

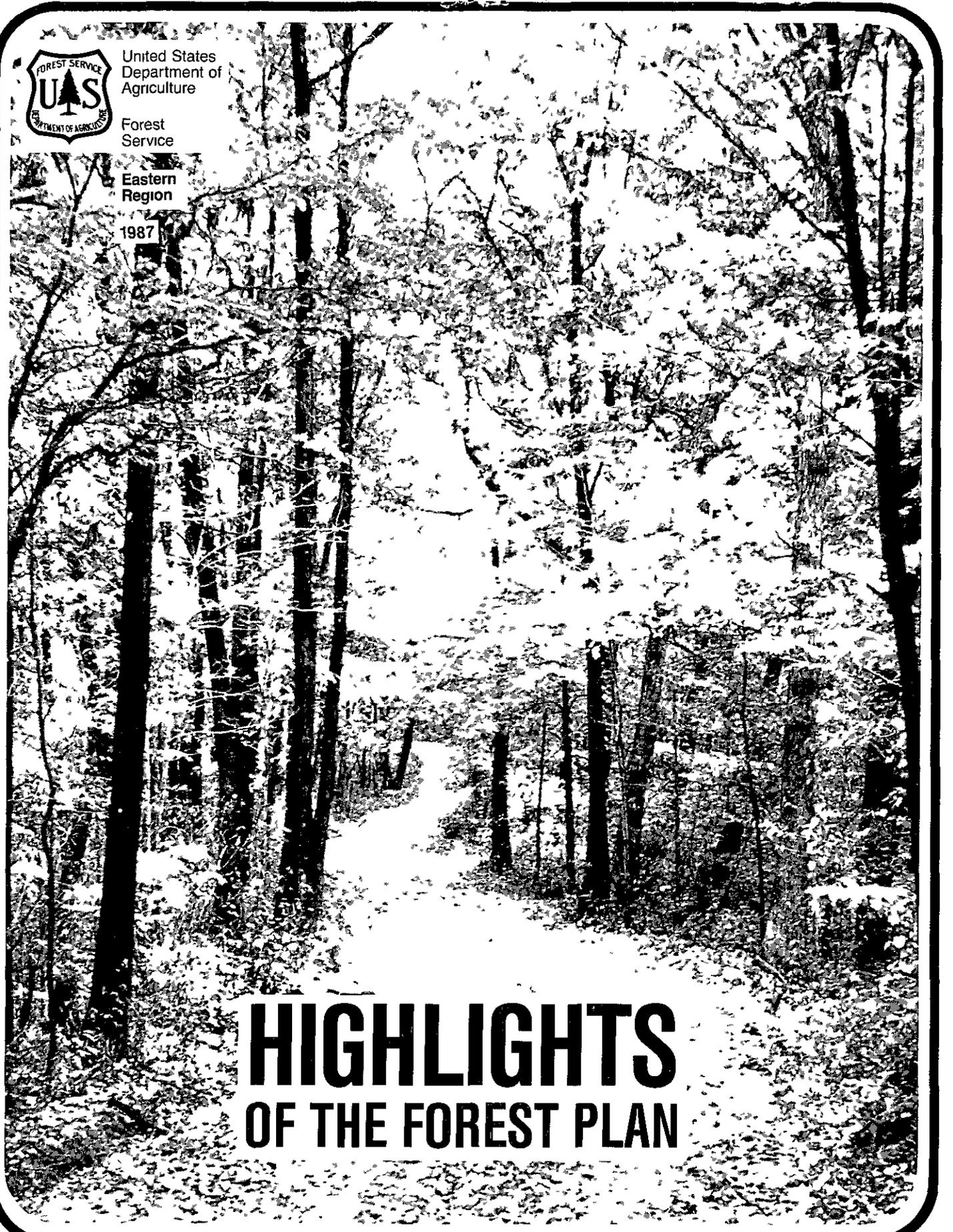


United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eastern
Region

1987



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOREST PLAN

WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

INTRODUCTION

We have prepared a Forest Plan which will guide us in the management of the Wayne National Forest for the next 10 years. The Plan is a lengthy book and contains detailed information about how different areas and resources on the Wayne will be managed. This Summary highlights the major aspects of the Forest Plan.

We did not attempt to prescribe all the specific actions we will take. We used our analysis of the long range possibilities as a broad guide. The Forest Plan represents only the immediate actions we will take initially as we work toward the desired future we want to achieve.

Planning and public involvement are ongoing processes. We hope you will continue to give us your ideas throughout the next 10 years as part of Plan implementation. We will invite your participation as we schedule activities for each area to carry out the Forest Plan. In 10 to 15 years, it will be time to review and redefine the direction the Forest should take.

