

Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Forest Plan Revision Topics

- Watershed Health
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Recreation Management
- Land Ownership
- Minerals Resource Management
- Roadless Area Inventory and Evaluation, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic River recommendations

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Public Participation: What We Have Heard So Far

The Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, often referred to as the Forest Plan, was approved by the Regional Forester on January 4, 1988. Revision of a Forest Plan is required every 10 to 15 years. The Final Revised Forest Plan is expected to be published in 2005. The 1988 Forest Plan will remain in effect until this revision effort is completed.

Last January the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Team conducted three public meetings in Nelsonville, Ironton, and Marietta to hear the public's ideas about the need to revise the Forest Plan. Over 100 people attended those three meetings and 44 percent offered statements for the public record.

The following Revision Topics were identified as the result of the public comments, monitoring and evaluation, and through experience with implementation of the Forest Plan since 1988: (1) Watershed Health; (2) Ecosystem Restoration; (3) Recreation Management; (4) Land Ownership; (5) Minerals Resource Management; and (6) Roadless Area Inventory and Evaluation, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic River recommendations.

The Revision Topics were included in the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement for revising the Wayne National Forest Plan. The NOI was published in the Federal Register on April 4, 2002. After the publication of the NOI, opportunities for public involvement included: a 90 day formal comment period, 10 public meetings, written, web site and e-mail comments. Over 600 comments were numbered and filed in the permanent records.

The comments were reviewed and summarized in a Content Analysis. The comments represented a wide spectrum of public viewpoints including the value of public involvement in the management of national forests.

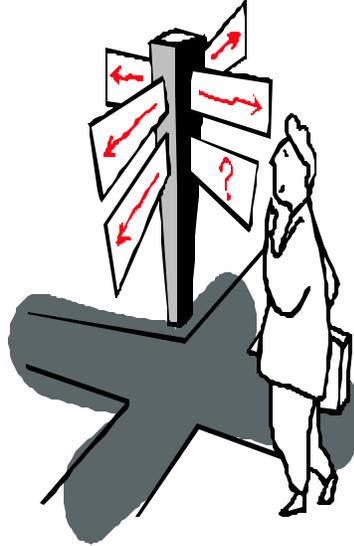
"The very nature of a National Forest is that it is the property of all citizens of the United States, each of whom has equal voice in the public participation process." [comment 351]

The Content Analysis is available on the Wayne web site or can be mailed on request in the form of a CD or paper document.

A Forest Plan is Strategic and Dynamic

Six primary decisions are made in the Forest Plan: (1) Forest-wide multiple-use goals, and objectives; (2) Forest-wide standards and guidelines; (3) Management area direction; (4) Lands suited and not suited for timber management, recreation, minerals, etc.; (5) Monitoring and evaluation requirements; (6) Recommendations to Congress, if any, for Wilderness or Wild & Scenic River designation.

Forest Plans do not make specific project decisions; they outline broad goals and priorities for National Forests; e.g. a Forest Plan would determine what management areas would allow motorized trails, but it would not identify where and how a new



trail would be constructed. The details of that project would be developed in a specific project plan.

Forest Plans are purposefully dynamic, meaning that they are meant to reflect periodic changes in information and society. Every 10 to 15 years the National Forests must review and revise their Plans when there are new scientific concepts, such as biodiversity and sustainability, to be considered. The change in the public's attitude and expectations is one other consideration for revising a Forest Plan. The public is challenged to provide information and ideas that will help the Forest Service balance many competing demands in a way that will continue to provide for multiple uses on the National Forests.

Wayne National Forest Mailing List

The mailing list is in the process of being updated. Please tell us if you would like to continue to receive our mailings or if any information needs to be updated. Also, indicate with a checked box or write in what information you would most like to receive.

Public Notices

- Quarterly
 All Decision Notices
 Plan Revision News

Natural Resources

- Forest Management
 Minerals/Oil & Gas
 Wildlife/Fish

Other topics:

Recreation

- ORV Trails
 Horse Trails
 Hiking Trails

Land & Watershed

- Purchases
 Reclamation
 Riparian

Name _____

Address _____

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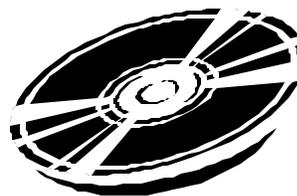
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Q & A

How can I get a copy of the Forest Plan?

The Forest Plan and amendments are posted on the Wayne National Forest Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne>. In addition, the Forest Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision and amendments are available on CD. These are also available in print format. Call the Wayne at 740-753-0101 to request a copy.



Evaluating Species Viability

As part of the Forest Plan revision process, the Wayne National Forest is conducting Species Viability Evaluations (SVE) for those plant and animal species that are potentially at risk of losing population viability within our planning area. This is a qualitative process for gathering information on species for which viability may be a concern now or in the future. The SVE process includes (1) the listing of species potentially at risk in the planning area; (2) collecting information and identifying risk factors and limiting factors for these species; (3) identifying management approaches that would contribute to the conservation of the species-at-risk; (4) development of Forest Plan alternatives that represent a

range of potential conservation approaches; and (5) development of Forest-wide standards and guidelines which would ensure protection of the species and their habitats.

The Wayne has developed a tentative list of species-at-risk



in the Forest boundaries. The list was developed by consulting lists provided by The Nature Conservancy, Partners in Flight, Audubon Society, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and other lists including the Forest Service Regional Forester sensitive species and state-listed endangered, threatened, potentially threatened, and special interest species.

Literature summaries will be completed by a contractor to identify the status, population trends, and threats for the species-at-risk.

Next Step: Define Issues and Develop Alternatives

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations define Forest planning as an issue driven process. Identification of issues to be addressed by the Wayne Plan revision process is the next step.

Issues will be identified through our own observations of implementation of the current Forest Plan, and from what we've heard from the public.

Issues will be distilled from

the revision topics listed in the Notice of Intent (see the front of this newsletter for the revision topic list).

The criteria that will be used to define issues are: (1) Describes an unresolved conflict that needs to be addressed; (2) Is not already addressed by law, regulation, or agency policy; (3) Is within the Forest's authority to address; and (4) Falls within one of the six types of decisions made by Forest Plans.

In order to address the issues, our next step will be to involve the public in the development of alternatives. More information will be coming out soon on how to participate in this next step.



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We are on the web
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne>



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How to Stay Involved



- **Keep Current with Revision Updates**
 - Web Page: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
 - Plan Revision Mailing List
- **Attend Public Meetings & Workshops**
 - Press Releases
- **Provide Feedback and information to the**

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