

Ironton 2002 Grapevine Control

IRONTON RANGER DISTRICT

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: COLLABORATIVE PLANNING BEGINS WITH SCOPING

Dear Planning Participant: *June 16th, 2002*

The Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest is considering a proposal to provide Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) activities; specifically control of grapevines, on approximately **458** acres of forest stands scattered throughout the Ironton Ranger District. This project proposes to minimize the damage to selected forest stands by reducing the number of grapevines, while minimizing adverse effects to wildlife. See Project Description, page 2, for more details).

Forest Service Handbook (FSH) Section 1909.15, Chapter 31.2.6, states that TSI activities that do not include the use of herbicides may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA).

We are now in the scoping stage of a planned one-month schedule for completing the (National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Public participation is the first formal step in the NEPA process. Scoping identifies the potential issues, concerns, and opportunities associated with the proposed project. Due to the non-ground-disturbing nature of this treatment, we have not identified any issues or concerns regarding this project. **WE NEED YOUR HELP**, however, to ensure we analyze all the issues that are of concern to you and your community.

Please examine the enclosed maps of treatment areas. Send us any comments you feel will help us develop a sound and comprehensive decision. You should identify: specific issues to be considered, places within the Project Area that are important, or suggestions to improve the project.

We have provided a self-addressed form on page **5** on which to write your comments. You may also use your own format to write, call, e-mail, or FAX your comments to us. E-mail comments should be directed to: mbaines@fs.fed.us. Written comments should be directed to the Ironton District Ranger at the address listed above. Remember, in order to be most useful to the planning team, **YOUR COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 17th, 2002**.

We look forward to receiving your comments and thank you for your participation in the *Ironton 2002 Grapevine Control* planning process. Your views are important to us as we develop an action strategy to achieve the goals of the Forest Plan.

Mike Baines
District Ranger
Ironton Ranger District

YOU ARE HERE!

Scoping

The Public is invited to identify potential issues, concerns, and opportunities for this project.

**SCOPING COMMENTS
DUE
July 17, 2002**

**DECISION DOCUMENT
Anticipated by
July 28, 2002**



Project Description

Grapevines can be a severe problem to trees because when numerous, they damage trees by breaking tops and limbs, and often by breaking the bole of the tree. They can also cause trees to become uprooted and killed during heavy snow or ice storms. At the same time, these vines provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife. Grape arbors (dense concentrations of grapevines) have been shown to be very beneficial to some wildlife species. With this in mind, grapevine control would be implemented to minimize adverse effects on wildlife. Treatment of grapevines is proposed under the following criteria: 1) Only stands with 60 or more vines would be treated; 2) Treated stands would retain at least 20 grapevines per acre; 3) All grapevine arbors would be retained. Control of grapevines would be accomplished using hand-shears, clippers or chainsaws, to sever the vines at their base. It is a non-ground-disturbing activity.

The Ironton Ranger District is located north of Ironton, Ohio and between Wheelersburg and Gallipolis, Ohio. Table 1 displays the stands and acres proposed for treatment. Implementation would begin in the fall of 2002 and continue as funding becomes available. See attached maps for a visual depiction of stand locations. More detailed maps can be generated upon request. All stands proposed for treatment are located in Management Areas where TSI activities are permitted under the Forest Plan. These activities contribute to the desired future condition of each Management Area. Management Areas where TSI activities are proposed under this project include 2.3 (page 4-83), 3.1 (page 4-92), 3.3 (page 4-105) and 6.1 (page 4-120).

Table 1. Stands Proposed For Treatment Under The Ironton 2002 Grapevine Control Project.

Ironton Stands			
Compartment	Stand	Acres	Management Area
425	3	53	2.3
429	35	22	3.1
429	39	22	3.3
429	41	30	3.1
432	2	25	3.1
435	30	18	3.3
437	1	11	2.3
442	5	12	2.3
464	3	42	6.1
464	7	20	6.1
465	15	32	6.1
465	39	25	6.1
488	15	67	3.1
488	24	79	3.1
Total Acres		458	