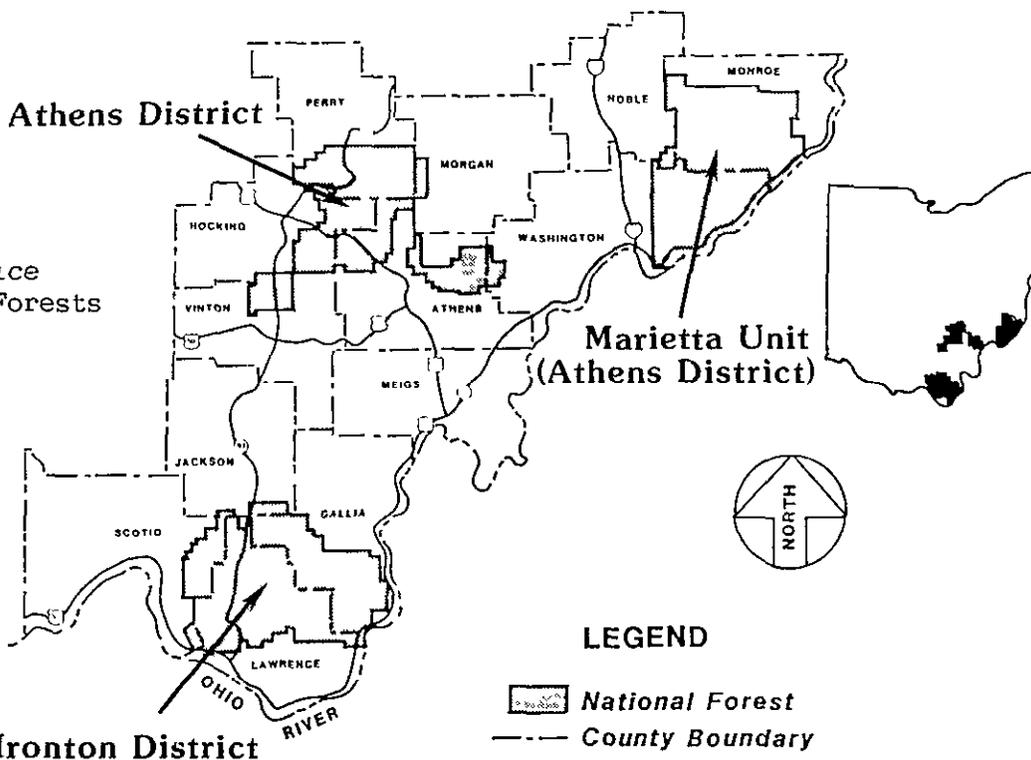
YOUR NATIONAL FOREST

The Wayne National Forest is located in the unglaciated hill country of southeastern Ohio. Public lands in Ohio only comprise 4 percent of the total land in the 6th most populous State in the Nation.

Since the formation of the Wayne National Forest over 50 years ago, the Forest has grown to over 178,000 acres. Much of the acquired land was abandoned, eroded farm land or mined land. This land has largely been restored under National Forest System administration.

The map below shows the location of the Districts on the Wayne National Forest. Twenty-one percent of the total land shown within the purchase unit boundaries is National Forest System lands.

LOCATION MAP *Wayne National Forest*



Forest Service Offices:

Forest Supervisor's Office
Wayne-Hoosier National Forests
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421

Athens Ranger District
219 Columbus Road
Athens, OH 45701

Ironton Ranger District
710 Park Avenue
Ironton, OH 45638

Marietta Unit Office
Route 1
Marietta, OH 45750

ROLE OF THE WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

The basic mission of the Wayne National Forest is that of caring for the land and serving people. This mission requires a balanced consideration of all Forest resources in meeting the present needs of society, as well as those of future generations.

Because the Wayne National Forest is only a small portion of the land in Ohio, we believe that the Forest should be managed to provide benefits that private land does not. It is the role of the Wayne National Forest to provide a variety of resource uses, recreational experiences, and services to the public from land which is efficient to manage. We must assure that soil, water, visual and cultural resources will be protected.

The Forest should provide a variety of recreational opportunities, ranging from semiprimitive, nonmotorized areas to developed campgrounds. Opportunities for dispersed recreation such as hiking, hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle and horse riding should be provided.

On productive and accessible lands, vegetative management will be directed at producing a variety of different wildlife habitats, as well as high quality sawtimber. Public land is well-suited to grow large and valuable sawtimber over long time periods.

It is also the role of the Forest to manage and protect nationally significant research natural areas and regionally or locally significant special areas.



DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

A variety of different land and resource conditions, and a variety of management techniques, are needed to meet the many demands of the public. For the Forest Plan to be successful, we must match the management and public use of the land to the natural characteristics and suitability of the land.

The future Forest will be a variety of areas, each area achieving different combinations of objectives and contributing to fulfill the role of the Wayne National Forest. We have identified twelve basic categories of future land and resource conditions for the Forest. We have also specified twelve management prescriptions which will change the land from its present conditions to the desired future conditions.

