



File Code: 1900 / 2500

Date: June 9, 2004

Route To:

Subject: Scoping – Soil and Watershed Improvement

To: Friend of the Wayne National Forest

The Wayne National Forest is proposing to stabilize, revegetate, and discourage illegal dumping on several areas on the Ironton Ranger District in Lawrence County to improve soil and watershed conditions. During this initial public comment period called "scoping" we are inviting you to send us your ideas and concerns or to let us know of any significant issues that you feel should be considered.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED, AND PROPOSED ACTIONS**

The areas listed and described below are eroding and are contributing sediment to the creeks and streams. Some of the areas are also being used as illegal trash dumps, which are both unsightly and can contain toxic substances. Some actions are proposed below to stabilize the soil and discourage illegal trash dumping. Specific problems and solutions are listed for each site.

The Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended, for the Wayne National Forest provides guidance for the management of the lands and facilities on the National Forest lands.

The Goals (in the Forest Plan, page 4-3) include:

- + Protect soil and water productivity so that neither will be significantly or permanently impaired for all activities on national Forest land.
- + Conduct soil and water resource improvement activities on lands with declining watershed conditions.

Forest Wide Standards and Guidelines on page 4-28 direct the Forest Service to:

- \* Apply resource management practices that will maintain or improve the soil resources for productivity potential and watershed conditions.
- \* Stabilize disturbed areas.

On page 4-37, the Forest Plan directs that exposed soil should be protected from soil loss or erosion using one or more of the following techniques or practices:

#### Surface Control

Diversions

Ditches, culverts, broad-based dips

#### Sediment Controls

Hay or straw bales

Earth, or stone berms or dikes

Silt fences

Vegetative filter strips



Following is a summary of the proposed Project Areas and Needs (note, the site numbers are not consecutive because there are some project areas that are still being studied; these will be reviewed later):

**Site # 1; just East of Etna Furnace;**  
**SWNW Section 22, T2N R18W, (38° 37.51'N, 82° 39.19'W)**

**PROBLEM:** Approximately 300 feet of old skid road goes straight down a slope and there are no water diversions. Therefore rainwater is running straight down the slope in the tire ruts which will continue to deepen and erode more. This land was purchased in this condition by the Forest Service in 2003. The impacted area is approximately 1/4 acre and includes 300 feet long 33 feet wide.

**PLAN:** The Forest Service proposes to re-grade the old skid trail to eliminate the channels, waterbar the slope to divert water to minimize erosion & sedimentation, protect the site by mulch and seed, and close the roadway with a mound so that highway vehicles cannot drive up the road. No trees over 6 inches in diameter will be cut to accomplish this work.

**Site #1a; just West of Etna Furnace;**  
**SWNW Section 22, T2N R18W (38° 37.51'N, 82° 39.20'W)**

**PROBLEM:** People have recently started to drive approximately 400 feet of old road for two obvious reasons: dumping trash and partying. The result is trash such as cans, bottles, and paper. This road is currently blocked approximately 300 feet from the County Road but people can drive to that point and not be seen from the County Road which is inviting to those looking for a spot to dump trash. If these two uses are not stopped then the trash dumping, including possible toxic substances and associated health risks, will increase, and the road will likely become eroded and produce unnecessary sedimentation. This land was purchased by the Forest Service in 2003. The impacted area is approximately 1/3 acre and includes the road (400 feet long and 33 feet wide) plus a 40' X 40' level area where most of the dumping is.

**PLAN:** The Forest Service proposes to re-grade the old road to eliminate the channels, waterbar the slopes to divert water to minimize erosion & sedimentation, remove the trash to a proper location, protect the site by mulch/seed, and close the roadway with a mound so that highway vehicles cannot drive up the road. No trees over 6 inches in diameter will be cut to accomplish this work.

**Site # 2; just West of Canon Creek Grange;**  
**NENW Section 22, T2N R18W (38° 37.53'N, 82° 38.89'W)**

**PROBLEM:** People have recently started to dump trash along an old road. If the use is not stopped the dumping is likely to increase. Also, the road will likely become eroded and produce unnecessary sedimentation. In addition, approximately 500 feet south of the County Road 4, there is a “Y” in the road; one portion of the “Y” has a very steep and sandy sideslope that is actively eroding. This land was purchased by the Forest Service in 2003. The impacted area is approximately 0.4 acre and includes 500 feet long and 33 feet wide.

**PLAN:** The Forest Service proposes to re-grade the old road to eliminate the channels, waterbar the slopes to divert water to minimize erosion & sedimentation, remove the trash to a proper location, protect the site by mulch/seed, and close the roadway with a mound so that highway vehicles cannot drive up the road. No trees over 6 inches in diameter will be cut to accomplish this work.

**Site # 4 – Off Cannons Creek;**  
**NENE Section 16, T2N R18W (38° 38.42'N, 82° 39.46'W)**

**PROBLEM:** People have recently started to dump household trash including old furniture and appliances, plus cans, bottles, and paper along approximately 100 feet of old road. If this use is not stopped the trash, including possible toxic substances, will increase. Also, the road will likely become eroded and produce unnecessary sedimentation since there is little or no surfacing on the road. This land was purchased by the Forest Service in 2003. The impacted area is less than 0.1 acre and includes 100 feet long 33 feet wide.

**PLAN:** The Forest Service proposes to re-grade the old road to eliminate the channels, waterbar the slopes to divert water to minimize erosion & sedimentation, remove the trash to a proper location, protect the site by mulch/seed, and close the roadway with a mound so that highway vehicles cannot drive up the road. No trees over 6 inches in diameter will be cut to accomplish this work.

**Site # 7; along edge of Paddle Creek Horse Camp**  
**NWNE Section 19, T4N R17W (38° 37.93'N, 82° 34.86'W)**

**PROBLEM:** Along the northwest edge of the Paddle Creek Horse Camp / Trailhead, a section of the unnamed creek has begun to undercut its bank. Portions of the horse trail, access road, and campsites are alongside this creek and so as the creek continues to undercut the bank, these improvements are put into jeopardy of being undercut and unsafe. Impacted Area to make repairs is approximately 0.2 acres and includes 300 feet long 33 feet wide.

**PLAN:** The Forest Service proposes to stabilize the eroding banks with stone in critical areas. No trees over 6 inches in diameter will be cut to accomplish this work.

For all of these projects clean straw and annual seed such as winter wheat will be used to stabilize the soils for all of the projects areas.

A map depicting the location of the proposed projects is attached.

More detailed maps can be viewed or obtained by contacting Mike Freidhof at the Ironton Ranger District, 6518 State Route 93; Pedro, Ohio 45659; 740-534-6500.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

We are interested in your comments on the proposed projects. Please let us know at the address above or by phone by the close of business on June 30, 2004.

If, through the analysis, it is determined that the proposed project would be a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500). The District Ranger will be the deciding officer.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Gloria Chrismer*

GLORIA CHRISMER  
District Ranger

attachment

**Soil and Watershed Improvement  
Ironton Ranger District, Wayne National Forest  
June 2004**

**Sites 1, 1a, 2, and 4**