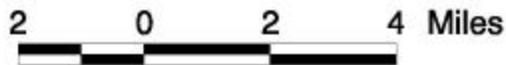
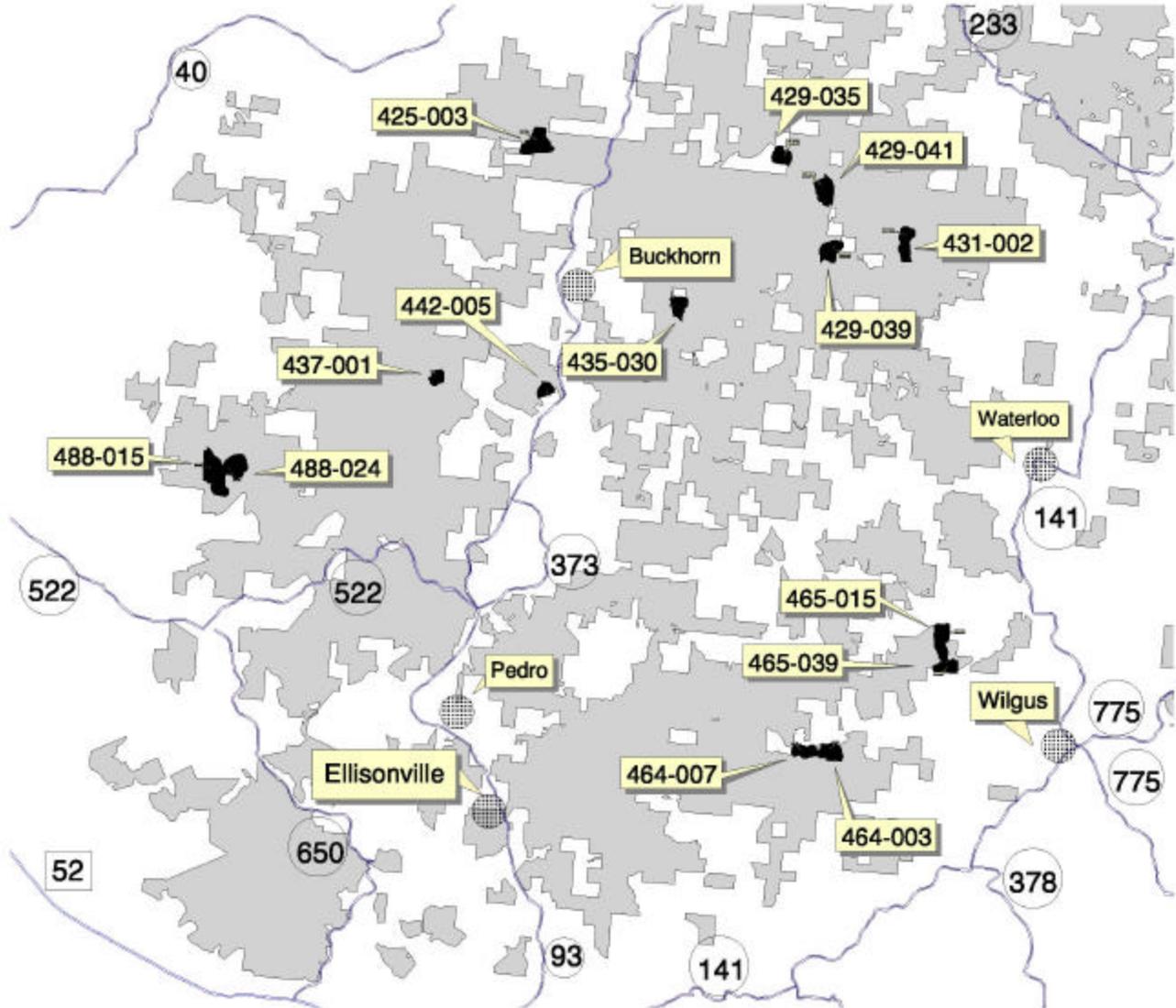
Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

Based on preliminary analysis, there were no significant issues generated by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). However, we invite you to comment on specific aspects of this treatment and treatment areas, as they relate to the proposed project. Please let us know if you have concerns regarding potential environmental impacts in the areas proposed for treatment. Please refer to the enclosed maps and make your comments as specific to the project as possible. After we have received and analyzed your comments, the IDT will recommend a decision to the deciding official. Consider these and any other subjects you feel are appropriate when developing your comments. Collaborative planning is the process by which the public and other agencies may take a more active role in project development. The Forest Service is attempting to integrate collaborative planning into its current NEPA process through scoping letters such as this one.

Ironton 2002 Grapevine Control

Wayne National Forest
Ironton Ranger District

Stand Map - Ironton Ranger District



Legend

- Grapevine Stands
- Stand Numbers
- U.S. Forest Service Land
- State Routes
- U.S. Highways
- Towns or Cities



Chuck Klee
06-04-2002

This page intentionally left blank.

HERE ARE MY SCOPING COMMENTS FOR THE
Ironton 2002 Grapevine Control:

Due July 17th, 2002

Please complete the other side before sending in your comments.

If you have no comments at this time, but wish to receive future information regarding this project, please return this form with the other side legibly filled out. ***IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU AT THIS TIME, YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM FUTURE IRONTON 2002 GRAPEVINE CONTROL MAILINGS.***