As shown and briefly described on the Forest Plan maps in the map envelope, there may be several sections of the Forest all managed alike under the same desired future condition, or Management Area. We believe that the locations, the acreage, and the management prescriptions assigned to each Management Area will result in the best overall way to manage the Wayne National Forest.



The chart below shows the total acres in each Management Area in the Plan. The first digit of the Area number is keyed to Regional direction for the Area descriptions. The number to the right of the decimal is a breakdown of the variations within that type for the Wayne National Forest. Please refer to map legends for brief descriptions of the objectives (desired future conditions) of the Management Areas.

FOREST PLAN ACREAGE BY MANAGEMENT AREA

<u>MANAGEMENT AREA</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
<u>ASSIGNED</u>		
2.1	5,254	3%
2.2	9,270	5
2.3	15,876	9
3.1	31,831	18
3.2	20,206	11
3.3	57,736	33
6.1	10,382	6
6.2	17,217	10
7.1	1,223	1
8.1	78	-
9.1	2,184	1
9.2	<u>5,530</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	176,787	100



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

ADJUSTING THE OWNERSHIP PATTERN

To better meet the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan, we will continue to improve the land ownership pattern of the Wayne National Forest. Maximum acquisition targets have been established as a percent of the gross area in management areas. The ultimate size of the Forest in the future is projected at 322,000 acres. The present Forest has over 178,000 acres. The only lands identified for exchange are National Forest System lands in Management Area 9.1. Acquisition of land will only be on a willing seller basis.

Condemnation of land will not be recommended on the Wayne National Forest except to clear title or to acquire needed rights-of-way when all other efforts have failed.

PROVIDING FOREST RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Wayne Plan attempts to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. There are over 27,500 acres designated for semiprimitive use. This includes Management Area 6.2 (17,200 acres), where no vegetative management is scheduled, and all roads under Forest Service jurisdiction will be closed to public motorized use. In addition, in Management Area 6.1 (another 10,400 semiprimitive acres) all roads under Forest Service jurisdiction which are not needed for access to private lands or mineral operations will be closed to public motorized use.

An environment characterized by large trees and unsurfaced Forest Service roads, normally closed to public motorized use, will be provided on 85,300 acres (48 percent of the Forest). Within these areas, trails provide for hiking and horseback use. Parking lots will be provided along the periphery of the area for hunting and other user access.

In the 10 years of Plan implementation, 50 miles of North Country Trail and 10 miles of loop trail will be located and constructed. No additional horse trails will be constructed in this period.

An off-road vehicle (ORV) trail system will be provided in certain areas, with trails constructed in varying densities. ORVs will be allowed on designated trails. Since ORVs will be confined to certain areas of the Forest, the recreation user who prefers to be away from ORV use can avoid this activity by using other areas of the Forest.

Three streams, the Little Muskingum, the Hocking River, and Symmes Creek, will be managed to provide canoeing and stream fishing.

Existing developed recreation facilities will continue to be managed for public use. Leith Run and Lamping Homestead picnic areas on the Marietta Unit will be converted to camping areas.



MANAGING FOREST VEGETATION

Vegetative management is an effective means of providing diverse wildlife habitat and providing a variety of wood products. The most common form of vegetative management is timber harvest. Harvests will provide forest stands of varied age classes throughout portions of the Forest.

Harvesting systems, rotation ages, and the size of cutting units will vary for different management areas. Approximately 15 percent of the Forest will be managed under an uneven-aged system, where individual trees or small groups of trees are harvested so as to maintain a continuous forest canopy at all times. On 56 percent of the Forest, even-aged harvesting techniques will be used with rotation ages varying from 80 to 120 years. The size of clearcutting or shelterwood harvest units will vary from 5 to 30 acres, depending on the management area guidelines and individual area. The remaining 29 percent of the Forest will not have any timber harvest.

The allowable sale quantity of timber products for the Wayne will be 7.5 million board feet per year, or 75 MMBF in the first ten years of the Plan. Hardwood management will be emphasized.

Dead or dying trees within, and adjacent to, cutting areas will normally be retained to provide den trees and other wildlife benefits. In some management areas, waterholes will continue to be constructed and wildlife openings maintained and added when needed.

Landscape management techniques will be used to improve the visual quality of the cutting areas and, over time, these areas will provide interesting visual diversity. The effects of timber cutting on soil and water will be controlled by proper sale design and administration.

About 10 percent of the Forest (Management Area 6.2) will be allowed to revert to natural hardwood forests; this may benefit some forest wildlife species

that require large undisturbed areas. No timber harvests or habitat improvements will be made in these management areas.



