



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

April 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 April 1, 2002, there were 233,070 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. This quarter the Forest acquired 62 acres on the Marietta unit and 82 acres 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 January, the Wayne National Forest began revision of the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan. Plan revision is a lengthy process, and there are many opportunities for public involvement. The first major step in the revision process is to identify possible "needs for change" to the existing Forest Plan. The "need for change" analysis will be used to develop the Notice of Intent that will be published for scoping later this year. These planning steps are in preparation for the decision process and should take two to three years to complete.

We want to include everyone interested in participating by providing as many avenues of involvement in the process as possible. Public "listening sessions" were held in January and people are encourage to send in written comments 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 publish a special quarterly 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.

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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	June 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	Summer 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.

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7. Bat Gate Installation	Ironton District	April 2002	Summer 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	The installation of three bat gates is proposed for 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.
8. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	Not determined	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 currently being prepared and should be available to the public this Spring.
9. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	June/July 2002	Bob Gianniny, 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.
10. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November, 2001	May 2002	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition. The Forest Service has temporarily blocked the road. 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 would be welcome.
11. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	May 2002	September 2002	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
12. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	June 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.
13. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	August 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.
14. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Area Improvements.	Athens	September 2001	June 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.
15. Nelsonville Warehouse Construction.	York Twp, Athens Co.	February 2002	Summer 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.
16. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	Fall, 2002	Regina Martin, Nelsonville	A proposal has been received from the Village of New Straitsville and the feasibility of the exchange is being analyzed and negotiations are ongoing. The Village is interested in economic development and wish to expand development onto what is now federal land.
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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
18. Timber Stand Improvement	Forest-wide	April 2002	June 2002	Charles Klee, Nelsonville	Specific areas are being identified as potentially needing treatment for control of grape vines competing with desirable trees and to increase the amount of light to desirable trees by removing competing trees and vines.
19. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	Contracts have been awarded for the preparation of environmental assessments on the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2, 035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives.
Special Use Permits					
20. Buried Electric Line	T4N, R17W, Sec 32	March 2002	April 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to lay a 610' long section of underground electric line right-of-way in the Martin Road area to provide service to a house currently being constructed on an adjacent private tract.
21. Drake 4C well development	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	February 2002	Summer 2002	Max Norris, 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. The mineral estate reverted to federal ownership in 1996 and Carlton acquired the federal lease non-competitively.

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22. Hay Cultivation and Grazing Permits	Lawrence County	January 2002	April 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.
23. Hecla Water Tower	Lawrence County	December 17, 2001	April 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Hecla Water Company has requested their current special use permit for a 20-foot water tower be amended to allow them to raise the water tank to 70 feet. Due to increased population the tower height needs to be increased to maintain water pressure.
24. Proposed Permit to Conduct Geophysical Investigations	Monday Creek & Monroe Twp., Perry County & Trimble Twp, Athens County	April-May 2002	June 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 6 miles of line is proposed to be run.
25. Proposed Permit to Repair Land Slip	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	May 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.
26. Proposed access road and site use	T6N, R17W, Sec 29	March 2002	April 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.
27. Proposed Road Access	T4N, R19W, Sec 36	March 2002	April 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
28. Temporary Road Permit	T4N, R19W, Sec 27	March 2002	April 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).
29. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Ironton District	August 15, 2001	April 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. Several permits on the Ironton District have come up for renewal in recent months, public involvement has been sought and biological analysis is underway. The group includes utilities such as waterlines, telephone rights-of-way, pipelines, hay cultivation permits, private road rights-of-way, military training exercises, a boat dock, and radio antennas on a Forest Service tower. Maps and details on each of the 19 permits are available from the Ironton office.
30. Proposed Permit to Conduct Studies and Surveys.	York Twp., Athens Co. and Green & Ward Twp., Hocking Co.	January 2002	April 2002	Myra Williamson, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by 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. Another application has been requested to conduct subsurface investigations involving drilling test holes into strata and possible mine voids. These two applications will be evaluated together as one proposal.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Private Road Permit Request	Swan Twp., Vinton Co.	July 2001	March 26, 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A decision was made to grant Jack Luce permission to construct an access road on federal land to access his private land that is surrounded by federal land.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
32. Fish Habitat & Access Improvements at Lake Vesuvius	Lawrence County	Winter 2001	February 22, 2002	Becky Ewing, Ironton	A decision notice has been signed to proceed with several projects to improve fisheries and recreation at the Lake Vesuvius Area. These projects are both short-term in nature (those that may be done while the lake is drawn down to fix the dam), and long-term. They include (1) placing fish structures in the upper half of the lake; (2) deepening and adding grade control structures in the area around the boat ramp; (3) constructing barrier-free piers and boardwalk; (4) constructing a bridge across the lake; (4) modifying the Lakeshore Trail to include mountain biking opportunities; (5) upgrading the campgrounds; (6) expanding the boat ramp parking area; (7) improving the beach area; and (8) constructing a horse camp.
33. Reforestation with native species	Forest-wide	October 2001	February 14, 2002	Gary Dixon, Ironton	The decision was made to plant native tree and shrub species on 127 acres of former agricultural fields and strip-mined land.

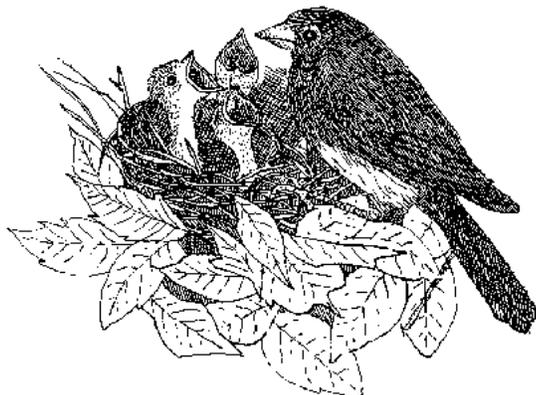
Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
34. 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 this summer. When complete, ODNR will restock the lake.

**Wayne National Forest
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764**

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Junco with nest



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