



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Wayne National Forest  
Ironton Ranger District

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

**Date:** June 10, 2004

**Subject:** Buckhorn Project Initial Public Scoping Invitation

**To:** Interested Parties

I am writing to invite you to provide comments on a proposed vegetation management and fuels reduction project within 14,000 acres (6 vegetative compartments) in the northern part of the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest. The purpose of this project is to improve the health and vigor of approximately 4500 acres of forest within this analysis area. The analysis area boundary shown on the enclosed map reflects the vegetative analysis area. The project has been named Buckhorn for a nearby community on the west side of the analysis area.

The Buckhorn project area has many acres of oak-hickory forest over 80 years old. These forests are under stress and are in unhealthy conditions for several reasons. Some species of oak are not long-lived and are reaching the end of their growing age. The 2003 ice storm broke out tree tops and uprooted many trees, hastening mortality and the spread of insects and disease in a forest already dense and having slow growth and reduced vigor. Gypsy moths have been found in the project area. Defoliation and mortality may occur in the next 10 years.

We are proposing to do a landscape-level thinning with small group selection cuts on about 3000 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 some species of vegetation in hardwood forest to encourage the growth of small oak and hickory seedlings.

We propose to prescribe burn or accomplish other fuel reduction on 3000 acres, some of which will have been thinned. We will use mostly existing access roads for fire line, but will construct an additional three miles of off-road fireline, some of which will remain as fire breaks for future control of wildfires.

We propose to construct approximately 1/2 mile of new road, and to reconstruct approximately 13 miles of old roads for temporary use to access log landings, 1/2 mile of which will be built to engineering standards for specified roads. These roads will be water-barred, seeded, and closed to vehicles after project completion

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

***Our oak-hickory  
forest is in decline.***

***We propose to thin  
about 3000 acres of  
oak hickory forest and  
about 200 acres of  
pine stands***

***Prescribed burning  
requires the use of old  
roads or constructed  
fire breaks***

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



The proposed treatment area is located east of State Highway 93 to Hoadley, south to Beech Fork, and west to Buckhorn. The proposed treatment areas will be surveyed for the presence of habitat for endangered plants and animals and for other resource concerns.

Appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place.

Recommendations from the Biological Opinion on Threatened and Endangered Species, which are now in the Forest Plan as Amendment 13, will be part of our proposed action.

***Treatment areas are  
in northern Lawrence  
County.***

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.

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

The 1988 Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan prescribes the number of acres which may be harvested during the duration of the Plan's life. This proposal is consistent with direction in the Forest Plan.

***Forest Plan directs us  
on forest management***

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 Wickle, Team Leader, at the above address by July 9, 2004. You may also call to discuss this project (see number above) or submit comments electronically at [comment-eastern-wayne@fs.fed.us](mailto:comment-eastern-wayne@fs.fed.us). Copies of this initial scoping notice and 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 this initial scoping period, 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 late summer 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

Enclosure