acres of forest stands throughout the Athens and Marietta Units of the Athens District. The grape vines compete with and damage desirable trees. A scoping letter and maps were mailed on June 16 th requesting public comment.
10. Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - Grapevine Control	Ironton District	June 16, 2002	August 2002	Charles Klee, Nelsonville	TSI is proposed, specifically grapevine control, on 458 acres of forest stands on the Ironton District. The grape vines compete with and damage desirable trees. A scoping letter and maps were mailed on June 16 th requesting public comment.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
11. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November, 2001	Summer 2002	Mike Freidhof, 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.
12. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	August 2002	January 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
13. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	September 2002	Erin Larson, Nelsonville	Proposal is to treat one patch of Kudzu that has become established along County Rd. 210 in Lawrence County. The goal is to eradicate this patch over a 3-5 year period through use of goats to repeatedly graze the kudzu.
14. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	October 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	The EA is underway with completion planned by summer. This project proposes the addition of 8 miles of ORV trail to the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system, construction of a trail bridge, and expansion of the New Straitsville ORV parking lot.
15. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Area Improvements.	Athens	September 2001	August 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	Public scoping was completed during September for a proposal to relocate 9 short sections of trail off Forest Service and Township roads, relocate some surface pipelines to allow for road maintenance, and straighten a section of Forest Road 1985 for safety reasons.



Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
16. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	November 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	A proposal has been received from the Village of New Straitsville for 105 acres of federal land. The Village is interested in economic development and wish to expand development onto what is now federal land. The federal tract includes three special use permits and several easements. In return the Forest would receive 95 acres including a 14-acre wetland, a tract within the Monday Creek ORV area, and a tract adjacent a special area. A scoping letter was sent inviting public comment on May 23, 2002.
17. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	February 2002	Winter 2002	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.
18. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	Work is approximately 40 percent complete on an environmental assessment on the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2, 035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives. A scoping letter was sent out on May 30, 2002, requesting comments on the burning program.
Special Use Permits					
19. Buried Water Line	T4N, R17W, Sec 32	May 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to lay a 610' long section of water line in the Martin Road area to provide service to a house currently being constructed on an adjacent private tract.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Drake 4C well development	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	February 2002	Fall 2002	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Development of federal minerals is proposed by the Carlton Oil Corporation of the Drake 4C well. This well is located near two other wells. The area is close to the Little Muskingum River, the North Country Trail, and three intermittent streams. The proposed site for the well pad is 100' by 200' and, during the drilling operation, will contain equipment such as water tanks, a small structure known as a "doghouse", and a drill rig. Permanent fixtures include a pump jack elevated above the flood plain. A 700' access road, 24' wide, will be constructed from the Drake #4 well north to this site. Utility lines will be buried along the access road. Carlton acquired the Drake lease from the private owner in 1984 and developed the Drake 4 well at that time. When the mineral estate reverted to federal ownership in 1996, Carlton acquired the lease non-competitively.
21. Hay Cultivation and Grazing Permits	Lawrence County	January 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Two permits for hay cultivation that had been dropped in recent years are under consideration for renewal. One field is 31 acres, and the other is 3 acres. A grazing permit has also been requested for a 1-acre strip of land in the Hanging Rock area. This permit area is a strip of land between two fields owned by the proponent.
22. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	August 2002	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof	Considering making repairs and reconstructing the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132).
23. Proposed Permit to Conduct Geophysical Investigations	Monday Creek & Monroe Twp., Perry County & Trimble Twp, Athens County	April-May 2002	July 2002	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Precision Geophysical Inc. to conduct geophysical investigations for oil and gas. Backpack augers will be used to drill test holes. Three 5-foot holes will be drilled every 110 feet and 1/3 lbs of explosive placed in each hole. Geophone lines will be placed along the seismic line to pick up vibrations from the explosives. A total of approximately of 6 miles of line may be run.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
24. Proposed Permit to Repair Land Slip	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	August 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	Application filed by Anthony Johnson to excavate area on federal land to repair soil slippage that is threatening a private home.
25. Proposed access road and site use	T6N, R17W, Sec 29	March 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to plug two abandoned leaking gas wells in the Peniel area. Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency. Two small pads will be needed to set up the equipment, and a short access route.
26. Proposed Road Access	Trimble Twp, Athens Co.	May 3, 2002	July 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A proposal has been made to use approximately 1, 500 feet of existing road on Forest Service land for access to a private residence
27. Proposed Road Access	T4N, R19W, Sec 36	March 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made for 200 feet of access road for farm machinery to an adjacent private cropland along Pine Creek.
28. Powerline request	Green Twp, Hocking Co.	May 3, 2002	August 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	An application proposes construction of approximately 60 feet of overhead power line from an existing power line to adjacent private land near Haydenville, Ohio.
29. Temporary Road Permit	T4N, R19W, Sec 27	March 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to use a temporary road to haul timber from private land in the Dennison Hollow area (the same road was used in 1979 and 1987).
30. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Gallia and Lawrence Counties	August 15, 2001	August 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Most special use permits are issued for a 10-year period. Permits may be renewed if the use is still desired and all conditions have been met. Four of the permits proposed earlier for renewal, hay cultivation in Gallia County and military training permits in Lawrence County are still being analyzed. Size limitations on categorically excluding permit issuance caused these permits to be pulled out and considered separately.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Athens District	July 2002	September 2002	Tom Thompson, Marietta and Max Norris, Nelsonville	Approximately 36 special use permits are up for renewal. Most special use permits are issued for a 10-year period. Permits may be renewed if the use is still desired and all conditions have been met. These permitted uses have been in place for many years and there will be no new disturbance. These permits include oil and gas pipelines, power lines, telephone lines, cultivation, private roads, and a garage.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
32. Bat Gate Installation	Ironton District	April 2002	June 5, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	Three bat gates will be constructed across abandoned mine openings on the Ironton District. These gates protect bat hibernacula by allowing for normal air flow and bat movement but restricting access to people.
33. Hecla Water Tower	Lawrence County	Dec. 17, 2001	May 5, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	The decision was made to grant Hecla Water Company permission to amend their special use permit to a 70-foot water tower. Due to increased population the tower height needed to be increased to maintain water pressure.
34. Nelsonville Warehouse Demolition.	York Twp, Athens Co.	February 2002	June 13, 2002	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Construction of a new warehouse at the Nelsonville Administrative Site is proposed. This site is within the Nelsonville city limits and currently has two existing structures that would be removed and replaced with a pole barn and a building to store paint and small quantities of fuel. Two existing buildings on the site, a large sycamore tree, and two pine trees growing close to the large building will be removed.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
35. Permit to Conduct Studies and Surveys.	York Twp., Athens Co. and Green & Ward Twp., Hocking Co.	January 29, 2002	June 20, 2002	Myra Williamson, Nelsonville	A decision was made to issue a permit to the Ohio Department of Transportation to conduct environmental studies and surveys on federal land to evaluate proposed alternatives for the proposed Nelsonville By-pass of U.S. Highway 33. Subsurface investigations will involve drilling test holes into strata and possible mine voids.
36. Private Road Permit	Swan Twp., Vinton Co.	August 2, 2001	March 26, 2002	Max Norris, Nelsonville	A private road special use permit was granted to Jack Luce to construct and maintain a 600-foot road to his private property across federal land.
37. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Ironton District	August 15, 2001	June 4, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	A decision to reauthorize 15 of the 19 permits that came up for renewal this year has been made. (See item 30 for remaining 4 permits) Each will be re-issued for a 10-year period. These renewals include utilities such as waterline, telephone, pipeline, and private road rights-of-way, a boat dock, and radio antennas on a Forest Service tower.
38. School Bus Turnaround	Trimble Twp, Athens Co.	April 16, 2002	May 24, 2002	Myra Williamson Nelsonville	A special use permit was issued to Trimble Local Schools to use and maintain an existing bus turnaround on State Route 78.
39. Vendor/ Peddler Permit	Green and Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	Dec. 22, 1999	March 29, 2002	Myra Williamson Nelsonville	The decision was made to issue Carol Clark a vendor/ peddler permit to use a mobile vendor trailer to sell soft drinks, snacks, and food at the ORV Dorr Run Trailhead #1.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
40. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Construction is nearing completion on upgrading the Vesuvius dam to withstand storm events and meet current safety regulations. The lake will be completely drained until some time later this summer. When complete, ODNR will restock the lake.

Wayne National Forest
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764

PRSR STD
Postage and Fees
PAID
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40



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

Route 1, Box 132
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-9055
FAX: 740-373-8079



Printed on recycled paper