



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Wayne National Forest  
Ironton Ranger District

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File Code: 1950  
Route To: 5100

Date: April 17, 2003

Subject: Proposed fuels treatment project

To: Interested Parties

I am writing to invite you to provide comments on a proposed fuels treatment project to reduce the large accumulation of small and medium-sized woody debris created by the February 2003 ice storm, which affected the Ironton Ranger District as well as much of southern Ohio. A vicinity map is enclosed.

***You are invited to comment  
on this project.***

A severe ice storm occurred on President's Day, February 17, 2003, impacting a sizable area of the Ironton Ranger District. Pine trees were particularly affected. Tree limbs and whole trees fell over, broke, and shattered, creating a hazardous build-up of fuels over a large area. Since the storm, an assessment of fuel conditions and fire occurrence has occurred and five areas have been isolated as needing immediate clean-up to reduce the risk of wildland fire. These areas are known locally as Thompson Cemetery and Peckerwood in Lawrence County, Cadmus and Peniel in Gallia County, and Pine Creek in Scioto County. Local road numbers are shown in the accompanying table.

***An assessment has identified  
areas for immediate  
treatment.***

The woody debris created by this storm is expected to cure during the summer and create unacceptable burning conditions in the fall of 2003. The proposed reduction in fuels is necessary to effect an immediate change in fire behavior to reduce potential rates of spread and intensity and to maintain conditions that support desirable fire behavior. It is also necessary to reduce the risk of wildland fire to individual residences and structures, to small communities along local roads, and to the natural ecosystems in these watersheds.

***Large amounts of downed  
wood increase the risk  
of wildland fire to homes  
and communities.***

Wildfire occurrence on the Ironton District over the last 10 years ranges from a low of 9 fires in 1996 to a high of 80 fires in 2001, burning 865 acres. Ninety percent of all wildfires occurring on the Wayne National Forest are the result of arson. Extreme fuel loading creates unsafe conditions for firefighters trying to construct fire line to stop the spread of a wild fire. These conditions compromise firefighter safety and put more structures and acreage at risk of fire.

***The Ironton District  
has a high incidence of  
arson fire.***



We are proposing to treat an area approximately 200 feet on either side of the roads. Woody debris one inch to six inches in diameter would be removed from National Forest land. Branches smaller than one inch would be left on the ground. Trees between 6 and 12 inches in diameter would be left lying on the ground, but would be cut into lengths of less than two feet. Trees 12 inches and greater would be cut into pieces less than 18 inches long and left in place. Only trees that are now on the ground or are more than halfway down (less than 45-degree angle from level ground) would be treated. All areas will be surveyed for the presence of habitat for endangered plants and animals and for other resource concerns and appropriate mitigation measures put in place.

***We propose to treat an area 200 feet from either side of local roads by removing small wood and cutting larger wood into small pieces.***

No new roads would be constructed to remove this material. Equipment use would be limited to small vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles and Bobcats. In order to maintain traffic on local roads and to protect public and worker safety, small areas would be cleared along roadsides where the material can be concentrated and loaded for removal onto trucks. Some trees may be cut to create these concentration areas. The areas would be mulched and/or planted with a local seed mixture following use.

***No new roads would be constructed, but small clearings are necessary to load material and provide for local access and public safety.***

Please make your comments specific to this proposed action. If you have already been contacted, your comments have been noted. To ensure that I have an opportunity to consider any other concerns, please submit written comments to me or to Marsha Wikle, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at the above address by **April 28, 2003**. You may also call to discuss this project (see number above) or submit comments electronically. Copies of this scoping notice and map are available on the Wayne National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne>.

***How to comment.***

Thank you for your interest in the Wayne National Forest.

/S/ JOHN BROWN

JOHN BROWN  
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures

## ICE STORM DAMAGE FUELS REDUCTION

### Pine Area Treatment

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Adjacent Road</b>	<b>Legal description</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Thompson Cemetery	Decatur, Lawrence County	T-160 T-140 / FR 5	T3N R18W, Section 25 and 36	68
Peckerwood	Symmes, Lawrence County	CR 210 T-154	T5N R17W, Sections 15,16,21,22, & 23	103
Cadmus	Gallia County	CR12 SR 141	T5N R16W, Sections 29, 30, 31 & 32	62
Pine Creek	Scioto County	CR 10 (Scioto)  CR 34 (Lawrence)  T-162	T3N R18W, Sections 3, 4, 5, & 6  T4N R18W, Section 31 & 32  T4N R19W, Section 36	175
Peniel	Gallia County	CR 1, CR 2, CR 10, T-7	T5N R17W Sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 34	143
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>551</b>

Road Designations:

CR = County Road  
T = Township Road  
SR = State Route  
FR = Forest Road