OFF-ROAD-VEHICLES

Prior to the approved Plan, the Wayne National Forest had no policy on off-road-vehicles (ORV's), resulting in unregulated use occurring on much of the Forest. Over the 10 years of the Plan, 250 miles of ORV trails will be provided. The 250 miles of trails will be confined to designated management areas on the Athens and Ironton Units. The total acreage on the Wayne available for ORV trail use in the Forest Plan is 30,000 acres. About half of this provides for low density trails, averaging 3.2 miles of trail per square mile. The other half of the trail area will be in higher density trails, averaging 6.4 miles per square mile. Both trail systems will be loop trails.



ROAD POLICIES

Under the Plan, many miles of old roads under Forest Service jurisdiction will be closed to motorized vehicles. In certain management areas, (approximately 95,000 acres) all unsurfaced roads under Forest Service jurisdiction not needed for administrative use, or for access to private lands or commercial operations, will be closed and revegetated. All unnecessary Forest Service roads will be closed to provide a more remote experience for forest users.

Only roads needed for managing forest resources will be constructed. Most roads will be reconstructed on existing road beds. The Plan projects construction or reconstruction of 8.8 miles per year of permanent roads with an average of 6.4 miles of temporary roads in use at any one time.

MINERAL ACTIVITIES

Mineral resources will be available for exploration and development. The United States presently owns 7 percent of all mineral rights on Wayne National Forest lands. This is estimated to increase to 25 percent by 1995. About 99 percent of the US-owned minerals are available for surface-disturbing activity using standard stipulations.

When mineral rights revert to the U.S., the Forest Service will recommend to the Bureau of Land Management that existing mineral rights operators should be given priority status in continuing on a noncompetitive basis as the existing operator where leases are to be renewed, unless there is reason not to for cause.

Mineral operators will not be denied access across National Forest System lands to their operations.

Potential reclamation projects have been identified and projected for 545 acres of the 1,160 acres of unreclaimed lands.



SPECIAL AREAS RECOGNIZED

The existing 78-acre Reas Run Research Natural Area will be managed for scientific purposes.

Two candidate research natural areas, Buffalo Beats and Kaiser Hollow, and 19 candidate special areas have been identified by the Research Natural Area Review Committee. These areas total 5,530 acres and will be further evaluated for a more permanent designation.



HOW WE MEASURE BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

In order to measure our progress in managing the Forest under the Plan direction, we have set specific times that things should be achieved, and defined what outputs we want to produce. Forest objectives are the projected annual outputs of goods and services which enable us to work toward the desired future condition of the Forest. The more significant Forest outputs and activities for the 10 years of the Plan are shown on the following chart:



PLANNED AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTS FOR WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

ITEM	UNIT MEASURED	PRESENT CONDITION	1986-1995 (Planned Average Annual)
RECREATION			
Total Rec. Use	Thousand ^{1/} RVD's	390 (Per Year)	420
Semiprimitive Areas	Acres	0	27,500
Trail Const./Reconst.			
Hiking and Horse	Miles	116 (Total Existing)	6
Off-road-vehicles	Miles	300 (Total Existing) ^{2/}	25
WILDLIFE/FISH HABITAT (New Developments)			
Openings	Acres	3300 (Total Existing)	70
Small lakes/ponds	Acres	135 (Total Existing)	1
Marshes	Acres	17 (Total Existing)	1
TIMBER			
Volume Offered	Million Bd Feet	12.1 (1985)	7.5
Hardwood Volume	Million Bd Feet	11.8 (1985)	6.5
Pine Volume	Million Bd Feet	.3 (1985)	1.0
Reforestation	1000 acres	1.3 (Per Year)	1.0 ^{3/}
Clearcut and Shelterwood Harvest	Acres Million Bd Feet	800 (1985) 12.1 (1985)	550 5.7
Single-tree and Group Selection Harvest	Acres Million Bd Feet	0 0	510 1.4
Thinning	Acres Million Bd Feet	0 0	60 0.4
LANDS			
Purchasing/ Acquisition and Exchange	1000 acres	.3 (Per Year)	2.9
ROADS			
Permanent Road Const. and Reconstr.	Miles	9.1 (Per Year)	8.8
Temporary Road Const. and Reconstr.	Miles	5.1 (Per Year)	6.4
COST			
Total Funds	Million \$'s (1978 dollars)	1.7 (Per Year)	2.2

^{1/} RVD is Recreation Visitor Day, which consists of one person spending 12 hours on the Forest.

^{2/} Undesignated miles of trails. Some of these trails will become part of the designated ORV trail system that will be developed.

^{3/} Includes natural and artificial reforestation.



IN CONCLUSION . . .

This summary, and the maps enclosed, has provided a brief overview of the planning process and how we intend to manage your Wayne National Forest over the next ten years.

The Forest Plan is dynamic. It provides for changes to be made as necessary. We will continue to work with all interested people to better care for your Forest. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please get in touch with any of our offices listed on the first page of this Summary. We look forward to hearing from you.

