



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Wayne National Forest  
Ironton Ranger District

6518 State Route 93  
Pedro OH 45659-8912  
(740) 534-6500  
(740) 534-6565 Fax  
(800) 877-8339 TTY

File Code: 1950-1  
Route To: (2400)

Date: August 19, 2004

Subject: Buckhorn Restoration Project Second Public Scoping Invitation

To: Interested Parties

I am writing a second time to invite you to provide comments on the Buckhorn Restoration Project on the Ironton Ranger District in Lawrence County, Ohio. I sent an initial scoping invitation on June 10 describing our analysis on 6 vegetative compartments. We have broadened our analysis and now are including 10 compartments that were affected by the 2003 ice storm in the Buckhorn area, which is located east of State Highway 93 to Hoadley, south to Beech Fork, and west to Buckhorn. The analysis area boundary shown on the enclosed map reflects the enlarged vegetative analysis area. We have converted the maps to a pdf format which should be more legible. Additional maps showing topography and stand boundaries are located on the Wayne National Forest website or can be requested using the contact information at the end of this letter.

*An additional opportunity to comment on the Buckhorn project.*

The purpose of this project is to improve the health and vigor of approximately 6400 acres of forest within this analysis area. We are proposing to do a landscape-level thinning with small group selection cuts on about 4900 acres of hardwood forest. We propose to thin another 179 acres of planted white pine stands within the project area. We will analyze the use of stump treatment or basal (stem) spraying with herbicides to control invasive species and some vegetation that competes with small oak and hickory seedlings in selected areas within the thin and/or burn area.

*We propose to thin about 4900 acres of oak hickory forest and about 200 acres of pine stands.*

We propose to prescribe burn or accomplish other fuel reduction on 4800 acres, some of which will have been thinned. Approximately 25 miles of the proposed fire line will be on public roads, roads re-constructed for this project, or old road beds where only minimal clearing to expose mineral soil and remove ladder fuels will occur. Approximately four miles of four-foot wide hand-constructed line is proposed on steeper slopes. We will be monitoring the fire lines for the spread of invasive species during and following the completion of this project.

*We will monitor and control the spread of invasive species in disturbed areas.*

We propose to construct approximately 1/2 mile of new road, and to re-construct approximately 18 miles of old roads for temporary use to access log landings, 1/2 mile of which will be built to engineering standards as a specified road. These roads will be water-barred, seeded, and closed to vehicles after project completion.

*All improved roads will be open to foot traffic, but closed to vehicles after project completion.*



Other activities that we are planning during this project include the control of exotic plant species that can take advantage of the disturbance and increased light conditions to spread through the forest. We plan to prevent further spread of species such as tree-of-heaven by pulling small stems or by cutting followed by treating stumps with herbicides. We plan to grub out thickets of multi-flora rose and other exotic shrubs in selected areas. We plan to create 10-12 small waterholes for wildlife in upland areas where water is not readily available. We plan to establish small parking areas along roadsides in 4 areas for the safety and convenience of forest users.

***We plan to also do some control of exotic species and create waterholes in uplands.***

Please make your comments specific to this proposed action. To ensure that I have an opportunity to consider your concerns, please submit written comments to me or to Marsha Wikle, Team Leader, at the above address by September 10, 2004. You may also call to discuss this project (see number above) or submit comments electronically at [comments-eastern-wayne@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-wayne@fs.fed.us). Note that we have corrected a typographical error in the comment e-mail address. Copies of this second scoping notice and additional maps are available on the Wayne National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne>.

***How to comment.***

If you have no comments at this time, but wish to remain on the mailing list for this project, please call or write to show your interest. In addition to the two scoping periods, there will be another opportunity to comment when the environmental analysis is made available to the public for the 30-day notice and comment period, anticipated to be in early fall of this calendar year.

***Do you want to stay on the mailing list for this project?***

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and, if denied, the Agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within five days.

***Comments are considered part of the public record.***

***/s/ Gloria Chrismer***  
GLORIA CHRISMER  
District Ranger

Maps Enclosed