



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wayne National Forest
Athens Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

Date: February 26th, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

I am inviting you to provide comments on a proposed watershed restoration project on the Athens Ranger District, Wayne National Forest. The Bennett Hollow channel restoration project falls within the Hocking River Watershed. Bennett Hollow is located in Athens County, York Township.

The Watershed Restoration Team for the Wayne National Forest proposes to reroute acid mine water from three abandoned strip pits into an existing stream. A breach in one of the strip pits is allowing the mine water to drain onto a private landowner's residence. The acid mine drainage will be treated with an open limestone drain before entering the main stem.

We estimate that this work will impact less than 5 acres. All construction work will be done in a way that will minimize disturbance to surrounding vegetation and, the project area will be closed to public access upon completion of the project. The attached map summarizes the existing conditions and the proposed construction.

The Wayne National Forest has, for the past six years, worked in partnership with other federal agencies, state agencies, local government, local citizens groups, and colleges to improve water quality on the Wayne National Forest. The watershed team recognizes the importance of clean water to Wayne National Forest users and the surrounding communities.

Please submit your comments to Pamela Stachler, Forest Hydrologist and Interdisciplinary Team Leader, by March 15th, 2004. Comments should be mailed to:

Wayne National Forest
Attn: Pamela Stachler
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

If you have any questions please feel free to contact her at: (740)-753-0556

/s/ Gary Willison

GARY WILLISON
Watershed Group Leader

