

**Wayne National Forest  
2002 Oil & Gas Leasing  
Visual Quality Impact Analysis**

**Impact of the Action Alternatives**

The 63 tracts proposed for leasing were reviewed for their visual quality rating on maps prepared for the 1988 Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The following tables identify those tracts which fall within Retention or Partial Retention on each unit and recommend mitigation if a well is proposed in the visible portion of the tract.

<b>Leasing Tracts Subject to Visual Concerns on the Marietta Unit</b>			
<b>Tract Number</b>	<b>Visual Quality Goal</b>	<b>Existing Condition</b>	<b>Recommended Mitigations</b>
3	R	Tract is included in 6.2 area west of Leith Run; Entire 6.2 area is designated retention.	No Surface Occupancy
4	R	Is in retention zone associated with River Trails.	No Surface Occupancy
13	PR	Partial retention associated with a well-traveled highway.	Development site must be screened from the roadway.
19	R	Is NE of Hune Bridge; access may be a problem due to isolation of tract	Recommend NSO in 2.1 area riparian zone and steep slope facing LMR
20	R	North edge along 260 is in retention zone;	Recommend NSO on north edge of tract.
21	R	Southern half of tract is a steep face and is visible from the LMR; is in retention;	Recommend NSO on this portion of tract
25	PR	Develop only if well site cannot be seen from the road; much of this tract is very steep	Screen well from road.

<b>Leasing Tracts Subject to Visual Concerns on the Ironton Unit</b>			
<b>Tract Number</b>	<b>Visual Quality Goal</b>	<b>Existing Condition</b>	<b>Recommended Mitigations</b>
45	R	In retention zone (6.2) around Vesuvius recreation area;	No Surface Occupancy in 6.2
55	PR	Located on local thoroughfare where no other wells are visible	Need visual screen from road
63	PR	Located on local thoroughfare where no other wells are visible;	Need visual screen from road

<b>Leasing Tracts Subject to Visual Concerns on the Athens Unit</b>
No proposed tracts were located in visually sensitive areas on the Athens Unit.

The development of an individual well in a forested or agrarian environment creates a stark visual impact on the environment. The impression this impact creates depends on whether an individual sees economic opportunity or visual blight on an otherwise natural landscape. With the dense vegetation typical of all units of the Wayne National Forest, recreation visitors are more likely to see intrusions in the foreground than in the background. Recreation visitors are also mostly likely on the Forest during the months when vegetation is green and sites are obscured by shrubs, vines and trees. The **geographic scope** of the impact of this well development site is limited to a 500-foot perimeter around the site if the site is in a recreation retention zone, or the viewing distance to the road if it is in partial retention along a roadway.

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